

BirdWING Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 10 Summer 2011

In this issue news from:

- *Dadia Forest*
- *The Evros Delta*
- *Prespa Lakes*
- *Nestos/Vistonida/Ismarida*
- *Lake Kerkini*



The Birdwing Newsletter

...brings you regular news about birds and issues affecting them in Northern Greece. The newsletter is published in English and Greek and is distributed via email. Visitors' Centres print copies to be given to visitors.

Frustrations!

This spring has been slightly frustrating for us as the UK Government delayed its launch of CIOs (Charity Incorporated Organisations) in England which we had hoped that we would be able to register Birdwing as this spring. The regulations are now due to be tabled in Parliament in the autumn which means a delay in registration for us until later in the year at the earliest. The new CIO seems the perfect set-up for Birdwing so we aren't keen to register as a different organisation only to change at some future date. So, we are learning to be patient! Read more on page 7.

The economic crisis in Greece is also an obvious concern and this, combined with other issues, has resulted in problems for the eco-centre at Dadia. Read more about the situation on page 6.

On a more positive note, however, we have had generous donations from several of our members and an enormous amount of positive feedback from those who visited Northern Greece to birdwatch or to take photographs this spring. We devote pages 3 and 4 to our members' comments in the hope that more will be inspired to visit the wonderful places of Northern Greece.

Our thanks for generous donations go to E. Crabtree, S. Cameron and S & T Miles.

The sales of 'Birdwatching in Northern Greece' continue to go well and several thousand Euros have been raised. Our challenge now is to find and carry out new projects using these funds that will impact directly birds and their habitats. Read more on page 7.

Summer 2011

Breeding Corncrakes in Northern Greece!

Corncrakes were heard on the high mountain meadows above Agios Germanos in the Prespa area earlier in July. The bird has never before been recorded as breeding in Greece so this has created much interest.



Two *Crex crex* were confirmed calling during the evenings. The creaking at such a high altitude was a wonderful experience for those who heard it.



This fantastic Dalmatian Pelican photo taken by first-time visitor to Lake Kerkini, Paula Graham. Read more about her trip and others' on pages 3 and 4.

Birdwing News - 1

Spring/summer Bird news

Passerine migration was very late this year in line with the unseasonably cold and wet spring in Greece. Most notable latecomers were those species feeding on large insects, e.g. shrikes, Bee-eaters and Rollers. During **May** at **Kerkini** a Saker (*Falco cherrug*) was seen occasionally around the Vironia bridge area, a Lanner (*Falco biarmicus*) was at nearby Vrontou and White-tailed (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nests were occupied. Other raptor sightings included a Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) scouring the Belles ridge line on the 8th, an Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) near Lailias on the 14th and, in line with the late passage, a 1st summer Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) in largely juvenile plumage was surprisingly around the lake on the 9th.

June and **July** saw breeding activity reach a peak, with over 90 Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelicanus crispus*) chicks fledging from the platforms. Over 70 pairs of Black-necked Grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*) nested amongst the surface vegetation of the lake and the nearby Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nest contained one well-grown youngster. Both Black and White-backed Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus martius* and *Dendrocopos leucotus*) were nesting in the high forests of Belles mountain.



April at the **Evros Delta** brought some interesting records in the form of 680 Short-toed Eagles (*Circaetus gallicus*) over the Visitor Centre in a two-hour spell, 1 Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*), 915 Marsh Sandpipers (*Tringa stagnatilis*) - which is perhaps a European record - 773 Spotted Redshanks (*T. erythropus*), over 3500 Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*), nearly 7000 Dunlin (*Calidris Alpina*) and 2 Great Spotted Cuckoos (*Clamator glandarius*).

The late migration meant that good numbers of flycatchers, particularly Pied and Spotted (*Ficedula hypoleuca* and *Muscicapa striata*)

were passing through into **May** but that Rollers (*Coracias garrulous*), shrikes and that ubiquitous summer bird of the delta, Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*), were virtually absent until the first week of the month. High numbers of Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) were heard across the delta. Eagles were represented by White-tailed, Short-toed and Lesser Spotted (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Circaetus gallicus* and *Aquila pomarina*). Several counts during the month are of note, including 7095 Dunlins (*Calidris Alpina*), 1920 Curlew Sandpipers (*C. ferruginea*), 300 Little Stints (*C. minuta*), 294 Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*), 10 Purple Herons (*Ardea purpurea*) and, taking the crown, two Terek Sandpipers *Xenus cinereus*).



