

# LESVOS

27<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013

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## I. Introduction

Lesvos is a well-documented, easy, friendly and exciting birding destination. Part of the 'standard canon' of Western Palearctic spring trips, it offers abundant Mediterranean migration and a good representation of south-east European residents and breeding birds. Compared to the demanding itineraries and specialised knowledge needed to maximise trips to countries like Kuwait, Egypt or Morocco, Lesvos has a series of well-assigned sites and most target birds can be easily encountered over the course of a week. Lesvos provides a wealth of colour and both diversity and abundance of birds. The trip's target birds were almost all seen well, with the exception of Baillon's Crake, and suboptimal views of Eastern Orphean Warbler.

This one-week trip was planned relatively late but, thanks to the extremely well-organised and up-to-date island birding community, it was extremely successful. This trip report, like my popular 'Morocco 2010' report, breaks down into daily accounts and a species summary table. Each site visited is assigned a digital GPS reference. These coordinates will work when pasted into Google Maps, at home, and with any navigation device, in the field. It is amazing how the vast majority of trip reports do not contain these – relying instead on the kind of 'past the third tree' directions that get people lost and waste valuable time. Many reports still contain assumptions of prior knowledge, or that a 'well-known lay-by' is well-known. After years of frustration, I ensure that my trip reports assume nothing and provide exact coordinates, which are not subject to interpretation by the reader.

## II. Logistics

### (a) Preparatory Work

There can be no easier Western Palearctic birding destination to prepare for than Lesvos, thanks largely to the sterling work of Steve Dudley. Steve's book, *A Birdwatching Guide to Lesvos*, is recommended, but the two essential resources for anyone visiting the island are as follows. Firstly, the Lesvos Birding website:

[www.lesvosbirding.com](http://www.lesvosbirding.com) / <http://lesvosbirding.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Lesvos-Birds-2013.pdf>

Secondly, Steve Dudley's intricately-detailed Google Map of sites:

[www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?ie=UTF&msa=0&mid=z12Xw6ALLfRI.kuU0QK6C4Czg](http://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?ie=UTF&msa=0&mid=z12Xw6ALLfRI.kuU0QK6C4Czg)

By combining these two simple resources with Steve's *Lesvos Birds* 2011-12 PDF reports, I was able to plan the entire trip without recourse to hundreds of trip reports. I simply cannot commend highly enough Steve's generosity in producing the Google Map. Inspired by his example, I am currently doing the same for other Western Palearctic countries. These maps eliminate the need for directions, and the coordinates can be easily copied into any Tom Tom or Garmin sat-nav, so you're ready to go on arrival. Please note that, as with any destination, birding destinations are constantly changing. Sites like Skala Kalloni Pool are now entirely bereft of ornithological merit, whilst 'newer' sites, like Metochi Lake, have reached pre-eminence for crakes and herons. By using the Lesvos Birds website, and closely reading its yearly PDF reports, birders will save much of time, and target sites with efficiency.

### (b) Transport

We flew to Mytiline International Airport from London. Car hire was arranged in advance. Whilst a higher chassis is commendable for some rougher roads, a 4x4 was not deemed necessary for this trip. In conjunction with a standard Michelin map of the island, I used a Tom Tom 750 (European maps installed) - with over 40 birding destinations programmed in. Having saved 100s of hours in Morocco, this system again proved extremely effective, with the map being used as a back-up. Roads were all found to be in excellent condition and petrol stations relatively easy to come by across the island.

### (c) Accommodation

We stayed at the superb Aeolian Gia Hotel ([www.aeoliangaeahotel.com](http://www.aeoliangaeahotel.com)), slightly above what we would usually pay but nonetheless worth every penny, with superb hosts, fantastic food, and being ideally placed, on the edge of Skala Kallonis, to explore all the island's key birding sites. It is widely regarded as the best hotel on the island but many other options are available around Skala.

### III. Daily Notes

#### 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013

We drove from Mytiline to the Aeolian Gia Hotel at Skala Kalonis. No birds of note were observed en-route, although several Southern Frestoon (*Zerynthia polyxena*) were observed in woodland. At dusk, two Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*), vocal, flew to roost over the Aeolian Gia Hotel (39.211126, 26.206472) and three Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) sang in the environs of the hotel, reminding us of our arrival in the Mediterranean.

