



Sunrise Birding LLC

# LESVOS

April 21 - 28, 2018

# TRIP REPORT



Photos: Little Owl, Cinereous Bunting, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Flamingos and Säbelschnäblers, Taverna lunch

# LESVOS - 2018

21<sup>st</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Krüper's Nuthatch
- Cinereous Bunting
- Pallid Harrier
- Sombre Tit
- Little Crake
- Little Bittern
- Audouin's Gull
- Hoopoe
- Marsh Sandpiper
- Rüppell's Warbler
- Isabelline Wheatear
- Curlew Sandpiper
- Rock Sparrow
- Masked Shrike
- Little Gull
- Garganey
- European Hedgehog
- European Bee-eater
- Golden Oriole
- Lesser Grey Shrike
- Red-footed Falcon
- Greater Flamingo
- Black Stork
- Black-headed Bunting
- Sardinian Warbler
- Stone Curlew
- Eleanora's Falcon
- Eurasian Spoonbill
- European Scops Owl
- Lesser Kestrel
- Little Grebe
- Black-winged Stilt
- Little Owl
- Glass Lizard
- Black-winged Pratincole
- Western Rock Nuthatch
- Collared Pratincole
- White-winged Tern
- Whiskered Tern
- Blue Rock Thrush
- Yelkouan Shearwater
- Slender-billed Gull
- Short-toed Eagle
- Red-throated Pipit
- Spur-winged Plover
- *Black-headed Wagtail*
- *Blue-headed Wagtail*
- Great Crested Grebe
- Pied Avocet (Säbelschnäbler)
- Chukar
- Lesvos Bush Cricket

## SUMMARY:

The wonderful Greek island of Lesvos once again provided a superb getaway from harsh winter weather to glorious sunshine of the Mediterranean. In fact, we enjoyed clear blue sunny skies from the first day until the end of our tour. Blue skies are not the ideal conditions for migrating birds to drop in as many will fly straight over the island, but even so we enjoyed a wealth of European birds that included several real surprises and fabulous looks at many species. Travelling mostly around the central and west side of the island, we delighted in wonderful scenery and a variety of habitats as



well as several very quaint fishing villages where taverna lunches and local Greek food were order of the day. Our well-appointed hotel and staff looked after our every need and was in close proximity to of one of the island's birding hotspots, the Kalloni Salt Pans. Birds, Butterflies, Reptiles and flowers plus many superb photo opportunities once again made Lesvos the place to be during April. As ever, we cannot wait to return. Every year produces different birds in different numbers which makes every visit exciting and unpredictable. A fantastic group of

people made this tour a pleasure to lead and we even learned something about shepherds and sheep!

Photo: Poppy fields on Lesvos by Gina Nichol.

## *Kalloni Salt Pans - 21<sup>st</sup> April*

Some of our group arrived on an early morning flight while the remainder arrived around lunch-time today. After settling in to our wonderful hotel, we met up in the late afternoon for an introduction to the birds of Lesvos. We drove to the Kalloni Salt Pans where a stop along the way produced a **Long-legged Buzzard** and several similar looking **Common Buzzards** of the steppe buzzard race – *vulpines*. A **Eurasian Blackbird** was seen followed by a **Black-eared Wheatear**.



Moving on, we arrived at the corner of the salt pans where we soon found several **Wood Sandpipers**, **Black-winged Stilts** (Photo: Gina Nichol), and our first **Ruddy Shelducks**. Several distant **White-winged Terns** required better views and the **Greater Flamingos** were in poor light, We made our way around to the other side of the salt pans and first stopped to check a couple of **Wood Sandpipers** and a **Common Sandpiper**. Next were a group of **Pied Avocets** with 17 **Pintail** swimming behind them. Four **Garganey** flew over and landed beside them. A **Whiskered Tern** gave a nice fly by followed by **Common Terns** and a few distant **Little Terns**. **Short-toed Eagles** were passing overhead and then we got super views of a second year male **Pallid Harrier**.

