

Greece

May 14-28, 2018

Tropical Audubon Society

Leader: Stefan Schlick (greenfant@hotmail.com)



Overview:

Tropical Audubon's first trip to Greece proved to be winner! We generally had great weather, fabulous and inexpensive food, a fabulous group, made some cultural stops and did a whole of birding! We covered a whole lot of varied habitat, from coastal wetlands and scrub, agricultural fields, pastoral setups, pine and cypress woods and rockscape from sea level to above tree line.

While we missed a few of the more common European species, we also got a whole lot of really good southeast Mediterranean birds. We were generally surprised about the numbers of

insects, dragon- and butterflies, so it was therefore no surprise that birds were numerous almost everywhere. We encountered bee keeping setups everywhere up north.

May 15: Immitos Mtn, Markopoulo quarry, Grammatiko, Schinias NP

We kicked off the trip with a monster first day!

A morning walk at the Park Hotel did yield one of the resident Eastern Olivaceous Warblers, but the looks were not great.

After breakfast we went up Immitos Mtn. The Tawny Owls were calling up a storm, but we never were able to lay eyes on the birds. Firecrest, Coal and Long-tailed Tit were all great for the Kaisariani Monastery. Both the Rueppell's and the Subalpine Warbler were performing higher up the mountain. Chukar was calling and seen in the scope and Black-eared Wheatear afforded nice looks.

At the Markopoulo quarry we found our target Rock Sparrow quickly. On the way down we scored on Sardinian Warbler and Little Owl. We also ran into a mixed flock of Common and Alpine Swifts.



Our lunch break near MP13 of the Marathonas Rd was great and dirt cheap at only 5 Euros per person. Next stop was Grammatiko mid afternoon, where 2 Cretzschmar's Bunting immediately popped up after playing a tape. A Sombre Tit came in at one of the 2 stops we made between Schinias and Grammatiko. We also heard a Scops Owl call 3 times. Weird! Serin, Red-rumped Swallow and Cirl Bunting were all trip firsts there. Further down we found our first Stonechat.

At Schinias NP, we first concentrated on Zitting Cisticola and got it to perch nicely for us, then we focussed on Ferruginous Ducks which we also saw well. On the walk out to the northernmost tower we found Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Little Stint, a Greenshank and an oddly plumaged "brownish" shorebird that we could not fully identify (there are a couple of theories though). Little Grebe, heard-only Cetti's Warbler and Glossy Ibis provided the supporting cast.

May 16: Oropos Wetlands, near Livadia, uphill from Arachova

A second early morning walk near the Hotel Park finally yielded a good look at the hotel's resident Eastern Olivaceous Warbler.



After navigating a detour, we birded Oropos Wetlands for an hour or so in the morning. The water level was quite a bit higher compared to 2 weeks ago. There were many Kentish Plover (also 2 young) and Spotted Redshank acting as if they were territorial, and we also saw a breeding-plumaged

Curlew Sandpiper, a Ruddy Turnstone, Common Ringed Plover, Black-winged Stilt and a few Little Stints. Yelkouan Shearwaters were moving offshore in the channel with Evia island in the distance.

Off to Delphi we went. Near Livadia, we scored on Great Reed Warbler and Penduline Tit, yet the unexpected highlight was a close-up female Pallid Harrier, a rare migrant for Greece! A Kingfisher was seen by all but Stefan.



On a brief excursion near the pass just before Arachova we saw few birds, but a singing Nightingale along the main road was unusual.

Uphill from Arachova we made a few stops and got Tawny Pipit, Crag Martin, Linnet and Black-eared Wheatear. Near where the conifers set in, we found several

Red-backed Shrikes,

singing Corn Bunting (a first one for Stefan), a perched-up Hoopoe and Red-rumped Swallows. Then it was time to call it a day, so we went to Vlachos for dinner. The food was awesome!

May 17: Mt Parnassos

We got a late start as breakfast was not served until 7:15am-ish. We made 2-3 stops near the lower tree line and in the forest and found Woodlark, many Firecrests and Coal Tits. Finally, a

European Serin was seen by everybody. We got a brief glimpse of a Lesser Whitethroat.



At the first ski resort, we quickly found Linnets, Black Redstart, Tawny Pipit and Northern Wheatear. A Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush was seen well just below. Water Pipit was high up, but we all managed to get on it in the scope. Two black birds were finally identified as falcons, but we had to leave it as that - we had hoped for Alpine Choughs. A few more stops were mostly yielding

similar birds. At the second ski area was our second Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush for the day! Wow! We never found Rock Bunting up there though.

On the way down we worked the woods for Mistle Thrush. We heard them often, but could not get one to come out into the open.

We briefly checked above the historic site in Delphi for raptors before calling it a day.

May 18: Delphi Historic Site

We started 7:55am at the historic only to find out that entrance was free on this International Museum Day. Lucky us! We immediately found several Western Rock Nuthatches, but also got great looks at Woodchat Shrike, Spotted Flycatcher, Blue Rock Thrush and Black-eared Wheatear. A Common Cuckoo was heard from both the upper end and the lower end. Temperatures were in the upper 60s and it was overcast.



After another fabulous lamb lunch en route to Athens airport (we also found a Red-rumped Swallow nest at the restaurant!), we birded around the airport and Vravra Wetlands, New trip birds included Eurasian Tree Sparrow, a well heard Water Rail really close to us and Squacco Heron. Two Little Owls perched for us on the drive back to the airport. Then we caught the evening flight to Alexandroupoli.

