

Lesbos

Naturetrek Tour Report

27th April – 4th May 2025



Krüper's Nuthatch



Eastern Subalpine Warbler



Long-legged Buzzard



Spur-winged Lapwing

Tour report and photos by Mike Crewe



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Summary

If proof were needed that Lesbos never fails to produce the goods, this week perhaps provided that proof. The weather was not exactly conducive to good birdwatching – at least on paper – with northerly winds gusting to over 30mph on occasion and lasting for much of the week, while temperatures regularly fell into single figures overnight. And yet, a wonderful run of exciting birds came our way on a daily basis. Grounded migrants kept us busy in the ‘wild west’, with falls of shrikes and parties of Rollers, Red-footed Falcons and Levant Sparrowhawks keeping us entertained. In addition, all of the local breeding birds for which Lesbos is renowned, fell nicely into place, with Cinereous and Cretzschmar’s Buntings, Krüper’s Nuthatch, Rüppell’s Warbler and many more performing nicely, while Spur-winged Lapwings and Laughing Doves continue to establish a foothold on the island

Regular visits to nearby wetlands demonstrated the rapid change over of birds during spring migration, as each visit brought different experiences. Little Bitterns, Squacco Herons, Spotted and Little Crakes and Great Snipe all graced the nearby riverbed, while the salt pans produced everything from Red-throated Pipits to enormous Dalmatian Pelicans. In addition to great birding, there was ample time during quieter periods to enjoy so much more and it was wonderful to be with a group with broader interests in the insects and plants of Lesbos, all of which form an integral part of the delights that this island has to offer.

Day 1

Sunday 27th April

The bulk of the group, along with Mike, flew in from Stansted pretty much on time, while Luca had arrived early morning and was already waiting for us. With vehicles quickly sorted (thank heavens for small airports!) we drove a short distance for lunch with Mike nipping back to sweep up the slightly delayed Manchester folks. While eating, a variety of swifts and swallows swept through, with a number of Alpine Swifts showing well in the sunny weather. We enjoyed our first look at the interesting local Jays, while a Sparrowhawk shot through all too quickly. With lunch done, we headed for our hotel, got checked in then went out for our first birding excursion.

We were soon bumping into our first Bee-eaters and Spanish Sparrows, while Corn Buntings and Crested Larks were refreshingly common. At the Tsiknias rivermouth, Sandwich Terns were roosting on a gravel bar and both Common and Little Terns hunted for fish. A Little Ringed Plover was on the water’s edge and, as we moved further along, a Purple Heron passed behind us. By the lower ford, we joined others who were watching two female Little Crakes that performed wonderfully, feeding in full view along the edge of the reed clumps. We also picked out a Wood Sandpiper and a diminutive Temminck’s Stint at close range, while Black-headed Wagtails busied themselves on the gravel banks. A singing Black-headed Bunting eventually gave away its location in some bare trees, then miraculously came and joined us in a small mulberry tree right on the river bank. A male Whinchat and some fly-over Ruddy Shelducks and White-winged Terns were also noted but soon it was time to head back for our first dinner and much talk about this fine start to the trip.

After dark, many Eastern Treefrogs were calling outside the hotel and Nightingales began their nocturnal watch.

Day 2

Monday 28th April

For our first full day, we stayed relatively local, spending much of the day in the Kalloni area. We started with a pre-breakfast visit to Metochi Lake, stopping just short of the lake for a briefly obliging Great Reed Warbler. On arrival at the lake, we quickly noticed eight Squacco Herons roosting in the waterside vegetation, with six giving a nice fly-by a little while later as they left the roost. Coots and Moorhens were on the water and the margins held feeding Reed and Sedge Warblers. With patience we eventually managed to see two female Little Crakes, both of which spent periods feeding out in the open. On the way back, a Roller was found on a roadside wire.