Continuing on we found **Squacco Herons** and **Black-headed Wagtail** and then a **Stone Curlew** lay in the grass only showing its head. Further on we got close to several shorebirds in perfect light. **Wood Sandpipers** lazed beside the more energetic **Marsh Sandpipers** of which there must have been around 15. A lone **Spotted Redshank** and some **Black-winged Stilts** were noted as well as a **Temminck's Stint** and a stunning male **Black-headed (Yellow) Wagtail**. Moving on we spotted **Glossy Ibis**, **Grey Herons** and some **Ruff**. After this very nice start, it was time to head back towards our hotel.

## *Metochi - Salt Pans - Achladeri - Salt Pans - 22<sup>nd</sup> April*

Today drove to the Metochi Lake for our pre breakfast birding. On arrival we spotted **Sedge** and some very showy **Cetti's Warblers** and then our first **Little Crake**, a female. Over the next hour, we counted 8 or 9 **Little Crakes** with 4 males among them. A **Little Bittern** flew past and we saw **Masked Shrike**, **Common Swifts**, **Little Grebes** and a nice **Woodchat Shrike**.

After breakfast we headed to the salt pans and spotted **Stone Curlew** and lots of **Whinchats** perched up on the low weeds. Along the channel were **Marsh Sandpipers**, **Ruff**, and **Temminck's Stint**. At the Alykes wetlands we watched **Red-throated Pipits**, **Glossy Ibis** and then a highlight was watching a **Black-winged Pratincole** flying around with 3 **Collared Pratincoles** allowing fabulous comparisons of the two species in perfect light conditions.

At the sheep fields, we watched **Greater Short-toed Larks** feeding in the grass before driving to Achladeri where we parked and walked up a track to nesting tree of a pair of **Krüper's Nuthatch**, one of the star attractions of the island. We watched as the male and female constantly came to the tree to feed the young which were close fledging as they were almost sticking their heads out of the hole.



Krüper's Nuthatch. Photo by Gina Nichol.

Nearby a **Short-toed Treecreeper** was also nesting and returning occasionally to its nest in a crack down the side of a tree. In the nearby stream we found a few **Odalisque** dragonflies and in the forest we saw a singing **Cirl Bunting** and **Masked Shrike**. To end the day we returned back to the Alykes wetlands where we enjoyed seeing the **Collared Pratincoles** again and added an **Osprey** flying past.

## *Salt Pans - Lardia Valley - Sigrí - Petrified Forest - 23<sup>rd</sup> April*

This morning before breakfast we drove over to the Alykes wetlands where our highlight was watching a second calendar year male **Pallid Harrier** perched. We enjoyed scope views of this beautiful bird in

perfect light. A few **Yellow Wagtails** of a variety of races flitted about and **Glossy Ibis** and a large group of **Ruff** dropped in.

After breakfast we set off to the west side of the island making our first stop at the Lardia Valley. Here we found two **Rock Sparrows**, several **Crag Martins**, a brief **Blue Rock Thrush** and then a **Western Bonelli's Warbler** singing from a tree top. We then had distant views of an **Eleanora's Falcon** followed by a male **Goshawk**. There were several nice butterflies including **False Apollo**, **Eastern Festoon**, **Clouded Yellow** and **Black-veined Whites**. A little further on and we stopped for two **European Bee-eaters** perched on a wire followed by a singing **Woodlark** on another wire.

We moved on towards Ipsilou and made a stop for some **Isabelline Wheatears** and also noted **Red-backed Shrike** and a **Northern Wheatear**. Moving on again we stopped for a **Stonechat**. Down in Sigrí we saw a flock of **Jackdaws** these birds are only found in a few localities on the island. We set up our picnic lunch on the beach watching distant **Yelkouan** and a few larger **Scopoli's Shearwaters** flying past.



