

Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



KOS ISLAND: Bird Migration

Tuesday 1st - Tuesday 8th May 2018

5 Wise Birding Clients

Leader: Mike Langman

HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

Bee-Eaters & Rollers: Colourful and always a pleasure to see and photograph. Finding a much rarer *Blue-cheeked Bee-eater* on a walk from our hotel would have undoubtedly been top if only all of the group had been up to see it!

Birds of Prey: an impressive 15 species of raptor were seen during the week. Several featured in the group highlights including *Red-footed Falcons*, *Lesser Kestrels* and *Bonelli's Eagles* including a pair talon grappling.

Other Wildlife: A good selection of butterflies and several reptile species. Plain Tiger was a surprise as literature suggests they shouldn't be out until July! Spur-thighed Tortoises, Balkan Green Lizards and the pretty little Snake-eyed Lizard were enjoyed by the group.



Roller & European Bee-Eater by tour participant Mike Lock (MLo)

Blue Rock Thrush & Cretzschmar's Bunting by Mike Langman (MLa)

SUMMARY

This birdwatching tour on the beautiful island of Kos was timed to coincide with the last of the spring migration through the Aegean Sea and finding recently returned summer visitors. Kos is not a big island allowing as much time as possible in the field and less in a vehicle. Kos also has a great mixture of habitats with mountains, woodland, Mediterranean scrub, open farmland and wetlands. Peppered with Greek and Roman ruins these open sites also offer good birding and botanising in May. This relaxed tour allows time to visit the archeological sites and the nearby volcanic island of Nisyros with its impressive sulphurous steaming Caldera. Whilst birds of prey on the nearby Turkish Mainland can be difficult to find, Kos still has a healthy population of raptors including Bonelli's & Short-toed Eagles, Long-legged Buzzard, small colonies of Lesser Kestrels and Eleonora's Falcons and migrating Red-footed Falcons.

Tuesday 1st May

The group met at Bristol airport early in the morning followed by a comfortable flight, arriving on Kos around midday. Bags and minibus collected we were soon on the road stopping for a quick snack at a roadside taverna. After checking in at the Gaia Garden Hotel and a short rest we headed out to the Tigaki Saltpans. Following some work on the main seaward drain the water levels are constantly high with very little mud exposed. However, we did still find a few waders including 15+ Black-winged Stilts, 5 Little Stints, 2 Ruff, singles of Wood and Common Sandpiper but the highlight was a delicate Marsh Sandpiper dancing around chasing emergent insects. The lake is famous for its wintering Flamingo flock and luckily at least 8 had remained for us together with 10+ Ruddy Shelduck. On the surrounding land there were dozens of singing Crested Larks and a singing Short-toed Lark high in the sky.

After the evening bird log an evening meal on the balcony restaurant was livened up by a small flock of Glossy Ibis. It had been a long but enjoyable first day and with our first explorations on the Island of Kos.

Friday 2nd May

A short pre-breakfast walk took us on a short tour of the arable fields behind the hotel. Despite the fields seemingly dried up we were surprised to see a flock of 4 wood Sandpipers get up from a field – there must be wader there somewhere! Other birds included Zitting Cisticola, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Whinchat and Red-backed Shrike. The undoubted highlight was a party of four Lesser Kestrels on telegraph wires, that occasionally dropped into a field for food in perfect morning light.

After a hearty breakfast and with packed lunches collected there was a slight delay in departure when an Eleonora's Falcon and a couple of Hobbies put in an appearance over the hotel car park! Our first stop was the SW corner of the Tigaki Saltpans and though there wasn't a great change in the bird species from the previous afternoon a couple of Spur-winged Plover were a good addition to the tour. Some damp grassland nearby held three Squacco Herons and later

three Rollers perched on a wire next to an approach road gained the prize for the most stunning birds of the morning.

