

Lesvos, species list and trip report, 26<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL



**Lesvos  
2017**

## Lesvos, species list and trip report, 26<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	26 <sup>th</sup> April	London to Lesvos
2	27 <sup>th</sup> April	Skala Kallonis
3	28 <sup>th</sup> April	Kalloni salt pans. Metochi Lake
4	29 <sup>th</sup> April	Ipsilou Monastery, Petrified Forest and Sigri, Limonas Monastery
5	30 <sup>th</sup> April	Achladeri Forest, Agiassos, Kalloni mini-soccer pitch
6	1 <sup>st</sup> May	Kavaki Headland, Molyvos, Kalloni Raptor Watchpoint, Tskinias River
7	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Alykes wetlands & Kalloni salt pans. Napi Valley
8	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Skala Kallonis, and return to airport

A gallery of Philip's photos from this year's Lesvos trip can be found online at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72157681539227170>



Above: Starred Agama (Molyvos) and Cinereous Bunting (Ipsilou)

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### Day One: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. London to Lesvos

We all met and negotiated check-in and security at Heathrow with consummate ease and made our way via Athens to Mytinini Airport where a minibus was awaiting us to whisk off in the darkness to the Malemi Hotel.

### Day Two: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Around Skala Kallonis

Only Charles and myself made the pre-breakfast walk around the lanes, where one of the first birds we heard was an **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**, the song of which became one of the sounds of the week and whose name has to be pronounced in your best Alan Bennett voice. A colony of **Spanish Sparrows** was noted amongst the plentiful **House Sparrows**. A **Black Stork** drifting towards the hotel and a very splendid male **Whinchat** were the highlights of this walk.

After breakfast, we set out for our fairly casual day around Skala Kallonis but it delivered some wonderful birds to set us on our way. First up was a great view of a **Stone Curlew** down at the marshy area at the mouth of the Christou River, just west of the village, while it gave us a chance to compare and contrast **Kentish Plover** with **Little Ringed Plovers**. Two other birds, **Corn Bunting** and **Crested Lark**, were birds first noted here but were very common everywhere we went, as were the abundant **Swallows** and **House Martins**, including a number of **Red-rumped Swallows**. Another bird we first encountered here and then every day were the **Bee-eaters**, incredibly colourful and acrobatic and usually announcing their presence first with wonderful soft but audible call, and they enchanted Annette and Marie-Claude so much and enough for them to both make it their favourite bird of the holiday.

Following a very nice coffee in the town, we then went to walk east out of the village and along the River Tsiknias and so began a wonderful afternoon walking up the banks where birds and butterflies abounded. We had already heard **Nightingales** but the intensity of them along this stretch of river meant that there was a constant serenade as we passed prompting Lindsay to pronounce that it was her bird of the trip for providing the soundtrack to the holiday, whereas for John, the walk along the river was for him the most memorable moment of the trip. Meanwhile, a pair of **Citrine Wagtails**, the male in resplendent lemon-yellow plumage caused great excitement, as did a **Squacco Heron** as it glided up river. A few minutes later we were enjoying splendid views of both male and female **Little Bitterns** as they probed along the opposite bank. These views and an incident later in the week at the same point and involving removal of socks when Charles encountered another one almost face-to-face prompted Charles to vote it his favourite bird. In a field further up the river, a **Woodchat Shrike** sat nearby on a fence allowing us all to admire this very striking bird.

Other wildlife we enjoyed were the **Balkan Terrapins** loafing on the river banks and also a very large, evident **Levant Marsh Frog** while Charles and Philip began to assemble a butterfly list as both **Common** and **Scarce Swallowtails** were seen and then on most succeeding days as was the rather pretty **Lesser Spotted Fritillary**.

A long day walking, the call of a beer and our first dinner of the trip and so ended our first full day in Lesvos.

### Day Three: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Kalloni Saltpans and Metochi Lake.

Pre-breakfast walk this morning produced a close **Black-headed Bunting**, more of which we saw later in the week. Then off to the Kalloni Saltpans and a superb morning's birding. This following our introduction to a Lesvos version of Mike, our minibus driver, who didn't really speak much English whereas I didn't speak any Greek, so we had some interesting conversations during the week. However, we got to the saltpans and immediately enjoying views of many waders and the **Greater Flamingo's** looking resplendent in the sun. John was entranced by the very close **Black-winged Stilts** enough and so declared that this was his favourite bird of the holiday. Among the flamingos, we managed to pick out some **Gull-billed Terns** on a sand bar while **Little and Common Terns** fished nearby. The tern feast continued when a beautiful **White-winged Black Tern** floated majestically over our heads, definitely qualifying it as my bird of the week.