June and **July** at the **Evros** brought decent wader numbers, with:

- 1604 Spotted Redshanks (*Tringa erythropus*)
- 402 Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*)
- 268 Curlew Sandpipers (*Calidris ferruginea*)
- 236 Marsh Sandpipers (*Tringa stagnatilis*)
- 60 Collared Pratincoles (*Glareola pratincola*)
- 188 Black-winged Stilts (*H. himantopus*)
- 187 Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*)
- 48 Spur-winged Plovers (*Vanellus spinosus*)

The star bird of the period was without doubt the **White-tailed Plover** (*Vanellus leucurus*) found by Eleni and Yiannis at Evros on July 27th. This is the 12th Greek record, the last being at Evros in May '09.

Other waterbird numbers included 283 Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), 281 Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), and 11 Purple Herons (*Ardea purpurea*). Spring tern passage was still in evidence in early **June** with 70 Whiskered, 52 Black and 5 White-winged (*Chlidonias hybridus*, *niger* and *leucopterus*). 102 Gull-billed (*Sterna nilotica*) were also counted during the period.

Keep up to date with sightings at our website, www.birdwing.eu

Birdwatching in Northern Greece spring visits...

Many of those who bought the second edition of the book 'Birdwatching in Northern Greece' and visited the region this spring provided feedback on their trip. Here are some of the many comments:

Brian Gormley: *I was interested in seeing NE Greece anyway but the birding was excellent as well! I would recommend it and would certainly visit again.*

There is huge scope for birding tourism in the region but we only met a few individuals and a group of ~20 UK birders at L Kerkini. A few people commented that they'd rather visit here than Lesbos, which is over-run by birders! I'd agree.

Roads are very good, no tolls on the motorway, very light traffic everywhere, driving is easy & courteous. All farmers, land owners, military, etc. encountered were very helpful & friendly.

Michael Miles: *Thank you for an excellent site guide. A group of seven of us have just returned from a 5 day trip to Kerkini using your site guide. I have been deputized to contact you to say our collective view after over 100 foreign birding trips between us is that it is one of the best we have ever come across. In our short four and a half days of birding we saw 166 species which, given we were a couple of weeks "early" for peak migration was above our expectations.*



Leo Tukker: *I had a great trip with a lot of birds, other animals, beautiful flowers, beautiful landscapes, very friendly people and delicious food.*

Read **Leo Tukker's** full trip report on the Downloads page of www.birdwing.eu

Paula Graham visited Lake Kerkini, March 2011 for 10 days photography:

Loved everything about the trip: the country, the wonderfully kind and hospitable people, the food and most of all the birds and scenery around lake Kerkini.

Going back again in the autumn and again next spring!

By the way, I am probably going again next year with a small group of people from my camera club, who have seen some of the pictures and had their imagination fired!

(Paula's photo of the Dalmatian Pelican, taken in March 2011, is shown on page 1 of this newsletter.)



Sarah Pinnegar Scaramangas: *My family and I have recently returned from a wonderful week's Easter holiday in Northern Greece. We visited Kerkini, Dadia and the Evros Delta. Your book "Birdwatching in Northern Greece" was invaluable. It was very helpful to be advised exactly where to go and which birds we could expect to see. Thank you very much*

Christian Deviaene has visited the areas of Northern Greece many times and described the 'very beautiful places, a lot of birds, reptiles, flowers, nice people. We've already been many times, so that should speak for itself. Many thanks for your work, it made us discover and enjoy Greece's nature and at the same time people and culture.

Karl Dutton had an excellent trip to Lake Kerkini and the surrounding areas in early May. His highlights included: 200+ Greater Flamingo, Arctic Skua, Little Crake, Black, Great Spotted, Syrian and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. An unusual record of a Little Ringed Plover feeding around a large puddle at the rear of a shopping centre, numerous Red Footed Falcons, Lesser Spotted Eagles, Egyptian Vulture, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Black-necked Grebes, Ferruginous Duck, Garganey, Pintail, Little Stint, Black-winged Stilt, Wood and Common Sandpipers and Little Gull. A total of 170 species were seen within the week. Other sightings included Souslik, Coypu and Hermann's Tortoise.