The day was already heating up so we headed for the hills and our next destination at Old Pyli village. Much of the walk and steps up to the site are shaded with trees which made birding easier. A couple of stops made the 15 minute hike more bearable and overhead 2-3 Eleonora's Falcons and several Lesser Kestrels were picked out from the flocks of Jackdaws. Arriving at the old meadows of the village we soon found a couple of smart Eastern Black-eared Wheatears, several Serins, Coal Tits and we heard a purring Turtle Dove in trees beside one of the beautiful viewpoints. On the descent the old stone walls seemed to be alive with Starred Agama Lizards. During a short rest stop a Bonelli's Eagle appeared in the middle of a large angry flock of Jackdaw. Our packed Lunch was enjoyed in the shade of the conifer woodland before we braved the heat of the day on the goat track, a gently ascending path on the high hillside. It was very hot, even the local Spur-thighed tortoises were taking shelter under grassy tussocks beside a drinking trough! It was soon clear we were not going to gain much by pushing on much further so we curtailed any further exploration by foot. However, the walk still allowed us some great views of several 'Eastern' Subalpine Warblers, Stonechats and a calling but unseen Chuckar. Hummingbird Hawkmoth and plenty of butterflies were also seen including Ilex Hairstreak, Scarce Swallowtail, and Spotted Fritillary.

The weather forecast for the next few days was to be hot and sunny, so a boat trip to the volcanic island of Nisyros seemed a good idea as it didn't involve too much walking around. We headed for Kardamena Harbour to make the booking and enjoyed a cool drink or an ice-cream on the harbour side. A stop or two during the drive down to the harbour along a scrubby hillside was very productive as we added Long-legged Buzzard, Blue Rock Thrush, Cretzschmar's Bunting and Sardinian Warbler to trip list as well as several roadside Rollers. We booked the boat and bus trip to the volcano for the next day and then found a small taverna on the quay side and tucked into everything from milkshakes, Ice-creams and freshly squeezed orange juice to cool us down! Whilst enjoying Pallid Swift, Black Kite and Squacco Heron around the town and harbour.

En route back to the hotel we called in again at Tigaki. The most notable birds were a pheasant (a new bird on the island for the leader!), a brief snatch of song from a Great Reed Warbler and a Turtle Dove. During the evening meal on the balcony of the restaurant we were again treated to a flyby from four Glossy Ibis at about 1950hrs.

Wednesday 3rd May

After an early breakfast we departed the hotel bound for the ferry to Nisyros from Kardamena. Prior to our departure a small flock of Bee-eaters and a couple of Pallid swifts were picked up over the harbour town. The crossing was very quiet bird wise with just a few Yellow-legged Gulls and a solitary Shag as we approached the island village of Mandraki.

The trip to Nisyros included a bus trip to the volcano crater with its steaming sulphurous vents. The bus ride into the Caldera was spectacular but we still managed to clock up a few birds. Most notable were a flock of ten or more roadside Bee-eaters, 15 plus Alpine Swifts and a Raven. Three of the group opted to venture into the bottom while the others searched the scrubby terrain around the crater fringes. Most of the sulphur vents are cordoned off preventing people breaking off developing crystals. However we did find some unprotected vents allowing for some photo opportunities. Those that chose not to walk into the crater found Black-eared Wheatears, Whinchat and an 'Eastern' Subalpine Warbler - which seemed to be the most numerous bird on the island. Then just before midday we were back on the bus and headed back to the island town of Mandraki where we had lunch in a taverna by the turquoise Aegean Sea. Some free time before the sailing of the ferry back to Kos allowed some to look around the picturesque village while others joined the leader on a short walk beside some terraced olive groves.

The ferry departed from a nearby fishing quay that was better protected from the moderate easterly breeze. Ten minutes before arrival back at Kardamena and just when we all thought there were no shearwaters left on the sea, the 'shearwater' shout went up and a single Yelkouan Shearwater passed close by. After the bird log call and briefing about the following day's itinerary we sat down to dinner on the balcony and yet again we were treated to another fly-by by a small flock of Glossy Ibis just before 8pm.

Friday 4th May

Another early morning walk around the fields behind the hotel this time finding a small water filled ditch that lead to a wet meadow which produced Glossy Ibis, Wood Sandpiper and a Ruff. A fly-over Green Sandpiper, Reed Warbler and three Yellow Wagtails including a fine male Black-headed were nice additions to the trip list total. Other birds of interest included Bee-eaters, Zitting Cisticolas, Lesser Kestrels and Cetti's Warbler.

We then headed for the Psaladi Wetland. Sadly this site is a shadow of its former self with the entrance and visitor centre closed down and a path from a hotel to the beach using one of the main wetland reserve paths. However the site still held some interesting birds with a flock of over 60+ Bee-eaters, Turtle Dove, Golden Oriole, Sardinian, Reed, Cetti's, Eastern Olivaceous and 'Eastern' Subalpine Warblers. On and around the lake we found a few Little Stint, Wood Sandpiper, Ruff, Squacco and Grey Heron. The beach side scrub was great for butterflies including Swallowtail, Long-tailed Blue, Mediterranean Skipper, Wall Browns and Eastern Dappled Whites to name just a few. A fly over Greater Short-toed Lark and a Corn Bunting were also seen.

