

Greece
April 28 - May 12, 2018
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Overview:

Portland Audubon's first trip to Greece took us to Athens, Delphi, Alexandroupoli (Evros Delta and Dadia) and Lake Kerkini. We were not able to fit an island into our itinerary this time, but the trip was nevertheless a great success. We overdosed on high quality Greek/Mediterranean food, visited the historic sites of Delphi, Philippi and Acropolis of Athens and saw a whole lot of wildlife.

Daily Account:

April 29: Immitos Mtn, Vravrona Wetlands, Schinias NP

Before Akis, our guide for the day, arrived, we took a brief walk and were surprised to find an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler singing near the hotel. Hoopoe was heard only.



We then started the day at Kaisariani Monastery where Akis tickled out the Tawny Owl for everybody to get a brief look. Long-tailed Tit, Cirl Bunting, a calling Eastern Bonelli's Warbler and a male Collared Flycatcher were the supporting cast.

Higher up we immediately scored on the Rueppell's Warbler and got excellent looks.

Subalpine Warbler and Blue Rock Thrush followed shortly after. The Little Owls that Randy and I saw at the top during the scouting day did not perform for us.



Back down we went to Vravrona Wetlands where Olivaceous Warbler, Cetti's Warbler and Zitting Cisticola were all singing. Yelkouan Shearwaters were offshore. Little Egret and Squacco Heron were present on the beach. There were a gazillion of school kids around, so we bailed.

From there the route took us to Schinias National Park. We first tried at 2 sites for Sombre Tit, but failed. Further on, Cretzschmar's Bunting and Black-eared Wheatear were perched up for us near Grammatico!! Fun, fun, fun!

At Schinias National Park proper, we first pulled over for Black-winged Stilt, many Ruffs and Ferruginous Ducks. Our final stop was the furthest-east tower where we hit paydirt: Temminck's Stint (carefully separated from Little as they were circling around showing their tail pattern), a breeding-plumaged Spotted Redshank and 2 Marsh Sandpipers. Garganey was also present. Singing Great Reed Warbler, feldegg Yellow Wagtail, Glossy Ibis, Wood Sandpiper and some of the more common species concluded a most successful day with Akis. Akis is great, I can highly recommend him!

April 30: Drive to Delphi

An early morning walk yielded the same Olivaceous Warbler we had the day before. Hoopoe was heard in the distance again. After that we were off to Delphi.



Near Livadia, we drove down a decent birding road with several singing Great Reed Warblers. We heard a Penduline Tit sing and investigated: We had found a male with a nest! A migrant

Common Redstart dropped for a few seconds. Also present was our first Spanish Sparrow, Western Marsh Harriers, Collared Crow and Cetti's Warbler.

A flock of Jackdaws was found a little bit further on.

After a quick lunch at a large place that was able to cycle busloads of people through in no time near Delphi, we headed out the road to the Ilia Profitti monastery. We had decent looks at Sardinian Warbler, Blue Rock Thrush, Cirl Bunting and Black-headed Wheatear. Some also heard and saw a Linnet. The road down toward Chrisso yielded a finch trio and our first Woodchat Shrike. We enjoyed the overcast weather, with occasional light drizzle.

May 1: Mt. Parnassus, optional walk above Delphi in the afternoon

The Historic Site was closed due to the May 1 holiday, so we opted for a drive up Mt. Parnassus. We got delayed 20 min due to a drained car battery, but then swiftly got on our way. The first stop yielded Red-backed Shrike, a good look at perched Red-rumped Swallow, Stonechat, Serin, Lesser Whitethroat and a heard-only Chiffchaff. Further up we got Coal Tit and Firecrest.

A barking dog had us leave the Ski Center quickly, but shortly after we found Black Redstart, more Firecrests and a singing Woodlark. Randy found a teed-up Rock Bunting and everybody got good scope views. Nice! Our final stop yielded Mistle Thrush and Northern Wheatear.



After a late lunch, a small group continued working the hillside above Delphi. We didn't quite reach my old Rueppell's Warbler site, but nevertheless had a nice time. 4 Short-toed Eagles were overhead and a troupe of 30 some Bee-eaters was passing overhead. Butterflies and bumblebees were thick on this hot afternoon.