#### 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013

With a great sense of expectation, we drove to the Kalloni Salt Pans – the prime wetland site on the island. Here, on the entry to the pans, the channel (39.224903, 26.244952) delighted us with striking views of 2 Spur-winged Plover (*Vanellus spinosus*). A true migrant speciality of the pans, it was great to find this species almost immediately. In the channel here we encountered 4-5 pairs of nesting Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), 15 Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), 2 Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and passage waders including 20 Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*). A second stop, on the road bordering the pans on the W side (39.219476, 26.242312) provided superb views of a pair of newly-arrived Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), one of which began to fish, glowing iridescent. The channel was shared by 6 Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) and 7 Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*). The bushes here held a smart colony of Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*), Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) and Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*). A dramatic moment occurred as a female Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) passed through.

Continuing on the circuit road to the SW side of the pans (39.212309, 26.241909), we encountered a larger colony of 50 or more Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*), a single Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temmincki*), and tern passage in the form of Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) and Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). A bush at the start of the sea-bound track, on the south side of the pans (39.210883, 26.244897) produced a singing Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*), one of three noted along this road throughout the week. Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) was noted here, whilst the seasonal marsh south of the pans (39.209904, 26.243622) held a single Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and a Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*). The pans themselves, viewed from the south side, held over 100 Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*).

A brief stop at bridge, overlooking a ford by a petrol station on the EO36 (39.230493, 26.222971) yielded flight views of a Rufous Bush-robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*). After lunch, we headed towards Metochi Lake, where a stop by the Christou-Kamares river bridge (39.10770, 26.195237) yielded a further 2 Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*).

Metochi Lake is a classic 'confusion' destination for birders. Even with the GPS, it was one place where this, in itself, was not enough. Drive SW through Kalloni on the main coastal Eresou road. Continue until the very prominent road bend (39.212407, 26.185860) then turn right, taking the *sharp right* of the two tracks. Drive along this road, which bends to the left. There are no options here; follow it until you reach a small T-junction (39.218360, 26.185649) and turn *right*. Continue until you reach a left turn (39.223180, 26.191150). Park and walk to Metochi Lake. The river bridge (39.224092, 26.190523) held a pair of nesting Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) and we witnessed the incredible wing-arching display of Cetti's Warbler (*Cetti cetti*), followed by copulation. Metochi Lake (39.225511, 26.190319) was quiet in the heat, with Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*), two flying Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), 7-8 Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and Common Swifts (*Apus apus*).

#### 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013

An early morning trip to the Kalloni Pans yielded the same species as yesterday, with an increase to 5 Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and a single Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*). On our return to breakfast, a single White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) was seen circling over Kalloni (39.231619, 26.206870).

We then drove to the Napi Valley, a well-known valley for migrants and breeding birds. A first stop, inspecting rocky slopes above the road at the head of the valley (39.280383, 26.293532) provided productive, with a pair and additional singing male Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*), a smart, pale-phase male Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hmelanoleuca*) and a pale-phase Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) passing over.

A second stop was made at a prominent track leading through olives groves (39.291317, 26.301636). Here we encountered our first Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) – a smart male in typical breeding habitat. In addition, there was Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*), Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*), Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*), 2 Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), dark-phase Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hmelanoleuca*), 2 overhead Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*) and a Steppe Buzzard (*B.b. vulpinus*).

After a superb lunch stop at Sikaminea, four random stops were made between here and the village of Mithymna. I have not recorded these as they were all chance encounters. An area of rocky coast produced 2 soaring pairs of Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*). A wooded gorge produced a pale-phase migrant Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonora*) over, and a Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*). Further along, a female Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) got the heart racing, whilst an expanse of gorse scrub produced our first Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*), a Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) and 2 Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*).

We then stopped at the attractive, flowery headland of Kavaki. Here, at a well-watched lay-by ([39.346203](#), [26.171299](#)) we encountered a small male Ruppell's Warbler (*Sylvia rueppelli*). This species has declined notably on the island, such that this single male was the subject of constant scrutiny by the large number of visiting birders. The female was believed incubating nearby. Other species here included a female Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*), a flyover female Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*), Raven (*Corvus corax*), Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) and 5 migrant Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*). We took a great evening meal in the bay to the south and drove home.