Once again, the day was already heating up so we drove on down to a rocky hillside above the thermal sea pool. Here we quickly found a fine male Blue Rock Thrush, a pair of Chukkar, Raven and two male Black-eared Wheatears.

Due to the heat we decided to delay the visit to Kos Fortress and go to the more shaded ruins of Asklepieion where we enjoyed our picnic on marble benches joined by half a dozen feral cats! The stroll around the ruins was draining in the heat but a light breeze made it slightly more bearable. The ground was completely parched and the ancient fountain/spring had dried up! Just a couple of going over orchids were found where there are normally dozens. Perhaps unsurprisingly few birds were seen, Turtle Dove and 'Eastern' Subalpine Warbler being the most noteworthy.

A short investigatory trip into the nearby hills was quiet until a lone Honey Buzzard drifted over heading for Kos Town and then Turkey! We then descended into Kos town and its harbour to see the historic Plane Tree that apparently Hippocrates taught under (despite the tree being only 400 years old!), so maybe a distant relation of the said tree. The Crusader Fortress that has protected Kos Harbour for many hundreds of years was surprisingly closed. On making some enquiries we soon discovered that it (and substantial areas of the harbour) were badly damaged during last year's earthquake. A huge crack down the walls of the fort extended past and along the harbour walls. In some places it had even lifted or sunk the paved harbour side by nearly a foot! Highlight birds were the hundred or more swifts investigating the fort walls and nearby buildings. The often tricky Common Swift and Pallid Swift were duly sorted out and an Alpine Swift was included for good measure! We then retired to a local café for a refreshing drink or ice cream before deciding there was just enough time to visit the Tigaki Saltpans before dinner. The Saltpan was busy with 14 Little Stints, 4 Ruff and single Little Ringed and Ringed Plover. Further away we picked up a couple of Sandwich Tern, Purple Heron, Squacco Heron, 4 Ruddy Shelduck and 7 Flamingo. In the surrounding scrub were Spotted Flycatcher and Woodchat Shrike.

A planned evening outing into the hills and olive groves just above Kos meant an early dinner and a short drive out of town. On the way a Little Owl and 6 Glossy Ibis were spotted from the minibus. Almost as soon as we had parked the vehicle in some likely looking habitat a Little Owl appeared followed by the eerie calls of several Stone Curlews and a couple of churring Nightjar. Then finally we heard a calling Scop's Owl and it was time to head back after another good day out in the field.

Saturday 5th May

An early breakfast enabled the group to be on the road by 8.15am heading for the hills above Old Pyli. Despite full sunshine and temperatures already at 25 degrees it was much more comfortable to walk than the previous visit. A leisurely stroll along the goat path very quickly proved to be much more exciting than the previous visit. Several Cretzschmar's Buntings were heard and seen, Sardinian Warbler, Chucker, fantastic territorial display between 3 Long-legged Buzzards and hundreds of Alpine Swifts mixed with equal numbers of House Martins. We also found Black-eared Wheatears, Lesser Kestrel and as we turned to retrace our walk to the minibus, a Short-toed Eagle was spotted high

above the hillside. This was soon followed by a pair of Bonelli's Eagles which gave quite an air display cruising over and then back again combined with some acrobatic talon grappling. Further along the path another Bonelli's Eagle soared over and at least 5 Long-legged Buzzards showed very well in the excellent light. There was plenty of butterfly action too with Scarce Swallowtail, Ilex Hairstreak and Clouded Yellow. A Snake-eyed Lizard and plenty of Spur-thighed Tortoise with nearly 15 counted.