May 2: Delphi, Oropos Wetlands

We started the day bright and early at 8am at the gate to the historic site of Delphi. We were the first party to go through the gate. Within 2 minutes we got fabulous looks at Western Rock Nuthatch.

Unfortunately, we had to endure 2

cats homing in on a nuthatch nest, with the adults calling like crazy. We left not to have to witness possible carnage. Also easy to see at the site were Woodchat Shrike, Short-toed Eagle, Common Raven, Blue Rock-thrush and Black-eared Wheatear. We found our first perched-up Hoopoe, but the looks would have been better with a scope (I was not allowed to bring in the tripod).

After lunch en route, we swung by Oropos Wetlands which was overrun with kite surfers. We picked up a few Little Terns, a Kentish Plover and a Gray Plover on the western access. At the eastern access we found a cluster of shorebirds with Spotted Redshank, Little Stint, Kentish and Common Ringed Plover, a Black-winged Stilt on the nest and a likely (short-billed) Marsh Sandpiper. Crested Lark and Yellow Wagtail (including one flava) were flitting around the marsh. Randy found a odd-ball Skylark in a grassy patch.

We took the evening flight from Athens to Alexandroupoli and settled into Hotel Erika after a long delay caused by a bad rental van.

May 3: Loutros Hill, Anthia Marshes

We started the day at 10am due to the late night arrival. A great plan, as everybody seemed well-rested and excited. Our first stop was Loutros Hill, where we found Black-headed Bunting, Ortolan Bunting, Woodlark, Subalpine Warbler and Black Stork. An Eastern Orphean Warbler was singing, but wouldn't come out. Lesser Spotted Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, a small dark falcon and a Common Buzzard were overhead. Of course, the first singing Nightingale was a thrill, but then every following one turned into a little bit of a disappointment because they are so difficult to see yet so easy to hear.



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After a quick stop at the Evros Delta Visitor Center we worked our way over to Anthia Marshes where we found 46 species of birds. Birding was so good that we skipped lunch even though we all agreed that we wouldn't want to do this again. Roller and Bee-eater proved to be very exciting, but we also found Collared Pratincole, many Purple Herons, Whiskered and

White-winged Tern, Corn Bunting and a Spanish Sparrow nesting in the new observation tower. A large raptor kettle was interesting, but the birds were too far for identification. 1000s of freshly hatched frogs were frolicking near the observation tower as well. Raptors overhead included White-tailed and Short-toed Eagle. At the end of a road was a Mediterranean Gull and an Oystercatcher. But, boy, were we hungry when we got home!

May 4: Dadia, Lefkimi, Kapsalo

We again got a pretty early start after a 7am breakfast. Rollers posed along the drive to Dadia. I had underestimated the distance to the hide, so we all birded a little while at the bottom (best bird was a Booted Eagle), then we watched a 20 min video at the visitor center. At 10:30am we caught the ride to hide (4 Euros per person) where we found many Black and 3 Egyptian Vultures, but oddly no Griffons. Black Kite was also seen. Some took the van back down, all the others embarked on a 3km hike through the woods. We heard Short-toed Treecreeper and Chiffchaff, but couldn't get on either one. And we never got a Western Bonelli's Warbler traipsing through the Dadia forest ...

After a relaxing lunch with schnitzel at I Folia Tu Perlargu (where we saw Black Vultures and Booted Eagles cruise by), we descended down into the Diavolorema Valley. The afternoon heat made the birds disappear. Nevertheless, we picked up Lesser Gray Shrike and all 3 wagtails at a bridge. Gray was a little bit of a surprise.



Turning off the main highway at Provatonas, we admired the White Stork nest with lots of Spanish Sparrows in attendance as well. The fine church was also worth taking a picture of.

Near Lefkimi, we picked up an unusual Lesser Spotted Woodpecker while tracking down a singing Olive-tree Warbler. We never got on the warbler. Woodchat and Red-backed Shrike were

numerous. Watch for ticks when you bushwhack there!

It was quiet at the Kapsalo radio mast at 6:45pm, so we only stayed a few minutes to admire the view. Egyptian Vulture, Short-toed Eagle and a singing Ortolan Bunting were all we got. European Robin was singing near the top.