### 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013

A dawn visit to Metochi Lake ([39.225511](#), [26.190319](#)) proved extremely productive. The channel viewed from the river bridge – a classic location for crakes – did not disappoint, with 2 separate male Little Crakes (*Porzana pava*), one seen extremely well. The main lake must be, if visited at the correct time, one of the easiest places in Europe to gain exceptional views of Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*). We gained views of six birds, with superb views of an adult male, adult female and juvenile female, in addition to ten Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and two Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*), one seen well.

I then followed the track NE from the lake ([39.225511](#), [26.190319](#)) through olive groves. Here I noted 2 territories of Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) in typical habitat. I followed the track up to the obvious rock faces ([39.230733](#), [26.192503](#)). Here I gained a brief encounter with a nest-building female Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hmelanoleuca*). After breakfast, we drove towards the rocky west of the island, noting a superb Southern Swallowtail (*Iphiclides feisthamelii*), a butterfly I have wanted to see for many years since first opening the Collins Guide.

The drive down the Meladia Valley was the only slightly fraught experience of the trip, as the road falls away precipitously at times and is in poor condition. Our first stop, at the Meladia Valley Ford ([39.173366](#), [25.884576](#)), proved some evidence of migration underway, with calling Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) in addition to Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hmelanoleuca*), Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*) and Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*).

The road through the Meladia Valley passes through boulder-strewn terrain with small bushes and trees ([39.176660](#), [25.865551](#)). This is the optimal habitat of the enigmatic Cinereous Bunting (*Emberiza cineracea*), and we quickly located a singing male here. Note that the entire valley will be suitable for this species.

We drove as far as the Sigr Old Sanatorium ([39.195572](#), [25.858218](#)) and walked east. Migration was clearly underway here. 3 Golden Orioles (*Oriolus oriolus*) were flushed between trees. We also saw 3 Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*), 3 Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*), 2 Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*), 2 Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), 2 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*) and 3 Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*). We also encountered several Eastern Bath Whites (*Pontia edusa*).

Driving back, we stopped at Eressos ([39.170043](#), [25.937639](#)) for a pair of White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*). We then drove to the Petrified Forest, largely on account of a White-throated Robin that had established breeding territory at the site – an extremely rare event on the island. We were unsuccessful here, noting only standard species. We then drove back past the well-visited Ipsilou Monastery. In the groves around the summit ([39.232024](#), [25.934582](#)), we heard Sombre Tit (*Poecile lugubris*) and a small flurry of migrants included Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*), Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) and a brief male Collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*). Our return to Kalloni was uneventful, with a Middle-spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*) noted between Vatousa and Skalochori.

### 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013

An early morning visit to Metochi Lake ([39.225511](#), [26.190319](#)) produced a similar range of species to yesterday. A female Little Crake (*Porzana pava*) joined the male. The olive grove path ([39.225511](#), [26.190319](#)) produced a pair of Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) furiously mobbing a Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) near a presumed nest, a Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) and an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*). The cliff face ([39.230733](#), [26.192503](#)) revealed a brief pair of Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) – my only sighting of the trip. A pair of Western Rock Nuthatch (*Sitta neumayer*), a truly captivating species, was noted at range on the higher rocks, as well as a pair of Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hmelanoleuca*).

I then drove to a new site, recommended by Steve Dudley, around the radio mast at Agriosikos ([39.253510](#), [26.148205](#)). Here there is a blend of wood pasture habitat and taller deciduous trees. This is probably the prime site on Lesvos for breeding Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus orientalis*), and I found two singing males along the track walking west for 200m. This is a striking species with an extremely loud song, and an attractive contrast between white under-parts, cool grey upper-parts and a mossy yellow infusion on the secondary feathers. Two male Subalpine Warblers (*Sylvia cantillans*) showed extremely well, a pair of Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) circled overhead, and there was also Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*) and Raven (*Corvus corax*).