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Walking down the track alongside the dyke, between us the group were looking at the landscape at different levels. Some of us were scanning the skies, and the salt pans for birds, Charles was mid-level and along the vegetation for butterflies and other insects while Philip was working at the micro-level, turning over rocks to see what he could find. He was rewarded and much delighted to find a **Worm Snake** under one of the stones, a new species for him and his favourite moment, though for some reason I allowed him two favourite moments!

Those of us with our eyes looking to the distance noticed a flock of about 30 dark birds that were slowly making their way towards us that eventually reached the salt pans and revealed themselves to be **Glossy Ibis** and such a splendid sight that Annette said it was her magical moment as it represented such freedom and elegance in the natural world. Eventually we made it to the Alykes wetlands and spent a wonderful hour or so enjoying brilliantly close views of the birds, particularly the waders. With the sun behind us we were able to compare the subtle differences between both **Temminck's** and **Little Stints** while **Ruff** and **Wood Sandpipers** were the most numerous. Four splendid **Spotted Redshanks** paraded and a bit of a surprise were the **Turnstones** amongst them. Another great sighting here was a single **Whiskered Tern** that hovered right in front of us which was a lovely moment

Slightly more distant was a **Ruddy Shelduck** and looking back onto the salt pans there plenty of **Avocets** and we managed to pick out three **Slender-billed Gulls** on the water. Sun, heat and an overwhelming desire for a coffee sent us back into Skalla Kallonis where we enjoyed our very nice packed lunch and Hugh declared the whole morning at the Salt pans and Wetlands was so enjoyable that he declared it his most memorable moment of the trip.

After lunch, a few decided that an afternoon back at the hotel by the pool was too attractive to resist so the rest of us went to find the Metochi Lake not very far away but trying to communicate with Mike to where it was proved to be, well, challenging. Thanks mainly to Philips sat nav we eventually found it, but one false stop did at least provide a really good view of a **Long-legged Buzzard** over our heads. Searching for a particular bird took a while but Philip eventually located a **Little Crake** but then had the task of getting everyone to see it, which was not easy but in the end, everyone got onto it.....except Michael! Luckily before we got back onto the bus later on, we went to look for it again but this time Michael was the first to see it and then turned around to point out a **Hen Harrier** flying behind us! Definitely his most magical moment. While looking at the crake the first time, Charles and I managed to get onto a large warbler moving around in the vegetation which we established to be an **Olive-tree Warbler**, not a common bird here.

A walk along the road produced some excellent sightings, none more so than the **Starred Agamas** that looked on from the boulders up the hills. A **Short-toed Eagle** cruises overhead we then saw our first **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** of the holiday which looked very majestic amongst the rocks. Another great sighting at this point was a **Western Rock Nuthatch** and finding the mud pointed nest of this bird amongst the crags earned it the prize of being Claire's favourite bird. Also, a pair of **Masked Shrikes** moving about in an olive grove provided an interesting few minutes trying to get good views of them.

### Day Four: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Ipsilou and Sigri

Spreading our wings today, we headed out to the west of the island it took about 45 minutes to get to the parking spot at the bottom of the road that led up to the Ipsolu Monastery and just a wonderful morning's birding. As soon as we were off the bus we were comparing three wheatears. As well as the already seen Black-eared Wheatear, we were trying to sort out the difference between the familiar **Northern Wheatear** and the **Isabelline Wheatear** which do look similar but it was interesting trying to sort the subtle differences between them. No sooner had we got them sorted then one of the target species showed really well and getting prolonged views of a **Cinereous Bunting** gave Philip his bird of the trip.

Claire really enjoyed more good views of a Western Rock Nuthatch and very soon, the second of five buntings was recorded, the difficult to pronounce **Cretzschmar's Bunting**. A black and white bird gave us a bit of a run-around but eventually we got good enough views of a **Collared Flycatcher** to confirm identity. A butterfly highlight on this walk was a splendid **Queen of Spain Fritillary**. A bird sitting in a

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distant bush was nailed as a **Cirl Bunting** while from deep down in the valley the mellifluous sound of a **Golden Oriole** drifted up, but sadly no sighting today or any other come to that.

