

# Birds of Lake Kerkini in Spring

Holiday Report 6-14 May 2016



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## Introduction

Our holiday was based in Chrysohorafa, a small village located within Lake Kerkini National Park, North Greece. It is a truly magical area for observing wildlife and particularly birdwatching and is an internationally renowned wetland site with protected status under the Ramsar Convention. Kerkini has been widely known for its avifauna since the beginning of the 20th century, boasting over 300 bird species and numerous insects, reptiles, amphibians, dragonflies and mammals. It is also one of the best places in the world to see the globally endangered Dalmatian Pelican whose numbers have increased there, due to work of conservationists and local authorities. Apart from hard work, another reason for the location's richness is the staggering array of diverse habitats to be found in the area, such as the lake itself (fed by the Strymonas River), alpine pastures and forests of beech, hornbeam, oak, black pine and oriental plane. Our aim therefore, was to spend a relaxing week exploring these habitats for birds, and to offer some financial support from the proceeds of the holiday to Birdwing [www.birdwing.eu](http://www.birdwing.eu) the wonderful charity set up by Steve Mills and Hilary Koll to support bird conservation in Northern Greece.

The 8 guests joining us were Andy, Gwyn, Jay, Jo, Barry, Marion, Richard and Keith. Steve and Hilary from Birdwing led the guiding, assisted by Julian and Nikos. The guests arrived in 2 parties; the first coming on Friday evening and the second on Saturday evening.



We stayed at Limnaio, a charming hotel run by the wonderful Nikos Gallios and his parents. Nikos is also a committed conservationist who is doing much to promote the area for conservation and ecotourism. He attended our needs in a very calm, friendly and professional way and nothing was too much trouble for him or indeed for his parents who often helped out with the meals. The rooms were all well-equipped, clean and modern, and each morning an excellent buffet breakfast was prepared with locally produced savours like Bougatsa, yoghurt, fresh bread and home-made jams, boiled eggs and omelettes. Nikos and his parents also provided a picnic lunch for us each day and dinner on 2 occasions. At other times, we ate at local restaurants.

The weather throughout the trip was superb with sunshine or high cloud all the time and only a couple of showers. This all made for a wonderful spring birding experience.

The following is a description for each day, followed by a gallery and a species list.

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Our first group arrived at Thessaloniki Airport in the late evening and were met by Nikos and his father who took them to the hotel.

## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May

The second party would arrive late in the evening, so Steve, Hilary and Nikos took the first group out for a day.

**Stop 1.** Within only a few minutes driving we had the delightful view of 25 Red-footed Falcons sitting on the ground in a field and on wires beside the road, allowing us plenty of time to watch them and take photos.

**Stop 2.** We moved on to Mandraki Harbour where calls of Golden Orioles, Cuckoos and, unusually, a Scops Owl rang out. Along with hundreds of Great-crested Grebes and many pairs of Common Terns on the raft there, the group saw Black Kite, Lesser Grey Shrikes and numerous herons and egrets, including Squacco and Night Herons. A Grey-headed Woodpecker also called. The weather was warm and sunny.

**Stop 3.** Our next stop was a hill-side taverna where, over coffee, we watched Cirl Buntings, Buzzards and Green Woodpeckers and were treated to a Golden Eagle fly-by.

**Stop 4.** After a short drive we strolled to a nearby quarry where Woodchat Shrikes and Black-eared Wheatears were visible, along with our target bird the Rock Nuthatch which we had good views of. The quarry was also home to nesting Crag Martins. In the area around Andy noticed a Hawfinch and good views of Cirl Buntings were had by all. Steve heard singing Eastern Orphean Warbler and Hilary pointed out 3 Levant Sparrowhawks close by in display flight.

**Stop 5.** After eating lunch in a shelter we moved closer to the lake and walked a mile or so along a track in warm sunshine. We had astonishingly close views of a Lesser Spotted Eagle and also saw Honey Buzzard overhead. Along with good views of Orioles, Cuckoos and Hoopoes we saw Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes, Little Bittern in the marsh near the end and listened to and saw Eastern Olivaceous Warbler.

**Stop 6.** We were feeling quite hot so after a coffee we drove along the river's edge to a cool poplar wood, seeing a Spoonbill feeding in a wet area at its edge. Steve found an active woodpecker nest with a bird inside the tree. It



Levant Sparrowhawk © J & J Whetham

was involved in interior excavation work and the effects could be felt by touching the tree and listening at its base. Unfortunately the bird in question refused to show itself!

As we reached the hotel in early evening a heavy rain shower began and lasted until just before we were going out for drinks and a meal and could not have been timed better!

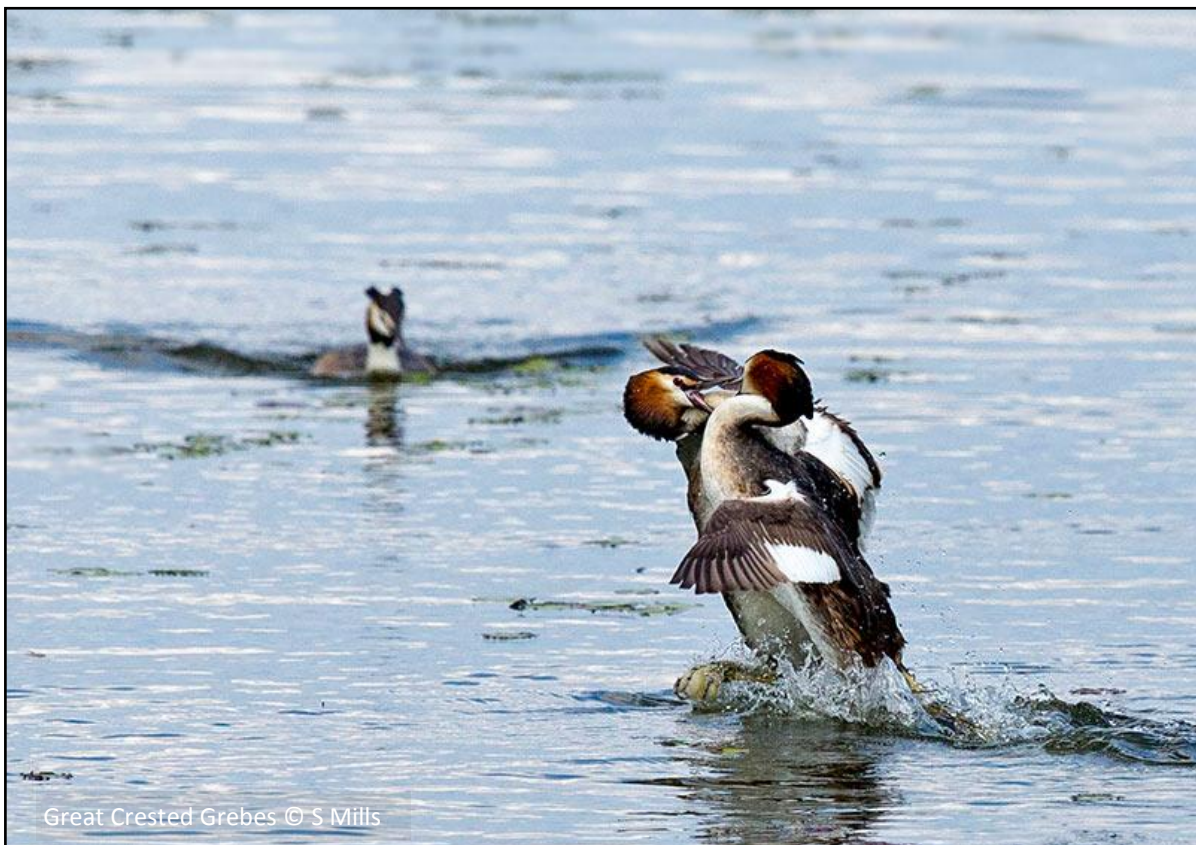
## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Early morning birds included Hoopoe and Bee-Eaters flying over the hotel. Some of the group had been out before breakfast and found Icterine Warbler, a close relative of Eastern Olivaceous, which would also be seen and heard later this day.