Why not go yourself?

Andreas Volz went to Kerkini and Lake Kastoria in early spring. He said that this trip was better than he had hoped for photography. His stunning pictures, like the one below, can be seen at www.volz-naturfoto.de/de/aktuell.html



Adriaan Saynaeve visited Prespa, Evros and Dadia (April 29th- May 5th): *Your guidebook was very helpful in making the most of our trip! There were very few other birders around. I really hope the guide and BirdWING helps to promote this beautiful area as a birding-destination and raises awareness amongst the local people.*



We appreciate all comments and feedback from you and are sorry that we do not have room to include more of them here. Thank you to all of you who emailed us.

Hotel news

Following all the helpful feedback sent to us we have decided to compile a list of the hotels visited by our members and their comments about them. This will be available on our website to assist people in planning future trips. Go to www.birdwing.eu for more info.

Last issue's quiz!

Last issue's bird was a Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*).



Well done to

Peter Buxton
Dimitar Popov
Kerstin Blassnig
Boris Demovič
Leo Tukker
Dave Holden
Johan Debuck
Stefan Wegleitner

See page 9 for this issue's quiz!

Have you seen our new website pages?

We have expanded our website to include new pages on other fantastic sites in Northern Greece, including the Amvrakikos, Thessaloniki area, Porto Lagos, Nestos and Ismarida, Prespa Lakes.



Go to: www.birdwing.eu

Trip reports from this year and previous years can be found there. Check out David Tomlinson's trip report for his 'Gourmet Birds' tours for the last three years.



Kerkini's news

Many of the visitors to Lake Kerkini this spring noticed that the Glossy Ibis strip was considerably shorter than it used to be! During heavy rains earlier in the year the river burst its banks and currently the water is entering the lake through the Glossy Ibis strip! The intention is to repair the bank at some stage in the future to redirect the water to enter along the previous channel. It has meant that shallows near the Eastern Embankment have not been so full of waders this spring.

As the photo shows, we had an unusual sighting in the drowned forest – an albino cormorant.



Once again Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) successfully bred on the artificial platforms, where more than 90 juvenile birds were born. On June 21, for the ninth consecutive year, the young pelicans were ringed. A total of 73 were ringed by the staff of the Management Authority of Lake Kerkini. After that the nearby area was patrolled so as to make the feeding of the youngsters easier for the parent birds.

Moreover the staff created floating roosts of tree trunks on the lake for the young birds to rest on since their flying ability is still limited. The youngsters can't get back onto the nesting platforms once they initially leave the nest and launch themselves into the water, as the platforms are several metres above the lake surface.



As far as the nearby Golden Eagle pair is concerned (*Acquila chrysaetos*) the latest observations reveal that only one young bird is in the nest. Both adult birds come and go continuously. It is so impressive how quickly the young bird has grown. It is also worth mentioning that a satisfying number of Black-necked Grebes (*Ponticeps nigricollis*) (more than 70 nests) have completed their breeding in the lake. Additionally, over a dozen pairs of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) are nesting on the Birdwing floating raft.

Several pairs of Black Kites are breeding around the lake, particularly in the Mavrovoni Hills to the south-west of the lake.



Recently we have been able to observe several rare birds on the Kerkini-Belles mountains. We saw with a great pleasure, about 1500metres up on the mountain, Black Woodpecker, Rock Thrush, Rock Partridge, White-backed Woodpecker, Firecrest, Treecreeper and many other birds.

Finally, as the temperature has started rising, the roe deers (*Capreolus capreolus*) have also started to prefer low elevations (near the lake). I personally believe that the roe deers' and wild boars' (*Sus scrofa*) population in Krousia mountains are thriving.

Photos by Management Body of Kerkini

Kostas Papadopoulos

Dadia Forest

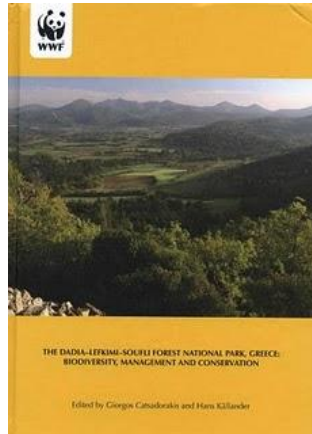
The current situation in the Dadia Ecotourist Centre is improving. On May 1st only the Information Centre was open while all other facilities were closed (cafe/bus/hotel). Recently local organisations have worked hard to reinstate the shuttlebus to the hide and WWF is now running it between 9:00 & 19:00 each day. The problems have, of course, negatively affected visitor numbers the last two months. See our website for any change to this situation.