Our post-breakfast travels took us first to the Tsiknias river mouth, where the Sandwich Terns had been replaced by four Mediterranean Gulls and two White-winged Terns fed over the water. We crossed the ford, where a Little Bittern scuttled into cover, and continued to the salt pans. On arrival at the pans, we almost immediately picked out a Spur-winged Lapwing with a scattering of Black-winged Stilts, a few Ruff and a Spotted Redshank, while Greater Flamingos gave a colourful backdrop. Pied Avocets were out on the pans further along and a Little Stint was a nice addition later, while a female Montagu's Harrier took time to reveal its full identity but could be confirmed by photos that we were able to take. Red-throated Pipits could be heard calling and we found firstly a caramel-coloured female, then a male with a brick-red face.

At the 'race track', Greater Short-toed Larks were seen very well as they fed on the sandy openings and, at the far end of our route, a very distant Whimbrel could be seen along the beach. Time was getting on and we needed rest stops, so we made a quick run back to the hotel before skirting around Kalloni Bay to get to our lunch stop. In an attempt to escape the wind a little, we headed for the edge of the pine forests at Achladeri and enjoyed Woodchat Shrike, Cirl Buntings and Long-tailed Tits among others. A few interesting plants were here, too, including Pyrenean Star-of-Bethlehem in good quantity and some smart Venus's-looking-glass flowers. We walked a short way into the pines and soon found our hoped-for target – a pair of Krüper's Nuthatches, very busily ferrying food to a nest hole in a dead tree and giving excellent views.

From Achladeri, we worked back, stopping first for photo opportunities at a mass display of poppies. Walking the road for a while, we found a nice array of shrikes – Red-backed, Woodchat and, eventually, our first pair of Masked Shrikes. The Woodchats were a mixed bunch as they included one with crossed mandibles (presumably from a damaged bill) and a partially leucistic individual with a cream-coloured head. Balkan Terrapins and introduced Red-eared Sliders begged for scraps at the bridge! Leaving the pines, we joined a number of other birdwatchers to watch a small group of Red-footed Falcons as they rested and hunted on some salt flats and gave superb views. A final stop back at the salt pans revealed a nice flock of White-winged and Whiskered Terns feeding over the pans, though they were a little distant, which can often be the case on the very large complex of pans here. It had been a very full day and we returned tired but satisfied with a long list of exciting finds.

Day 3

Tuesday 29th April

Another day of strong winds dawned today, though our pre-breakfast walk was at least relatively calm. We took a short visit to the old Potamia reservoir and began with the most wonderful of sights as scores of Barn Swallows and House Martins, along with a scattering of Sand Martins and Red-rumped Swallows fed over the fields and lined up on roadside wires. A check of the reservoir revealed a good number of rather boisterous Little Grebes present, while Squacco Herons and a Black-crowned Night Heron roosted in the trees. A Little Bittern called

several times and showed briefly. On the way out, an Eastern Orphean Warbler sang very close by and eventually showed itself well.

After breakfast, we took to the high road and headed west. Near Filia, we chanced across a Long-legged Buzzard near the road and enjoyed marvellous views of it hover-hunting. Here we also found a very obliging Eastern Subalpine Warbler which made no bones about showing us who was the boss! A second stop was made a little further along the road, at a rocky canyon, where we found a singing Blue Rock Thrush, several Eastern Black-eared Wheatears and a Woodlark sang distantly.

Arriving at Sigri (and greeted by some of the local Jackdaws), we began to slowly work along the track to Faneromeni, picking out several Red-backed, Woodchat and Masked Shrikes along the way. A White Stork spent much of the day hunting a small patch of field and mix of migrants had us working a particular section of track for an hour or so. Pied and Spotted Flycatcher showed well and a Collared Flycatcher called but stayed hidden. We quickly amassed a great list of birds along the lane, while further out in the fields, at least four European Rollers sat in some burnt bushes and first one, then a group of three Levant Sparrowhawks worked through against the wind. A female Montagu's Harrier competed with a male Golden Oriole for our attentions and a couple of parties of Black-headed Buntings passed by.