**Stop 1.** We made an impromptu roadside stop en-route to Mandraki Harbour for Red-footed Falcons, still moving through. A number of birds, possibly 8, were seen on overhead wires and we all managed good views and a few photos. The birds were en route to their breeding grounds further north.

**Stop 2. Mandraki Harbour.** En route we saw Dabchick in a small fringed pool and then passing over the bridge above the Strimon River, lots of nice House Martins and a few Bee-Eaters. As we approached the harbour, 2 Lesser Grey Shrikes were briefly seen in the Poplars.

At the harbour, lots of birds were seen and heard, and in the background, the chorus of Marsh Frogs. Jay and Andy saw an Eleonora's Falcon. In the water close to the tern raft, hundreds of Great Crested Grebes were seen. Most of these had built nests but were likely to lose them later as the lake water levels rise. Two Spoonbills flew over and eyes settled on the wonderful new tern raft, replacing Birdwing's original raft, where Steve counted about 30 Common Terns. Birds came and went, one bringing a small fish back to the raft.



Amongst the reeds, Squacco, Purple, Night, and Grey Herons were seen. Several Dalmatians were cruising out on the lake. And in the distance, the impressive new Pelican nesting platform made of stone. Others had been built and planted up with willows and reeds. Steve said he was keeping fingers crossed that White Pelicans which had been using it, might breed there. This would be a first for the lake.

Everyone in the group was lucky enough to see the female Montagu's Harrier flying past the edge of the lake and several of the group also saw a distant Peregrine.



Birdlife at Mandraki © K Williams

Golden Orioles were seen in the Poplars, their song an ever present reminder of their presence. As for butterflies, Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady and Small Whites were seen along with Knapweed Fritillary which Andy photographed. Richard pointed out some Stripe necked Terrapins in the water.

**Stop 3. Coffee and refreshments at a lovely little hillside taverna.** The enigmatic Golden Eagle was seen here and Hilary and Steve explained how their diet in this area is almost exclusively of tortoises, which the birds take from the ground and fly to a great height with them, before dropping them onto the ground to break them open and feed upon their exposed flesh. The two tortoises found in the area are Spur Thighed and Herman's.

As we drank coffee, a stunning Levant Sparrowhawk was spotted in some dead branches not far away. It then flew up to the top of a tree giving even better views. Sparrowhawk had already been seen. A Green Woodpecker called and was soon spotted, flying over and landing. Lesser Spotted Eagle, Raven and Honey Buzzard flew over. Against Mt. Belles, Black Storks were seen drifting lazily by. Never as comfortable with humans as their relatives the White Storks, we had good views

nonetheless. Alpine Swift, and Cirl Bunting were present too. Butterflies included Painted Lady's, dozens of them on the thistles, and Clouded Yellows whizzing through. A single Black-veined White was seen along with the occasional Nettle tree butterfly (from the first brood) but showing signs of wear.



**Stop 4. Fish ponds.** The star here was a Purple Heron, seen well on the track beside the marsh. In fact, 3 were seen altogether. En route to the parking spot, Hilary's passengers enjoyed Little Ringed Plover on one of the emerging sandbars and Marsh Harrier and Common Buzzards were spotted drifting over the marshes for most of our visit.

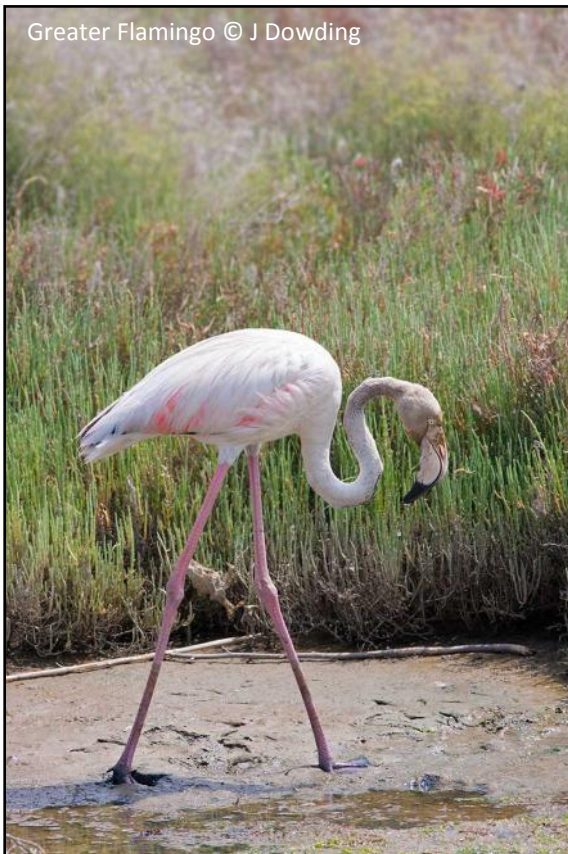
As far as the smaller perching birds, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Yellow Wagtail (race Feldegg) and Black headed Bunting were also present together with our first Black-eared Wheatear and a few Crested Larks. Keith spotted a Snipe that was flushed. Dragonfly-wise, Black tailed and Keeled Skimmer, and Scarlet Darter were seen, along with tens of thousands of Marsh Frog tadpoles in the shallows. Richard with an eye for the unusual found some dung beetles and to add to the wildlife Spotted and Lesser Spotted Fritillaries were seen.

**Stop 5. Sidirocastro.** This wonderful location with a medieval hilltop castle lies a little to the northeast of Kerkini. It made a good spot for our picnic, and soon we were watching displaying Levant Sparrowhawks. Tree Pipit was both seen and heard, and Blue Rock Thrush was heard but not seen! Serins, Greenfinches, Chaffinches, Crested Larks, Tree Sparrows, Red-rumped Swallows, Blackbirds and Goldfinches were all seen along with two beautiful Red-backed Shrikes and Black-eared Wheatear. Butterflies included dozens of Painted Ladies, Eastern Dappled Whites, Brimstone, and a Cardinal nectaring on thistles. This is the largest of the European Fritillaries.