Two raptors appeared and for the next few minutes we were highly entertained by a **Short-toed Eagle** and a fabulous **Eleanora's Falcon** that zoomed through the sky, a brilliant aerial display and Hugh had no trouble nominating this as his best bird of the week. The whole walk of about 500 metres took us about three hours and so by the time we got to the top we sought shade for our lunch. This morning proved to be Claire's most memorable moment of the holiday, remembering it as being the same as when she came on the trip three years ago, saying there was just so many things to see!

Hunger and thirst appeased, we then moved on a few miles to the Petrified Forest. It was very hot by now and so the lack of shade curtailed walking somewhat but very soon we managed to catch a key species here, a **Chukar**, which looks very like the Red-legged Partridge.

Good views of Whinchats on the fence were enjoyed and on the way back a lump just the other side of a fence turned out to be a **Spur-thighed Tortoise** rather looking out of place amongst a load of plastic. The heat enforced the decision to go down to nearby Sigri on the coast and a very welcome drink at a café and from the cool of the terrace we added **Jackdaw** to the list and some reasonable views of some **Mediterranean Shags**. Making our way back we had a break at the lovely Limonas Monastery and I think everyone enjoyed having a look around and a chance to enjoy a welcome ice cream.

### Day Five: Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Achladeri Forest and Agiassos.

Another warm day, and decided to swap days so headed out west with a first stop to admire the staggering field of poppies along the side of the road and great photographic opportunity. Soon after we arrived at our first destination for the day, the Achladeri Forest, a lovely mixed deciduous forest. A particular Lesvos speciality was what we wanted to see here so senses were heightened as we moved slowly through the forest. Some people got a brief view of a **Middle Spotted Woodpecker**, the only woodpecker on the Island, but soon after, the presence of a huge camera lens revealed the potential location of our target bird. Very soon we were being treated to great views of a pair of **Kruper's Nuthatch** busily bringing food back to their nest. A wonderful little bird that just creeps into Europe by being a resident on Lesvos. Both Michael and Sheila enjoyed this spectacle so much that the Kruper's was crowned bird of the holiday by both of them, while watching the behaviour of these 2 birds at the nest enthralled Charles enough to make it his memorable moment. Watching this was so enjoyable that the nearby **Serin** in the wood was almost overlooked.

Another field of poppies required more photographs before we moved on and headed off to Agiassos and after our wonderful views of Kruper's we deserved a coffee which was easier said than done as we chose a café where trying to get 12 drinks sorted out was a task of epic proportions. In the end, we all got some liquid refreshment of some sorts and then made our way to the chestnut forest. Here the flora outshone the fauna as Philip went about identifying a range of flowers including six varieties of orchids and the locally endemic *Fritillaria theophrasti*. New butterflies to add to the list included **Knapweed Fritillary** and a **Green-underside Blue** while a new bird that we enjoyed was a **Robin**. A few people also got good views of a **Balkan Wall Lizard** as well. This whole experience in the Chestnut Forest was for Marie-Claude her abiding memory of the holiday, the overall peacefulness of the place, the variety of the plants all contributing to this decision.

Leaving this idyllic place, we headed back to Skalla Kallonis but not before stopping at the mini-soccer pitch outside Kallonis, much to the bemusement of Mike the driver. Again, the presence of a ridiculously big camera lens pointing at a tree and it looked like another target place was probably there, which indeed it was, a splendid **Scop's Owl** right out in the open on the branch of a Eucalyptus tree in full view of everyone, though it thought it was well camouflaged! It was brilliant to see this wonderful bird that we had been hearing outside the hotel rooms but had yet to see. A second one was also located and Liz had no qualms in nominating this the bird of the holiday.

Another splendid day out in the field in the ever-increasing heat merited a beer or two!

