Birds of Northern Greece

5th - 11th May 2026
Led by Babis Tsilanoudis



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Day 1

Birding started soon after landing, as both Pallid and Common Swifts were flying above Thessaloniki airport. After a welcome coffee and snack, we visited a small coastal wetland next to the airport while waiting for the arrival of Anna and Helen H. We had nice views of 2 Stone Curlews, Kentish Plovers, Yellow-legged Gulls, a few Black-winged Stilts, several Crested Larks and a Tawny Pipit. Several Common, Little and Sandwich Terns amused us with their screams and dives while two Gull-billed Terns were flying in the distance. An Arctic Skua was harassing the Terns, and Mediterranean Gulls were hawking for insects with their characteristic calls. We also had distant views of Purple Heron and Pygmy Cormorants. Oystercatchers and Shelducks were also seen.


Kentish Plover © Helen H

On our way to Lake Kerkini, we made a brief stop at a village near Thessaloniki where there is a colony of Lesser Kestrels. Although we were not lucky with views of perched Lesser Kestrels, we had some -admittedly not great- views of flying birds, while several Red-rumped Swallows were hunting insects, and a flock of 30 Glossy Ibises passed above us.

Closer to the lake, we made a stop by some fields to check some promising bird silhouettes on the wires that turned out to be a male Red-footed Falcon next to a Turtle Dove and two Corn Buntings. In the afternoon, we reached Chrisochorafa village, where our hotel for the week was located, and after a while we left for dinner in a nearby village, making a stop on the way to watch two Golden Jackals in a field next to the road.

Day 2

After breakfast, we headed to a heronry near Chrysochorafa village, stopping along the way to watch a Syrian Woodpecker. At a poplar plantation among the fields, there is quite a recent large colony of Herons, Egrets and other tree-nesting waterbirds of several species that are trying to find new nesting sites around the lake, as the big riparian forest they used to nest in in big numbers is shrinking due to fluctuating water levels from the use of the dam. We saw Spoonbills, Night-herons, Little Egrets and Pygmy Cormorants using the nests. A Black Kite was flying while an eastern Olivaceous Warbler was singing from within the bushes, and we got some decent views of it after it gave us a hard time trying to find it. We didn't have the same luck with a singing Cetti's Warbler.


White Stork & Spanish Sparrows © Helen H

At a nearby village, we had nice views of Spanish Sparrow colonies within active White Stork's nests. House Sparrows were also nesting there, giving us a good chance to compare these two species. Nearby, a Little Owl was resting on top of a roof.

Before we reached our main destination for the morning, we made another brief stop in order to watch at least 8 Black-headed Buntings (mostly males) and a similarly coloured male "*feldegg*" Yellow Wagtail.

We spent the rest of the morning and early afternoon walking on the eastern embankment, one of the best birding sites around the lake, where the water is shallower than most other areas, although this year the levels were considerably higher


Great White Pelican © Malcolm S

than usual. Flocks of Great White Pelicans were evident, and besides swimming or resting, we also watched them using the thermals to gain height to continue their migration. Dalmatian Pelicans (one of the flagship species of the lake) were also present, sometimes next to Great White Pelicans, making it easy to see the differences between them. Huge numbers of Great Cormorants were seen together with fewer Pygmy Cormorants. Lots of Great Crested Grebes were swimming in the deeper parts of the lake, while many Spoonbills, Grey Herons, Little and Great Egrets were feeding in the shallow water. Night Herons and Squacco Herons were also seen; a Little Bittern was in the reeds; a Kingfisher and a Caspian Tern flew by; Common Terns were really ubiquitous, but we also saw a small flock of 5 Gull-billed Terns both resting and on the wing. Not many waders were around as the unusually high water level was making the suitable habitat very limited, but we saw a few Wood Sandpipers as well as a pair of Northern Lapwings and, most importantly, no less than 3 pairs of Spur-winged Lapwing, a wader with a limited European distribution that has started to breed at the lake quite recently as it expands its range in Greece beside its traditional eastern coastal locations.

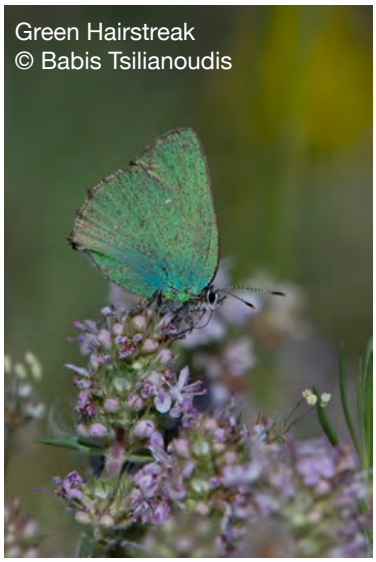
The varied landscape with open woodland, ditches, shrubs, reeds and fields that exist on the other side of the embankment offers a wide range of species alongside the waterbirds. Large numbers of Bee-eaters were evident, but other interesting common species in this area, such as Nightingales, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Cuckoo and Golden Oriole gave up their presence almost exclusively by sound, although some of the group had fleeting views of some of them. Turtle Dove is not as common as it used to be, but we saw a few.


Penduline Tit © Malcolm S

Penduline Tits were calling, and we managed to see them after putting in some effort. A Grey-headed Woodpecker was another nice species seen by most of the group. A Masked Shrike made a brief appearance, only to be seen by a few of us, as did a flying Short-toed Eagle, while Red-backed Shrike was not uncommon.