**Stop 5b.** Just by the road leading out of the castle area, we stopped to scan and found Short-toed Eagle and White Wagtail.



Cardinal © A Levitt



Greater Flamingo © J Dowding

**Stop 5c.** We made a quick stop at a rock face in Sidirocastro for Rock Nuthatch, finding a couple of nests and eventually the birds, first one, then another. It was a good reward for only a little detour. Unfortunately the ice cream shop was shut though! Against the cliff face, Crag Martins could also be seen. Steve pointed out their diagnostic white tail panels. Swallows also present.

**Stop 6. Towards the Bulgarian border.** We stopped along the way for Common Buzzard, then Black-headed Bunting and Corn Bunting, the latter with its distinctive jingling song. A riverine forest lies on the border with Bulgaria, and should have offered woodpeckers, but only glimpses were seen at the end of our little walk there. That said, we were able to hear Short-toed Treecreeper and see 'Tree' Nuthatch, around its nest hole. As we emerged from the forest, Masked Shrike was seen low down. Scopes were set, and soon everyone had wonderful views. That was pretty much it for the day. The rain started and we drove back to Vironia river crossing, parking up and hoping for a lull in the weather but none came. We were compensated for our efforts with a Whinchat perched among some spurge close to the river, and also a Spoonbill. We were home before 6pm!

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May

The aim today was to head south to find waders and other water birds in the coastal pools and dykes near Axios Delta/ Thermaikos Gulf. We would visit the eastern side of the area in the morning, so that the sun was behind us. We left Limneo under light cloud at around 8.30 am. The drive south towards Kalachori was uneventful, using the motorway to Thessaloniki in the main, and then heading west.

**Stop 1.** At Kalochori, plenty of Greater Flamingo were present in the distance, along with Black-winged Stilts and Marsh Harriers. Med Gulls were a little closer and showing well their clean wing feathers and interesting calls. Swallows, Pallid and Common Swift were also seen while Cetti's Warbler song erupted from the reeds, as they do!

A good number of butterflies were seen including Small Heath and lots of whites.

**Stop 2.** A little further along, a Stone Curlew was spotted. We also added Two Tawny Pipits, Woodchat Shrike, Crested Lark, Wood Sands, Yellow Wag ssp. Feldegg with the dark grey/black head.

**Stop 3.** Further along still, Shelduck, Little Stint, Dunlin and Curlew Sands were all showing well in a shallow lagoon and were scoped out. Steve mentioned the general feeding habits of such wading birds, giving a clue to their identity, with the smallest feeding in the shallowest water, starting with Little Stint, then Dunlin and Curlew Sands. Broad-billed Sandpiper was the star here though. Four lovely birds with striped head and spangled plumage. Marsh Sandpiper was also seen, it too having lovely spangling on the back feathers. Flying over in a constant stream of 2 or 3 birds at a time, Whiskered Terns and Black Terns were also seen. We were also able to approach quite close to a flock of Greater Flamingos.

**Stop 4.** At the main lagoon, with the sea wall behind us and a nice gentle breeze from the sea, Andy spotted Black-necked Grebe. Beautiful bird in breeding plumage! In a small offshoot of the lagoon, plenty of gulls were present including at least 3 Little Gulls, Slender-billed and Black-headed. In the main lagoon, our first Avocets, ultimately providing us with a view of their mating behaviour, though modesty prevented too close a look! One of Hilary's favourite birds, White-winged Black Tern, made a special appearance for her and for us all, along with the plenty of Common Terns using Birdwing's raft, and Little Terns diving and catching fish in the sea. Common Sandpiper and Ringed Plover were also added.

**Stop 5.** We moved to the end of the main lagoon to see what could be found. Steve latched onto a real rarity for Greece, Terek Sandpiper. The only problem was that a lorry passed by and scared the bird away. Fortunately, the bird returned with three friends. These lovely little waders with short yellowish legs, and turned up bills were a real delight. More Broad-billed Sands, Black-winged Stilts, and Turnstones spotted by Gwyn looking really smart in their black, white and rufous breeding plumage.





**Stop 6.** After lunch, we continued scoping out the site, adding Kentish Plover, Tree Sparrow and Snipe. We drove on passing some lovely Oystercatchers, Mute Swan, closer views of Little Egret on the wash-away, Common Terns, and singing Reed Warblers.

**Stop 7.** We arrived at one more lagoon further to the southwest. Here Keith spotted Stone Curlew, along with more Kentish Plovers and Black-winged Stilts. We were well pleased.



**Stop 8.** Our last location was a nearby lake. Arriving at 4pm, we made our way along a grassy bank, with pools filled with Tamarisk attracting plenty of birdlife, dragonflies and butterflies. A small flotilla of Black necked Grebes, Dabchick, and a flock of perhaps 100 Dalmatian Pelicans in the distance made it well worth the visit. Also seen: Squacco Heron, Purple Heron, Little Bittern, Night Heron, Coot, Moorhen, Pygmy and Great Cormorants, Great Reed Warblers, Gadwall and Ferruginous Duck. The star of the show here though was Great Spotted Cuckoo, two of them, flying off and making a cackling call. Buzzard and Marsh Harriers were also spotted on high and Turtle Doves nearby.

**Stop 9.** Driving along the track on the way out of the marsh we had good views of Lesser Grey Shrike. A gathering of Gulls, mainly Black-headed and a few Yellow-legged, and an obliging Common Sandpiper were also seen either on or very close to the track. We arrived back in Chrysohorafa in time to freshen up and relax before a dinner of Moussaka, courtesy of Nikos' mum and dad.

## **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Following yesterday's visit to the coast, today we had a more local focus, in particular the western area of the lake.

**Stop 1.** After a hearty breakfast, we set off to a location where Little Bitterns reside, feeding off tadpoles. Penduline Tits had built 3 nests in overhanging willows. Steve explained how the males

build a number of these and then once the female has decided to accept one, works with the male to put a collapsible entrance tunnel on one of the nests. This has the effect of reducing predation, for once a predator such as magpie tries to gain access the tunnel entrance closes up. Clever! At least one pair of these marvelous birds was present. Their call notes and antics were very obvious to us. A few photos were taken and then we moved on. All around us, Great Reed Warblers were seen and heard, a melody of Golden Orioles, occasionally seen but more often heard, and the ever present Nightingales adding to the chorus. Cuckoos were calling too and several flew by, one of these being the rufous-phase, a much more rusty looking bird than the normal grey one. Eastern Olivaceous and Reed Warblers were also spotted here along with Black Kite, Marsh Harrier and a distant woodpecker, probably Syrian. Jay had photographed one of the latter in the village earlier in the morning.

**Stop 2.** We moved off to a site for Eagle Owls which had been seen here earlier in the week. Alas, they were not present for us but we were amply compensated with lots of Bee-Eaters flying all about us. A Black-eared Wheatear, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Raven, Long-tailed Tit, House Sparrow, Buzzard were recorded and finally a male Red-backed Shrike was seen on one of the posts by the old quarry.