Driving away from the site an engine warning light flashed on the dash board of the minibus – a quick stop and telephone call to the hire company left us parked beside a hillside goat paddock. We were then informed that an exchange vehicle would be with us in 15 minutes. Fat chance we all thought, this is Greece! To our amazement the new minibus and three staff members arrived within about 25 mins - Very impressive. During this time we had scouted around the road and pastures and found two Hoopoe, Serin, Sardinian and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers and one of the group found a large Whip Snake. Our new vehicle was ready and we made our way to the Kouvas view point on the western end of the main mountain range. The road up was a little rough but absolutely worth the effort. A Short-toed Eagle soared around just off the track. The high point seemed to have Black-eared Wheatears and Cretzschmar's Buntings everywhere and a different, darker, Short-toed Eagle also drifted over. The drive down was taken slowly searching for birds which included good views of Little Owl, Northern Wheatear, Cretzschmar's Bunting and a fine male Blue Rock Thrush. We then headed off for a taverna with a view and were rewarded with good food as well as Woodchat Shrike, Serin and Long-legged Buzzard. Following a relaxing meal we made two more stops in the hills where we found Red-rumped Swallow, another Short-toed Eagle, Eleonora's Falcon, Honey Buzzard and a pair of Long-legged Buzzards one of with a Jackdaw in its talons!

On our return route to the hotel we once again called in on the Saltpans at Tigaki, stopping first at the far beach in search of Kentish Plovers. The beaches were busy with tourists with little chance of any self respecting plover hanging around we thought. Remarkably one was spotted between the bathers but it didn't stay for long! A brief visit to the lake boosted our peak Flamingo count to 16 birds, and we added Spotted Redshank and Slender-billed Gull to the trip bird list. The evening meal was again enlivened with the flight of Glossy Ibis but only three birds this evening.

Sunday 6th May

One last pre-breakfast walk was offered and taken up by two of the group. After a fly over Green Sandpiper, two Wood Sandpipers a Zitting Cisticola and a couple of Lesser Kestrels, a distant long tailed bird sat on some telegraph wires was scoped. It was a bee-eater but it appeared to be greenish on the upperparts! Alarm bells started ringing, could it really be a Blue-cheeked Bee-eater? We needed to get closer and quick! Never in the whole week had our group moved so fast while keeping a close eye on the speck in the distance!

Luckily the bird stayed where it was and our thoughts were confirmed, we were soon treated to some great views of this stunning Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. Returning excitedly to the hotel a Hoopoe and an Eleonora's Falcon had to take 2nd and 3rd place for the morning. What a way to finish off our stay at the Gaia Garden, the hotel had been very pleasant with comfortable rooms, good food and very helpful staff plus of course the regular evening flyby of Glossy Ibis and our star find of Blue-cheeked Bee-eater!

After breakfast and with bags loaded in the minibus we departed Kos and drove the 20 minutes to the Gaia Royal Hotel, a much bigger and rather plush hotel, near Mastichari. Our bags were deposited in our rooms and we headed back out this time to the south of the island hoping for some raptor action from St John's Chapel at Cape Krikellos. The drive through Mastichari and its agricultural belt was relatively quiet but we did pick up Whinchat, Bee-eater, Northern Wheatear, Red-rumped Swallow, Sardinian Warbler and several Turtle Doves. An early snack in a beachside taverna in Kamari allowed plenty of time at the cape without worrying about finding somewhere for lunch. Suitably nourished we made the ascent through Kephalos up to St John's Church. On the approach road a raptor at eye level off to the right of the minibus was quickly identified as an Eleonora's Falcon which continued to give some wonderful views after we pulled over. Stopping just above the church the group walked down the road birdwatching along the way. Two Eleonora's Falcons, a pair of Lesser Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and a Long-legged Buzzard drifted over. The nearby scrubby hillside produced, several Black-eared Wheatears, 'Eastern' Subalpine Warbler, Sardinian Warbler and a single Wood Warbler.

The week was almost over and one of our main target birds was Black-headed Bunting which had so far evaded us. Therefore a concerted effort was made to find at least one on our way back to the hotel. A brief sighting by one of the group from the minibus led to some backtracking to try and relocate the bird. Sadly it could not be re-found. Another drive off the main road failed to produce the target species but we thoroughly enjoyed prolonged views of a hunting 2cy Montagu's Harrier at close quarters, and a couple of Rollers. We had run out of time to get to the saltpans, so instead we opted for a return visit to the field that earlier in the day had several Lesser Kestrels hunting over it. Parking up beside the road 2-3 Lesser Kestrel soon put in an appearance, but very quickly the fluty song of a Black-headed Bunting was picked up. After watching this pretty bunting at distance, further scanning revealed a further 6 Black-headed Buntings! Feeling rather pleased and about to board the bus the shout then went up 'Red-footed Falcon' as an adult male drifted over the "kestrel field", quickly followed by a female and another male that joined the hovering Lesser Kestrels! We later discovered 4 more birds had been hunting the area during the afternoon.