Other animals seen here were the invasive Coypu, the impressive male Eastern Green Lizard and the European Pond Turtle. Many butterflies were present too, mostly common but beautiful species like Queen of Spain, Orange Tip, and Clouded Yellow, but also the most easterly oriented Eastern Bath and Eastern Dappled Whites that are common species too in Greece were seen, and Sue took a photo of an Oriental Marbled Skipper.

After we left the embankment, we saw a Lesser-spotted Eagle flying above us.


Green Hairstreak
© Babis Tsilianoudis

The rest of the afternoon was spent in a quarry at the foothills of mountain Belles. While enjoying wonderful views of the lake, Strymonas and its plain, we observed quite a few of the specialities the area has to offer. We had close views of a landed male Levant Sparrowhawk that we saw also flying afterwards. A Raven that nests on the cliffs was trying to chase away a Golden Eagle. A pair of Western Rock Nuthatch visited their nest, Crag and Red-rumped Sallows were flying and occasionally visiting their nests too. Blue Rock Thrush and Eastern Black-eared Wheatear are another two characteristic species of this habitat that we managed to see. Quite a few birds were heard singing from the shrubs, and we managed to see males of both Eastern Subalpine Warbler and Cirl Bunting that are common here and a singing Olive-tree Warbler which is not common at this site. Tongue-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula linguata*) was a notable and beautiful flower, while many butterflies were also seen, like Green and Ilex Hairstreak, Scarce Swallowtail and Nettle-tree that is a very unique butterfly by European standards.

Day 3

The rocky hills of Sidirokastro mark the start of the very scenic Krousovitis River Valley where we spent some hours birding today. There is a big diversity of interconnected habitats here, such as olive-tree plantations, patches of forest (mainly pine but also oak), open areas with fields and bushes, Mediterranean shrubland, crags, rocky slopes and plane-tree riverine forest. We had good views of singing Eastern Orphean and Sardinian Warblers, Short-toed Eagle, Masked Shrike, and Cirl Bunting. Blue Rock Thrush was also seen, as was a Grey Wagtail. In the more forested areas, we found a pair of Semi-collared Flycatchers holding territory and a Middle-spotted Woodpecker visiting a nest-hole. Golden Oriole and Nightingale were often heard, and some of the group even managed to get some views of them. An Eastern Bonelli's Warbler was also heard, but we couldn't see it.


Semi-collared Flycatcher © Babis Tsilianoudis

We later visited a more open area with farmland; in cultivated and uncultivated fields, we saw some special birds of this habitat such as Tawny Pipit, Calandra and Greater Short-toed Larks. Crested Larks and Corn Buntings gave us many close views. A Little Owl was sitting on some poles in the distance. Tens of Red-footed Falcons were hunting for insects, soon to be joined by at least 3 Eleonora's Falcons and Swifts, some of them Pallid.


Bosom Orchid © Babis Tsilianoudis

We reached a craggy area in the mountain foothills that is usually good for butterflies, but it was raining, so we didn't have much luck with them, but we saw Black Redstarts next to a nice place where we had lunch. In the lower and more open areas of the foothills, the weather was better and scanning the mountain peaks that reach heights well above 2000 metres, we got some very distant scope views of flying Alpine Chough flocks. A Woodlark was singing, and Woodchat and Red-backed Shrikes were not uncommon. Lots of flowers were giving colour to some open rocky meadows. We found the beautiful Balkan endemic *Iris reichenbachii*, as well as Elder-flowered Orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*) and Green-winged Orchid (*Anacamptis morio*), but the more abundant species was Bosom Orchid (*Ophrys mammosa*). Among the typical but still diverse dark coloured flowers, we found a hypochromatic plant, which was pretty confusing with its yellow-white flowers. Balkan Wall Lizard was photographed by Anna, and one notable butterfly was the recently split Eastern Knapweed Fritillary (*Melitaea ornata*).

Day 4

We started the day at an area with fields not very far from the hotel. Among the cultivated land there were poplar and olive-tree plantations, canals, uncultivated patches, bushes and hedges providing the variety desirable for wildlife habitat. Black-eyed Vetch (*Vicia melanops*) was an interesting wildflower. The star bird here is the Roller, and sure enough, 2 birds performed really well after some trying. Syrian Woodpecker was also seen.

Afterwards, we visited a small river valley at the foothills of Krousia hills. We quickly found at least 3 Sombre Tits that we all eventually saw. We enjoyed prolonged scope views, from a safe distance for the birds, of an Eagle Owl nest with 3 fluffy chicks and an adult, while 2 Black Storks were flying above us. Other interesting species were Cirl Bunting, Sardinian and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers. The valley is good for raptors, and although we weren't able to enjoy the full potential of it, we got close views of two Short-toed Eagles and no less than 3 Levant Sparrowhawks.

The area is pretty good for butterflies too, but the cloudy weather was making things difficult, although we managed to see some interesting species like Eastern Dappled White and the highly desired (especially by Helen) Little Tiger Blue.

In the afternoon, we took a boat trip on the north side of the lake. Although it rained for part of the trip, we managed to see big numbers of birds, many of them very close. Starting near the reeds, we had nice views of singing Great Reed Warblers, the first of many Pygmy Cormorants and Purple, Night and Squacco Herons, while a few Red-footed Falcons were hunting for insects above us. In the more open areas among the hundreds of Great Crested Grebes, we managed to find some breeding-plumaged Black-necked Grebes and some ducks and allies among them, Ferruginous Ducks.