Randy and I had heard a Scops Owl from the hotel the night before, so we ventured out again at 10pm to try to find it. It was too noisy out there as it was Friday night so we did not succeed.

May 5: Evros Delta

We quickly ran up Loutros Hill in the morning hoping to actually see the Eastern Orphean Warbler, but the bird was nowhere to be found. Maybe a migrant? Or it settled somewhere else. At the Loutros Hill turnoff, we found a Hoopoe and a Masked Shrike.

Over towards the Isabelline Wheatear and lark flats, we first scored on several Red-footed Falcons. At the Isabelline Wheatear spot itself, a Little Owl finally delighted everybody to its fullest, but there was no wheatear. A Honey Buzzard went right over us! A little further on we had cracking looks at Calandra and Greater Short-toed Larks. Bee-eaters were buzzing around us all morning.



We briefly stopped at the Evros Delta Visitor Center, but it was closed (Saturday?). We were glad we did because another Masked Shrike perched up for what seemed like an eternity. We then found a Little Ringed Plover in downtown Loutros at the restroom stop and some later got brief looks at a Golden Oriole at our lunch spot at a picnic area along the Loutros River.

In the heat of the day we headed over to the Military Area of the Evros Delta. European Reed Warbler and a singing Marsh Warbler were found just past the checkpoint. The embankment road yielded great looks at Pygmy Cormorant, Spur-winged Lapwing and Collared Pratincole. Our final stop was a mess of shorebirds including 100s of Ruffs, Black-tailed

Godwit, Marsh, Curlew and Wood Sandpiper, 3 Pied Avocets and Little Stint. Then we ran out of time and left for the hotel.

May 6: Alexandroupoli breakwater, Porto Lagos, Petrinos Lofos

We started right after breakfast out at the Alexandroupoli breakwater and were immediately rewarded by a Parasitic Jaeger giving chase and then resting on the water. Common and Gull-billed Tern were very much in evidence as well as 2 flyby Bar-tailed Godwits and many Scopoli's Shearwaters (but no Yelkouan's).

In Porto Lagos we worked the shore of Lake Vistonida and its estuaries finding Sandwich Tern, Great Cormorant in all age groups, Black-headed Gull and Great Crested Grebe. At the Saltworks we finally ran into a flock of shorebirds with Gray Plover, Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper in attendance

The Porto Lagos market made navigating difficult, but we finally settled in for lunch nearby. After that, we spent the rest of the day looking for flamingos. We tried the first 4 Thracian Lagoons, but failed to find it, but had great numbers of shorebirds at lagoon 2 and 4 (counting from the west) including Curlew, Wood Sandpiper, Little Stint, breeding-plumaged Ruff, Oystercatcher and both Kentish and Common Ringed Plover. Little Terns were plentiful. A White-tailed Eagle was seen well between lagoon 3 and 4. Lagoon 4 held an amazing 40+ fully breeding-plumaged Spotted Redshank.



We finally found a single Greater Flamingo in the distance from the hotel parking lot! A Little Owl was on the wire for several minutes. After an amazing dinner at the Petrinos Lofos served by its gracious hosts, Linda reported a Scops Owl calling outside. We found it and had great looks! We also heard a European Nightjar call in the distance twice in different areas. Golden Jackals were howling in the distance. Another great day!

**May 7: Mandra Marsh,
Kalamokastro, Lagoons near
the hotel, Strimonas Marshes**

We woke up to the calling of a Common Quail before 6am! A

few hardy souls went to Mandra Marsh early, but the marsh held no shorebirds (save for a Northern Lapwing and a shy Eurasian Curlew on the flats behind the marsh) or waterfowl of any

kind. We heard and then watched a female Golden Oriole in the scope for several minutes! Calandra Lark, Little Tern, Corn and Black-headed Bunting were also present.

Everybody is raving about the food and hospitality at the Petrinis Lofos! Breakfast was awesome, they sent us off in person with mint leaves and even gave us food to go! After breakfast we headed out to Kalamokastro where everybody had a great time with the Lesser Kestrels.