Monday 7th May

At our new hotel location a pre-breakfast stroll was organised to check out the beach and nearby farmland. Before we had started the walk a Striped Hawk-moth was found on a light outside of one of the rooms. As we gathered, hundreds of Alpine Swifts were hawking fields in the distance, but otherwise it seemed fairly quiet until we stumbled on several Yellow Wagtails around some cattle. One male was a smart 'Romanian' type. Further along an agriculture track the song of a Black-headed Bunting could be heard which we immediately followed up and eventually saw 3 singing males including one very close bird. Scanning the nearby electricity poles and wires 2 Rollers, Corn Bunting, 4 Red-footed Falcons and 2 Lesser Kestrels were logged. Several flocks of Bee-eater drifted over, more Yellow Wagtails, a Marsh Harrier, 2 Eleonora's Falcons, plus Zitting Cisticola, and Cetti's Warbler - all in all not a bad start to the day.

First stop of the day after breakfast was the west side of Tigaki Saltpans. More Yellow Wagtails paused briefly, fly-over Red-throated Pipit, 4 Greater Short-toed Larks and 30+ Bee-eaters were logged. Around the edge of the reedbed *fuscus* type Reed Warblers were studied and a Great Reed Warbler gave us the run around. Eventually the whole group obtained good but brief views of the Great Reed Warbler and a monarch-like Plain Tiger Butterfly drifted by. Back at the main lagoon some scanning of the reedy edges revealed Black-crowned Night Heron, Greenshank, Little Stint, Wood Sandpiper, dozens of Black-winged Stilts and 4 Ruddy Shelduck including one with a brood. A couple of birders on push-bikes informed us about 3 Red-necked Phalaropes in the SE corner of the lagoon in a ditch – just 3 mins drive away. The van was quickly loaded and we made our way long edge of the lagoon finding the spot they had described. There was no sign of any phalaropes but there were 2 Ruff swimming around and another on the nearby mud – we suspected a misidentification. However the same area produced some good waders with 3 Curlew Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank 2 Little Stint, a Marsh Sandpiper, Zitting Cisticolas and a Balkan Green Lizard. Some of the group carried on walking the reedy lagoon edge while the minibus was driven on to meet them.

There were signs of birds on the move overhead and new birds around the lagoons so we decided to go back to Psaladi Wetland just in case more birds had dropped in. Sadly it was relatively quiet on the lake although Little Grebe was added to the trip list. A Great Reed Warbler chugged out its froggy chorus, single Peregrine Falcon and Long-legged Buzzard drifted overhead as did more Yellow Wagtails, Bee-eaters and lots of Swifts including Alpine Swifts.

We headed for a taverna near Zia for a late lunch, it was chosen for its views and hopefully birds too! While we were there 2 Eleonora's Falcons, 2 Long-legged Buzzards, 2 Serins and a Scarce Swallowtail were seen and at least two Nightingales could be heard in the valley below. After an enjoyable meal we headed down to try and locate the Nightingales. Very quickly we had heard 4 singing males which eventually gave us glimpses as did several Sardinian Warblers. Another two Balkan Green Lizards, Southern Comma, and a few

orchids added some extra interest. It was then time to head back to find the Red-footed Falcons and Black-headed Buntings near the hotel. Unfortunately virtually all of the Red-footed Falcons had moved on but one did give us a slow fly-by. High overhead a ring tail Harrier had us all discussing its identity and eventually four prominent long 'fingers' clinched it as a Hen Harrier. The next ten minutes provided the whole group with great views of Black-headed Bunting, a pair of displaying Rollers, Lesser Kestrel and a Corn Bunting.

Tuesday 8th May

Sadly, today was departure day but there was still enough time to try a bit of seawatching! From the balcony at least 4 Scopoli's and 2 Yelkouan Shearwaters were spotted. All our gear was then loaded onto the minibus and we checked out the arable fields close to our hotel and took one last look at Tigaki Saltpans before heading for the airport. The fields were again very good with a couple of short stops we had logged 15 Red-footed Falcons with Lesser Kestrels, Rollers, at least 4 Black-headed Buntings (all males in song), several Bee-eaters, dozens of Alpine Swift and a couple of Pallid Swifts feeding low over fields on the exit road from the hotel. We moved to the saltpans where it was obvious there was some movement. Flamingo numbers were the highest they had been all week with 25 present, more Yellow Wagtails were again on the move overhead as were Bee-eaters and Swifts and there were still two Sandwich Terns on the lagoon. Checking the reedy fringes of the lagoon a Marsh Sandpiper was picked out amongst a small group of Ruff and Little Stints. The morning light stunningly illuminated some very close Black-winged Stilts on a mirror-like Lagoon as the group enjoyed our last moments at the saltpan and the sound of Ruddy Shelduck barking out their calls as we left.