On a brighter note, WWF Greece last year published the book:

'Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park, Greece, Biodiversity, Management and Conservation'.

It is an excellent, detailed book that brings together all the research on the area in recent years.

Edited by Giorgos Catsadorakis and Hans Källander, it also includes wonderful illustrations by Paschalis Dougalis, and is a fascinating read.



ISBN number:
9789607506108

Contact WWF Greece for more details: email:
support@wwf.gr



Joanna Lumley at Dadia

English actress Joanna Lumley, visited Dadia Forest this spring as part of a new TV series 'Greek Odyssey' for ITV. This new series will follow the much-loved British actress on an extraordinary odyssey through the vast and varied landscape of Greece - the birthplace of drama, democracy, language, western science and medicine, the wellspring of civilisation and modern European culture. Segueing constantly from past to present, Joanna will be finding out exactly what Greece has done for us, meeting a cast of fascinating characters and experiencing the unique blend of the ancient and modern that is life in Greece today. The 4-part series is scheduled to be shown in the autumn in the UK.



British Birdwatching Fair

Unfortunately Steve and I are unable to attend this year's fair but many of you will know Nikos, from the Limnai/Limneo hotel at Kerkini, who has kindly agreed to represent Birdwing there.

Nikos, together with others from the Management Bodies of Lake Kerkini, Axios-Aliakmon-Loudias and Lakes Koronia and Volvi, will be in Marquee 5, Stands 13 and 14.

Do go and introduce yourself to the people there. Leaflets and our book 'Birdwatching in Northern Greece' will be available, together with lots of information on the best birdwatching sites in Northern Greece.





19th – 21st August 2011

**Venue: Egleton Nature Reserve, Rutland
Water, Oakham, Rutland, England**

Representatives from Lake Kerkini, Axios
and Lake Koronia Management Bodies
will be there this year.

Make yourself known to them and give
them your support!

www.birdfair.org.uk

Hi!

Normally Steve writes the Editor's comment but I've decided it's my turn in this issue. Please excuse my more sentimental and emotive comments!



We've already mentioned some of the recent frustration over the delays in Birdwing becoming a registered charity and this has not been an easy season for Steve and me.

We set up Birdwing in 2008 and started doing anything we could that we thought might help the deteriorating situation for birds in Greece. We began to inform people about Northern Greece as a bird-watching destination to encourage more eco-tourism; we wrote newsletters and set up a website to begin to build a membership that would help in lobbying, and we worked with Visitor Centres in Greece to help provide materials such as the Children's bird-book in Greek to encourage more of an interest in the environment. Our main desire, however, was, and still is, to directly improve habitats for birds.

We began to raise money and our first project was to pay for a tern raft at Lake Kerkini – an instant and continuing success with breeding Common Terns each year since. Now with a few thousand euros in the bank and a membership of 600+ things seem to be looking bright. Hopefully, with Charity status, more possibilities to raise even more funds could be explored and so allow us to pursue larger and more impacting projects for birds.

When we first visited the British Birdwatching Fair a few years ago I talked to a man from a large organisation who said *'Greece! We tried. You'll give up in a few years – it's a hopeless case.'* He had been involved in environmental action here for several years. At the time I was very grateful to that man because (as an incredibly determined woman) I vowed to prove him wrong and never to give up!

In recent months, however, his comments have come to mind on several occasions. Despite everything that has been achieved so far sometimes it seems that we are on our own and are banging our heads against the wall. Trying to get things done, at times, seems impossible.

Summer 2011

I'd hoped, perhaps naively, that there would be more people out there who wanted to get 'stuck-in' with us and try to change things - people who would write lobbying letters, help us to set up projects on the ground, people who shared the same vision.

Don't get me wrong though – there are a number of our members who probably do not realise how important their support is to us personally, how, without their positive feedback and donations, we might have had thoughts of giving up. We are so very grateful when an email comes through from someone with positive comments about our efforts and an offer of help, rather than just with a personal request for birdwatching information.