In the early afternoon, we drove back to the Ipsilou Monastery. Here, in rubble and scree at the base of the entry road ([39.230652](#), [25.939477](#)), I obtained quite good views of a pair of Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*). This is probably one of the island's most reliable sites. In addition, there were many Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hmelanoleuca*) and Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). A Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) was noted over here a little later on.

I then drove towards the migration hotstop of Fanneromeni. Finally, 1.5km in this direction from Ipsilou (39.230590, 25.909324), I finally gained excellent views of 2 Rock Sparrow (*Petronia petronia*). Whilst others have found this a straightforward species, I have always failed to gain views of this rather enigmatic and unobtrusive bird, so it was extremely satisfying to see it at last. Rock Sparrows are considered most common on the island around Ipsilou but this was a chance encounter.

As I arrived at Fanneromeni, there was a tangible sense of movement. A stop along the road (39.231479, 25.863245) yielded a superb female Red-footed Falcon (*Falco tinnunculus*), perched in a couple of roadside bushes. The bubbling call of Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*) was omnipresent. At Fanneromeni Beach (39.236952, 25.859723), the pool here held newly-arrived waders – 4 Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*), 1 Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*), 2 Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) and Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). An Iberian Yellow Wagtail (*M.f.iberiae*) and Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*) were passing through.

I then drove to the Fanneromeni Lower Ford (39.239535, 25.867132). Here, the surreal blend of contrasts – birds from north, south and east Europe, was driven home. Here, in the stream, foraged a Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*). Four Red-rumped Swallows (*Cecropis daurica*) passed through. And just around the corner, a superb tree-full of 45 Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*), in spring finery, glowed in the afternoon light. This dazzling rainbow tree eventually took flight as one – bubbling away on their journey north. A brief stop at Fanneromeni Upper Ford (39.240682, 25.872600) yielded just a pair of Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*). As I left for home, I pulled over by a large group of birders in the Fanneromeni Fields (39.237135, 25.869673). Here they kindly pointed out a superb migrant Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) on wires.

I then drove back to Kalloni where, in stunning evening light, we arrived at the site commonly referred to as the 'football pitch'. Like many 'insider' descriptions, this belies the fact that the 'pitch' is for miniature soccer, and, in this case, the posts had been taken down. The site is situated at Soumouria, N of Kalloni (39.242164, 26.209434). Here, in the 5-10 tall trees, we gained incredible views of 2 roosting Scops Owls (*Otus scops*). For those familiar with owl roosts in the UK, these tend to be distant affairs, so to be sat directly beneath these incredibly cryptic owls was a personal highlight of the trip. I cannot imagine that there is a better site for daylight views of Scops Owl in Europe - provided good fieldcraft is practised and birds are searched for carefully.

With the remaining evening light, we headed back to the Kalloni Saltpans, choosing to visit the wetland channel and hide at the north-east corner (39.217029, 26.266341). Here we noted a new arrival of wading birds: 5 Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), up to 50 Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), 3 Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*), 1 Knot (*Calidris canutus*) and 10 Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). In addition, 4 Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) and a drake Garganey (*Anas querquedula*). This concluded quite an incredible day's birding – seeing the birds of every European corner: on one island.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

A dawn start at Metochi Lake produced the same fare as before, but an sub-adult Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) showing to five feet was particularly special after years of brief encounters with this delicate heron. Walking to the cliff face (39.230733, 26.192503), I climbed up into the realm of the Western Rock Nuthatch (*Sitta neumayer*), and enjoyed absolutely superb views of this charismatic species, as 2 males competed with one another, and then one male escorted a female back to her nest in the rock crevices.

A visit to the Kalloni Saltpans from 10am-12pm provided a few further species. In the west channel (39.219476, 26.242312), a flock of marsh terns, consisting of 5 Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) and a single, brief White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) graced the water. A new flock of 6 Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) had arrived. On dry ground just west of the western road (39.220273, 26.241468) a flock of 3 Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) were observed. As we left the pans, driving east, a brief Alpine Swift (*Tachymarptis melba*) passed over the car.

