

# Go Slow in Northern Greece

Naturetrek Tour Report

9th – 16th May 2023



European Bee-eaters



Dalmatian Pelicans



Squacco Heron



Spoon-winged Lacewing

Tour report and images by Barrie Cooper



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Barrie Cooper & Maria Panagiotopoulou (leaders) with eight Naturetrek clients.

## Summary

Lake Kerkini and the surrounding area is rich in wildlife, and this trip provided a sample of what a wonderful place this is. As always, we had exceptional views of birds such as Cuckoo, Lesser Spotted Eagle, various other raptors, shrikes and butterflies. The most numerous bird we saw may have been Bee-eater - they seemed to be everywhere and frequently posing for photographs and it's always a treat to watch this multi-coloured bird. The lake held many pelicans, heron species and cormorants. Many of the Great White Pelicans looked stunning in their breeding plumage. Unlike last year, we didn't see any dead pelicans that were victims of Avian flu, so hopefully the breeding population of the endangered Dalmatian Pelican can recover. The highlight for some of the group was a male Penduline Tit that was busy making its impressive nest and provided us with superb views. Unfortunately, the weather was very unseasonal, and we had cold temperatures and rain on some days which affected some of the potential species. For example, we didn't see any tortoises and only a few snakes. Reports from several Greek guides was that the migration was slow or late across the northern part of the country. Nevertheless, we still had a great trip with some excellent sightings, fine meals and good company. It was another enjoyable trip to this wonderful, wildlife-rich part of Europe.

## Day 1

**Tuesday 9th May**

Some late withdrawals due to illness meant that this was a smaller group than previous years. It was raining and poor visibility when we arrived at Thessaloniki Airport, and the rain continued throughout the journey to Lake Kerkini. Although the weather was poor, the sharp-eyed may have spotted Glossy Ibises, Crested Lark, Bee-eaters and two Rollers during the journey. A combination of tiredness and the weather discouraged people from going out and opted to rest in their rooms rather than go for a soggy trip to the lake. One of the great things about our hotel is that it is in an elevated position above the lake and the balconies of people's rooms provide a great place to birdwatch. Red-rumped Swallows were flying around in full-view, a few Dalmatian and Great White Pelicans were on the near corner of the lake and two White Stork nests were in Lithotopos below the hotel. The weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of a Nightingale or Golden Oriole from singing in the rain. Another surprise about the weather was the temperature which was similar to Britain today – low teens, which is very surprising for this part of Greece. After a fine evening meal, everyone retired for an early night after a long day.

## Day 2

**Wednesday 10th May**

Light rain took a couple of hours to disappear but then the weather continued to improve throughout the day. The excellent location of this hotel was in evidence as some of the group gathered on the restaurant balcony before breakfast. A male Golden Oriole posed in full view in tree just fifty metres away while Nightingales continued their relentless serenade. Spoonbills and Night Herons were flying over the lake with pelicans cruising on the water. The morning was to be on the East embankment and the pumping station area proved to be fruitful as usual. A Black Stork provided close flight views, Great Reed Warblers competed with Marsh Frogs on the decibel monitor. This is a great area to see Cuckoos with them being in view continually with the highlight being two males chasing a female. A Little Bittern played hide and seek in the reeds while two Woodchat Shrikes posed in the same trees as some Bee-eaters. A stunning male Black-headed Wagtail gave us a great view. Some group members commented this *feldegg* subspecies of Yellow Wagtail seemed brighter than ours - it was certainly a beauty. Two Squacco Herons

flew in and showed very well while they stood in a field next to the track. A male Spanish Sparrow posed to show the difference between it and its more familiar cousins.

Our next stop was at a heronry in a plantation of Poplar trees. This colony has only been here for approximately five or six years and is a result of seeking an alternative from the sunken forest on the lake. Different species were at different stages of their breeding cycle with large chicks on some Grey Heron nests, whereas a Spoonbill carried a twig as long as its own body to continue the building of its nest. Other birds on nests were Black-crowned Night Heron, Little Egret and Pygmy Cormorant. We only drove half a kilometre before making an emergency stop to admire five Red-footed Falcons on some wires – a lucky find as these birds had made a temporary stop on their migration. We continued our journey along the embankment with the lake on our left where hundreds of cormorants and pelicans were congregating. After lunch at a picnic site in need of some maintenance our next stop was a Sand Martin colony on an island in the River Strimonas. Two Turtle Doves perched on some wires for ten minutes while everybody enjoyed scope views of this sadly rare bird in Britain.