Great Reed Warbler © Malcolm S

From a safe distance, we saw the artificial island and platforms that both Pelican species use to nest, but elsewhere we managed to watch Dalmatian Pelicans very close, while Great White Pelicans were more distant but also more numerous, as many birds stop here during migration. Great Cormorants were even more numerous, with thousands nesting around the lake. Quite a big flock of *Chlidonias* Terns contained all 3 species (Black, Whiskered and White-winged), and Little Gull was a beautiful sight. A few tiny muddy islands gave us small numbers but a decent variety of waders among them Ruff, Little Stint, Curlew and Wood Sandpiper.

Day 5

Today we had the longest drive of the trip as we were going to spend most of the day at the coastal wetlands west of Thessaloniki. We left the hotel very early, and soon enough we saw no less than five Golden Jackals in a field next to the road. At Kalochori Lagoon, large numbers of insects were on the wing, and so were big numbers of Swifts (Common, Pallid and also Alpine, the latter being a nice new bird for the trip), as well as Swallows and Martins (we added Sand Martin to the trip list) plus Little Gulls and all 3 Marsh Terns. The lagoon is a good place for waders, and we saw quite a few species. Among them were more than 300 Little Stints and 200 Curlew Sandpipers, 3 Sanderlings and 1 Temminck's Stint, summer-plumaged Spotted Redshank, Kentish, Little and Common Ringed Plovers, Avocets and Wood Sandpipers. There were also quite a few Gulls - many Mediterranean, Little and Black-headed, with smaller numbers of Yellow-legged and Slender-billed. There were also 80 Greater Flamingos, Sandwich, Little and Common Terns.


Little Gulls and Marsh Terns © Babis Tsilianoudis

We continued to other sites further southwest, where we saw again many of the species already mentioned plus Spur-winged Lapwing, Collared Pratincole, Ruddy Turnstone, Gull-billed Tern, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibises, Hobby, White-tailed Eagle, Western Yellow Wagtail, Cetti's Warbler, Bee-eater and Spanish Sparrow. We also saw many Heron and Egret species, with Purple Heron giving particularly good views (one of them was carrying sticks for nest repair). Having seen big numbers of birds and all the main target species, we left the area in the afternoon to return to the hotel. As we were approaching the wider lake area, we saw 4 Rollers sitting on wires and after 2.5 km, another 2. Red-backed Shrikes were also on the wires, while Great-white Pelicans were flying in the distance. A Hoopoe was sitting next to a Turtle Dove, while the most unexpected species was a Great Spotted Cuckoo on


Great Spotted Cuckoo © Babis Tsilianoudis

dead branches that gave us quite close views. Before we reached our hotel, more Red-backed Shrikes and Rollers were seen.

Day 6

For one more day, we visited a variety of habitats, this time a mountain area reaching 1850 metres farther to the east and with good access to higher altitudes, as a tarmac road leads to the small ski centre of Lailias at an altitude of 1600 metres. The birding here is slower than in the wetlands and the lower hills, but it gives us the chance to see species that are very difficult or not available in the other places on the itinerary. Many of them are common British garden birds that in Greece tend to be more forest birds at this time of the year, but there are also some really difficult-to-see southern specialities.

In the morning, in an open oak forest, lots of Golden Orioles were heard and seen by many of us (Malcolm managed to get a highly anticipated view of them), but all of us watched a nice calling and singing Eastern Bonelli's Warbler as it was moving between the trees.

In the more open rocky areas, a Common Rock-Thrush was sitting on an electricity pole, but almost none of the group managed to see it before it flew, although it was later found again giving fleeting views to Peter and Sue, while a light morph Honey-Buzzard gave distant but better views to all of the group. Around here we also saw Sardinian Warblers, Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes, and had good scope views of a singing Eastern Orphean Warbler.


Rock Partridge © Babis Tsilianoudis

In the pine forest, Anna had fleeting views of Black Woodpecker while most of us had nice views of Firecrest. At the place where the forest meets more open craggy areas, we saw a nice-looking Rock Bunting. Red-backed Swallows and Crag Martins were flying above us while a Tree Pipit was singing from a place where it couldn't be seen.

Probably the best sighting came at the end of our birding day as we were descending the mountain to return to the hotel in the form of a Rock Partridge standing out in the open on top of a rock, giving all of us great views of a very difficult-to-see species.

Day 7

It wouldn't be proper to leave the area without seeing the rest of the lake, so for the last full day we were going to visit many sites around it that we had not been to yet. We started at the northeast part at a site with shallow waters and good views of more open, deeper water areas near the place where the Strimonas River meets Kerkini Lake. A large concentration of waterbirds was around, with many Herons (with lots of Purple and Squacco also), Egrets, Spoonbills and Glossy Ibises, Pygmy and Great Cormorants and big flocks of Pelicans from both species. Garganey and Lesser Grey Shrike were anticipated firsts for the trip, while 2 Ferruginous Ducks were nice to see again. There was also an obvious Red-backed Shrike fall, and many birds of this species would be seen almost everywhere the rest of the day too.