En route to Lake Kerkini we stopped again at the Mandra Lagoons (1 km west of the hotel, then left) and finally found a large blob of Greater Flamingos far out. Black Kite and a Common Whitethroat were also there. We celebrated with tasty Greek sweets from a nearby gas station.

Our final stop were the Strimonas marshes. We missed the extensive reed beds that I seemed to remember, but nevertheless picked up a heard-only Great Reed Warbler. A single Lesser Black-backed Gull was in the mess of Yellow-leggeds along the Strimonas River. Large numbers of Eurasian Spoonbills, Common Sandpiper and several well-seen Temminck's Stints also brought smiles on our faces.

May 8: Mandraki Harbor, Vironia Tracks, Eastern Embankment, Vironia Quarry

Our early group was amazed by the number of birds early morning at Mandraki Harbor. Both pelicans, Little Bittern, Green Woodpecker, Night Heron and a perched up Cuckoo were found easily. There were scads of Great Crested Grebes.

At Vironia Tracks we scored big time with a Lesser Spotted Eagle (everybody in the group got scope looks of this bird, in flight that is!) and a Gray-headed Woodpecker. A surprise Blackcap was briefly singing. All enjoyed a Common Cuckoo fully out in the open.



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The East Embankment yielded lots of birds, with Spoonbills, Marsh Sandpiper, a distant Common Pochard, Black and White-winged Tern and 3 Gadwall being the highlights. Penduline Tits were calling from the canal side.

We revisited some of the sites from earlier in the day after having a fabulous lunch at the little taverna at the railroad station, but didn't really find anything unusual any more. We headed back a little early to get some rest.

We finally closed out the day at Vironia Quarry at 8:30pm. We quickly heard an Eagle Owl calling. When Randy charged up the hill, the owl perched up on the defunct building and we got it in the scope. The only bummer was that Randy didn't get to see it. 2 Scops Owls were also calling in the area.

May 9: Lake Kerkini Boat Ride; Himarros and the Pump Station

We took a 6:30am boat ride with Nikos this morning and had a blast! Lots of birds, all at super close range! Highlights included Pygmy Cormorant, both pelicans, Spoonbill nests, a Mediterranean Gull, a Black Stork and 3 Black-necked (Eared) Grebes. The lake was calm and the weather great. A Penduline Tit with nest was near the harbor.



After a brunch stop at a coffee shop in Kerkini village, we drove along the south side of the lake to Himarros. The Olive-tree Warblers were not at the expected spot and it was quite slow. We picked up a Short-toed Eagle and a nice Masked Shrike. Highlights however were a Pennant-winged Antlion and a large Praying Mantis. How cool were those!

A search for Kingfisher at the Pump Station near Hrisohorafa was unsuccessful, but it was actually quite birdy there. A bird was later re-found by a German couple.

The dinner at the Vironia railroad taverna (with Lefteris) was excellent as usual! Randy's group headed back up to the quarry when it got dark and got the Eagle Owl to call. Only Randy saw it though; he deserved it though!



May 10: Vironia Quarry, Philippi, Around Mandra

An early morning outing in Achritochori was rather uneventful except for a Cirl Bunting and a fly-by male Levant Sparrowhawk. We had to say good-bye to the beautiful setting of the Villa Belles today. After breakfast we headed up to the Vironia quarry again as we had gotten a hot tip from some Dutch birders. We quickly found Crag Martin and a singing Eastern Orphean Warbler and had great looks. Also present was a female Cirl Bunting, Spotted Flycatcher, Common Raven, Blue Rock Thrush and Black-eared Wheatear.



Our second male Levant Sparrowhawk of the day was near a gas station along route 12 south of Serres. Whoa!

The closest restaurant to the Philippi historic site in Krinides served us great fish for lunch (Ocean Perch and Sea Bass, plus Gilthead). The site itself was quite mellow, as there were no tourists and it was overcast, with light rain setting in when most folks were at the museum. The only birds of note were Black-eared Wheatear and a flighty Great Spotted/Syrian Woodpecker. No Western Rock Nuthatch was detected.

An hour further near the Petrinos Lofos we briefly checked out the Avdira marshes, but time was running out. We did, however, find our third male Levant Sparrowhawk of the day! This time everybody got to see it in the scope. Neat!