The flight departed a little late but arrived back at Bristol on schedule and our week on the beautiful Island of Kos was over. Thanks to a great group that all added something to the tour, we found and identified many good birds and butterflies, visited some fascinating places, enjoyed lovely food and laid back tavernas and two very nice hotels.

Conservation Donation: After this tour to Kos a £125 donation was transferred to the Wise Birding Holiday's central conservation fund.

For the last three years Wise Birding Holidays has been supporting a number of small conservation projects. However, we now believe that to make a bigger difference to conservation it seems best to pool the donations from most of our tours into one central fund. Once a target amount has been reached this money will be used to support one single project in the hope of achieving more for species conservation. Currently this amounts to around £4,000.

Please visit our [Conservation News](#) and [Latest News](#) links to find out more.



Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff & Spotted Redshank, Tigaki saltpan (MLoc)



Marsh Sandpiper Tigaki Saltpan (MLoc)



Lesser Kestrel Lampi, Kos Town (MLoc)



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater Lampi, Kos Town (MLoc)



Little Owl Lampi, Kos Town (MLoc)



Snake-eyed Lizard, numerous locations (MLoc)



Cone head Mantis Nisyros (MLa)



Sulphur crystals around vent in Nisyros crater (MLa)



The 2018 Kos Group watching Red-footed Falcons (MLa)



Spur-thighed Tortoise (MLoc)



Alpine Swift and Bonelli's Eagles (MLoc)



Long-tailed Blue



Long-tailed Blue Butterfly (MLoc) Painted Lady and Southern Comma (MLa)

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#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
1	Chukar	Alectoris chukar	1	Two seen well near thermal bath & heard in rocky areas twice.
2	Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	2	One nearr Tigaki Saltpans and heard at Psalidi.
3	Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea	3	Regular at Tigaki Saltpans up to 15 present.
4	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	4	Noted at several wetland locations.
5	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	5	One at Psalidi wetlands.
6	Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus	6	Tigaki Saltpans with 25 max on last day.
7	Rock Dove	Columba livia	7	Good looking candidates in mountains but lots of Feral Doves.
8	European Turtle-dove	Streptopelia turtur	8	Regularly head purring in woodland areas and also seen well.
9	Eurasian Collared-dove	Streptopelia decaocto	9	A common species on the island.
10	European Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	10	Churring & seen on one evening just outside Kos Town.
11	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba	11	A common species on the island.
12	Pallid Swift	Apus pallidus	12	Regular especially around towns.
13	Common Swift	Apus apus	13	A common species on the island.
14	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	14	Several at Tigaki and Psalidi.
15	Common Coot	Fulica atra	15	Psalidi and one on 'grotty' pond
16	Scopoli's Shearwater	Calonectris diomedea	16	Four on last morning from hotel balcony.
17	Yelkouan Shearwater	Puffinus yelkouan	17	On on return trip from Nisyros and 2+ from balcony.
18	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	18	Up to six from Gaia Garden hotel during evening meal.
19	Black-crowned Night-heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	19	One Tigaki saltans on the 7th.
20	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	20	Up to 4 around Tigaki and one Kardamena Harbour.
21	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	21	Singles around Gaia Garden and 5 at Psalidi on the 4th.
22	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	22	One at Tigaki on the 4th.
23	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	23	A common species on the island.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
24	European Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis	24	One bird on the Nisyros crossing and 3 near Kamari.
25	Eurasian Thick-knee	Burhinus oedicnemus	25	Several heard on evening out on 4th.
26	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	26	Common at Tigaki.
27	Spur-winged Plover	Vanellus spinosus	27	Just 2 birds on the 2nd at Tigaki.
28	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	28	Up to 3 birds at Tigaki.
29	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius	29	A single at Tigaki on the 4th.
30	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	30	A single at Tigaki on the 5th.
31	Ruff	Calidris pugnax	31	Common on the wetlands.
32	Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea	32	Three birds at Tigaki on the 7th.
33	Little Stint	Calidris minuta	33	Common at Tigaki and also several at Psalidi on the 4th.
34	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	34	Singles at Tigaki on the 1st and 4th.
35	Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus	35	Singles at Tigaki on the 5th & 7th.
36	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	36	A single at Tigaki on the 7th.
37	Common Redshank	Tringa totanus	37	A single at Tigaki on the 4th.
38	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	38	Singles at Lampi on the 4th and 6th and one at Tigaki on the 8th.
39	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	39	A common species on the island.
40	Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis	40	Singles at Tigaki on the 1st, 7th & 8th.
41	Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis	41	Up to 3 at Tigaki.
42	Slender-billed Gull	Larus genei	42	A single at Tigaki on the 5th.
43	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	43	A common species on the island.
44	Little Owl	Athene noctua	44	Several noted.
45	Eurasian Scops-owl	Otus scops	45	Up to 3 calling on the evening outing on the 4th.
46	Black Kite	Milvus migrans	46	A single at Karamena on the 2nd.
47	European Honey-buzzard	Pernis apivorus	47	Singles in the hills on the 4th & 5th.
48	Short-toed Snake-eagle	Circaetus gallicus	48	Three birds on the 5th.
49	Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciata	49	One at Old Pyli on the 2nd and 3 from the Goat Path on the 5th