Afterwards we drove to Faneromeni ford and watched **Spotted**, **Pied** and a nice male **Collared Flycatcher**. A flock of 23 **Bee-eaters** circled overhead and then a high **Marsh Harrier** was accompanied by some **Alpine Swifts**. Leaving this area we drove to the Petrified Forest. Along the way we spotted a few **Linnets**, **Cretzschmar's Bunting** (Photo: Gina Nichol), and then a **Short-toed Eagle** and **Long-legged Buzzard** flying together. We then got fabulous flight views of a dark phase **Eleanora's Falcon**. A **Chukar** then flew up from the roadside and quickly disappeared, while hundreds of butterflies and endemic **Lesvos Bush Crickets** were seen. At the end of the road we found two **Little Owls** perched on stones and around the shepherds building, as well as a pair of **Western Rock Nuthatches**. Driving back towards Kalloni we saw two **Hoopoes** fly into a tree and then away. We then drove back stopping to find a **Mediterranean Chequered Scorpion** along the way.

### *Salt pans - Kavaki - Skala Sikaminia - Napi - 24<sup>th</sup> April*

This morning we visited the salt pans seeing a (Black-crowned) **Night Heron** and two **Little Bitterns** on the Tsiknias River ford. On the power lines on the other side we had a close female **Red-footed Falcon** with a couple more perched distantly. On the Salt pans we had 3 **White-winged Terns** feeding with lots of **Little Terns**. Moving on to the sheep fields there were 8 **Great Crested Grebes** in bay.

After breakfast we headed to the north coast and Kavaki. A **Goshawk** caused a quick roadside stop as it flew overhead. Our first real stop had a superb **Rüppell's Warbler**, plus stunning views of a male **Blue Rock Thrush**, and singing **Subalpine Warblers**. Nearby, a **Chukar** was spotted on top of a rock the two **Turtle Doves** perched on a wire. Moving on to the north coastal dirt track road we found **Cretzschmar's Buntings** and **Red-backed Shrikes**, great views of many



**Yelkouan Shearwaters**, and some nice butterflies. We saw the old disused camps where the refugees coming across from Turkey were helped, we then arrived at the picturesque fishing village of Skala Sikaminia where we enjoyed a fabulous taverna lunch.

Afterwards we were starting to head back when an **Audouin's Gull** flew past. We gave chase but never caught up with it. On our return either it or another one gave great views as it flew slowly past. Then we drove the Napi Valley, which was rather quiet. Back at the salt pans we had 34 **Gull-billed Terns** along with over 50 **Whiskered Terns** and 3 **White-winged Terns, Greenshank**, plus many **Ruff**. As ever **Black-headed Buntings, Corn Buntings** and **Crested Larks** serenaded us.

### *Metochi - Napi - Vatera - Salt Pans - 25<sup>th</sup> April*



Today we visited the Metochi Lake where the early morning light is always perfect for viewing. Here we saw 7 **Little Crakes** and 5 **Little Bitterns** (Photo: Gina Nichol). There were three **Golden Orioles** showing amazingly well in the tree tops, while the pond edges held **Reed, Sedge, Great Reed** and **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers**.

On the way back for breakfast, we encountered the infamous Lesvos Sheep Jam complete with one flying sheep!

After breakfast we headed to the salt pans where Gina spotted 3 **Eurasian Spoonbills** flying away. There were 10 **Black Storks** around and then we moved up the Napi Valley where we saw four or more **Hoopoes** plus a pair of **Sombre Tits**. We heard an **Olive Tree Warbler** singing but it remained in deep cover and never showed itself.



Leaving the Napi Valley, we headed south towards Vatera. Here we soon found our target **Sardinian Warbler**, as well as **Cirl Bunting** and **Woodchat Shrike**. We enjoyed our picnic overlooking the clear blue sea with small numbers of **Yelkouan Shearwaters** drifting past. After lunch we checked out a small river which held a few **Yellow Wagtails**, plenty of **Black-headed Buntings** sat on wires and from the bridge we saw two **Common Kingfishers** flash past. A quick look from the river mouth yielded one of the kingfishers perched on some rocks overlooking the sea.

It was time to drive back making a brief stop to look at a **Serin** along the way. We dropped a few people off at the hotel and the rest of us returned to the salt pans. **Greater Flamingos** looked wonderful in the evening light, **Ruddy** and **Common Shelducks** were seen, there was only 1 **Pintail** left and shorebirds included **Little Ringed Plovers**, and plenty of **Ruff**. A group of 4 **Collared Pratincoles** sat

in a field and then beside the Tsiknias River Ford we enjoyed stunning views of 4 **Red-footed Falcons** circling low overhead.