A coffee stop in Vironia gave people an opportunity to recharge before everyone opted to go to the quarry that overlooks the village – a very good decision. As we drove up the hill, Barrie spotted a falcon and a larger raptor – an Eleonora's Falcon and a Golden Eagle. Two high quality birds, although the falcon was rather high and flew off into the distance. When we parked up at the top of the road, a dark phase Honey Buzzard was soaring over the forest that runs up the mountain. We walked to the quarry with a Cirl Bunting singing away and our raptor luck continued with a light phase Booted Eagle flying over before the Honey Buzzard reappeared. A new Rock Nuthatch nest had built touching last year's but we didn't get lucky by seeing the birds. A Black-eared Wheatear and Crag Martins were seen by everyone but a Raven nest in full view with two large chicks seemed to create more interest. A splendid Clouded Yellow flew close to the group before we left the quarry to the sound of Tree Frogs. We made our way back to the hotel where the raptor sequence continued with some of us seeing a hobby give a close fly past as seen from the balconies of people's rooms. After dinner at a local taverna, some of the group were fortunate to find a Giant Peacock Moth flying around the lights near our rooms before it settled to pose for several photos taken on mobile phones. It was a fine way to end an excellent first day in this marvellous area.

## Day 3

## Thursday 11th May

Although cool, at least it remained dry all day. Our first destination was a forest near Promachonas which is close to the border with Bulgaria. Throughout our time here, the soundtrack was rather familiar with species such as Robin, Blackbird and Blackcap being some of the songsters. In contrast, the sounds of Bee-eater, Golden Oriole and Hoopoe reminded us we weren't back in the UK. Three species of woodpecker were seen and heard – Middle Spotted, Great Spotted and Green, along with Nuthatch and Short-toed Treecreeper. Beautiful Demoiselle, Orange Tip and Speckled Wood provided some contrasting colour to the morning. Black Stork, Short-toed Eagle and Hobby were seen flying over while we were in the forest. We then drove through Sidirokastro to a hillside above the town where the remains of a Byzantine castle provide a good view over the neighbouring countryside. Male and female Black-eared Wheatears were the most interesting bird species seen here, but a singing Cirl Bunting couldn't be located. We had our packed lunch here before driving back to Sidirokastro where we stopped to look for Rock Nuthatch. Soon after gathering on the pavement to look at the cliff, a male Rock Nuthatch appeared. He was carrying food and made his way to the nest which was built adjacent to last year's. We had good views and some members took great photos. We saw him return a few times before our attention was diverted to a Kestrel nest which was on the same cliff face. The falcons also had young, and the male brought food in to the noisy

female who promptly moved deeper into the crevice to feed the chicks. Very satisfied, we drove to a nearby coffee shop for a break. Our journey back to the hotel was briefly halted to see three Rollers showing well on some wires. On return to the hotel, some members of the group took up the option of visiting the nearby Himarros valley. A male Woodchat Shrike was posing when we arrived at the quarry and a Kingfisher flew over towards the river. A singing Ortolan Bunting was singing from the top of the quarry and located in the highest tree where it provided excellent views through the telescope. A Lesser Spotted Eagle flew in and posed in a dead tree to provide additional privilege views through the scope. As we made our way back down the track, a pair of Masked Shrikes were seen by some of the group.

## Day 4

## Friday 12th May

It was an earlier start today as we made our way to Kalochori Lagoon before exploring more of the Axios Delta. Our first stop at the lagoon produced the usual high numbers of Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint with most individuals of both species in breeding plumage. It's always impressive to see these two species looking their best while sporting colours that are not frequently seen in the UK. Kentish, Ringed and Grey Plovers were also around the drier parts of the lagoon, while over a hundred Greater Flamingos were relatively close as well as the waders. We didn't need to wait long before the star prize was found – three Terek Sandpipers just a hundred metres away. It was the first time some members of the group had seen this interesting species and the scope views helped to bring out the features of the birds. A Little Tern and a Turnstone in breeding plumage posed nearby to add some contrast. Two Slender-billed Gulls flew over before we moved to a freshwater pool a couple of kilometres away. The pool introduced a new set of species with two male Ferruginous Ducks and a male Garganey being the first ones spotted. Breeding plumage White-winged and Black Terns are always special and a few of them were flying low over the water, providing a challenge for the photographers. The marshy area had some good waders with Ruff and Marsh Sandpiper being notable, but pride of place went to four Spur-winged Plovers that were looking rather immaculate. After a very successful morning, we drove to the information centre where we ate our lunch and looked at the exhibition.