We then headed for Achladeri Forest. Before succumbing to the 'tourist' site for Kruper's Nuthatch, we walked the Achladeri Track, from a lay-by, east (39.154272, 26.289516), to try and obtain a better idea of the species for ourselves. Here we eventually picked out a male Kruper's Nuthatch (*Sitta krueperi*) in the canopy. Like Corsican and, presumably, Algerian Nuthatch, this unobtrusive pine specialist can be very elusive, canopy-bound and seems to breed at low densities. In the end, we capitulated and headed to the Achladeri Picnic Site. Here (at 39.150915, 26.283850) we waited, and gained superb views of a nest change-over between female and male Kruper's Nuthatch (*Sitta krueperi*) in a dead pine stump – the behavioural highlight of the trip. An Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (*Pyloscopus orientalis*) sang here, and a European Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) passed over. With a few cultural visits scheduled, we spent the remainder of the day exploring the east of the island.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013

Between 7 and 8.30am, we visited the Kalloni Saltpans and found them alive with new migrants. The western channel held 4 newly-arrived Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) but the highlight was superb views of at least 4 White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) and 2 Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*). We then drove to the southern end of the pans. Here, on the telegraph wires (39.211078, 26.243763), we gained superb views of 7 Red-throated Pipits (*Anthus cervinus*) on their epic migration north. New species for the week included single individuals of Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*).

After breakfast, we headed north again into the Napi Valley to secure a few final species. At the olive groves track visited earlier (39.291317, 26.301636), the cooler weather yielded excellent views of a pair of Sombre Tit (*Poecile lugubris*). Accompanying birds here including passing Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*), 2 Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*), Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*) and a passing overhead Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*).

Following the Napi Valley to a sudden right-hand turn (39.305831, 26.320201), we drove slowly south down the track into the Platania Valley. Here in the sun-drenched wood pastures of the central valley (39.294250, 26.318387), we encountered a singing Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia crassirostris*). The bird was elusive, showing well but at range, but nonetheless conveying the 'large Lesser Whitethroat' impression typical of the species. Other species here included another pair of Sombre Tit (*Poecile lugubris*), 2 Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*), 2 Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*), 2 Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*), a Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) carrying food, and a female Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*) near a nest. We walked down to a well-known site for Olive-tree Warbler (39.286945, 26.312227), but found only a superb male Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) giving an incredible imitation of our target species – a behaviour for which this sympatric bird is well known.

Back at Kavaki (39.346203, 26.171299), superb views were gained of the male Ruppell's Warbler (*Sylvia rueppelli*), a male Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*) and, at range, a male Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitaries*).

In the afternoon, I then drove from Kalloni towards the Skaminioudi olive groves, on the SE side of Kalloni Bay. I drove along the beach at Skaminioudi, and was dazzled by a fresh-in flock of 6 Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) in the small inland pools (39.150365, 26.253496), whilst a few Common Sandpipers (*Actitis hypoleucos*) were seen by the shore.

In the olive groves at Skaminioudi (39.134025, 26.234719), two Olive-tree Warblers (*Hippolais olivetorum*) were immediately heard. This is one of those species, like Cetti's Warbler, that can prove unbelievably elusive. A large warbler, singing from the tops of olive trees, they somehow use every leaf as their cover, and just two flight views of this enigmatic species were achieved. I then drove back the same way, and, stopping at a small coastal wetland (39.150592, 26.265320), obtained excellent views of an adult female Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*), another new arrival on the island. There was a real sense that migration was still beginning, but it had been a superb week nonetheless. At the Kalloni Salt pans in the evening, the calm light allowed us to appreciate the true beauty of Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), in addition to 5 White-winged Terns (*Chlidonias leucopterus*).

#### 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013

On our final morning, we found the Kalloni Salt pans the same as before, but drove quickly back to the groves at Skaminioudi (39.134025, 26.234719). Here, we obtained brief, settled views of an Olive-tree Warblers (*Hippolais olivetorum*), with the large size and supercilium noted well. A dark-phase male Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) completed the trip.

#### IV. SPECIES LIST

All sites mentioned below are described in the main report, where they are each attributed digital GPS references.