**Stop 3.** Then to the track beyond the quarry into a beautiful area with a fast flowing river with overhanging Oriental Planes which provide a wonderful cooling effect. This area is one of Steve and Hilary's favourite spots in the summer, when things get hot. Lesser Spotted Eagles were seen and identified using some of Steve's helpful advice given the previous day. One of the birds clearly dipped in flight and had diagnostic pale wing patches. Blackbird, Chaffinch, and Red-backed Shrike were also seen.



Short-toed Eagle © G McCreanor

**Stop 4.** We made a stop for refreshments at a taverna in Lithotopos which was kitted out with some unusual 'up market' crockery. The star of the show at the taverna was a male Levant which made two passes and was easily seen. A Black Stork also flew over, not wanting to be missed.

**Stop 5.** We headed to another track a little further beyond the taverna and had superb views of Short-toed Eagle which was photographed. Steve kindly explained some of the rudiments of photographing birds against a bright sky, using camera histograms to determine the correct exposure. Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Cirl Bunting were also seen and Woodchat Shrike. A few interesting butterflies were added, including Chapman's Blue, Black-veined White and Comma.

**Stop 6. Track up to Mavrovouni Hills.** This was a short stop to see Black Headed Bunting, which duly obliged, and Eastern Orphean Warbler which Steve reminded us sounds a bit like Nightingale. We also saw and heard Corn Bunting and watched a White Stork feeding in the fields nearby.

**Stop 7.** We proceeded to the kite hide where we saw Black Kite -several of them- and Booted Eagle. Julian was distracted by an Iolas Blue butterfly, one he suspected was present because of its larval

foodplant. A truly beautiful butterfly, bright blue above with grey undersides and bluish colour near the abdomen. One was also seen egg-laying upon its foodplant. There were other butterflies present including Speckled Wood, Essex Skipper and Common Blue.

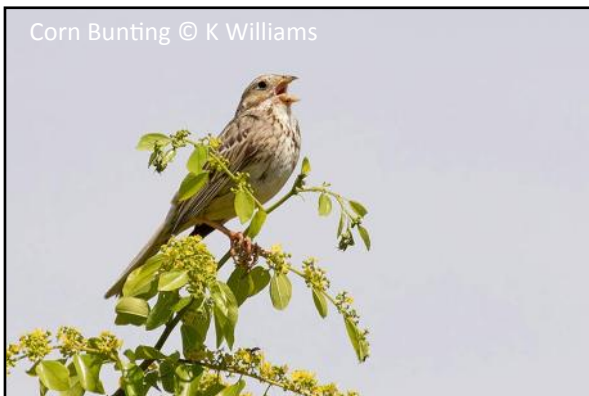
**Stop 8.** We moved towards Korifoudi Marshes and en-route caught sight of a lovely Roller perched on the wires, giving us a chance of a few photos. We then moved along to the marsh to see the lovely courtship display of Great Crested Grebes and other birds out on the lake. Once the grebes had finished, a symphony of marsh frogs croaked their applause. It was quite surreal.



Red-backed Shrike © K Williams



Red-rumped Swallow © S Mills



Corn Bunting © K Williams



Roller © K Williams

**Stop 9.** We stopped off at Kerkini village for another drink and a little relaxation under the Oriental Planes. It was 4pm but still hot so we felt we deserved a drink and ice cream. A little Red-rumped Swallow photography lesson produced good results.

**Stop 10.** On the way back to the hotel, we made one last stop for the Roller, briefly spying it on the wires, before a car scared it off into a tree. Barry and Marion fixed their scope on it and we all had good views.

## Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May

The aim today was to find some Alpine birds. This involved a drive of an hour and a half, so after breakfast we set out early towards the mountains. En route we passed several Rollers on wires.

**Stop 1.** Once on the mountain track, with its magnificent Beech and Oak forests all around, populations of forest birds which included Chiffchaff, Robin and Dunnock became apparent. "Yes", Steve and Hilary explained, "you get them as garden birds in the UK, but normally, they are more

closely associated with forests in Greece.” The mountain at this lowest elevation was shrouded in mist or cloud, so we moved higher, to a point where the pine forest began and the cloud had lifted.

**Stop 2.** At the point on the mountain where deciduous trees were replaced by coniferous, we got out to stretch our legs again. Birds here included Ortolan Bunting, Lesser Whitethroat (sounding very much like Cirl) and Black-eared Wheatear. Jay reminded us of the Suffolk name for this bird. Walking the tarmac road, we found several Black Redstarts and Red-backed Shrikes. Butterflies included Wood White, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral.



**Stop 3.** En-route to a higher position on the mountain, we passed a pair of Rock Partridges, similar to Chukar or ‘Frenchies’. Also seen now were more and more Water Pipits, and Northern Wheatears. The route after the tarmac was slow going so we parked up to make the ascent on foot. The mountain rises to about 2,000 metres, and we had a good mile walk up to the summit. We soon saw a Raven flying over and more Ortolans, beautiful little buntings with slate grey and orange markings, and very similar to Cretzschmar's Bunting. At a bend in the road, Hilary spotted our first Rock Thrush. Steve rightly described these as one of the most colourful European birds. Indeed they are with their lovely orange chest and belly and blue grey markings on the head and back. We moved higher, seeing more Northern Wheatear. Just below the last turn for the summit, 7 or 8 Alpine Choughs were seen on a distant slope. We continued on and saw some strange mammal which was soon identified as a Fox. At the top, a couple of Alpine Choughs flew past. We scanned all the tussocks for Alpine Accentor and Horned Lark, but alas, none were seen here.

On the way down, more Ortolans and Corn Buntings, Wheatears, Black Redstarts, Water Pipits and a few more Rock Partridges were noted and Andy also saw and photographed the only Alpine Accentor of the trip.

Richard had found some interesting flowers and a lovely Dingy Skipper butterfly together with lots of Small Tortoiseshells, a few Peacocks and Red Admiral. Flowers were interesting too, with Violas, Cowslips and Star of Bethlehem plus Provençal Orchid.

**Stop 4.** Much lower down, we stopped at a site for Collared Flycatcher. It wasn't found but we did get a new bird for the trip, namely Treecreeper.

The long drive back was largely uneventful, apart from seeing several Rollers on the wires, and one on the road, eating a small snake. We arrived back at around 8pm. It had been a very long day, but was worth it for the Alpine species, the fresh mountain air, and the wonderful walk in a place pretty much devoid of human beings, other than a few birders!



## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Careful checks of the weather forecast revealed that this was a good day to take a boat trip on Lake Kerkini. We'd already done some pre-breakfast walks and got close to lots of lovely birds including Red-backed Shrike, Olivaceous Warbler, Nightingale and Cuckoo.

**Stops 1a and 1b.** En route to Kerkini harbour, we passed a feeding frenzy of cormorants and pelicans making the waters of the lake boil. Because of the leafy hedgerows, we got a partial view only but the noise was tremendous. We also made a brief stop at the Kite hide, and sure enough saw Booted Eagle and Black Kite.