The afternoon drive on a part of the delta was on a muddy track that was challenging at times, but provided some memorable sightings. A few Collared Pratincoles showed well as they posed on the other side of a channel and occasionally flew around to show their distinctive flight profile. A *thunbergi* subspecies of Yellow Wagtail with its grey head was spotted with a Tawny Pipit close by. Three Whiskered Terns flew along the channel on the other side of the track and a few more Spur-winged Plovers were in the neighbouring vegetation. A Short-toed Eagle was hunting in the distance, occasionally hovering which made it easier for people to spot in the scope. As we reached the coastal track, we left some species behind to discover new ones. A Temminck's Stint was seen by the occupants of one vehicle, but two Stone Curlews were seen by everyone. A family of Avocets with four small chicks was one of the highlights of the afternoon. It had been a full but very enjoyable day as we made our journey back to the hotel.

## Day 5

## Saturday 13th May

The area near the pumping station was our first stop this morning. The regulars were still performing – Great Reed Warbler, Cuckoo and Bee-eater. Night Heron, Little Bittern, Pygmy Cormorant and European Pond Terrapin posed in the canal. A Booted Eagle being mobbed by Hooded Crows was one of the highlights here – it was the first of a few Booted Eagles today. A couple of Purple Herons and Black Storks flew over giving relatively good

views. Eastern Olivaceous Warblers were doing a lot of singing and, occasionally, one or two would show for anyone looking in their direction. We had heard Penduline Tit in a few different places but without seeing any so walked down to an area where there was a nest last year. The small foundations of a nest were in the same tree and just as Barrie was speculating that it may have been the remains of the last year's nest, a male Penduline Tit appeared with nesting material and started working on this nest. It was unconcerned by our presence and returned on several occasions with a variety of material including what looked like thin plant fibre or dry grass and did circuits of the "handle" of the nest to add extra security to the part attached to the end of a thin willow branch. Interestingly, he called a few times when in the nest perhaps reassuring his "other half" that he was cracking on with his home building. It was a privilege to watch this industrious little bird building one of nature's most impressive nests and to share such moments with a group of people who were all suitably impressed. We eventually dragged ourselves away and drove round to the western side of the lake. Our first stop was near an observation tower where a Masked Shrike and a few Pyramidal Orchids were the highlights. Moving on to another tower we were delighted to see an immature White-tailed Eagle sitting on top of a cliff before it had a brief fly around. A pair of Booted Eagles were soaring over the top of a hill but another one gave us much closer views. We had lunch at a taverna in Kerkini village where several White Stork nests lined the streets. Berger's Clouded Yellow and a very tame Coypu were the notable sightings here.

The meal at the taverna took longer than expected so most of the group elected to go straight to Himarros Valley where a Honey Buzzard was soaring as we arrived. It was sunnier and warmer than our previous visit so there were more butterflies this time. However, the insect highlight was undoubtedly the impressive Larger Balkan Spoon-winged Lacewing which posed for many photographs. Masked and Woodchat Shrikes, Black-eared Wheatear and Cirl Bunting were good to see. The bird highlight though was a pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles which were sitting at the top of one of the quarries. The female was feeding on something, but vegetation obscured her meal. A Short-toed Eagle had given a close fly over before disappearing over a ridge, but the prolonged views of the Lesser Spotted took some beating. Sadly, we had to drag ourselves away and return to the hotel, but our journey was halted by an Eastern Hedgehog ambling up the track. We had seen quite a few road casualties, so it was good to finally see a live one.