Squacco Heron © Sue H

The second stop was at an area near the Strymonas River with a mosaic of habitats from marshes and remnants of riparian woodland to fields and other open areas. The impressive Eastern Festoon was quickly found, with several individuals flying around, and Lesser Spotted Fritillary was another nice-looking butterfly we hadn't seen the previous days. A Long-legged Buzzard flying above our heads was another first for the trip, as was a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker that gave nice views. Penduline Tit was not new for the trip, but it was nice to see again. Resting migrant Spotted Flycatchers and Red-backed Shrikes were around in big numbers.

It was now getting really hot, so we decided to seek a cooler place, and we ascended Mount Belles, which had provided a familiar background since it overlooks the lake, to spend the hottest part of the day in a mixed forest at an altitude of 1000 metres. Midday was not the best time to visit mountain forests, but we enjoyed the shade of the trees, the more bearable temperature and the nice views of the mountain and the lake. Nevertheless, we managed to see (and also hear) a lot of Short-toed Treecreepers. A Black Woodpecker that crossed a big open area between the forest was seen by most of the group.

We slowly returned to the hotel, driving the road next to the west side of the lake, making some stops along the way and watching for one last time the large numbers of the Bee-eaters and waterbirds. Some of the group managed to see a Cetti's Warbler. At one of these stops, while we were relaxing in front of the calm waters of the lake and the views of the nearby hills, we spotted a movement on top of a distant small tree that turned out to be another Lesser Grey Shrike, but the scope views also revealed no less than 9 Turtle Doves sitting stealthily lower down on the same tree.

Day 8

After we said goodbye to Peter, Sue, Helen S and Malcolm, I went with Helen H and Anna to the small coastal wetland next to the airport I had been with the others the first day. Many of the birds we saw the first day were also seen, but adult Stone Curlews and Kentish Plovers had chicks running next to them. We also saw Collared Pranticole, 2 Lesser Grey Shrikes, and 1 Red-backed Shrike.

Species Lists

Birds * denotes endemic or near-endemic species or subspecies. Species seen are marked with a ✓, those heard but not seen are marked with ♪♪.			**5th May** **day 1**	**6th May** **day 2**	**7th May** **day 3**	**8th May** **day 4**	**9th May** **day 5**	**10th May** **day 6**	**11th May** **day 7**	**12th May** **day 8**
1	Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*				✓				
2	Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*				✓			✓	
3	Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	✓				✓			✓
4	Ferruginous Duck	*Aythya nyroca*				✓			✓	
5	Common Pochard	*Aythya ferina*				✓				
6	Garganey	*Spatula querquedula*							✓	
7	Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*					✓			
8	Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
9	Rock Partridge	*Alectoris graeca*						✓		
10	Greater Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus roseus*					✓			
11	Great Crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*		✓		✓	✓		✓	
12	Black-necked Grebe	*Podiceps nigricollis*				✓				
13	Great Spotted Cuckoo	*Clamator glandarius*					✓			
14	Common Cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus*		♪♪	✓	♪♪	✓	✓	✓	
15	Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia turtur*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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16	Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Wood Pigeon	*Columba palumbus*		✓					✓	
18	Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*		✓		✓	✓			
19	Coot	*Fulica atra*				✓	✓			
20	Stone Curlew	*Burhinus oedicnemus saharae*	✓							✓
21	Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*					✓			
22	Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	✓	✓			✓			✓
23	Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	✓				✓			✓
24	Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*				✓	✓			
25	Little Ringed Plover	*Thinornis dubius*				✓	✓			
26	Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*		✓						
27	Spur-winged Lapwing	*Vanellus spinosus*		✓			✓			
28	Kentish Plover	*Anarhynchus alexandrinus*	✓				✓			✓
29	Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	✓				✓			✓
30	Wood Sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*		✓		✓	✓			
31	Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*					✓			✓
32	Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*					✓			
33	Spotted Redshank	*Tringa erythropus*					✓			
34	Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*					✓			
35	Ruff	*Calidris pugnax*				✓	✓			
36	Sanderling	*Calidris alba*					✓			
37	Curlew Sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*				✓	✓			
38	Temminck's Stint	*Calidris temminckii*					✓			
39	Little Stint	*Calidris minuta*				✓	✓			
40	Collared Pratincole	*Glareola pratincola*					✓			✓
41	Arctic Skua	*Stercorarius parasiticus*								
42	Little Tern	*Sternula albifrons*	✓				✓			✓
43	Caspian Tern	*Hydroprogne caspia*		✓						
44	Gull-billed Tern	*Gelochelidon nilotica*	✓	✓			✓			
45	Whiskered Tern	*Chlidonias hybrida*				✓	✓			