May 11: Transfer to Athens and Acropolis

We started early at the Petrinos Lofos to catch a 9:25 am flight to Athens. After lunch we headed for the Acropolis. 2 Rose-ringed Parakeets flew by the ticket booth. Hoopoes were zipping by, but swifts were generally not very numerous. Eventually, most people got a glimpse of some Alpine Swifts, but we did not have a confirmed Pallid. After another great dinner near our hotel, we ended the hotel admiring the lit-up Acropolis on this cool night.



May 12: Transfer out

It's been a fabulous trip!!

Highlights and lowlights:

- Lowlights: We were not able to find Olive-tree Warbler and Isabelline Wheatear at their traditional spots and Eastern Bonelli's Warbler was not seen in Dadia. Griffon Vulture

was also missed there. Finally, we never tracked down a single one of the flyover 5 Great Spotted/Syrian Woodpeckers that we saw which seems a little embarrassing. Due to time constraints and bad weather, we never made it up Mt. Paggeo

- Highlights: Too many to list!!! Of course the flashy ones like Hoopoe, Roller, Bee-eater, Spoonbill and Greater Flamingo. Folks loved the 4-some of colorful shrikes. Levant Sparrowhawk was Stefan's personal favorite. Shorebirding was fabulous, with multiple sightings of Marsh Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint. Seeing 45 "black" Spotted Redshanks and breeding-plumaged Ruffs was phantastic! We did well with the owls, but not everybody came out to see them after our stressful days. The boat trip with Nikos was a crowd favorite. Last but not least, when do you ever see a Pennant-winged Antlion!



Birds list (186 species):

Mute Swan

Graylag Goose (Lake Kerkini)

Ruddy Shelduck (2 en route to Anthia Marshes)

Common Shelduck

Eurasian Wigeon
Gadwall
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Garganey (Schinias NP, Evros Delta and Lake Kerkini)
Northern Shoveler
Common Pochard
Ferruginous Duck (~10 at Schinias NP)
Chukar (1 heard on top of Immitos Mtn)
Little Grebe
Great Crested Grebe (many 100s at Lake Kerkini)
Black-necked Grebe (3 on Lake Kerkini boat trip)
Scopoli's Shearwater (several off Alexandroupoli breakwater)
Yelkouan Shearwater (several off Vravrona Wetlands)
Great Cormorant
Pygmy Cormorant (Evros Delta and Lake Kerkini)
Great White Pelican (Lake Kerkini)
Dalmatian Pelican (Lake Kerkini)
Little Bittern (2 at Mandraki Harbor)
Black-crowned Night-heron (Lake Kerkini)
Squacco Heron
Little Egret
Great Egret
Gray Heron
Purple Heron (many at Evros Delta, only 1 at Lake Kerkini)
Black Stork (many at Evros Delta, only 1 at Lake Kerkini)
White Stork
Glossy Ibis
Eurasian Spoonbill (1 at Evros Delta, several at Lake Kerkini)
Greater Flamingo (~1000 in a big pink blob near Mandra)
European Honey-Buzzard (1 flyover at close range near lark flats at Evros Delta)
Black Kite (1 at Dadia, 1 at flamingo spot and 1 on south shore of Evros Delta)
White-tailed Eagle (1 at Evros Delta, 1 at 3rd/4th Thracian Lagoons near Fanari)
Egyptian Vulture (4 at Dadia, 1 at Kapsalo)
Cinereous (or also called) Black Vulture (several at Dadia, Loutros Valley)
Short-toed Eagle (several birds at various locations)
Western Marsh Harrier
Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Levant Sparrowhawk (1 at Mandra, 1 en route from Lake Kerkini to Porto Lagos, 1 near Villa Belles)
Common Buzzard
Long-legged Buzzard (1 near lark flats at Evros Delta, 1 near Dadia)
Lesser Spotted Eagle (1 at Loutros Hill, 1 in the scope in flight at Vironia tracks)