What I suppose I am trying to say is, be assured that we won't give up – but if any of you can help us in what we are trying to achieve we would really welcome your support. Two of us can achieve some things but more of us can achieve much more!

Can you think of a way you can help us?

- Can you commit to writing a lobbying letter or email once or twice a year?
- Do you have any practical ideas for how our funds can be used to help birds and their habitats?
- Do you have website design skills?
- Are you in a position to donate, if you haven't already?
- Can you write an article for our next newsletter?
- Do you have experience of working with a charity in any way? Could you offer us advice?
- Are you in a position to help us publish materials?
- Are you or anyone in your family willing to undertake a sponsored event to raise money for Birdwing?
- Do you have any exciting ideas that we could tell our supporters about?

I'd love to be able to share the many responses with you in our autumn newsletter so give it some thought and do contact us. Let's work together to make something happen for the birds of Greece!

Hilary Koll



info@birdwing.eu

Birdwing News – 7



Arthur Morris at Lake Kerkini

You may know of the world-famous US bird-photographer, Arthur Morris.

Earlier this year Art visited Lake Kerkini with a group of photographers and was impressed with the fantastic photo opportunities the location has to offer. Art, who provides a wealth of photography advice and information on his website www.birdsasart.com, stayed at the Hotel Limnaio/Limneo at Chrysohorafa near the lake and ran photography workshops while there. Here are some of the comments Arthur made about his trip.

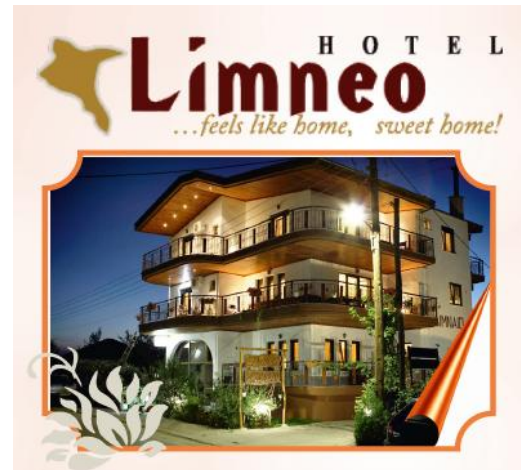
Greece: Oh My God!

My dreams of Lake Kerkini were realized in a single day. The place is far more productive than I ever dreamed it could be. The birds are spectacular and tame. And the group is fantastic. And the food, oh my God. Healthy food made to order with eggplant for me!

Oh, did I mention that the hotel is fantastic too? Robert O'Toole and I are sharing a huge suite that costs us only 70 Euros a night. And that includes a killer breakfast with real protein!

All in all it was an amazing first day. The photography was as good and exciting as any I have done in my 28 years.

Hotel Limnaio/Limneo has free wi-fi!



Check out the hotel's website at:
www.limneokerkini.gr



Arthur Morris
Birds as Art 2011

Read his comments and see the photos he took at:
www.birdsasart-blog.com/2011/02/28/greece-oh-my-god/



Evros Delta news

Volunteers were ringing at the Evros Delta from 28 April to 11 May. The expedition was conducted by the Evros Delta Management Body, in cooperation with the Greek Bird Ringing Centre. The wet weather conditions made ringing difficult but 380 birds were ringed with highlights including: Pied, Collared and Red-breasted Flycatchers (*Ficedula hypoleuca*, *F. albicollis* and *F. parva*), Wood, Icterine and River Warblers (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, *Hippolais icterina* and *Locustella fluviatilis*), Thrush Nightingales (*Luscinia luscinia*) and Little Crakes (*Porzana parva*).

Thanks to those who have supported and helped us from near or far away. Further ringing will take place in late August. Contact Eleni Makrigianni for further details at: e.makrigianni@evros-delta.gr

The breeding population of the White Stork was monitored in Evros Prefecture in mid-July. The project was carried out by the Evros Delta Management Body and the WWF Hellas - Dadia Project. The stork population of the area has been

studied for a few years now and the two organisations have a great interest in the species. For the breeding season of 2011, 263 active nests were recorded, most of which lie in villages neighbouring the River Evros. These include Poros with 10 active nests, Feres with 17, Praggi 22, Vissa 9 and Marasia 6.