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### Day Six: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Kavaki headland and Molyvos

Easter Monday and a public holiday in Lesvos and we headed up northwest and our first stop was at Kavaki looking for another island speciality. Not evident straightaway we did see a raft of **Yelkouan Shearwaters** on the sea. However, the bird we particularly wanted to see soon put in an appearance and we all got really good views of **Ruppell's Warbler** sitting on the top of bushes, though it was pretty mobile moving from bush to bush. We then got a bit of a warbler festival and an **Eastern Orphean Warbler** was noted moving backwards and forwards and obviously had a nest nearby and then, not to be outdone, an **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** starting showing very well and a good few minutes were enjoyed in the presence of their company. Another new species here was **Blue Rock Thrush**

I hadn't anticipated us seeing the Ruppell's quite so easily, so the only thing to do was to go and have a coffee in the rather nice restaurant where we got even better views of a Ruppell's Warbler and a few couldn't resist sampling some of the splendid confectionary on display! We then moved onto Molyvos and the chance to actually relax and actually do some shopping before making our way down to the lovely Seahorse Hotel on the seafront and a very pleasant leisurely lunch. We parked at the Castle and soon found the both a **Little Owl** and a **Kestrel** perched in the holes of the wall. The town was very busy and I think some of us wouldn't have mind spending time at the party that was beginning to get going and enjoy the views that were on display! However, I was having none of it as we had spent a lot of time already not birding, so on the way back we first stopped at the Raptor Watchpoint which was notable for its lack of raptors so moved onto the north side of Tsiknias River.

The river level was very low but we did get great views of Nightingale and a number of Wood Sandpipers were moving up and down the river as were both **Ringed** and **Little Ringed Plovers**. Another Citrine Warbler, a female, showed well. Heat and thirst sent us back to the hotel, with Philip and Charles deciding to walk back when a Little Bittern provided Charles with his moment of the holiday.

### Day Seven: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Kalloni salt pans and Napi Valley

Our last full day and a very productive pre-breakfast walk down to the wetlands at the front of the lines of the hotel and great views of Black Stork, Little Bittern, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis and Squacco Heron. **Reed, Sedge** and **Cetti's Warblers** were all plentiful as well. The briefest view of a **Garganey** meant at least it got on the list.

Back to the salt pans and wetlands and it was great to see a field of **White Storks** opposite where we parked, a bird we hadn't seen all week. Even better views of both White-winged and Whiskered Terns were enjoyed as were the waders. New birds were added that were all pretty familiar to us, **Snipe**, **Redshank** and **Black-headed Gull** while an **Osprey** was spotted in the distance making its way towards us, not a common bird seen in Lesvos. Both **Blue-headed** and **Black-headed Wagtails** came very close to us and we also got really good views of a fully summer-plumaged **Red-throated Pipit** which was a great sighting.

Lunch beckoned, so we headed back into town and found an excellent restaurant which made it harder to get going again, but somehow, we managed it and so went to explore a footpath through the Napi Valley. It was by now very hot and I think some of us were beginning to wilt a bit, but there were still new birds to see! A **Nuthatch** was nice to see but not really the target bird, which indeed was eventually located a **Sombre Tit**, which is a bit of a misnomer as the bird didn't really seem that miserable! Some new butterflies were also found by Charles along this track, a **Spotted Fritillary**, a **Turkish Meadow Brown** and a **Hungarian Skipper**. As we made our weary way back to the minibus, a raptor flew fairly overhead which we identified as a **Booted Eagle** a very rare visitor to Lesvos, while a **Peregrine** also put in an appearance.

In the evening, it was a great to go through your favourite birds and most memorable moments, a very varied selection was made, and the three moments that are missing are from Liz who just that being back in Lesvos and the love she has for this Island and enough for her and will be her best memory of the week, while for Lindsay, she also just loved the Island as well, particularly the wild flowers that were

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everywhere, not just in a few designated meadows as they are in the UK. As for Sheila, what she is going to remember most from this trip was the laughter, which indeed there was plenty of.

### Day Eight: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Back to the airport

Our last morning, so most of us managed the pre-breakfast walk and enjoyed the last views of the Stone Curlew and up to 10 Kentish Plovers on the beach and then wandering along to the marshy area where a **Great Reed Warbler** was being mobbed by 3 Reed Warblers and then a new bird for the trip, a **Black-crowned Night Heron** sitting prominently in a tree.

So, one last walk past the snarling dogs and back to the hotel, breakfast, goodbye to George and the hotel staff, the parrot and assortment of cats and our fairly uneventful but somewhat tedious journey back home began.