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
50	Western Marsh-harrier	Circus aeruginosus	50	Up to to 3 birds seen on several days often over farmland.
51	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus	51	One 2cy male on farmland on the 6th.
52	Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	52	One high over Mastichari on the 7th.
53	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	53	One high over St Johns Church on the 6th.
54	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus	54	Common in the hills.
55	Common Hoopoe	Upupa epops	55	One heard on the 2nd, two near Pyli on the 5th and one at Lampi on the 6th.
56	European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	56	A common species on the island.
57	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops persicus	57	One at Lampi on the 6th
58	European Roller	Coracias garrulus	58	Widespread.
59	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni	59	Commonest bird of prey on Kos.
60	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	60	Singles on the 5th and 6th.
61	Red-footed Falcon	Falco tinnunculus	61	Six on both the 6th and 7th by Gaia Royal fields and 15 on the 8th.
62	Eleonora's Falcon	Falco eleonora	62	Small numbers on many days with up to a max. of 8 on the 6th.
63	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo	63	Three on the 2nd.
64	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	64	One at Psalidi on the 7th.
65	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	65	One at Psalidi on the 2nd.
66	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio	66	just one on 2nd
67	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator	67	Singles at Tigaki on the 4th and Pyli on the 5th.
68	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	68	A common species on the island.
69	Eurasian Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	69	A common species on the island.
70	Common Raven	Corvus corax	70	Noted in rocky areas on most days.
71	Magpie	Pica pica	71	A common species on the island.
72	Coal Tit	Parus ater	72	Common in conifer woodlands in the hills.
73	Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	73	Only 4 birds on the 3rd.
74	Great Tit	Parus major	74	Numerous in mixed woodland.
75	Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla	75	One at Tigaki on the 1st, 1-2 at Psalidi on the 4th & 4 at Tigaki on the 7th.
76	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	76	Common and widespread.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
77	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	77	Heard and seen in all lowland wetland areas.
78	"Eastern" Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	78	A common species on the island.
79	Common Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	79	Suprisingly scarce in wetland areas.
80	Great Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	80	Heard at Tigaki on the 2nd and then seen on the 7th and one at Psalidi on the 7th.
81	Northern House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	81	A common species on the island.
82	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	82	Several in the hills and mountains.
83	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	83	A common species on the island.
84	Collared Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	84	Regular on lowland wetland areas.
85	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	85	one at St Johns Church.
86	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	86	Common in wetland areas but only seen twice.
87	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	87	A common species on the island.
88	"Eastern" Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	88	A common species on the island.
89	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	89	One at Lampi on the 4th.
90	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	90	Common in hills and woodlands.
91	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	91	Several migrants noted on several days from the 4th.
92	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	92	Heard and seen in the hills below Zia.
93	Blue Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	93	Two birds near Kouvas on the 2nd and one there on the 5th & one at the thermal baths on the 4th.
94	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	94	Singles on the 2nd and 3rd and then five birds on the 6th and singles on the 7th & 8th.
95	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	95	Only seen in the hills on the 2nd, 5th and 7th.
96	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	96	A male at Kouvas on the 5th and six birds nr Matichari on the 6th.
97	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	97	Numerous in the hills and mountains.
98	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	98	A common species on the island.
99	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	99	A single fly-over at Tigaki on the 7th.
100	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	100	Many seen on the last few days of the tour.
-	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>	-	A male and female at Lampi on the 4th.