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46	White-winged Tern	*Chlidonias leucopterus*				✓	✓			
47	Black Tern	*Chlidonias niger*				✓	✓			
48	Sandwich Tern	*Thalasseus sandvicensis*	✓				✓			✓
49	Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
50	Little Gull	*Hydrocoloeus minutus*				✓	✓			
51	Slender-billed Gull	*Chroicocephalus genei*					✓			
52	Black-headed Gull	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*				✓	✓		✓	✓
53	Mediterranean Gull	*Icthyaetus melanocephalus*	✓	✓			✓			✓
54	Yellow-legged Gull	*Larus michahellis*	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
55	Black Stork	*Ciconia nigra*				✓				
56	White Stork	*Ciconia ciconia*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
57	Pygmy Cormorant	*Microcarbo pygmaeus*	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
58	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	✓				✓		✓	
60	Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia*		✓		✓	✓		✓	
61	Great White Pelican	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*		✓		✓	✓		✓	
62	Dalmatian Pelican	*Pelecanus crispus*		✓		✓			✓	
63	Little Bittern	*Botaurus minutus*		✓						
64	Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
65	Black-crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*				✓	✓		✓	
66	Squacco Heron	*Ardeola ralloides*		✓		✓	✓		✓	
67	Great White Egret	*Ardea alba*		✓			✓			
68	Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea*	✓			✓	✓		✓	
69	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*		✓		✓	✓		✓	
70	Alpine Swift	*Tachymarptis melba*					✓			
71	Common Swift	*Apus apus*	✓		✓		✓	✓		
72	Pallid Swift	*Apus pallidus brehmorum*	✓		✓		✓			
73	Little Owl	*Athene noctua indigena*		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
74	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	*Bubo bubo*				✓				
75	Honey-buzzard	*Pernis apivorus*						✓		

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76	Short-toed Eagle	*Circaetus gallicus*		✓	✓	✓			✓	
77	Lesser Spotted Eagle	*Clanga pomarina*		✓						
78	Booted Eagle	*Hieraaetus pennatus*		✓						
79	Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*		✓						
80	Levant Sparrowhawk	*Tachyspiza brevipes*		✓		✓			✓	
81	Marsh Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus*	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
82	Black Kite	*Milvus milvus*		✓		✓			✓	
83	White-tailed Eagle	*Haliaeetus albicilla*					✓			
84	Common Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
85	Long-legged Buzzard	*Buteo rufinus*							✓	
86	Hoopoe	*Upupa epops*		✓			✓	✓	✓	
87	European Roller	*Coracias garrulus*				✓	✓	✓		
88	European Bee-eater	*Merops apiaster*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
89	Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*		✓						
90	Grey-headed Woodpecker	*Picus canus*		✓						
91	Green Woodpecker	*Picus viridis*							✓	
92	Black Woodpecker	*Dryocopus martius*						✓	✓	
93	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocoptes medius*			✓					
94	Great Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos major*						✓		
95	Syrian Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos syriacus*		✓		✓				
96	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	*Dryobates minor*							✓	
97	Lesser Kestrel	*Falco naumanni*	✓							
98	Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
99	Red-footed Falcon	*Falco vespertinus*	✓		✓	✓	✓			
100	Eleonora's Falcon	*Falco eleonorae*			✓		✓			
101	Eurasian Hobby	*Falco subbuteo*					✓			
102	Golden Oriole	*Oriolus oriolus*			✓			✓	✓	
103	Lesser Grey Shrike	*Lanius minor*							✓	✓
104	Masked Shrike	*Lanius nubicus*		✓	✓	✓				
105	Woodchat Shrike	*Lanius senator*			✓	✓		✓		

Birds * denotes endemic or near-endemic species or subspecies. Species seen are marked with a ✓, those heard but not seen are marked with 🎶.			5th May day 1	6th May day 2	7th May day 3	8th May day 4	9th May day 5	10th May day 6	11th May day 7	12th May day 8
106	Red-backed Shrike	*Lanius collurio*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Jay	*Garrulus glandarius graecus**		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
108	Magpie	*Pica pica*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
109	Jackdaw	*Coloeus monedula*	✓		✓		✓			
110	Rook	*Corvus frugilegus*					✓			
111	Raven	*Corvus corax laurencei*		✓		✓		✓		
112	Carrion (Hooded) Crow	*Corvus corone cornix*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
113	Penduline Tit	*Remiz pendulinus*		✓					✓	
114	Blue Tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*			✓	✓		✓		
115	Great Tit	*Parus major*		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
116	Coal Tit	*Periparus ater*						✓		
117	Sombre Tit	*Poecile lugubris lugens*				✓				
118	Marsh Tit	*Poecile palustris*						✓		
119	Woodlark	*Lullula arborea pallida*			✓	✓		✓		
120	Crested Lark	*Galerida cristata*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
121	Greater Short-toed Lark	*Calandrella brachydactyla*			✓					
122	Calandra Lark	*Melanocorypha calandra*			✓					
123	Olive-tree Warbler	*Hippolais olivetorum*		✓						
124	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	*Iduna pallida elaeica*		✓		✓	✓		✓	
125	Sedge Warbler	*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*					🎶			
126	Reed Warbler	*Acrocephalus scirpaeus*					🎶		🎶	
127	Great Reed Warbler	*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*		🎶		✓	🎶		🎶	
128	Sand Martin	*Riparia riparia*					✓			
129	Crag Martin	*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*		✓	✓			✓		
130	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
131	House Martin	*Delichon urbicum*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
132	Red-rumped Swallow	*Cecropis rufula*	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
133	Long-tailed Tit	*Aegithalos caudatus*		✓		✓				
134	Cetti's Warbler	*Cettia cetti*		🎶			🎶	🎶	✓	
135	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	*Phylloscopus orientalis*						✓		