By the sound of it, you all enjoyed your adventure in Lesvos. Comfortable accommodation, good food, great weather, brilliant birds, lots of fun and wonderful company, sums up the week fairly well I think.

Mike Russell, Wildlife Travel



Above: Kruper's Nuthatch (*Achladeri*) and Peacock Anemone *Anemone pavonina* (Agiassos)

## LESVOS 2017: some highlights



Top row, l to r: White-winged Black Tern and Whiskered Tern, both at Alykes Wetlands  
First row, l to r: Citrine Wagtail and Little Bittern on the Tsikias River  
second row, l to r: Masked Shrike (Napi Valley), Scops Owl (Kalloni) and Ruppell's Warbler (Kavaki)



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<b>BIRDS</b>									
<b>Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese &amp; Swans)</b>									
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>							X	
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			X	X		X	X	
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			X				X	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>			X		X			
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>						X	X	X
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>						X	X	
<b>Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)</b>									
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>				X	H			
<b>Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters)</b>									
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			X	X				
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				X	X			X
<b>Family Sulidae (Gannets)</b>									
Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>						X		X
<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)</b>									
(Mediterranean) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>			X			X		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>							X	
<b>Family Phoenicopteridae (Flamingoes)</b>									
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			X		X		X	X
<b>Family Ciconiidae (Storks)</b>									
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>							X	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Threskiornithidae (Spoonbills and Ibises)</b>									
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X
<b>Family Ardeidae (Hérons)</b>									
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>								X
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X	X	X			X	X
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X	X	X	X		X	
<b>Family Pandionidae (Ospreys)</b>									
(Western) Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							X	
<b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks and Eagles)</b>									
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	
Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>							X	
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					X			
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X	X		X	X	X	
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			X					
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				X	X	X	X	
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			X	X				
<b>Family Falconidae (Falcons)</b>									
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		X					X	
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonorae</i>				X				
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>						X		
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			X	X		X	X	
<b>Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)</b>									
Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>			X					
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			X	X	X		X	

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<b>Family Burhinidae (Stone curlews)</b>									
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>		X	X	H	X			X
<b>Family Recurvirostridae (Avocets and Stilts)</b>									
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			X		X		X	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Charadriidae (Plovers)</b>									
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		X				X	X	x
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			X				X	
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		X	X		X			X
<b>Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)</b>									
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		X					X	
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>							X	
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			X				X	
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							X	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>							X	
Wood Sandpiper			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		X	X		X		X	
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			X					
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			X				X	
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>			X				X	
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			X		X		X	X
<b>Family Laridae (Gulls)</b>									
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>							X	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			X					
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			X					
<b>Family Sternidae (Terns)</b>									
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		X	X				X	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		X	X				X	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>			X				X	
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			X				X	
<b>Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>									
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			X	X	X	X	H	
<b>Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)</b>									
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>					H			
<b>Family Strigidae (Owls)</b>									
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		H	H	H	X	H		
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Apodidae (Swifts)</b>									
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)</b>									
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	H	H		X	X	X
<b>Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)</b>									
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				H	H		H	
<b>Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)</b>									
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus medius</i>					X	X	X	
<b>Family Alaudidae (Larks)</b>									
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				H				

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<b>Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)</b>									
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			X	X		X	X	
<b>Family Motacillidae (Pipits and Wagtails)</b>									
Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (f.) flava</i>		X					X	
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i>		X				X	X	X
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (a.) alba</i>			X				X	X
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>		X				X		
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		X						
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>			X				X	
<b>Family Muscipidae (Flycatchers and Chats)</b>									
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>					H			
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		X	X	H	X	X	X	X
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		X		X			X	
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>				X		X		
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe (hispanica) melanoleuca</i>			X	X		X	X	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				X		X		
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>				X				
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>						X		
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				X				
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>				X				
<b>Family Turdidae (Thrushes)</b>									
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)</b>									
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				X	X			
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>						X		
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia (cantillans) albistriata</i>				X	X	X	X	
Rüppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>						X		
<b>Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)</b>									
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				H				
<b>Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)</b>									
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		X	H			X	X	
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		X	X	X			X	X
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		X	X	X		X		
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>			X					
<b>Family Cettiidae (Bush Warblers)</b>									
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Paridae ( Tits)</b>									
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>							X	
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		X		X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Sittidae (Nuthatches)</b>									
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>							X	
Krüper's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>					X			
Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			X	X				
<b>Family Troglodytidae (Wren)</b>									
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					H			
<b>Family Laniidae (Shrikes)</b>									
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>		X	X				X	