**Stop 2.** We arrived at the harbour and prepared quickly, before setting out with Nikos on the boat and gliding serenely out onto mirror calm water. As we progressed, we passed a few terns and egrets. Steve gave everyone a little lesson in choosing the right exposure for photographing birds in certain conditions. This was something which would pay off later. The first birds we 'experimented on' were White and Dalmatian Pelicans cruising out on the lake. Marsh Terns were seen in the distance, both Black and Whiskered and on posts sticking out above the water, a number of Common Terns were seen perching.



**Stop 3.** We reached the ‘drowned forest’ of mainly willows and could see how they were struggling to survive the changing water levels in the lake. Nonetheless, these trees still provide homes for thousands of birds. Great and Pygmy Cormorants, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Squacco Herons, Night



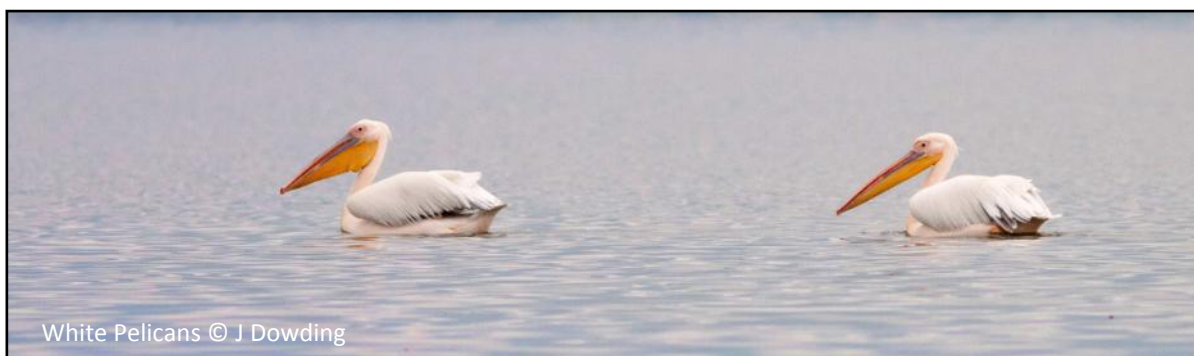
Dalmatian Pelican © A Levitt

Hérons, Grey Herons and even Penduline Tits were seen from the boat. One particular spot gave us plenty of chances to practise the earlier photography lesson. Some wonderful poses of Night Herons and Grey Herons were captured and In-flight views of returning Dalmatian Pelicans and Cormorants added to the wonderful experience. The small electric motor of the boat was switched off for a bit, to enable us to take in the sounds of the birds clamoring around the trees and their nests. It was a memorable occasion.

**Stop 4.** Hilary and Steve had explained earlier that the White Pelicans use the lake to catch fish, then fly all the way back to Lake Prespa where they breed. This is some considerable journey. However, with the construction of new Dalmatian Pelican breeding islands, there is chance that the Whites (or Rosy) Pelicans, may at some point breed on the platforms with the Dalmatians. Certainly, on the large recently constructed island, there were almost as many Whites as Dalmatians. We kept a good 300 metres away from the platforms, in keeping with the conservation requirements to give the birds seclusion. There were several piles of sticks and reeds on the island, evidence that at least the Dalmatians were well into their breeding cycle. Steve and Hilary also explained that the Dalmatians lose their wonderful breeding colours -bright red bill and white fluffy punk hairdo's- after winter, whereas the Whites gain a wonderful rosy chest and bright bill later (hence the alternative name, Rosy Pelican). This was now in evidence.



Squacco © R Scantlebury



White Pelicans © J Dowding

Dalmatian Pelican © R Scantlebury



After visiting the islands we headed back to the harbour, passing Whiskered Terns, Great Crested Grebes, and a flotilla of 11 Little Gulls. Other birds included Yellow Legged and Black-headed Gulls.

**Stop 5.** We moved to a nearby taverna for coffee and then headed for Ano Poroia, a little village nestled into the slopes of Mount Belles, where we parked in the shade of some plane trees. Here, as we were eating lunch, Jo, still in photography mode, asked Jay what settings one would use for Black Woodpecker. No sooner had she said this than a Black Woodpecker appeared as if by magic on one of the trunks. It flew left and was gone almost as quickly as it came but was seen well by several in the group.

**Stop 6. Mt Belles.** Moving on to our next stop, a group of 3 Grey Wagtails were seen. We then drove a little way up the mountain, stopping at about 600m. Here, some nice birds were seen including Subalpine Warbler (a first for Richard), a number of Nightingales, possible female Levant Sparrowhawk, and many others. That evening we ate at Limnaio, a lovely salad followed by braised steak.

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May

The day started warm, and the forecast was good, with temperatures reaching 29 or 30 Celsius. En-route to our first stop, we passed Common Buzzard.

**Stop 1.** The magical fluting melody Golden Orioles greeted us as we got out of the vehicles and was soon accompanied by Great Reed Warbler. A flock of Bee-eaters and pair of Spotted Flycatchers seemed to beckon us down the track, stopping ahead of us, tantalizingly close each time they settled. We walked the track behind the eastern embankment first. For this stage of the season the water level was lower than normal but Steve mentioned that in a month's time, at least a metre of water would be covering the meadows and all that would remain in terms of land, would be a few little hummocks covered in willows. That said, there were plenty of Little Egrets, a nice group of 7

Spoonbills, and a Cattle Egret, which Barry spotted with his scope, unsurprisingly near some Water Buffalo. Flights of White Pelicans, rising on thermals in two large groups numbering perhaps 150 in total, plus a few Dali's circled ahead and above. Steve mentioned that the Whites were gaining height all the time, ready for their 400km round-trip to Prespa but that the journey was not as arduous as it may seem, for the Pelicans simply use the thermals to float and glide nearly all the way there, the only flapping being between thermals.

Walking further along the track, plenty of Bee-eaters were seen, plus Spotted Flycatchers. A Hobby was spotted and photographed and although fairly high, it gave us good views of the moustachial stripe and the red feathering. A 'stealthy' Purple Heron was seen in the river beside the embankment, virtually submerged with just its head and neck poking out above the water and Lily pads, and Night Heron and two Great White Egrets flew over the meadow heading west. There were also Green Woodpeckers coming and going and back at the vehicles, Syrian Woodpecker. In the background, the sound of the ever present croaking Marsh Frogs.



**Stop 2.** We moved onto the Eastern Embankment and saw lots of Egrets and a beautiful pair of Little Bitterns in the reeds. Julian found a Large Copper butterfly, something of a rarity, and also Long-tailed Blues, feeding on the plentiful flowers. Gwyn and Keith also faced the challenge of photographing Clouded Yellows, not an easy task, since they are always moving about quickly, and barely settle. A very distant possible Goshawk was seen. Further along we had good views of more Bee-eaters, Lesser Grey Shrike, Masked Shrikes, Red-backed Shrike and Olivaceous Warblers.