Almost all nests were constructed on top of electricity poles. In the very few exceptions a nest in Loutros is perched on the church tower, and a nest in the crown of a tree in Rizia.

Valuable information about the birds is always given by the inhabitants of the villages, whose houses are next to the nests. It is impressive how much they care for the birds and with how much attention they observe them.

During recent decades the population of many bird species has decreased due to the expansion of human activities. One of these birds is the White Stork. Evros is one of the important regions in the country for the species and we hope that this will continue for ever

Eleni Makrigianni

Nestos/Vistonida/ Ismarida National Park

There are changes happening in the Porto Lagos area from July 2011. A new management board has been selected in recent weeks. The Centre at Porto Lagos is now open at weekends (10:00 to 15:00) during the summer to meet the greater visitor demands. Meetings have been taking place with the Fishing Cooperative of Nestos to request cooperation in overseeing illegal hunting, fishing, logging etc.

Also on July 10 at Pontolivadou Beach, Kavala, a Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelus coriacea*) was found dead. The marine reptile had drowned after becoming entangled in illegal netting. It is extremely rare in the waters of the North Aegean and this makes the loss of even one in the area (there had been a similar incident in 2009 in Alexandroupolis) even more important in terms of biodiversity in our seas. It is the largest species of turtle in the world and can reach a weight of 600 kg and shell-length over 2 metres.



If you find a turtle in trouble, keep it wet and notify the local Port Authority, the ARCHELON in Athens (tel. (+30) 210 8944444) or the Hellenic Wildlife Hospital (EKPAS). See their website at: www.ekpazp.gr/multi158/index.php?lang=en

Read more about this National Park in Greek at: <http://www.fd-nestosvistonis.gr/site/> or for the same site translated into English via Google translate click here: [Google translation](#)

Birdwing partners

We mentioned in our last newsletter that many of you expressed your desire and willingness to support our efforts for conservation in Northern Greece by becoming **Birdwing Partners**. This would involve giving a small annual donation of 10€. Birdwing Partners will receive additional news on the work we are doing and will help to enable Birdwing to be run on a more solid financial footing. The names of the Birdwing Partners (unless anonymity is requested) will be published in our newsletters.



We were hoping that we could combine the launch of the Birdwing Partners at the same time as becoming a registered charity. However, with the delays in registration, we will work towards finalizing an online section of our website to be available for Birdwing Partners in the autumn. This will include a facility for becoming a Birdwing Partner. We will let you know when this is available.

In the meantime, if you wish to make a donation, please go to our homepage at www.birdwing.eu. Below the list of webpages on the left is a Donate button.

Alternatively click here:

Donate

This issue's quiz!

Can you identify these birds?





Second edition of the site guide Birdwatching in Northern Greece (2011)

You need this book!