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136	Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*			♪♪			✓	♪♪	
137	Blackcap	*Sylvia atricapilla*		♪♪	♪♪				♪♪	
138	Lesser Whitethroat	*Curruca curruca*			✓		✓			
139	Eastern Orphean Warbler	*Curruca crassirostris*			✓			✓		
140	Common Whitethroat	*Curruca communis*			✓			✓		
141	Sardinian Warbler	*Curruca melanocephala*			✓	✓		✓		
142	Eastern Subalpine Warbler	*Curruca cantillans albistrata*		✓						
143	Firecrest	*Regulus ignicapilla*						✓		
144	Western Rock Nuthatch	*Sitta neumayer*		✓						
145	Nuthatch	*Sitta europaea*						✓		
146	Treecreeper	*Certhia familiaris*						✓		
147	Short-toed Treecreeper	*Certhia brachydactyla*							✓	
148	Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*						♪♪		
149	Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
150	Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*						✓		
151	Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*						♪♪	♪♪	
152	Blackbird	*Turdus merula*			✓	✓		✓	✓	
153	Spotted Flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*		✓	✓				✓	
154	Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*			✓			✓		
155	Nightingale	*Luscinia megarhynchos*	✓	♪♪	✓	✓	♪♪	✓	✓	
156	Semicollared Flycatcher	*Ficedula semitorquata*			✓					
157	Black Redstart	*Phoenicurus ochruros*			✓			✓		
158	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	*Monticola saxatilis*						✓		
159	Blue Rock Thrush	*Monticola solitarius*		✓	✓					
160	Whinchat	*Saxicola rubetra*			✓					
161	Stonechat	*Saxicola rubicola*						✓		
162	Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	*Oenanthe melanoleuca*		✓	✓	✓				
163	Northern Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*			✓					
164	Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus*					✓			
165	Spanish Sparrow	*Passer hispaniolensis*		✓		✓	✓		✓	

Birds * denotes endemic or near-endemic species or subspecies. Species seen are marked with a ✓, those heard but not seen are marked with ♪♪.			5th May day 1	6th May day 2	7th May day 3	8th May day 4	9th May day 5	10th May day 6	11th May day 7	12th May day 8
166	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
167	Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*			✓					
168	Western Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*		✓			✓			
169	White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*				✓				
170	Tawny Pipit	*Anthus campestris*	✓		✓					
171	Tree Pipit	*Anthus trivialis*						♪♪		
172	Chaffinch	*Fingilla coelebs*			✓	✓		✓	✓	
173	Linnet	*Linaria cannabina*			✓	✓		✓		
174	European Greenfinch	*Chloris chloris*			✓	✓				
175	Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
176	Serin	*Serinus serinus*						✓		
177	Black-headed Bunting	*Emberiza melanocephala*		✓						
178	Corn Bunting	*Emberiza calandra*	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
179	Rock Bunting	*Emberiza cia*						✓		
180	Cirl Bunting	*Emberiza cirlus*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Butterflies * denotes endemic species			5th May day 1	6th May day 2	7th May day 3	8th May day 4	9th May day 5	10th May day 6	11th May day 7	12th May day 8
	Family **Papilionidae**									
1	Scarce Swallowtail	*Iphiclides podalirius*		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
2	Swallowtail	*Papilio machaon*							✓	
3	Eastern Festoon	*Zerynthia cerisy*							✓	
	Family **Hesperiidae**									
4	Oriental Marbled Skipper	*Carcharodus orientalis*		✓						
5	Grizzled Skipper	*Pyrgus malvae*		✓						
	Family **Pieridae**									
6	Wood White	*Leptidea sinapis*			✓					
7	Brimstone	*Gonepteryx rhamni*		✓						
8	Clouded Yellow	*Colias croceus*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
9	Eastern Bath White	*Pontia edusa*		✓			✓			
10	Large White	*Pieris brassicae*		✓					✓	

	Butterflies * denotes endemic species		5th May day 1	6th May day 2	7th May day 3	8th May day 4	9th May day 5	10th May day 6	11th May day 7	12th May day 8
11	Small White	*Pieris rapae*		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
12	Eastern Dappled White	*Euchloe ausonia*		✓		✓	✓		✓	
13	Orange-tip	*Anthocharis cardamines*		✓	✓	✓			✓	
	Family **Lycaenidae**									
14	Green Hairstreak	*Callophrys rubi*		✓						
15	Ilex Hairstreak	*Satyrium ilicis*		✓						
16	Little Tiger Blue	*Tarucus balkanicus*				✓				
17	Brown Argus	*Aricia agestis*		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
18	Adonis Blue	*Lysandra bellargus*			✓					
19	Chapman's Blue	*Polyommatus thersites*					✓			
20	Common Blue	*Polyommatus icarus*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Family **Nymphalidae**									
21	Southern White Admiral	*Limenitis reducta*		✓	✓	✓				
22	Queen of Spain Fritillary	*Issoria lathonia*		✓		✓		✓	✓	
23	Painted Lady	*Vanessa cardui*					✓			
24	Red Admiral	*Vanessa atalanta*			✓			✓	✓	
25	Small Tortoiseshell	*Aglais urticae*		✓					✓	
26	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	*Melitaea trivia*							✓	
27	Knapweed Fritillary	*Melitaea phoebe*				✓			✓	
28	Eastern Knapweed Fritillary	*Melitaea ornata*			✓					
29	Nettle-tree Butterfly	*Libythea celtis*		✓						
30	Small Heath	*Coenonympha pamphilus*						✓		
31	Wall	*Lasiommata megera*						✓	✓	
32	Meadow Brown	*Maniola jurtina*		✓	✓			✓	✓	