## Day 6

## Sunday 14th May

Unfortunately, it began to rain just as we made our way to breakfast and continued off and on until mid-afternoon. Added to the unseasonal weather was the low temperature of thirteen degrees, which would have been cool for the UK, but positively freezing for Greece in mid-May. Mandraki Harbour was our destination this morning because we were taking a boat trip on Lake Kerkini. Nikos, the boatman, is an expert at manoeuvring the boat with the engine switched off to position the boat for good views and photography. Although the weather was poor, we had some wonderful views of lots of birds and the subdued light really helped to bring out the breeding colours of the Great White Pelicans, some of which looked immaculate with their rosy pink plumage and bright beaks. The artificial island which has been built for pelicans to breed on was covered in Great Whites at their nests with young of different ages. The Dalmatians breed earlier but there were still some nesting on the artificial raft which is adjacent to the island. A solitary Whiskered Tern on a post in the middle of a group of Yellow-legged Gulls stood out, particularly after the gulls flew off to leave it as the only bird remaining. As we moved into the flooded forest with its breeding colony, we had close views of Great and Pygmy Cormorants, Little Egrets, Squacco Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons. The sight, sound and smell here is impressive and an indication of how rich the lake is for aquatic life. A few pairs of Black-necked Grebes showed their impressive breeding colours as

we made our way across the lake. Six males and one female Common Pochard was a good find among the other waterbirds. As we headed into the Strimonas river lots of pelicans were posing on the banks or making fly pasts. A pair of Cattle Egrets were building a nest in some trees which had four other species as nesting neighbours. A Lesser Spotted Eagle was posing in a tree, no doubt waiting for a feeding opportunity, while a Marsh Harrier flew around with the same intention. Our final place of interest was a small breeding colony of Spoonbills which was quite close to Mandraki Harbour and the end of our trip. Despite the weather, it had been an excellent boat trip to experience the rich birdlife of the lake. Avian Flu killed a lot of pelicans last year and it was reassuring that the virus doesn't seem to be impacting the birds this year. Dalmatian Pelican is an endangered species so it is hoped their numbers can increase in the coming years.

We needed to warm up after three hours on the boat in such low temperatures, so we went to a local taverna for a coffee. Fortunately, the owner allowed us to eat our packed lunch there and even gave us a free dessert. The rain had stopped so we drove a short distance to a monastery in the hills. The monastery had just closed but the nearby forest was worth an exploration and had a few butterflies taking advantage of the improved weather. We drove further east to explore the track that runs on the southern side of the Strimonas river. Red-backed Shrikes seemed to be everywhere, and we were fortunate to find a pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes that perched up in positions that allowed for scope views. Golden Orioles were vocal and active in the adjacent poplar plantation and occasionally showed themselves for the sharp-eyed. A Short-toed Eagle gave a brief fly past, and two Rollers were equally brief. A pair of Little Ringed Plovers were our first ones of the trip, but one highlight must surely have been eight Turtle Doves lined up on a wire – how often does anyone see eight Turtle Doves together. However, the outstanding highlight was an Eleanor's Falcon the was perched on one of the telegraph poles, just fifty metres away. The bedraggled bird must have been cold and exhausted as it never moved off the pole while we were there. It seemed to have difficulty keeping its eyes open and seemed in need of sleep and, probably, food. We left the falcon and hoped for better weather to benefit the bird and us. After a good afternoon session, we moved the short distance to the taverna at Vironia station. As always, we had an excellent meal with great service in this historic and atmospheric eating place. It was then a thirty-minute drive back to the hotel for an early night.

## Day 7

Monday 15th May

Fortunately, apart from a light shower in the morning, it was a dry and warmer day. We began with another drive along a section of the East bank where a distant group of fifteen Glossy Ibis was notable. An Osprey was sitting in a tree and seen by some before it flew and put on a fine performance so that everyone saw it. Waders were easier to see on the marsh today and Wood, Green and Curlew Sandpiper plus Ruff, Little Ringed Plover and Little Stint were close enough to identify. A group of Greylag Geese were our first of the trip and were in an area where whitefronts feed in the winter. A Little Bittern and a Levant Sparrowhawk gave brief views for a few and, frustratingly, a Scops Owl called just as we were driving off and, despite a search, we couldn't find it. Just a few minutes away, a Little Owl and Syrian Woodpecker also provided brief views before disappearing. A fine lunch was taken at a restaurant that specialises in trout in a pleasant forested valley near Ano Poraia.