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<b>Family Oriolidae (Orioles)</b>									
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				H	H			
<b>Family Corvidae (Crows)</b>									
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandularius atricapillus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				X				
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Passeridae (Sparrows)</b>									
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Fringillidae (Finches)</b>									
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				X	X	X	X	X
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>					X			
<b>Family Emberizidae (Buntings)</b>									
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cinereous Bunting	<i>Emberiza cineracea</i>				X				
Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>				X		H		
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>				X	X	X	X	
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X

### MAMMALS

Persian (=Caucasian) Squirrel	<i>Sciurus anomalus</i>				X				
Lesser Mole-Rat	<i>Nanospalax leucodon</i>				S			S	
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>							X	

### AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>				X				
Eastern Spadefoot Toad	<i>Pelobates syriacus</i>								D
Levant Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax bedriagae</i>		X	X	H	H	X	H	
Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>	X	H	H	H	H	H	H	
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>				X				
Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>		X	X			X	X	
Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>			X	X		X		
Turkish Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>						X		
Snake-eyed Lacertid	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>		X	X	X			X	
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>				X	X		X	
Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>					X			
Worm Snake	<i>Xerotyphlops vermicularis</i>			X				X	
Caspian Whip Snake	<i>Dolichophis caspius</i>				D				
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>							D	
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>		X						

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<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>									
<b>Family Papilionidae (Swallowtails)</b>									
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio Machaon</i>		X		X		X		
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		X		X	X	X	X	
Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisyi</i>			X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Pieridae (Whites)</b>									
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		X	X	X	X		X	
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>				X	X			
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					X	X		
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		X	X					
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			X	X	X		X	
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>				X			X	
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
<b>Family Nymphalidae (Admirals and Fritillaries)</b>									
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>					X	X		
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					X	X		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>				X				
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>					X			
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>							X	
Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>		X	X	X			X	
<b>Family Satyridae (Browns)</b>									
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		X		X				
Turkish Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola megalis</i>							X	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		X	X	X			X	
<b>Family Lycaenidae (Blues &amp; Coppers)</b>									
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		X	X	X	X		X	
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>					X			
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i>					X			
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			X		X			
<b>Family Hesperidae (Skippers)</b>									
Hungarian Skipper	<i>Spialia orbifer</i>							X	
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>			X			X	X	

<b>ODONATA - DRAGONFLIES</b>		
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	Achladeri woods, in the stream, 30 <sup>th</sup>
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	eg Metochi Lake, 28 <sup>th</sup>
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Kallonis salt pans
Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>	Metochi Lake, 28 <sup>th</sup>
Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>	Along Tsiknias River, 1st
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	Metochi Lake, 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>OTHER INVERTEBRATES</b>		
a tiger beetle	<i>Calomera (Cicindela) littoralis</i>	The tiger beetles running around on damp mud at Kallonis salt pans, 28 <sup>th</sup>
a longhorn beetle	<i>Dorcadion quadrimaculatum</i>	The sturdy longhorn beetle seen a couple of times around the hotel
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	The large, beige 'locust' with venetian-blind eyes.
Lesvos Bush-cricket	<i>Poecilimon mytelensis</i>	Common
a violet carpenter bee	<i>Xylocopa sp.</i>	The flying black olive. There are three species of similar-looking common, black Xylocopa bees on the Turkish