-	"Romanian" Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava dombrowskii</i>	-	One male at Lampi on the 4th and one bird near Gaia Royal hotel on the 7th.
101	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	101	Singles on the 2nd,3rd & 7th with a max. of five birds in the Mastichari area on the 6th.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
102	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	102	Several around Old Pyli and Zia woodlands.
103	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	103	Numerous.
104	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	104	Only seen near Zia on the 5th.
105	European Serin	Serinus serinus	105	Noted in the hills on several days.
106	Black-headed Bunting	Emberiza melanocephala	106	Noted in the fields by Gaia Royal Hotel from the 6th with a max. of 7 birds.
107	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	107	Singles at Tigaki & Psalidi on the 4th and Gaia Royal on the 7th & 8th.
108	Cretzschmar's Bunting	Emberiza caesia	108	Numerous in the hills and mountains especially near Kouvas.
Mammals, Reptiles & Amphibians				
1	Eastern Hedgehog	Erinaceus roumanicus		Seen dead on the roads on most days.
2	Brown Rat	Ratus norvegicus		One on the 4th while looking for owls!
3	Mouse Sp.			One dead.
4	Spur-thighed Tortoise	Testudo graeca		Up to 15 around the goat path.
5	Balkan Terrapin	Mauremys rivulata		One on a grotty pond on the 2nd.
6	Red-eared Terrapin / Slider	Trachemys scripta		Several in a grotty pond on the 2nd.
7	Starred Agama	Laudakia stellio		Common in rocky areas.
8	Snake-eyed Lizard	Ophisops elegans		Seen on dry paths in all areas.
9	Snake-eyed Skink	Ablepharus kitaibelli		One at Lampi on the 4th.
10	Balkan Green Lizard	Lacerta trilineata		One at Tigaki and two around Olive groves below Zia.
11	Turkish Gecko	Hemidactylus turcicus		One at the Gaia Royal Hotel on the 7th.
12	Balkan Whip Snake	Dolichophis jugularis		One below Old Pyli on the 5th.
13	Levant Water Frog	Pelophylax bedriagae		One at Old Pyli on the 2nd.
Fish				
1	Golden Grey Mullet	Liza aurata		Kos Harbour.
2	Thin-lipped Mullet	Liza ramada		Kos Harbour.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
	Butterflies & Dragonflies			
1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		Noted on 5 days with max. count of two on one day.
2	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		Noted on 5 days with a max. count of four on one day.
3	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		A common species on the island.
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		A common species on the island.
5	Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>		Common around Psalidi.
6	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>		Several at Old Pyli and the goat path.
7	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		A common species on the island.
8	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		Numerous.
9	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>		Singles on 4 days.
10	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		Singles on 4 days.
11	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>		2-3 on the goat path on the 2nd.
12	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		Numerous.
13	Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia orbifer</i>		One on the goat path on the 2nd.
14	Mediterranean Skipper	<i>Gegenes nostodamus</i>		One at Psalidi on the 4th.
15	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>		One at Psalidi on the 6th.
16	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		Numerous in the hills.
17	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lamides boeticus</i>		5-6 at Psalidi on the 4th.
18	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		One at Psalidi on the 4th.
19	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Psuedophiotes vicrama</i>		Unsure of the site name.
20	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>		Single at Tigaki on the 6th and Gaia Royal fields on the 7th. Literature suggests not out until July!
21	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		A common species on the island.
22	Large Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola megalis</i>		Numerous in the hills below Old Pyli.
23	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		Several at Psalidi and the nearby hills.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
Moths				
1	Humming Bird Hawk Moth	Macroglossum stellatarum		Singles on 3 dates.
2	Stripped Hawk Moth	Hyles livornica		One at the Gaia Royal hotel on the 7th.
3	Garden Tiger Moth	Arctia caja		One on the goat path on the 2nd.
Dragonflies				
1	Emperor	Anax imperator		grotty pond on 2nd
2	Southern Darter	Anax parthenope		common Tigaki and Psalidi
3	Robust Spreadwing	Lestes dryas		numerous Lampi and Psalidi
Other Insects				
1	Blue Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa caerulea		Common in the hills.
2	Cone-head Mantis	Empusa pennata		One at Nisyros crater.
3	Egyptian Locust	Anacridium aegyptium		One at Nisyros crater.

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