1.	Common Shellduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
2.	Ruddy Shellduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	4 migrant birds noted at the north-east Kalloni Salt pans.
3.	Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
4.	Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	1 drake noted at the north-east Kalloni Salt pans.
4.	Chuckar Partridge <i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Proved extremely elusive on this visit, with just a pair noted on the steep rock face ENE of Metochi Lake (see report).
5.	Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Metochi Lake proved a superb place for this often-elusive European heron, with up to 6 individuals seen exceptionally well across the week.
6.	Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Roosts of between 6 and 10 individual noted across the week in scrubby bushes at the north end of Metochi Lake.
7.	Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Up to 6 birds seen in channel at the west end of Kalloni Salt pans, with a further 1-2 birds observed in seasonal marshes south of the pans.
8.	Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	A single bird noted on seasonal marshes south of Kalloni Salt pans.
9.	Great White Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>	
10.	Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
11.	Purple Heron <i>Ardea pupurea</i>	Two birds seen passing over the Aeolian Gia Hotel, Skala Kallonis, at dusk on the first evening.

12. Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Between one and five birds observed all week, favouring the western channel of the Kalloni Salt pans. A pair were also seen circling Agriosikos; considered on passage.
13. White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	A single bird observed Kalloni, and a pair circling over Eressos.
14. Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	A single bird seen over Kalloni Salt pans and, at the end of the week, a superb flock of six in beach-side pools close to Skaminioudi.
15. Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	A single bird observed at Kalloni Salt pans.
16. Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Over 100 birds observed at Kalloni Salt pans over the week.
17. Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	A single migrant bird soaring over Achladeri Forest.
18. Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Two migrant pairs noted between Sikaminea and Mythmna; one bird noted over Ipsilou Monastery, and one over the Napi Valley.
19. Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	One female passed through Kalloni Salt pans.
20. Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	
21. Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	A Steppe Buzzard ( <i>B.b.vulpinus</i> ) noted in the Napi Valley.
22. Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	A single female passed over Kavaki on migration.
23. Red-footed Falcon <i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A pale-phased male passed over the Napi Valley; superb views of a perched adult female at Faneromeni, and a dark-phase male passed over the olive groves at Skaminioudi.
24. Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i>	A pale-phase bird over the road between Sikaminea and Mithymna.
25. Little Crake <i>Porzana pava</i>	Excellent views of two males and a female, both in the approach channel and main lake, at Metochi Lake across the week.
26. Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
27. Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus</i>	5 nesting pairs observed at the NW corner of Kalloni Salt pans with further birds observed, at range, across the pan complex.
28. Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	A minimum of 15 birds at the NW corner of Kalloni Salt pans with many more birds, uncounted, observed on the main pans at range.
29. Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Two to three migrant birds seen at the pool on Faneromeni Beach.
30. Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	2 birds observed at the NW corner of Kalloni Salt pans but more probably present here during brief search.
31. Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
32. Spur-winged Lapwing <i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Superb views of a pair at the NW corner of Kalloni Salt pans.
33. Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	
34. Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	A single bird at the NW Kalloni Salt pans; 4 at Faneromeni Beach.
35. Temminck's Stint <i>Calidris temmincki</i>	1-3 birds at Kalloni Salt pans and a further bird at Faneromeni Beach.
36. Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	5 birds at the Kalloni Salt pans.
37. Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	
38. Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
39. Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
40. Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
41. Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	Up to 50 at Kalloni Salt pans and a single at Faneromeni Upper Ford.
42. Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>	
43. Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
44. Little Tern <i>Sternula albrifrons</i>	
45. Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Between 2-6 at the west Kalloni Salt pans.
46. White-winged Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Between 1-6 at the west Kalloni Salt pans.
47. Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	