Other Notable Invertebrates

Forester Moth	*Adscita sp.*
Cream-spot Tiger	*Arctia villica*
Mullein Moth (larvae)	*Cucullia verbasci*
Brown China Mark	*Elophila nymphaeata*
Lackey Moth (larva)	*Malacosoma neustria*
A Longhorn Beetle	*Agapanthia kirbyi*
Green Tiger Beetle	*Cicindela campestris*
A Shield Bug	*Codophila varia*
A Paper Wasp (with nest)	*Polistes sp.*
Red Assassin Bug	*Rhynocoris iracundus*
Violet Carpenter Bee	*Xylocopa violacea*

Other Notable Taxa			5th May	6th May	7th May	8th May	9th May	10th May	11th May	12th May
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
	Amphibians									
1	Marsh Frog	*Pelophylax ridibundus*		✓						
	Mammals									
2	Golden Jackal	*Canis aureus*	✓				✓			
3	Coypu	*Myocastor coypus*		✓			✓			
	Reptiles									
4	European Pond Turtle	*Emys orbicularis*		✓			✓			
5	Eastern Green Lizard	*Lacerta viridis*		✓						
6	Erhard's Wall Lizard	*Podarcis erhardii*						✓		
7	Balkan Wall Lizard	*Podarcis tauricus*			✓					
8	Hermann's Tortoise	*Testudo hermanni*						✓	✓	

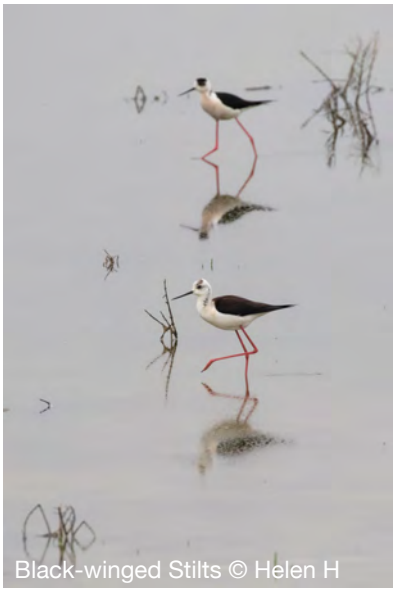
Notable Plants

Green-winged Orchid	*Anacamptis morio*
Tongue-leaved Bellflower	*Campanula linguata*
Elder-flowered Orchid	*Dactylorhiza sambucina*
Rock Iris	*Iris reichenbachii*
Bosom Orchid	*Ophrys mammosa*
Black-eyed Vetch	*Vicia melanops*

Photo Gallery



Agapanthia kirbyi © Helen S



Black-winged Stilts © Helen H



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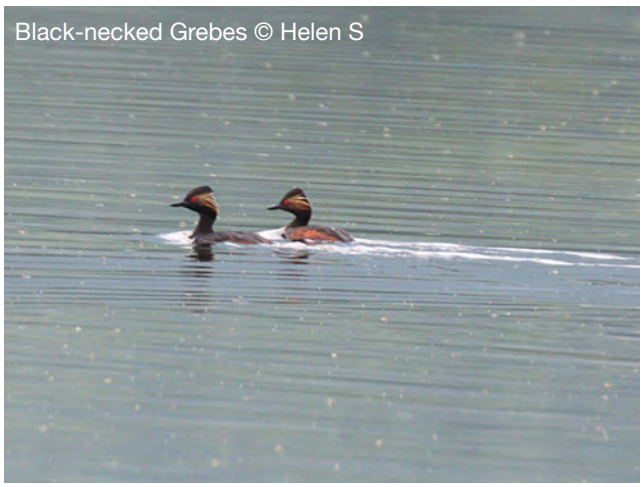
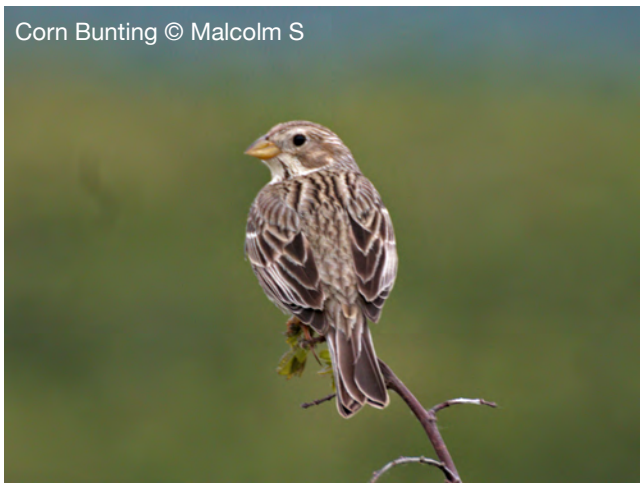