### *Meladia Valley - Sigrí - 26<sup>th</sup> April*

This morning we headed towards Sigrí and the Meladia Valley. We found 2 **Red-footed Falcons** along the way and then stopped for a fabulous **Cinereous Bunting** (Photo: Gina Nichol), an island specialty, sat on a rock beside the road. We eventually got to Meladia and saw plenty of **Cretzschmar's Buntings** and **Black-eared Wheatears**. We found two trees that were alive with birds including 4 **Golden Orioles**, **Red-backed Shrikes**, **Spotted, Pied and Collared Flycatchers**, **Eastern Orphean Warbler** and **Black-headed Buntings**. A **Common Starling** was spotted, a left over from the winter, and there were lots of **Whinchats** and **Stonechats**. Gina's car found a close **Chukar** and soon after we saw a nice **Little Owl**. At the old sanatorium we found a **Tree Pipit**, several **Linnet**, **Common Whitethroat**, **Red-backed Shrikes** and a **Pied Flycatcher**.

We had our picnic lunch on the beach under some Tamarisks and then drove to Sigrí where we found a nice **Lesser Grey Shrike** sat low against some yellow flowers. Heading out we drove to Ipsilou Monastery where we saw **Blue Rock Thrush** and some distant raptors. A few Butterflies were noted including **Swallowtail**, **Scarce Swallowtail** the much localized **Inky Skipper**. A perched **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** was also a nice find. We headed back and after a quick fix of the clutch on the minibus we were back in Kalloni. A last minute dash to the salt pans got us superb views of 5 **Slender-billed Gulls** and a 1<sup>st</sup> year **Little Gull** plus several feeding **Gull-billed Terns**.

### *Napí Valley - Alykes - Metochí - Salt pans - 27<sup>th</sup> April*

This morning we went early to the Napí Valley to try and see an **Olive Tree Warbler** that we only heard previously. No sound from the warbler but plenty of **Masked Shrikes** and a **Middle Spotted Woodpecker**. Along the way, Gina spotted a **Cattle Egret** (Photo: Gina Nichol) amongst some sheep. This was a rare sighting for the island with probably less than 20 records ever. We had good views and a few record shots but the sheep were not being friendly to this lost bird and it soon flew off.



We traveled up the Napí valley and once on site we waited for the elusive **Olive Tree Warbler** to start singing. We watched **Hoopoe**, **Cirl Bunting**, **Goldfinches** and a couple of **Squacco Herons**, but no sight nor sounds from the warbler. We then checked the salt pans finding 4 **Slender-billed Gulls** among many birds we had previously seen. In the channel were 3 **Curlew Sandpipers** among the **Ruff** and **Wood Sandpipers**. We then drove to the Alykes wetlands and saw 2 very smart looking **Spur-winged Lapwings**.



After breakfast we went to salt pans, then we went to Metochi lake where 3 **Black-crowned Night Herons** were seen roosting at the far end of the pool. From here we drove to the Scops copse where we saw 3 **Eurasian Scops Owls** (Photo: Gina Nichol) with one at eye level sticking its head out of a hole in a tree. Then to lunch, afterwards we drove to Achladeri where it was pretty quiet in the hottest part of the day. From there, we worked back to salt pans and this time there were plenty of **White-winged** and **Gull-billed Terns** to entertain us. A **Lesser Grey Shrike** was noted on our way back to the hotel.

We celebrated our final night at the wonderful Kalloni Bay Hotel and the end of our wonderful tour. Some people had an early night as they had a flight at 06.50 the following morning.



Photos:  
Crested Lark  
by Gina Nichol.

Lesvos Endemic Bush  
Cricket by Steve Bird.

Chukar  
by Gina Nichol.