Eventually we made it as far as the upper Faneromeni ford and began with a fine pair of Ruddy Shelducks along the river, as well as Little Egrets and a Squacco Heron, the latter perhaps feeding on the large numbers of young Green Toads emerging from the water. Migrants proved to be thin on the ground down here, but we found a little sun trap that provided a good crop of butterflies, including a Lesser Spotted Fritillary and three species of skipper, while a good emergence of Eastern Meadow Browns was taking place. Lunch followed, taken more or less out of the wind at Faneromeni beach and offering an opportunity to watch good numbers of Yelkouan Shearwaters riding the air currents with consummate ease.

For the afternoon, we headed first to the Petrified Forest road, passing a gathering of 11 Turtle Doves at some sheep feeders on the way. In the high winds, the open hillsides proved very difficult to work; we did manage to find Isabelline, Eastern Black-eared and Northern Wheatears but the few Cretzschmar's Buntings we saw were unusually skulky and we abandoned our efforts as the road was about to be closed anyway. We turned our attentions to roads further south, where a little more protection from the wind was given by the terrain. We stopped to scope a Black Stork sitting on its nest before taking a short walk around Eresos, where we eventually found a Laughing Dove, one of a small but slowly increasing number of these birds currently colonising the island. Our route then took us through the spectacular, volcanic landscapes around Mesotopos, as we gradually made our way back to the hotel.

Day 4

Wednesday 30th April

We had time off for 'good behaviour' today and skipped an early morning start. After breakfast, we took a relatively short drive into the Potamia Valley, parked up and walked through an area of splendid and very old Olive trees. As hoped, an Olive-tree Warbler was singing occasionally and moving through the lower canopy of some of the olives. With perseverance, we managed to get some glimpses of the bird but, even better, it eventually worked its way through to the tree right next to us, showed superbly, then flew right across the nearby stream, showing off its distinct, heavy form. From here, we circled round to Metochi Lake and soon found the two Pygmy Cormorants

that had been hanging around here for a few days, but which had so far eluded us. We soon found the two birds, together with a Squacco Heron and enjoyed another chance to watch good numbers of feeding hirundines.

Making a quick stop at the hotel as we passed by, we then headed out and set up our picnics near the mouth of the Tsiknias river. Bee-eaters were feeding over the tamarisks and there was much to see on the river, as usual. A Red-veined Darter was – remarkably – our first dragonfly of the week, probably due to the unseasonably cool weather. Heading out past the salt pans, we continued up to the little town of Agiassos, nestled under the steep profile of Mount Olympus. Above the town, we stopped to look for Eastern Festoons and found them along the roadside, together with their food plant, Hairy Birthwort. The chestnut woods added birds more typical of more northerly climes to our lists, such as Robin and Wren, but we also enjoyed some nice orchids, tulips and Pontic Fritillaries. Back-tracking a little, we took another turn and walked down to enjoy the site of a whole woodland section full of the carmine flowers of wild peonies.

After dinner in the village square, we arrived back at the hotel to find a Red Fox skulking around the car park, then some of the group made a quick walk out to look at a Scops Owl that was calling nearby.

Day 5

Thursday 1st May

Back to our pre-breakfast schedule, we went along to the Tsiknias river to try our luck for Spotted Crake. And our luck was in, as we quickly found a very obliging bird that fed happily out in the open. Here too we found a pair of Little Ringed Plovers with a nest, a smart Black-headed Wagtail and an immature Purple Heron was along the lower section of the river. A flock of gulls feeding in nearby fields contained at least 20 Mediterranean Gulls amongst the more-expected Yellow-legged Gulls, while a female Montagu's Harrier perched on an overhead powerline was the first of today's bizarre sightings. Passing back over the ford, we found our first Common Sandpipers of the week.

After breakfast, we headed west, stopping to walk along a small track near Filia. A nice carpet of flowers lined our route as we started with a very obliging Woodlark, then began a quest for Eastern Bonelli's Warbler. The latter sang briefly but remained elusive here, though a female Eastern Subalpine Warbler showed nicely. On the walk back to the vehicles, a Black Kite was well spotted as it tried to sneak past behind us. At a second site, we had little better luck with a bird that was hover-feeding within the tree canopy, though the blustery conditions kept it hidden for some. A Red Fox had crossed the road as we arrived and a fine male Golden Oriole was found in an oak across the valley.