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			Mediterranean mainland, with which Lesvos shares much of its fauna.
Giant Centipede	<i>Scolopendra cingulata</i>		Large centipede with a poisonous bite, under rocks
'Yellow spotted' Millipede	<i>Melaphe vestita thracia</i>		Under rocks
a jumping spider	<i>Philaeus chrysops</i>		the bright red-backed spider with black 'bat man mask' and 2 white spots on the thorax, on the roadside at Kallonis salt pans, 28 <sup>th</sup>
a ladybird spider	<i>Eresus kollari</i>		near the Petrified Forest, 29 <sup>th</sup>
Oriental Hornet	<i>Vespa orientalis</i>		The large hornet, seen frequently during the week
a tangle-veined fly	<i>Fallenia fasciata</i>		A large bee-fly-like fly, feeding on Holy Thistle flowers near the river mouth, 27 <sup>th</sup> . A mimic of a female <i>Xylocopa olivieri</i> carpenter bee. The larvae parasitize large grasshoppers, emerging from between the head and the thorax to pupate.
Mammoth Wasp	<i>Megascolia maculata</i>		Very large, chunky wasp with yellow spots on black abdomen. Parasite of Minotaur Beetles. eg near Metochi Lake, 28 <sup>th</sup>
scorpion	<i>Buthus sp</i>		Medium-sized, yellowish scorpion under a rock at Kallonis salt pans, 28 <sup>th</sup> .
a mourning bee	<i>Melecta sp</i>		The black-and-white cuckoo bee, patrolling solitary bee holes by the roadside above Agiassos, 30 <sup>th</sup>



Top (L to R): Scarce Swallowtail, Lesser Spotted Fritillary and Knapweed Fritillary  
 Bottom: Worm Snake and a scorpion

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	First seen
<b>SOME SELECTED PLANTS</b>		
<b>DICOTYLEDONS</b>		
<b>Apiaceae</b>		
<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>	<b>Narrow-leaved Water Dropwort</b> Common white-flowered umbellifer along the damp roadsides near Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Ferula communis</i>	<b>Giant Fennel</b> Tall umbellifer with yellow 'ball' flowerheads eg in the fields around Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	<b>Fennel</b> Common roadside weed eg Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	<b>Shepherd's Needle</b> Small white-flowered arable weed with long needle-like seeds	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	<b>Perfoliate Alexanders</b> Roadsides eg Agiassos	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Aristolochiaceae</b>		
<i>Aristolochia hirsuta</i>	<b>Hairy Birthwort</b> roadsides above Agiassos	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Asteraceae</b>		
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	<b>Holy Thistle</b> leaves marbled white, large stout spines around flower-head. Roadside weed, eg at the river mouth, Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	<b>Field Marigold</b> Common weed in the arable fields	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Tragopogon sinuatus</i>	The lilac 'Goatsbeard': common roadside weed	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
<i>Echium italicum</i>	<b>Pale Viper's Bugloss</b> pale flowers, very bristly stem/leaves, forming 'christmas trees' at roadside	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	<b>Purple Viper's Bugloss</b> roadside plant, smaller than 'our' Viper's Bugloss	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Brassicaceae</b>		
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	<b>Three-horned Stock</b> Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Campanulaceae</b>		
<i>Campanula lyrata</i>	The bellflower growing amongst the rocks, Ipsilou	29 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Legousia pentagonia</i>	<b>Large Venus's Looking-Glass</b> The purple 'bellflowers' on sandy/gravelly bank along the river, Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>		
<i>Silene colorata</i>	<b>Mediterranean Catchfly</b> the small, pink-flowered campion, common roadside plant eg Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Silene gallica</i>	<b>Small-flowered Catchfly</b> flowers clustered along one side of a single stem. eg Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Silene italica</i>	<b>Italian Catchfly</b> white flowers, sticky, common roadside plant eg Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	<b>Corncockle</b> tall, arable weed, eg Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Cistaceae</b>		
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Pink-flowered rock rose, amongst the pine woods	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	White-flowered rock rose, amongst the pine woods	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	<b>Sun Spurge</b> common arable weed	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	<b>Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge</b> pink-flowered spurge, in the pine woods	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Fabaceae</b>		
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	<b>Small Melilot</b> roadside weed, eg Skalla Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	<b>Fodder Vetch</b> similar to Tufted Vetch, in arable fields	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	<b>White Clover</b> eg Skalla Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	<b>Reversed Clover</b> small, carmine-pink flower heads, eg Skalla Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	<b>Star Clover</b> common roadside plant, eg Metochi	28 <sup>th</sup>