Booted Eagle (Dadia, Loutros Valley)
Water Rail (1 heard calling at Schinias NP)
Common Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Black-winged Stilt
Pied Avocet (3 at Evros Delta)
Eurasian Oystercatcher
Gray or Black-bellied Plover (Oropos Wetlands, Evros Delta)
Spur-winged Lapwing (~10 in military zone of the Evros Delta)
Northern Lapwing (Evros Delta, Mandara marsh)
Little Ringed Plover (Loutros, Strimonas river)
Common Ringed Plover
Kentish Plover
Long-billed Curlew (1 briefly seen at Mandra marsh)
Black-tailed Godwit (several in military zone of the Evros Delta)
Bar-tailed Godwit (2 at Alexandroupoli breakwater)
Ruddy Turnstone (1 at 2nd Thracian Lagoon)
Ruff (most common shorebird)
Curlew Sandpiper (many near Porto Lagos, 12 at East Embankment at Lake Kerkini)
Temminck's Stint (4 at Schinias NP, 5 at Strimonas Marsh NE of Lake Kerkini)
Little Stint
Common Sandpiper (1 along Strimonas River, 1 at Lake Kerkini boat trip)
Spotted Redshank (1 at Schinias NP, 2 at Oropos Wetlands, many in full breeding plumage at Thracian Lagoons)
Common Greenshank (only 1 at Schinias NP)
Marsh Sandpiper (2 at Schinias NP, 3 at Evros Delta, 1 at East Embankment of Lake Kerkini)
Wood Sandpiper
Collared Pratincole (several on 2 occasions in the Evros Delta)
Black-headed Gull
Mediterranean Gull (Alexandroupoli, 1 at Lake Kerkini)
Lesser Black-backed Gull (1 along Strimonas River)
Yellow-legged Gull
Parasitic Jaeger (1 at Alexandroupoli breakwater)
Little Tern
Gull-billed Tern (Alexandroupoli breakwater and Lake Vistonidas)
Whiskered Tern (4 at Anthia Marshes)
Black Tern (Lake Vistonidas and East Embankment of Lake Kerkini)
White-winged Tern (4 at Anthia Marshes and East Embankment of Lake Kerkini)
Sandwich Tern (Lake Vistonidas)
Common Tern
Rock Dove
Common Wood Pigeon (3 sighting on north end of Lake Kerkini)
Eurasian Collared Dove

European Turtle Dove (Evros Delta, Lake Kerkini)
Rose-ringed Parakeet (2 flyovers at Acropolis ticket booth)
Common Cuckoo
Eurasian Scops Owl (most hotels, Vironia quarry)
Eurasian Eagle Owl (1 or 2 at Vironia quarry)
Little Owl (1 at lark flats in the Evros Delta, 1 at Petrinos Lofos)
Tawny Owl (1 at Kaisariani Monastery)
European Nightjar (1 at Petrinos Lofos, 1 at Vironia Quarry; both heard only)
Common Swift
Alpine Swift (pretty hard to see, but most got a sighting in at the Acropolis)
European Bee-eater (everywhere in the Evros Delta)
European Roller (many at the Evros Delta)
Hoopoe
Gray-headed Woodpecker (1 seen by a few at Vironia Tracks)
European Green Woodpecker (Lake Kerkini)
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (1 seen at Lefkimi, 1 heard at Vironia Tracks)
Great Spotted/Syrian Woodpecker (several sightings, all in flight)
Lesser Kestrel (Kalamokastro colony)
Common Kestrel
Red-footed Falcon (about 8 at the Evros Delta)
Peregrine Falcon (1 at the Delphi site, seen by few only)
Calandra Lark (lark flats of Military area, Mandra Marsh)
Greater Short-toed Lark (amazing looks at lark flats of Military area)
Crested Lark
Woodlark (Loutros Hill, Mt. Parnassos)
Eurasian Skylark (1 bird at Oropos Wetlands, also heard at the Evros Delta)
Sand Martin (Evros Delta only)
Eurasian Crag Martin (4 at Vironia quarry)
Barn Swallow
Common House Martin
Red-rumped Swallow (seen most days)
Tawny Pipit (1 at Mt. Parnassos, 1 at Evros Delta only by Stefan)
Tree Pipit (1 on drive up Kapsalo radio mast)
Yellow Wagtail (among the feldegg also were some flava types)
Gray Wagtail (1 near Dadia)
White Wagtail (near Dadia, Kerkini village)
European Wren (heard-only at Mt. Parnassos)
European Robin (Mt. Parnassos, Kapsalo)
Common Nightingale (heard often; most folks got a glimpse at some point)
Black Redstart (Mt. Parnassos)
Common Redstart (1 migrant briefly dropped in at Penduline Tit nest near Orchomenus)
Common Stonechat (Schinias NP, near Delphi)
Northern Wheatear (uphill from Delphi and Mt. Parnassos)