We planned arrival at our next location perfectly, as the town square at Antissa was almost empty and it only took a very quick search to locate one of the local Scops Owls in one of the magnificent Oriental Planes that stand here. The wonderful views certainly deserved a coffee or two! Heading for Sigri, we passed some of the local Jackdaws and found a Shag feeding in the harbour. We took the track south from here and were soon immersed in what was clearly an impressive arrival of Red-backed Shrikes – we saw at least 50 today and probably many more. A Lesser Grey and several Woodchat Shrikes also showed up and both Black-headed and Cretzschmar's Buntings put in numerous appearances.

Another of today's unexpected and somewhat bizarre events came when we stopped to look at a male Lesser Kestrel on nearby wires, only to find a female Red-footed Falcon with him. These were followed by the discovery

of an Eleonora's Falcon further along the wires, then a second, dark morph bird also perched on the wires! We took our picnics at a little chapel, whose tree-lined compound provided us with several Wood Warblers, Common Whitethroat and a Spotted Flycatcher, while White-winged Terns and a Whiskered Tern hunted over a nearby wetland. The 'shrikefest' continued for a while but slowly fizzled out and things got much quieter as we headed for higher ground. A Lesser Whitethroat was added to the list, as were Roller and Common Cuckoo, while a party of four Rock Nuthatches was a nice find. The wind had been very annoying today, but we had persevered and found some great birds.

Day 6

Friday 2nd May

Before breakfast, we took a gentle walk around the block from the hotel. Our first reward for an early start came in the shape of a fabulous Nightingale that sat and sang in full view on a roadside wire. The Kalloni Pool was rather quiet, as it had been all week, but we did catch good flight views of the six Glossy Ibises that have been hanging around there lately. Checking the beach, a Great Egret was seen, along with both Common and Little Terns. Continuing around the block we joined other birdwatchers seeking out a River Warbler that had been reported from beyond the main hotels complex. Before long, we picked out the bird making half-hearted attempts at singing but, before long, a loud 'chip' close by was initially thought to be a Cetti's Warbler but turned out to be a very obliging River Warbler. Not the one that was singing but another, which decided to sit right out in full view for a moment and enjoy the scenery!

After breakfast, we left via the Tsiknias river, in the hope of catching a glimpse of a Great Snipe that had been reported, but we were out of luck, though a nice male Little Bittern was pretty good compensation. Heading west, we visited the open slopes near Parakila as Cinereous Bunting had become our main quest, having missed it due to the weather yesterday. We were unlucky here, though a smart male Eastern Black-eared Wheatear offered some compensation. Moving further on, we stopped at the slopes below Agra and were immediately distracted by the sweet tones of a singing male Blue Rock Thrush. Shortly, we found our quarry – a singing male Cinereous Bunting, high up on a craggy outcrop. Silhouetted against the sky, views were difficult, so we moved a little further along and shortly found a second singing bird, which gave very good views indeed. Several Cretzschmar's Buntings were here, too.

With our mission accomplished, we headed back towards Skalla Kalloni, pausing briefly to check the Christou river. Here, we found Eastern Bath Whites on the wing in the fast-improving weather, while distant Spoonbill and Great Egret were scoped. After a quick pit stop at the hotel, we were back out again and heading for the scenic little area around the Kremastis bridge. On arrival here we stopped for lunch and let the group loose while food was prepared; in this short space of time, Middle Spotted Woodpecker and Sombre Tit were both found – so the guides are seemingly superfluous!! Other delights here included several Eastern Dappled Whites and a Small Pincertail. Moving on after lunch, we headed for Petra Reservoir, but this is where things went a little awry as Google decided to send us on a less than direct route, resulting in a puncture, which needed to be dealt with. Yours truly got stuck in, with able assistance and the only thing lost apart from time was a loss of face!