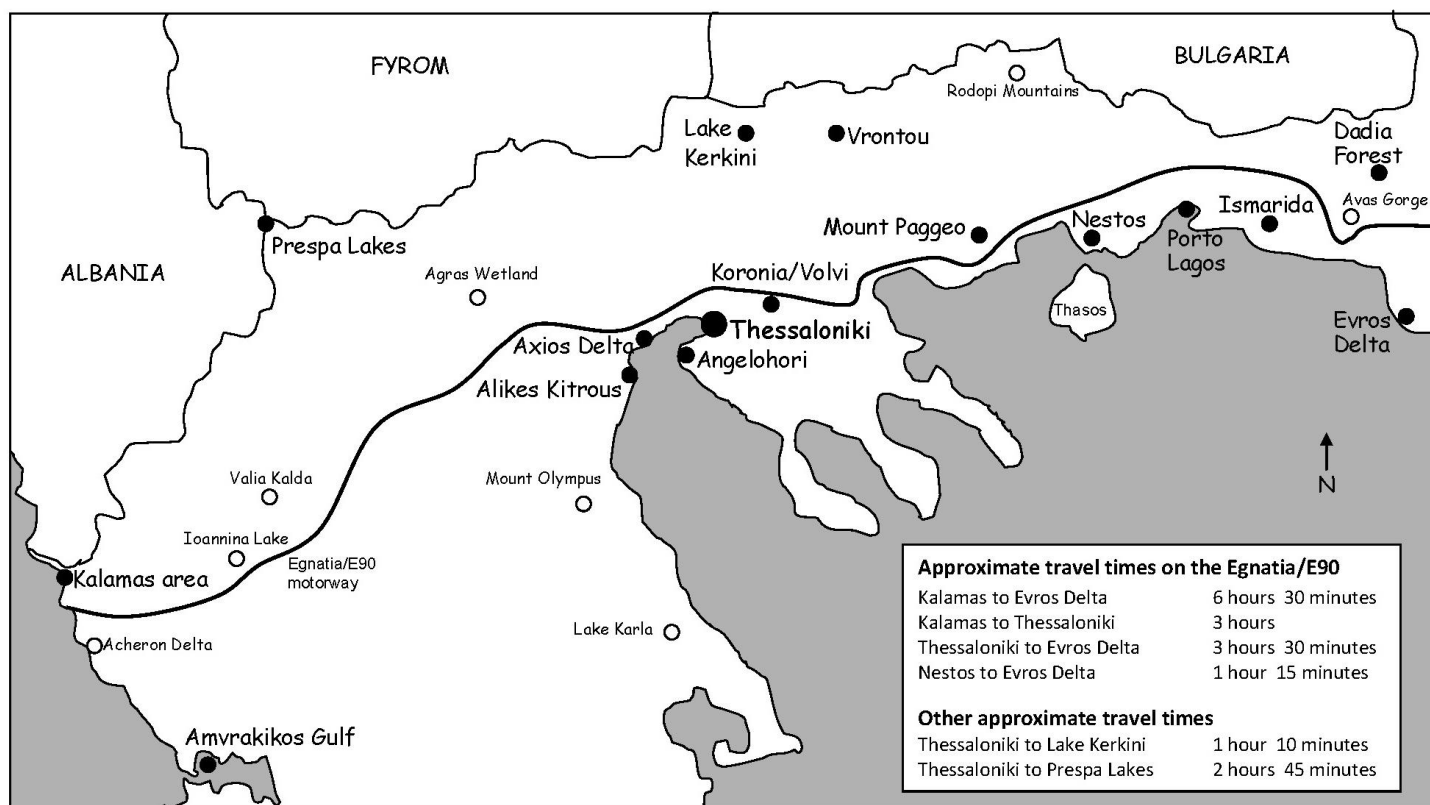
The second edition has:

- 174 pages including 16 pages of colour photos
- revised, extended and updated sections on Lake Kerkini, Evros Delta, Porto Lagos, Nestos, Lake Ismarida and Dadia Forest
- new sites included for the first time such as the Amvrakikos Gulf, Kalamas Delta, Prespa Lakes and Mount Paggeo
- detailed maps and descriptions of the areas around Thessaloniki, including the Axios-Aliakmon-Loudias region, Alikes Kitrous, Nea Agathoupoli, Angelohori and Epanomi lagoons

- 8 more sites in the Kerkini area and new sites in the Evros Hills
- more general information on lots of other sites, including Mount Olympus, Lake Karla, the Rodopi and Pindos Mountains
- more detailed maps and directions throughout
- GPS (Global Positioning System) data to be used by those with SAT NAVs or GPS equipment, such as those on mobile phones
- a current status list for birds of the region
- a checklist of birds of Greece, with those currently on the HOS List of Rare Birds in Greece indicated, and colour photos of the region's speciality species.

All money raised from sales goes directly towards helping birds in Northern Greece.

The edition can be bought directly from our website www.birdwing.eu using all major credit cards or via a direct bank transfer into a Greek bank account. Please email us for bank details at info@birdwing.eu. We post books worldwide.



Birdwing photo exhibition

We have decided to include a section in our next newsletter for exhibiting our members' best photographs taken in Greece. If you have a photo you would like to be included in this section, please send a small resolution jpeg (less than 1.5MB) to us at photo@birdwing.eu

Please include your name, date and location of photo and any other interesting information.

Birdwing News – 10

And finally thanks ...

Thanks to **Eleni Makrigianni** and **Ioannidis Panagiotis** at the Evros Delta, **Lia Papadranga** from Axios, **Angeliki Dimaki**, **Kostas Papadopoulos**, **Theodoros Naziridis** at Kerkini, **Vasilis Terzis** at Porto Lagos, and all the staff members at the Centres across Northern Greece who have provided us with information. And, as always, thanks to anyone else we have failed to mention.

Summer 2011