Black-eared Wheatear (seen often, also at Delphi and Philippi)
Blue Rock Thrush (Immitos Mtn, Delphi, Vironia quarry)
Common Blackbird
Mistle Thrush (Mt. Parnassos)
Cetti's Warbler (mostly heard only, but many locations)
Zitting Cisticola (Vravrona Wetlands, Schinias NP)
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (most lowland locations, including near Park Hotel)
Olive-tree Warbler (1 heard-only bird near Lefkimi)
Eurasian Reed Warbler (Evros Delta canals)
Great Reed Warbler (heard often, 4 in canal along drive to Delphi, 1 posing bird at Pump Station at Lake Kerkini)
Marsh Warbler (1 mostly heard-only at Evros Delta just past the gate to Military Area)
Subalpine Warbler (Immitos Mtn, around Delphi)
Sardinian Warbler (heard around Schinias NP, seen by all near Delphi)
Rueppell's Warbler (2 at Immitos Mtn)
Eastern Orphean Warbler (1 heard at Loutros Hill, 1 seen at Vironia quarry)
Lesser Whitethroat (1 seen well en route up Mt. Parnassos)
Common Whitethroat (several locations)
Eurasian Blackcap (1 at Vironia tracks, 1 on south side of Lake Kerkini)
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (1 seen briefly at Kaisariani Monastery)
Common Chiffchaff (heard only at Dadia and Mt Parnassos)
Common Firecrest (several at Mt. Parnassos)
Spotted Flycatcher
Collared Flycatcher (brief looks at Kaisariani Monastery)
Long-tailed Tit (Kaisariani Monastery)
Eurasian Blue Tit (Delphi, Loutros Valley)
Great Tit
Coal Tit (Mt. Parnassos)
Eurasian Penduline Tit (2 near nests on drive to Delphi, East Embankment of Lake Kerkini and Kerkini harbor)
Western Rock Nuthatch (a few at Delphi)
Short-toed Treecreeper (3 heard-only birds at Dadia)
Eurasian Golden Oriole (many locations up north)
Red-backed Shrike
Lesser Gray Shrike (Evros Delta and Lake Kerkini)
Woodchat Shrike (prominent in Delphi)
Masked Shrike (1 at Loutros Hill, 1 at Evros Delta Visitor Center, 1 at Himarros)
Eurasian Jay
Common Magpie
Western Jackdaw
Hooded Crow
Common Raven (really good looks at Vironia quarry)
Common Starling

House Sparrow

Spanish Sparrow (in stork nests, but also in Kalamokastro and in reed-lined canal at Evros Delta)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Dadia, Lake Kerkini)

Common Chaffinch

European Serin (en route up Mt. Parnassos)

European Greenfinch

European Goldfinch

Common Linnet (near Delphi, only seen by few)

Girl Bunting

Rock Bunting (2 up Mt. Parnassos)

Ortolan Bunting (2-3 at Loutros Hill)

Cretzschmar's Bunting (2 at Grammatico)

Black-headed Bunting

Corn Bunting





Other critters:

Water Buffalo (Lake Kerkini; domesticated, but still ...)

Golden Jackal (heard only at night at Petrinis Lofos)

Nutria

Spur-winged Tortoise

Swallowtail

Red Admiral

Beautiful Demoiselle (Penduline Tit spot)

Pennant-winged Antlion (Himarros)

Praying Mantis (Himarros)

Plants:

Jerusalem Sage (Immitos Mtn)

Spanish Broom

Black and Turkish Pine (Dadia)

Judas Tree (Kaisariani Monastery)



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