48. Scops Owl <i>Otus scops</i>	Superb views of 2 roosting birds at the Soumouria roost (see report).
49. Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	
50. Alpine Swift <i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	One bird flew over Kalloni Saltpans.
51. Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	Small numbers seen passing through the Napi and Meladia Valleys, but a spectacular tree full of 45 birds at Faneromeni Upper Ford was a highlight of the holiday; many others were seen here passing over.
52. Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A single bird seen on wires at Faneromeni Fields.
53. Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	1-2 birds observed south of Kalloni Saltpans; the Napi Valley; Plantania Valley and Metochi Lake; in 3 cases, in olive-grove habitats.
54. Middle-s-Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Heard in the groves at Metochi Lake and other groves but only seen well between Vatousa and Skalochori, in spite of being a common species.
55. Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Three birds observed on the west side of Kalloni Saltpans.
56. Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>	Common at Kalloni Saltpans and noted at several other sites, including the Meladia Valley, though not always recorded.
57. Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	Seen at the Sigrí Old Sanatorium, in the Meladia Valley, and carrying food in the Platania Valley.
58. Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Superb views of 1-2 nesting pairs at the bridge S of Metochi Lake; 5 passing over Kavaki, and 4 over Faneromeni Upper Ford.
59. Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
60. House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	
61. Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	
62. Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>	7 smart birds on wires at the south end of Kalloni Saltpans.
63. Yellow Wagtail <i>M.f. flava</i>	
64. Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Excellent views of a female in pools adjoining Skaminioudi Beach.
65. Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin <i>C. galactotes</i>	Flight views of a bird at a ford between Kalloni Saltpans and Kalloni.
66. Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	
67. Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	A pair seen well at the foot of Ipsilou Monastery.
68. Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
69. Black-eared Wheatear <i>O. hmelanoleuca</i>	Common in all rocky hillside terrain. Recorded across the Napi Valley; Meladia Valley; rocks ENE of Metochi Lake and Ipsilou Monastery.
70. Blue Rock Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Single male observed at Kavaki.
71. Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	
72. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler <i>Iduna pallida</i>	Common in areas of riparian scrub. 1-3 noted all week along the W and S of Kalloni Saltpans; 1, Kristou-Kamares river; 2 in Napi Valley; 1 in the Meladia Valley and a pair at Faneromeni Upper Ford.
73. Olive-tree Warbler <i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	Two singing males in olive groves at Skaminioudi.
74. Great Reed Warbler <i>A. arundinaceus</i>	1-2 present at Metochi Lake.
75. Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Breeding territories at Kavaki, the Napi Valley, Platania Valley and 2-3 at Agriosikos, with a migrant at Faneromeni.
76. Sardinian Warbler <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	
77. Ruppell's Warbler <i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>	Superb views of a territorial male at Kavaki.
78. Eastern Orpheap Warbler <i>S. crassirostris</i>	1-2 males on territory in the Platania Valley.
79. Eastern Bonelli's Warbler <i>P. orientalis</i>	Excellent views of 1-2 territorial males at Agriosikos.
80. Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	One migrant seen at the summit of Ipsilou Monastery.
81. Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	One migrant seen at the summit of Ipsilou Monastery.
82. Collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	One migrant seen at the summit of Ipsilou Monastery.
83. Sombre Tit <i>Parus lugubris</i>	Pairs in the Napi and Plantania Valleys and heard at Ipsilou Monastery.

84. Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	
85. Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	
86. Kruper's Nuthatch <i>Sitta krueperi</i>	Male observed along the Achladeri Track and superb views of a nest changeover in a dead stump at the Achladeri Picnic Site (see report).
87. Western Rock Nuthatch <i>S. neumayer</i>	Superb views of a pair, and rival male, at the rock face ENE of Metochi Lake (see report)
88. Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Small groups of 2-3 seen on passage in the Meladia Valley.
89. Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	One between Sikaminea and Miythmna, and 3 birds in Meladia Valley.
90. Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator</i>	Commonly in fertile areas, especially Oualidia, Oued Ziz, and between Ouarzazate and Marrakech. Three birds ringed at the Cafe Yasmina.
91. Masked Shrike <i>Lanius nubicus</i>	Found in suitable olive grove habitats, with 2 pairs east of Metochi Lake and birds in the Napi Valley and Platania Valley.
92. Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	
93. House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	
94. Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Good colonies (20-50) noted along the S and SW of Kalloni Salt pans.
95. Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i>	2 birds seen well 1.5km W of Ipsilou (see report)
96. Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
97. Serin <i>Serinus serinus</i>	
98. Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	
99. Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	
100. Cinereous Bunting <i>Emberiza cineracea</i>	Recorded in classic habitat in the Meladia Valley (see report)
101. Cretzschmar's Bunting <i>Emberiza caesia</i>	Common in rocky terrain with bushes; noted in the Napi Valley, Meladia Valley and several other sites across the island.
102. Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	