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	<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	<b>Woolly Clover</b> common roadside plant, eg Kallonis	28 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Trifolium spumosum</i>	<b>Bladder Clover</b> eg Metochi	28 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	<b>Hare's-foot Clover</b> Salt pans	28 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Trifolium uniflorum</i>	<b>One-flowered Clover</b> Ipsilou	29 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Trifolium pilulare</i>	<b>Cotton-ball Clover</b> Ipsilou	29 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	<b>Narrow-leaved Clover</b> roadside near Achladeri	30 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Trifolium clypeatum</i>	<b>Shield Clover</b> woodland above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Fagaceae</b>			
	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	<b>Sweet Chestnut</b> woodland above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	<b>Kermes Oak</b> evergreen shrubby oak with holly leaves, eg Achladeri and above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Quercus ithaburensis ssp macrolepis</i>	<b>Large-scaled Oak</b> The tree-forming oak with soft furry leaves, eg at Ipsalou	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Frankeniaceae</b>			
	<i>Frankenia hirsuta</i>	<b>Hairy Sea-heath</b> Around the salt pans	28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Lamiaceae</b>			
	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	<b>French Lavender</b> under the pine trees along the roadside	30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Moraceae</b>			
	<i>Ficus carica</i>	<b>Common Fig</b> A common roadside tree, including some very big specimens along the river, Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Oleaceae</b>			
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	<b>Olive</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Papaveraceae</b>			
	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	<b>Corn Poppy</b> Common in the fields, much deeper red than at home	27 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Hypecoemum procumbens</i>	Oddly-shaped 'rectangular' flowers: roadsides around Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Primulaceae</b>			
	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	<b>Scarlet Pimpernel</b> both red and blue flowering forms	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>			
	<i>Anemone pavonina</i>	<b>Peacock Anemone</b> The red or pink flowered anemone in the woodlands above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	<b>Corn Buttercup</b> very common around Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>			
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>			
	<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>	<b>Round-headed Leek</b> eg Alykes Pool	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Aracaceae</b>			
P	<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	The palms in the hotel garden, home to Spanish Sparrow colonies: native to S America	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Araceae</b>			
	<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	<b>Dragon Arum</b> One young plant by the river at Skala Kallonis	27 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Arum rupicola</i>	The tall, narrow Arum in the woods above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Asparagaceae</b>			
	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	The thorny wild asparagus, common at the roadsides	27 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Muscari commutatum</i>	The small, dark-flowered grape hyacinth in the woods above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Leopoldia comosum</i>	<b>Tassel Hyacinth</b>	29 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Leopoldia weissii</i>	The taller hyacinth in the woods above Agiassos, like a Tassel Hyacinth but without the tassel	30 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Ornithogalum nutans</i>	<b>Drooping Star-of-Bethlehem</b> in the woods above Agiassos, large white lily flowers with green stripes under the petals	30 <sup>th</sup>



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SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	First seen
<b>Iridaceae</b>		
<i>Gladiolus ilyricus</i>	The wild gladiolus at the roadside	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Iris albicans</i>	The blue iris above Agiassos: a garden escape	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Iris orientalis</i>	White and yellow iris in the wet grassland near the salt pans	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
<i>Fritillaria theophrasti</i> (= <i>F. pontica</i> ssp <i>substipelata</i> )	<b>Lesvos Fritillary</b> in the woods above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Gagea graeca</i>	Small white lily in the woods above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Orchidaceae</b>		
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> ssp <i>caucasica</i>	<b>Caucasus Green-winged Orchid</b> above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Anacamptis sancta</i>	<b>Holy Orchid</b> Just coming into flower around the Petrified Forest site	29 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	<b>Sword-leaved Helleborine</b> above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	<b>Violet Birds-nest Orchid</b> the purple spike, just coming into flower, parasitic on chestnut tree roots: above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Neotinea tridentata</i>	<b>Toothed Orchid</b> two small pink spikes, above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Ophrys reinholdii</i>	<b>Reinhold's Bee Orchid</b> One spike on the roadside above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	<b>Provence Orchid</b> The pale yellow orchids above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Platanthera holmboei</i> ssp <i>lesbiaca</i>	<b>Holmboe's Butterfly Orchid</b> Just coming into flower, above Agiassos	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Serapias bergonii</i>	<b>Long-lipped Tongue Orchid</b> One spike near the Petrified Forest	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Poaceae</b>		
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	<b>Hares-tail Grass</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Xanthorrhoeaceae</b>		
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	The tall asphodel, going over, on dry, grazed hillsides	28 <sup>th</sup>



(above, L to R):

Reinhold's Bee Orchid *Ophrys reinholdii*, Holy Orchid *Anacamptis sancta* & Lesvos Fritillary *Fritillaria theophrasti*