**Stop 3.** We ate lunch near some Poplars at the end of the embankment. A Red-backed Shrike, and more Lesser Greys were seen nearby as a White Stork was gathering sticks for its nest under the trees. Here Steve and Julian spotted Camberwell Beauty flying vertically up and over the poplars.

**Stop 4.** We moved to a site Steve and Hilary had been monitoring for Rollers for a number of years. Our first sightings were of Black-headed Bunting and Golden Orioles. Cetti's called from a small pond. It wasn't long before Hilary found Rollers in some distant trees. It was now quite warm, so we



opted to drive to the other end of the quarry for a look, taking care not to linger too long because they are sensitive birds. We had nice views, making it a very worthwhile stop and then left them in peace. On the drive out, we also saw Woodchat and Red-backed Shrikes, and an obliging Black-headed Bunting.

**Stop 5.** After the Roller site, we drove north, parking opposite an old quarry. This was stunning scenery, with rising hills swathed in emerald green, and bare rock-faces. There were some nice birds too! Honey Buzzard, Snake Eagle, Alpine Swifts and Red-rumped Swallows were all there. A flock of Jackdaws was also present.

**Stop 6.** We made one last stop at a nearby river and waterfall. Firecrest, Blue Rock Thrush, and Alpine Swift were all added to our list. Against the cliff face, a Blue rock Thrush appeared almost black in colour. There were also a number of Crag Martins and more Alpine Swifts, posing a challenge to the photographers. We arrived home at around 5.30pm, having planned to dine out that evening in Vironia.



## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May

As this was the day of our return to the UK, and with a late flight home, we decided to head south towards the airport, stopping at various places along the way, including Liki, Koronia Lake, and Kalochori.

**Stop 1.** Nikos knew of a site for Lesser Kestrels, practically en route to the airport, so we opted to spend time there in the hope of being able to enjoy this wonderful species. It wasn't long before we found ourselves negotiating the narrow streets of a small town and arriving at a church on top of a hill. The views from our vantage point across the town were impressive, as were the Lesser Kestrels! We saw a number of birds flying above the town. One was seen catching and eating an insect on the wing. This is the species' usual method of feeding and it was wonderful to be able to see it happen right above our heads. We also watched as one of the birds interacted with a Levant Sparrowhawk, accompanied by a lot of stooping and chattering calls. Soon scopes were fixed on various aerials and satellite dishes, which from our lofty perch, were level with our eyes. Thus, we were able to pick out some of the birds which alighted on various pieces of roof furniture. There was also a White Stork nest nearby, with the male coming and going every so often, accompanied by characteristic bill clapping.

Behind us and higher up the hillside, a group of up to 7 Common Buzzards were seen soaring and wheeling. Julian walked higher up into the village and found an old woodpecker nest. Hoopoe and Golden Oriole were also present.



Lesser Kestrel © K Williams

**Stop 2.** After Coffee, we drove to a nearby lake, a place we'd visited earlier in the week. The hope was to see Long-legged Buzzard but alas, the birds didn't show. However, not all was lost. Great views of Glossy Ibis, Shelduck, Great Reed Warbler, 100's of Pygmy Cormorants, Great Egrets, Purple Heron, Red-backed Shrike, Corn Bunting, Eastern Olivaceous and the ever present Crested Larks were all seen.

Further along, we came upon Black-headed Gulls, Little Grebe with their characteristic whinnying calls, Little Egret, Coot, Yellow-legged Gulls, Turtle Doves and Common Buzzard. Jay took a nice in-flight photos of the latter.

We stopped under some large Willows for lunch and stretched our legs a bit. Two Nightingales were in a singing competition, accompanied every now and then by Golden Orioles. Richard found a wonderful European Tree Frog in the Phragmites reeds. Photos were duly taken. On the way back to the main road after lunch, a very confiding Squacco Heron posed for photos.

**Stop 3.** Arriving at Kalochori, the first lagoon we visited produced Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers, Marsh Harriers and Mallard.

The next stop was by a river cut, leading up to the larger lagoon. Here, lots of Broad-billed Sandpipers were seen feeding in the shallow waters, along with Little Stint, Ringed Plover and a good number of Ruff.

At the larger lagoon, we were soon watching the comings and goings of Little Terns with their catch, Wood Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sands, Black-winged Stilts, Shelduck, Slender-billed Gulls, and about 40 Black Terns (Keith and Jay counted), flying back and forth.

A flock of around 100 Greater Flamingos were busy feeding or resting. A few of the birds took flight,

revealing their lovely salmon pink colouration. Unfortunately, the birds do not nest here. Richard and Andy scanned some 1st year Little Gulls and a solitary 1st winter Med Gull. As we moved along the track, Redshank was seen sitting on its perch, Little Stint, and also Red-backed Shrike. Our final stop was to look for and successfully find Stone Curlew. 3 were seen, along with Kentish Plover and Black-winged Stilt.



Our holiday had come to an end, for it was now tea-time, and we were all getting hungry. Nikos took us to a taverna in Kalochori where they served us fish and pork, with chips and salads, all washed down with beer and lemonade, before driving back to the airport.

**Footnote:**

A total of 174 bird species were seen or heard on the holiday. Rose Coloured Starling was seen at the airport along with Montagu's Harrier. Most guests managed to add at least a few new species to their life lists and Keith in particular added around 40 'lifers' having never visited this part of Europe before. Such was their zest for observing birds, that many of our party would go out in the mornings before breakfast, and wander through the village to the leafy lanes and tracks, where birds could be found as they warmed themselves in the early morning sun, and often in full view. In terms of other incidental species, around 30 species of butterfly, half a dozen or so dragonflies, and a similar number of reptiles and amphibians were also recorded.

**Acknowledgements:**

Greenwings would like to thank all their guests on this trip, not only for their good humour and enthusiasm throughout the holiday, but also for their help in compiling species lists and for the use of their photographs. A special note of thanks must also go to Steve and Hilary for their expert and friendly guiding, and for inspiring us to take an interest in the conservation of species in northern Greece. Also a note of appreciation for Steve's thoughtful 'in house' photographic tuition which came in particularly handy when photographing birds in difficult lighting conditions and must be added. Special mention and thanks are also due Nikos and his parents, for their wonderful hospitality and helpfulness, at all times.