We did eventually make it to the reservoir and found a few Ruff, Little Ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper and Black-winged Stilt scattered around the margins. A Long-legged Buzzard dropped in and sat on the ground for a while and we finally got the scopes onto a perched Cuckoo. Of special interest here was our first finds of the endemic bush-cricket, *Poecilimon mytlenensis*. Heading back towards home, we detoured slightly to come in via the Tsiknias

river – and this proved to be a great move, as we quite quickly managed to relocate the Great Snipe as it fed among the grass and reed stems. Supporting cast included two Little Bitterns, a Spotted Crake and a male Blue-headed Wagtail.

Day 7

Saturday 3rd May

The weather continued to improve with cloudless skies and warm sun prevailing. We began with a pre-breakfast walk around the block, which proved rather quiet, but gave us nice flight views of the now regular six Glossy Ibises on Kalloni Pool. After breakfast, we headed towards the salt pans, stopping on the way when the air suddenly seemed to be full of Common Swifts! Then, two Collared Pratincoles appeared with them, so we jumped out for a better look. The pratincole count jumped to around 20 or so and we enjoyed then for some minutes before switching to a mixed flock of Whiskered and White-winged Terns that were also hawking insects over the field. At the pumphouse corner, the Spur-winged Lapwings were still in residence and starting to show nest scraping activity. Near the saltworks, we spent time scanning for a reported Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, but it didn't materialise. However, roosting shags, singing Greater Short-toed Larks, a Tawny Pipit and plenty of other activity kept us entertained.

Driving back around the pans, we found a big influx of Ruff had taken place, with many birds swimming in deep water in order to catch the many brine flies on the water surface. Two Spotted Redshanks were found and we had nice views of five Dalmatian Pelicans in flight, together with two Black Storks. A nice surprise awaited us at the last corner as an adult Great Spotted Cuckoo flew across the road and showed intermittently as it searched for food in nearby bushes. Making our way back via the small villages, we stopped for a second look at the Long-eared Owl family, finding all four youngsters and both parents this time.

We took our picnic lunch up to the raptor watchpoint on the Molyvos road, which gave us fine views while we ate but there was no sign of any raptor movement today, despite seemingly suitable weather. Heading back via the hotel, we spent the afternoon at the wetlands at Messa, where a nice range of waders included good numbers of Little Stints, single Greenshank and Common Sandpiper and five Kentish Plovers. In the drier habitat across the road, we located an obliging Stone-curlew. The afternoon was rounded off overlooking the salt pans from one of the hides, which offered panoramic views of the masses of Greater Flamingos and Pied Avocets. Two Dalmatian Pelicans were also seen, though very distant. After our evening meal, some of us managed to catch a glimpse of the local Barn Owl in the village square as it emerged from its nest hole in a nearby chimney.

Day 8

Sunday 4th May

The inevitable final day dawned and we had to be away pretty sharpish as we had one more bird that we wanted to see. Taking the long way back to the airport, we arrived at the scrub covered slopes of the southeastern corner of the island. The site was popular today and parking places were at a premium, but we finally found a spot and walked along the road with ears pricked. After much careful searching, we were eventually told of a Rüppell's Warbler a little further along the road and soon we had a nice male in full view, singing from a young pine tree. A lovely end to the week and accompanied by a number of Sardinian Warblers plus brief glimpses of a Chukar.

It had been a wonderful week, despite some dreary weather and high winds early on, but Lesbos performed wonderfully and we had an amazing time together – we hope you all travelled home safely and look forward to seeing you all again someday.