After a lunch enjoyed by all, some of the group returned to the hotel while the remainder went to "Happy Valley" near Himarros. The sun came out, the temperature rose, and the bird and butterfly activity increased. A Short-toed Eagle flew low over some of us, but a Honey Buzzard was higher. Rather more distant were four Hobbies and at least two Red Footed Falcons soaring over the hillside forest. The pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles really put on a show. They flew low overhead, did a lot of calling, sat in trees in full view and the male did some displaying. The

sun had come out and the raptors and butterflies took full advantage. Some of the butterflies seen during our two-hour visit included Southern White Admiral, Lesser Spotted Fritillary, Black-veined White, Mazarine Blue and Painted Lady. The nickname that had been given to this valley by a group member was very appropriate because there was always something interesting to see and the whole ambience of the place made it such a pleasurable experience to be connecting with nature.

## Day 8

**Tuesday 16th May**

It was a relaxed breakfast before checking out of the hotel. The sharp-eyed saw a few interesting birds around the hotel or during the journey to Thessaloniki Airport. The journey was without incident, and we arrived in good time for our flights back to Gatwick or Manchester. Pallid Swifts were showing well as they flew to their nests in the terminal building. We thanked Maria for her help as we said our goodbyes at the end of an enjoyable trip to this marvellous part of Europe.

## Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk) to sign up.

## Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



[www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays](http://www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays)



[www.twitter.com/naturetrektours](http://www.twitter.com/naturetrektours)



[www.instagram.com/naturetrek\\_wildlife\\_holidays](http://www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays)

## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>							✓	
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>						✓		
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓				
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				✓				
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		✓		✓				
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						7		
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				2				
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓			✓	✓		
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>								✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			✓					
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			✓			✓		
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>						✓		
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		✓		✓		1		
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>				2				
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				✓				
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓				
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓				
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>						2	✓	
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				✓				
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				✓				
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				✓			✓	
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>				✓				
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				✓				
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				✓			✓	
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>				3				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓				
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>							✓	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				✓				
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				✓				
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				✓				
Spur-winged Plover	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>				✓				
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>				2				
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>				✓				
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>						✓		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				✓				



Common name	Scientific name	May 2023							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	✓			
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓		1		
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				✓				
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				✓				
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		✓			✓		✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>						2		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓				✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							1	
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		✓			✓		1	
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓	1	4	1	2	
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		✓	✓		4	1	3	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		✓			6		1	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		✓						
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>						✓	1	1
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓		✓	✓	1	1	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					1	1	1	
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					1			
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>							1	
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>							H	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	2		✓	✓		2	1	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			1				1	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			✓					
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>							2	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>							1	
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>		5					2	
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>		1				1		
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1	✓	✓			4	1
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>						✓	✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>				✓			✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓			✓				
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>		H						
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓		H		✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>		H			✓		✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>					H			
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓				✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓						
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓				✓		
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	✓		✓		✓	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			✓	✓			✓	
Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			1					
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓					
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			✓					
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			H					
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓	✓				✓	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			✓					
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			1					
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-headed Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>				✓				
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓		✓		✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>							✓	
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>				1				
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>					2			
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>			1					
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	

## Other vertebrates

<b>AMPHIBIANS &amp; REPTILES:</b>	
Greek Marsh Frog	<i>Rana balcanica</i>
Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>
Erhard's Wall Lizard	<i>Podacris erhardii</i>
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>
<b>MAMMALS:</b>	
Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>

## Invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
<b>BUTTERFLIES:</b>	
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclidides podalirius</i>
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Southern Small White	<i>Artogeia manni</i>
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Arica agrestis</i>
Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Peacock Butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>
<b>MOTHS:</b>	
Giant Peacock Moth	<i>Saturnia pyri</i>
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudophilotes macularia</i>
Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>
<b>DRAGONFLIES</b>	
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo ssp. festiva</i>
Common Bluetail	<i>Ishnura elegans</i>
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>OTHER INSECTS</b>	
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>
Spoon-winged Lacewing (Larger Balkan)	<i>Nemoptera sinuata</i>
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Macaronius Owlfly	<i>Libelloides macaronius</i>

## Plants

Pyramidal Orchid – *Anacamptis pyramidalis*