# BIRDLIST FOR LESVOS 2018

A = Number of species recorded on tour B = Number of days out of 7 recorded C = Highest daily count

H = Heard Only N/C = No Count C=Common

This list follows the IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v (8.1) and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomy's – appendix \*

A	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	B	C
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	4	6
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	3	8
3	Scopoli's Shearwater *	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	1	2
4	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	4	200 +
5	Great Cormorant *	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	3	1
6	European Shag *	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	3	6
7	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	7	40+
8	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	6	5
9	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	2	3
10	Western Cattle Egret *	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	2	1
11	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	6	8
12	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2	3
13	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	5	5
14	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	7	15
15	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	6	6
16	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	7	70
17	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	1	3
18	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	7	400
19	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	7	6
20	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	7	4
21	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4	3
22	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	4	17
23	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	5	11
24	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	7	10
25	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	7	3
26	Pallid Harrier *	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	2	1
27	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	2	1
28	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	2	1
29	Common Buzzard *	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	6	4
30	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	3	1
31	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1	1
32	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	1	2
33	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	4	2
34	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	6	4
35	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonorae</i>	1	2
36	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	1
37	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	3	2
38	Little Crane	<i>Porzana parva</i>	2	8
39	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	7	10
40	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	3	4
41	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	6	20+

42	Pied Avocet *	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	7	100 +
43	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	6	2
44	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	4	4
45	Black-winged Pratincole *	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	1	1
46	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	6	8
47	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	5	4
48	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	1	2
49	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	2	2
50	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	2	1
51	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	2	1
52	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	4	15+
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	4	3
54	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1	1
55	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	7	150 +
56	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	6	2
57	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	3	6
58	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	3	4
59	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	1	3
60	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	7	70+
61	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	1	1
62	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	7	C
63	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	2	5
64	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	1	1
65	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	3	34
66	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	2	3
67	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	7	10+
68	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	6	15
69	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	2	55
70	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	4	14
71	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	7	N/C
72	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	6	4
73	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	7	C
74	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	H
75	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	2	3
76	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	6	2
77	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	4	3
78	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	7	80+
79	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1	2
80	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	1	30
81	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	5	5
82	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	2	1
83	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla [cinerea]</i>	1	4
84	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	7	C
85	Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1	6
86	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	2	6
87	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	1	2
88	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	7	N/C

89	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	6	12
90	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	7	C
91	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	1	1
92	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	1	1
93	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	6	40
94	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	7	3
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		
95	<i>Black-headed Wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>	7	25
96	<i>Blue-headed Wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	5	12
97	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	7	2
98	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	6	8
99	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	2	10
100	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	4	6
101	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	6	30
102	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	2	4
103	Blue Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	3	1
104	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	7	8
105	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	6	2
106	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2	4
107	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	3	2
108	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	4	2
109	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais elaeica</i>	7	C
110	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	1	H
111	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	1	1
112	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	1	2
113	Rüppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>	1	1
114	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	1	2
115	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	6	4
116	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus (bonelli) orientalis</i>	1	1
117	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2	4
118	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	2	3
119	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	2	3
120	Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>	2	2
121	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	6	4
122	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	5	2
123	Krüper's Nuthatch *	<i>Sitta krueperi [canadensis]</i>	1	2
124	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	2	2
125	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	1	3
126	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	3	4
127	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio [cristatus]</i>	4	15
128	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	2	1
129	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	6	10
130	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	6	6
131	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	7	4
132	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	2	50
133	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	7	C
134	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	6	2
135	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2	1
136	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	7	C