## Gallery and species lists overleaf



Great Crested Grebes © K Williams



Common Tern © G McCreanor



House Martins © J Dowding



Dalmatian © G McCreanor









Little Tern © J Dowding



Spoonbill © A Levitt



Black Tern © J Dowding



Alpine Swift © K Williams



Squacco © B & M Hart



Eastern Green Lizard © M & M Hart



Frog © B & M Hart



Night Herons © B & M Hart



Iolas Blue © G McCreanor



Tree Sparrow © J Dowding



Great Reed Warbler © R Scantlebury



Subalpine Warbler © R Scantlebury



Tern raft © J Dowding



Pelican island © K Williams



Red-footed Falcon © K Williams



Cuckoo © K Williams





Lesser Grey Shrike © S Mills



Red-backed Shrike © S Mills





White Storks © S Mills



Squacco Heron © S Mills



Little Gull © S Mills



Black-necked Grebe © S Mills



Syrian Woodpecker © J & J Whetham



Masked Shrike © J & J Whetham



Dalmatian Pelican and Common Tern © S Mills



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler © K Williams



Orphean Warbler © K Williams



Squacco Heron © J & J Whetham



Cuckoo © J & J Whetham



Wood Sands © J Dowding



Rosy Pelicans © J Dowding

Red-backed Shrike © J & J Whetham





Ortolan Bunting © J & J Whetham



Cirl Bunting female © J & J Whetham



Night Heron © J & J Whetham





Tree Frog © R Scantlebury



Bee-eater © J Dowding



Pygmy Cormorant © K Williams



Little Owl © R Scantlebury



Meadow Pipit © S Mills



White Pelicans © J & J Whetham



Red-footed Falcons © J Dowding

Scarlet Darter © K Williams



Scarce Swallowtail © R Scantlebury



Clouded Yellow © K Williams





Little Bittern © A Levitt



Nightingale © A Levitt





Watching Short-toed Eagle © H Koll



Mountain birding © J Dowding

Squacco © A Levitt



Black-headed Bunting © S Mills





Dalmatian Pelicans © B & M Hart



Dalmatian Pelicans 2 © B & M Hart

Great Reed Warbler © B & M Hart



Grey Herons © B & M Hart

### Bird species list Kerkini May 2016

✓= seen, ♪=heard, p=probable

	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
	<b>Grebes</b>	<b>Family - Pelecanidae</b>								
1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe	✓	✓	✓	♪		✓		
2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
3	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Black-necked Grebe		✓						
	<b>Cormorants</b>	<b>Family - Phalacrocoracidae</b>								
4	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Pygmy Cormorant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	<b>Pelicans</b>	<b>Family - Pelecanidae</b>								
6	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	White Pelican	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
7	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	<b>Bitterns &amp; Herons</b>	<b>Family - Ardeidae</b>								
8	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
10	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
11	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret							✓	
12	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
13	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret			✓			✓	✓	✓
14	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
15	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron		✓	✓	✓			✓	
	<b>Storks</b>	<b>Family - Ciconiidae</b>								
16	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	✓	✓		✓	✓			
17	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Ibises and Spoonbills</b>	<b>Family - Threskiornithidae</b>								
18	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis							✓	
19	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian Spoonbill	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
	<b>Flamingos</b>	<b>Family - Phoenicopteridae</b>								
20	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Greater Flamingo			✓					✓
	<b>Swans, Ducks and Geese</b>	<b>Family - Anatidae</b>								
21	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan			✓					
22	<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose		✓						
23	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Common Shelduck			✓					
24	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
25	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey			✓					
26	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard			✓	✓		✓		
27	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck			✓				✓	
	<b>Kites, Hawks and Eagles</b>	<b>Family - Accipitridae</b>								
28	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard	✓	✓					✓	
29	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	✓			✓		✓	✓	
30	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Eagle		✓		✓	✓		✓	
31	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
32	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier		✓						
33	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk							p	
34	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
35	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
36	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle	✓	✓		✓				
38	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	✓	✓						
39	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	Booted Eagle				✓		✓		
	<b>Falcons and allies</b>	<b>Family - Falconidae</b>								
40	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel								✓
41	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	✓	✓	✓					
43	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby				✓			✓	
44	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon		✓						
45	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	✓	✓			✓			
	<b>Pheasants and Partridges</b>	<b>Family - Phasianidae</b>								
46	<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	Rock Partridge					✓			
	<b>Rails</b>	<b>Family - Rallidae</b>								
47	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
48	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Common Coot	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
	<b>Oystercatcher</b>	<b>Family - Haematopodidae</b>								
49	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian Oystercatcher			✓					✓
	<b>Stilts and Avocets</b>	<b>Family - Recurvirostridae</b>								
50	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt			✓					✓
51	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Pied Avocet			✓					✓
	<b>Curlews</b>	<b>Family - Scolopacidae</b>								
52	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Stone-curlew			✓					✓
	<b>Plovers</b>	<b>Family - Charadriidae</b>								
53	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover		✓						✓
54	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Ringed Plover			✓					✓
55	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover			✓					
	<b>Sandpipers and allies</b>	<b>Family - Scolopacidae</b>								
56	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Little Stint			✓					✓
57	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper			✓					✓
58	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin			✓					✓
59	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper			✓					✓
60	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff								✓
61	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe		✓						
62	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank			✓					✓
63	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Marsh Sandpiper			✓					
64	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper			✓					✓
65	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper			✓					
66	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Turnstone			✓					✓

	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
67	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Terek Sandpiper			✓					
	<b>Gulls and Terns</b>	<b>Family - Laridae</b>								
68	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Mediterranean Gull			✓					✓
69	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Little Gull			✓			✓		✓
70	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull			✓			✓		✓
71	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	Slender-billed Gull			✓					
72	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Yellow-legged Gull	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
74	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Little Tern			✓					✓
75	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Whiskered Tern			✓			✓		
76	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern			✓			✓		✓
77	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Tern			✓					
	<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>	<b>Family - Columbidae</b>								
78	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove		✓						
79	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood Pigeon		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
80	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	European Turtle Dove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Cuckoo</b>	<b>Family - Cuculidae</b>								
82	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	Great Spotted Cuckoo			✓					
83	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common Cuckoo	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Owls</b>	<b>Family - Strigidae</b>								
84	<i>Otus scops</i>	Eurasian Scops Owl	♪	♪					♪	
85	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Little Owl	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	<b>Swifts</b>	<b>Family - Apodidae</b>								
86	<i>Apus apus</i>	Common Swift	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	<i>Apus melba</i>	Alpine Swift		✓					✓	
88	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Pallid Swift			✓					
	<b>Kingfishers</b>	<b>Family - Alcedinidae</b>								
89	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher						✓	✓	
	<b>Bee-eaters</b>	<b>Family - Meropidae</b>								
90	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	European Bee-eater	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	<b>Rollers</b>	<b>Family - Coraciidae</b>								
91	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	European Roller		✓		✓	✓		✓	
	<b>Hoopoes</b>	<b>Family - Upupidae</b>								
92	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Hoopoe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	♪	✓	♪
	<b>Woodpeckers</b>	<b>Family - Picidae</b>								
93	<i>Picus canus</i>	Grey-headed Woodpecker	✓							
94	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green Woodpecker	✓	✓				✓	✓	
95	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Black Woodpecker						✓		
96	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker						p		
97	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Syrian Woodpecker	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
	<b>Larks</b>	<b>Family - Alaudidae</b>								
98	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Crested Lark	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓

	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
99	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark					✓			
	<b>Swallows and Martins</b>	<b>Family - Hirundinidae</b>								
100	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Sand Martin				✓		✓		✓
101	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Eurasian Crag Martin		✓	✓				✓	
102	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Red-rumped Swallow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
104	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	House Martin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	<b>Pipits and Wagtails</b>	<b>Family - Motacillidae</b>								
105	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Tawny Pipit			✓					
106	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Tree Pipit		✓			✓			
107	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Water Pipit					✓			
108	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
109	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail						✓		
110	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White Wagtail	✓	✓		✓				
	<b>Wrens</b>	<b>Family - Troglodytidae</b>								
111	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren		♪						
	<b>Accentors</b>	<b>Family - Prunellidae</b>								
112	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Hedge Accentor					✓			
113	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	Alpine Accentor					✓			
	<b>Chats and Thrushes</b>	<b>Family - Turdidae</b>								
114	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin					✓	✓		
115	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Common Nightingale	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Black Redstart					✓			
117	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat		✓	✓			✓		
118	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern Wheatear				✓	✓			
119	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Black-eared Wheatear	✓	✓		✓				
120	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush					✓			
121	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Blue Rock Thrush		♪					✓	
122	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
123	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush		✓			♪			
124	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush					✓			
	<b>Cettia Bush Warbler</b>	<b>Family - Cettia</b>								
125	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Cetti's Warbler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Grass Birds &amp; allies</b>									
126	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Grasshopper Warbler			P♪				♪	
	<b>Reed Warblers &amp; allies</b>	<b>Family - Acrocephalidae</b>								
127	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Eurasian Reed Warbler			♪	✓				
128	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Great Reed Warbler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
130	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	Icterine Warbler	✓	✓						
	<b>Sylvia Warblers</b>	<b>Family - Sylviidae</b>								
131	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Subalpine Warbler	✓					✓		
132	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	Eastern Orphean Warbler		✓		✓				



	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
133	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat	✓	✓			✓	✓		
134	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common Whitethroat			✓					
135	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap	✓	✓		✓	♪			
	<b>Leaf Warblers</b>	<b>Family - Phylloscopidae</b>								
136	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common Chiffchaff					♪			
	<b>Kinglets</b>	<b>Family - Regulidae</b>								
137	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Firecrest						♪		
	<b>Flycatchers</b>	<b>Family - Muscipidae</b>								
138	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher		✓		✓	✓	✓		
	<b>Bush Tits/Long-tailed tits</b>	<b>Aegithalidae</b>								
139	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed Tit				✓		✓		
	<b>Titmice</b>	<b>Family - Paridae</b>								
140	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit		✓			✓			
141	<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit	✓			✓	✓	✓		
142	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	Marsh Tit	✓							
	<b>Nuthatches</b>	<b>Family - Sittidae</b>								
143	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Wood Nuthatch		✓						
144	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	Rock Nuthatch		✓						
	<b>Treecreepers</b>	<b>Family - Certhidae</b>								
145	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Eurasian Treecreeper				✓	✓			
146	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Short-toed Treecreeper		♪						
	<b>Penduline Tit</b>	<b>Family - Remizidae</b>								
147	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Eurasian Penduline Tit		✓	♪	✓		✓	✓	
	<b>Orioles</b>	<b>Family - Oriolidae</b>								
148	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Golden Oriole	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Shrikes</b>	<b>Family - Laniidae</b>								
149	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
150	<i>Lanius minor</i>	Lesser Grey Shrike	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
151	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Woodchat Shrike		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
152	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	Masked Shrike		✓		✓			✓	
	<b>Crows</b>	<b>Family - Corvidae</b>								
153	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Eurasian Jay		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
154	<i>Pica pica</i>	Black-billed Magpie		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
155	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Eurasian Jackdaw		✓			✓	✓	✓	
156	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Hooded Crow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
157	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven		✓		✓	✓	✓		
158	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	Alpine Chough					✓			
	<b>Starlings</b>	<b>Family - Sturnidae</b>								
159	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
160	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	Rosy Starling								✓
	<b>Old World Sparrows</b>	<b>Family - Passeridae</b>								
161	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
162	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Spanish Sparrow	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
163	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Finches</b>	<b>Family - Fringillidae</b>								
164	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
165	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	European Serin		✓						
166	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	European Greenfinch	✓	✓		✓				
167	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	European Goldfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
168	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common Linnet		✓			✓	✓		
169	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Hawfinch	✓							
	<b>Buntings</b>	<b>Family - Emberizidae</b>								
170	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Cirl Bunting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
171	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	Rock Bunting					✓			
172	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Ortolan Bunting					✓			
173	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Black-headed Bunting		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
174	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Corn Bunting	✓	✓	✓	✓	♪	✓		

### Butterfly species list Kerkini May 2016

	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
1	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White		✓	✓					
2	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White		✓	✓					
3	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White							✓	
4	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Wood White					✓			
5	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>	Eastern Dappled White		✓	✓					
6	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone		✓						
7	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	Cleopatra							✓	
8	<i>Colias croceus</i>	Clouded Yellow		✓	✓					
9	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	Black-veined White		✓						
10	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady		✓	✓					
11	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral					✓			
12	<i>Aglais io</i>	Peacock							✓	
13	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell			✓		✓			
14	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Camberwell Beauty							✓	
15	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	Knapweed Fritillary		✓						✓
16	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	Spotted Fritillary		✓		✓				
17	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	Lesser Spotted Fritillary		✓						
18	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma							✓	
19	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	Southern White Admiral				✓				
20	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	Cardinal		✓						
21	<i>Lybithea celtis</i>	Nettle Tree Butterfly		✓						
22	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown		✓	✓				✓	
23	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper		✓						
24	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood							✓	
25	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>	Small Heath			✓					

	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
26	Thymelicus sylvestris	Small Skipper				✓				
27	Thymelicus lineola	Essex Skipper				✓				
28	Erynnis tages	Dingy Skipper					✓			
29	Lycaena dispar ssp. rutila	Large Copper							✓	
30	Polyommatus icarus	Common Blue			✓	✓				
31	Polyommatus thersites	Chapman's Blue				✓				
32	Iolana iolas	Iolas Blue				✓				
33	Lampides boeticus	Long-tailed Blue							✓	
34	Lycaena phlaeas	Small Copper			✓					

### Dragonfly species list Kerkini May 2016

	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
1	Crocothemis erythraea	Broad Scarlet		✓	✓				✓	
2	Sympetrum fonscolombii	Red-veined Darter		✓					✓	
3	Orthetrum cancellatum	Black-tailed Skimmer		✓	✓				✓	
4	Sympetrum striolatum	Common Darter			✓					
5	Ischnura elegans	Blue-tailed Damsel		✓					✓	
6	Platycnemis pennipes	White-legged Damsel							✓	

### Amphibian & Reptile species list Kerkini May 2016

	Scientific	Common name	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	We 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
1	Hyla arborea	European Tree Frog								✓
2	Pelophylax ridibundus	Marsh Frog		✓						
3	Testudo graeca	Spur-thighed Tortoise							✓	
4	Mauremys caspica	Stripe-necked Terrapin		✓					✓	
5	Lacerta viridis	Eastern Green Lizard		✓						