Black-necked Grebes © Helen S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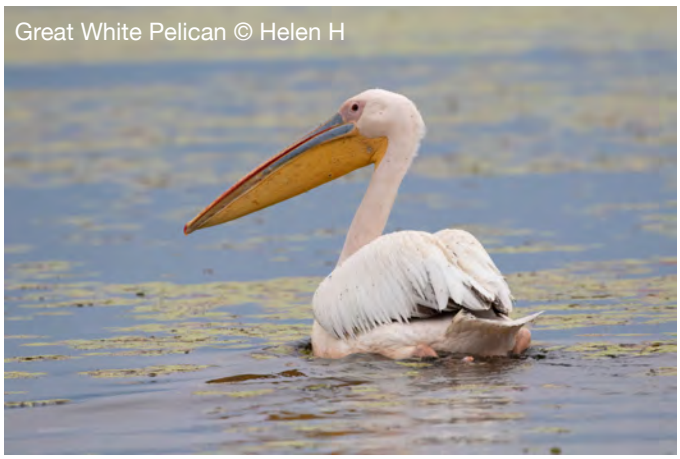
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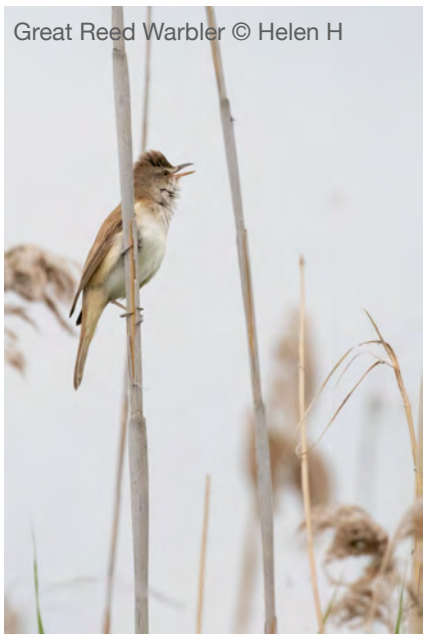
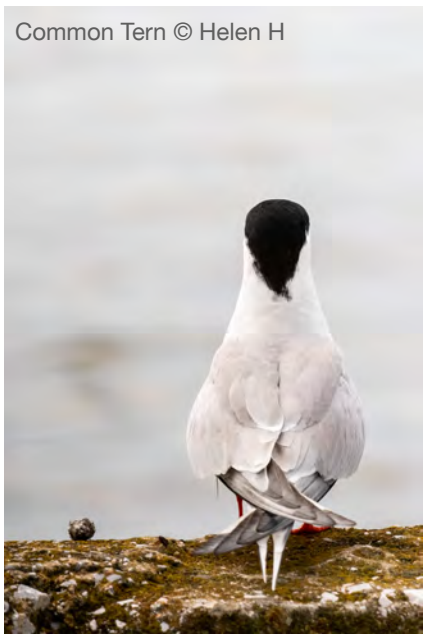

Great Reed Warbler © Helen H


Agapanthia kirbyi © Sue H


Common Tern © Helen H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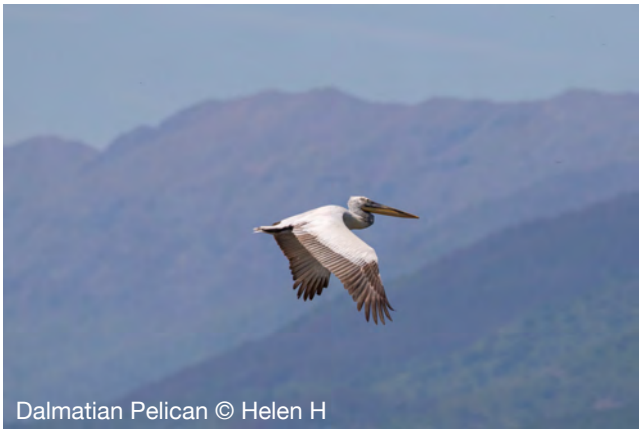
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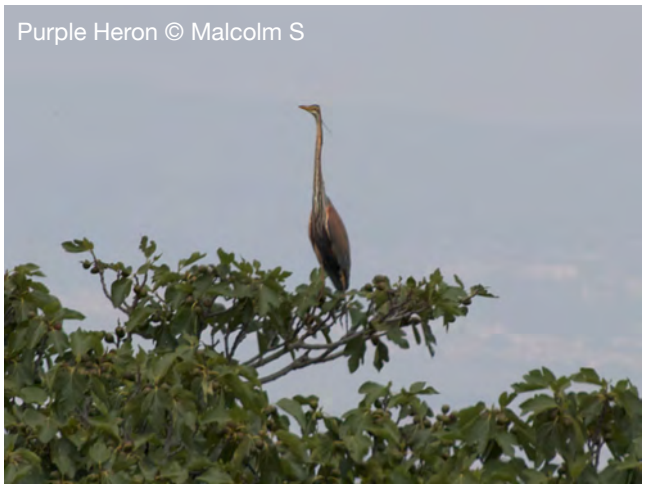
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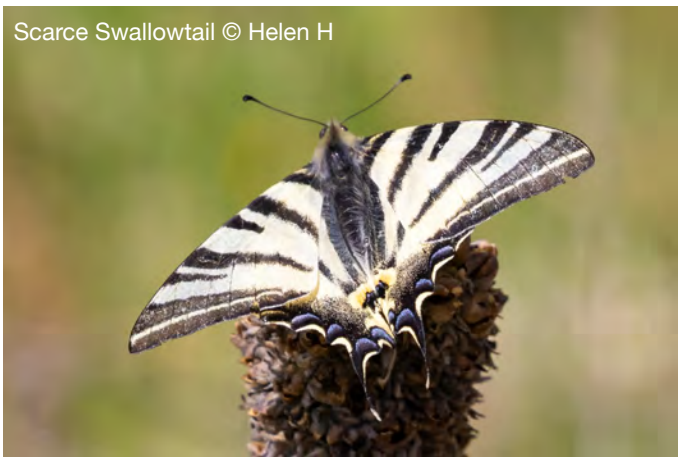

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