137	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis [domesticus]</i>	6	60
138	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	1	2
139	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	4	8
140	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	2	1
141	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	4	4
142	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	7	6
143	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	2	6
144	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	6	6
145	Cinereous Bunting	<i>Emberiza cineracea</i>	1	4
146	Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	3	8
147	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	6	20
148	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	7	C
	<b>Other sightings</b>			
1	Persian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus anomalus</i>	3	1
2	Eastern Hodgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	2	1
3	Stripe-necked / Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	7	C
4	Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>	6	4
5	Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	4	2
6	Snake-eyed Lizard	<i>Ophisops elegans ehrenbergi</i>	2	3
7	European Glass Lizard	<i>Psuedopus apodus</i>	2	2
8	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	1	2
9	Levant Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax bedriagae</i>	2	2
10	Mediterranean Chequered Scorpion	<i>Mesobuthus gibbosus</i>	1	1
11	Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	1	1
12	Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>	3	2
13	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptum</i>	2	3
14	Lesvos Bush-cricket	<i>Poecilimon mytelensis</i>	6	200 +
	<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>		
1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	3	4
2	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	3	2
3	Eastern Festoon	<i>Allancastris cerisy</i>	3	2
4	Falso Apollo	<i>Archon apollinus</i>	1	3
5	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	3	20
6	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	2	4
7	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	4	8
8	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	4	4
9	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	2	2
10	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	4	10
11	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	1	2
12	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>	2	4
13	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	5	2
14	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	2	2
15	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	3	1
16	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	3	2
17	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	3	4

18	Southern Comma	<i>Polygona egea</i>	1	1
19	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	1	1
20	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	2	2
21	Persian Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola telmessia</i>	5	5,000
22	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	3	10
23	Oriental Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus orientalis</i>	1	1
24	Inky Skipper	<i>Erynnis marloyi</i>	1	1
25	Levantine Skipper	<i>Thymelicus hyrax</i>	3	8
	<b>DRAGONFLIES</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>		
1	Odalisque	<i>Epallage fatime</i>	1	2
2	Robust Spreadwing	<i>Lestes dryas</i>	1	6
3	Dark Spreadwing	<i>Lestes macrostigma</i>	4	1,000
4	Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	2	4
5	Blue Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	2	2
6	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	2	2
7	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	2	1
8	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	4	4
9	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	1	2
10	Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>	1	2
11	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	3	8
	<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>		
1	Corn Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoes</i>	5	
2	Fodder Vetch	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	1	
3	Hottentot Fig	<i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i>	3	
4	Holy Orchid	<i>Ochis sancta</i>	3	
5	Winged Sea Lavender	<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	4	
6	Large Mediterranean Spurge	<i>Euphorbia characius</i>	2	
7	Milk Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	4	
8	Purple Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	1	
9	Salsify	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	3	
10	Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	7	
11	Yellow Horned Poppy	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	3	
12	Curry Plant	<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	3	
13	Giant Fennel	<i>Ferula communis</i>	5	
14	Thorney Burnet	<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	4	
15	Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	1	

**Appendix \* These species follow IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v (8.1)**

**Scopoli's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)** – Scopoli's Shearwater is now split from Cory's Shearwater. Scopoli's breeds in the Mediterranean islands, while Cory's breeds in the Azores, Madeira, Canary and Berlenga islands. Both winter in different areas of the Atlantic.

**Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*)** – Birds found on Lesvos belong to the subspecies *sinensis*.

**European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*)** – The subspecies found on Lesvos is *desmarestii* which is confined to Mediterranean coasts and islands.

**Western Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)** – Found by Gina there have been less than 20 records of this species on the island. Amazingly elusive, we saw this species on 2 days in with sheep briefly.

**Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)** – This island offers great opportunities to see this sought after species. We had fabulous perched views of one 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar year male found by Dan. The same bird was also seen in flight.

**Common Buzzard / Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*)** – The island race of Common Buzzard is often referred to as Steppe Buzzard. We saw several of these plus migrant Common Buzzards.

**Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)** – The only word probably any of us have ever learned in Swedish was Säbelschnäbler which means Avocet. Thanks to Hugo & Steve for this.

**Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*)** – A real rarity on the island we were lucky enough to get excellent flight views of one bird with 3 Collared Pratincoles in perfect light conditions. We were the last people to see this sought after bird, although many false claims came out after its departure from many desperate people.

**Krüper's Nuthatch (*Sitta krueperi*)** – Lesvos is regarded as the best place in the world to see this smart looking nuthatch. It prefers pine forests and is also found in nearby Turkey. We watched a pair busily coming back and forth to their nest hole feeding young.

**Cinereous Bunting (*Emberiza cineracea*)** – This is another species that is easier to see on Lesvos than any other country. We had fabulous views of a male sat on a rock at close range.



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