European Roller and Red-backed Shrike

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Species lists

Birds (h = Heard only)

		April-May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	1	10		2		2	✓	
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	3	5	11	6	4	✓	✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			2				1	
Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>								2
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	✓				3	3	3	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>							1	1
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			1	1	1	1		
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>						3		
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			15 +	1	2	h		
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>			1					
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							2	
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>					1	1		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	6	1	✓	✓	1	✓	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Little Crake	<i>Zapornia parva</i>	2	2				1		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓			h	h	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		1			1		2	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>		h					1	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	1	1			2	2	3	
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		2	1	4	2		3	
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>							5	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		1						
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>						1		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					2		1	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	1	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		2					2	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		1					1	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		12		✓		4	✓	✓
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				1				
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	1							
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		10					✓	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>							25	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	2	✓		✓		3	✓	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		3					12	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		20			1		✓	
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>		20			4		✓	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		1	✓	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	✓	2						

		April-May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>		4			20 +	40 +	✓	
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	2		✓					
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		6	✓	2		3	6	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	2	8	1	✓	✓	1	10	
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>				2				
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓		4	1			2	
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>					1		6	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			1	6	6	6	6	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					11	1	✓	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	1	3	1				2	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			1				1	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	2	2	✓	1	1	✓	✓	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		8	5	1	1	4	6	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1				1	2	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1		1	1	2	6	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1			3	2	1	2	
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>		3		1			5	
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>						1		
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>			9	1				
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1							
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		3	1	2	3	2	✓	1
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		1	1		2	1		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					1	1		
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			2			1		
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>							1	
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						1		
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>			h	1	1	1	h	
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>				5			6	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1	1		h	h		
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		2	4+		3			
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocytes medius</i>				1		3		
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>					4			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		1			2	1	1	
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>		7	1		6			
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>					3			
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			1		1	1	2	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			1	1			1	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		h	2	h	1			
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>		2	5	3	1	3+		
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			1	1	2		1	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		10 +	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		2	✓	✓	50 +	✓	✓	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

		April-May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>			✓		✓			
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>						2		
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>			1					
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			h		1			
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>		4					2	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			1					
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓		h				
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>			1		4			
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>				h	1+			
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	1	2	h	1	1	✓	h	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>				3				
River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>					h	h+ 1		
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	h			h		h	2+	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			2		1		h	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>					1			
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>			2	h	1+	h	h	
Rüppell's Warbler	<i>Curruca ruppeli</i>								2+
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>								✓
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>		2	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>					1	h		
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				h				
Krüper's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>		2						
Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>				h	4	1+		
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						1		
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		h		h				
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			1					
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			2	1	2			
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				✓				
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			✓	1				
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>			h					
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			1			1		
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	1	2	5	1	1	4	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			3		4	2		

		April-May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓		✓	✓		
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>			4					
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>			✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>			1			✓		
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓	✓	1	3	2	✓	✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		1	1	1				✓
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							1	
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>		✓			1		✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓		h	4+		
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		h		h		3+		
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cinereous Bunting	<i>Emberiza cineracea</i>						2		
Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>			✓		✓	✓	h	h
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Other vertebrates (h = heard)

D = dead		April – May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Mammals									
Persian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus anomalus</i>			✓	✓		✓		✓
Northern White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>	D	D				D		
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Stone Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>						D		
Reptiles & Amphibians									
Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta ssp. elegans</i>		2						
Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>							1	
Snake-eyed Lizard	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>							✓	
Eastern Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta diplochondrodes</i>				✓		✓		
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	✓							
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>			✓					
Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>	h			h		h		
Levant Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax cf. bedriagae</i>	h	h	h	✓		✓		

Invertebrates

		April – May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Butterflies									
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>							✓	
Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>				✓		✓		
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>			✓	✓				
Oriental Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus orientalis</i>			✓					
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>						✓		
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>						✓	✓	✓
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>				✓		✓		
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>			✓					
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓		✓			
Mersin Grayling	<i>Hipparchia mersina</i>								✓
Eastern Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola telmessia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Moths									
Passenger	<i>Dysgonia algira</i>			✓					
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>			✓					
Eastern Bordered Straw	<i>Heliothis nubigera</i>		✓						
Damselfs & Dragons									
Dark Spreadwing	<i>Lestes macrostigma</i>							✓	
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>							✓	
Blue Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>						✓		
Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>						✓		
Small Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum taeniolatum</i>				✓				
Other invertebrates									
Mammoth Wasp	<i>Megascolia maculata</i>			✓					
Lesbos Bush-cricket	<i>Poecilimon mytilenensis</i>			✓					