May 19: Loutros Hill, around Loutros, Anthia Marshes (Evros Delta)

Everybody was glad to get a little bit of a lay-in in the morning. We headed to Loutros Hill after breakfast where we saw Black Stork, Ortolan and Black-headed

Bunting. A Long-legged Buzzard was scoped in the distance.

From there we headed to Evros Delta visitor center and were glad that we did: Over 100 Rose-collared Starlings were feeding in the fruiting trees at the center!!! Score!!!



After that we bought some lunch at the grocery store (Roller en route!) and enjoyed it at the Loutros River. A Nightingale was seen by many. In Loutros proper we found Little Ringed Plover and White Wagtail.



Anthia Marshes were next. Bee-eaters were zipping around everywhere. The water level for shorebirds was too high, but a Common Pochard, Garganey, a family of Mute Swans and a couple of Purple Herons seemed to be happy there. We found many Whiskered Terns, but it took half an hour more for everybody to have gotten on a White-winged Tern. At the beach, we added Oystercatcher and 2 pairs of

Spur-winged Lapwing. The highlight however were 4 Stone Curlew! Among the terns were Little

and Sandwich, we failed to confirm a Gull-billed. Finally also everybody got on a Mediterranean Gull. It was another great day!

Dinner was enjoyed at Hovoli's, an excellent Armenian restaurant in Alexandroupoli.

May 20: Dadia, Lefkimi and Kapsalo Radio Mast

We got an early start today and made the Diavolarema Valley the first stop. We saw a female Golden Oriole fly across a couple of times, the male was singing. Lesser Gray Shrike was a new bird for us.

Then off to Dadia (Ortolan Bunting was singing off the parking area) where we hitched a ride to the blind almost immediately. We were dismayed to find no vultures at the carcasses. We stuck it out for a good while adding several Short-toed Eagles and Black Stork, until all of a sudden an Egyptian Vulture made a quick appearance. We didn't get skunked after all! On the walk back along the road we first heard and saw an Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, but it was hard work. A large flock of Long-tailed Tits and a Lesser Whitethroat were nice finds also. And we watched our first Cinereous Vulture overhead.



After having schnitzels at the German restaurant in Dadia, we again worked the valley for a little while, finding a Lesser Spotted and then a phantom Booted Eagle.

On the short drive to Provatonas everybody had fallen asleep, so it was time for some caffeine. After that, just above Lefkimi, we saw a Tree Pipit, 2 Woodchat Shrikes and heard 2 Olive-tree Warblers. We tracked down the warblers as well as we could, obtaining a good recording, but not really getting a look. Just as usual ...

At Kapsalo, we immediately found Ortolan Bunting, Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush and Lesser Whitethroat. We ended up seeing a total of 3 Cinereous Vultures, so that everybody had finally seen them! On the way down we laid eyes on our first Common Whitethroat of the trip.

It was another great day!

May 21: Evros Delta (including the Military Zone)

We started the day early again cruising for Masked Shrike near the base of Loutros Hill. We found one quickly and the bird afforded views several times. Nice!

Then over to the Isabelline Wheatear and lark flats ... We struggled with the larks this morning. We finally say Greater Short-toed and Skylark, but Calandra eluded us till late in the day. Tawny Pipit, Roller, Eurasian Reed-Warbler and a seen Cetti's Warbler were also good. Isabelline Wheatear doesn't seem to be breeding there any more.



Moving to the Military Zone, we tried briefly to relocate a Marsh Warbler, but the bird may have left. Then we found many Collared Pratincoles including one close percher. Nice pix were obtained. Common Whitethroat and Nightingale were seen right where we got to the dike. We then came up to several expected Spur-winged Lapwings, but the shorebird area from 2 weeks ago was nearly shorebird free! What a letdown! We pushed on and added Common and Least Tern, Dalmatian Pelican, Northern Lapwing, Ferruginous Duck, Eurasian Reed Bunting and Ruddy Shelduck. The Isabelline Wheatear spot at the T yielded "only" Tawny Pipit and in-flight Calandra Larks. A little later we got the Calandra in the scope! Everybody was happy!

We got to the hotel at 5pm and went out for seafood at Gialos right on the Alexandroupoli waterfront which was inexpensive and superb. Finally, we got to bed a little bit earlier.

May 22: Alexandroupoli seawatch, Porto Lagos, Rhodopi Lagoons

We did a morning seawatch early at the Alexandroupoli breakwater and later 0.5km west. We did see close-up Yelkouan Shearwaters, yet the Scopoli's were only in the distance. The Parasitic Jaeger we had with the first group had probably left.

We then drove one hour to Porto Lagos. Our first stop at Lake Vistonida yielded Sandwich Terns, Penduline Tit, Great Crested Grebe and Black Tern. We also found a blob of Flamingos in the third lagoon! Nice!

Before lunch we checked in at the 2nd lagoon, but didn't many shorebirds. There were Black-headed Gulls in many plumages. Pied Avocet was new for the day.

After lunch in Fanari (Shag on the rocks!), we drove by Lake Ismarida. We scanned from atop a bluff and found absolutely nothing save some pelicans. Access is still a huge problem there. The 5th lagoon was pretty slow.

The 4th lagoon however had quite a few shorebirds and we decided to take a closer look. We found Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Sanderlings, Little Stint, Common Ringed and Kentish Plover and many Pied Avocets. We had to work for it, as we walked in about 0.3mi. A Little Owl awaited us where we had parked.



Just before dinner at the Petros Lofos we checked for Levant Sparrowhawk, but couldn't find one. Anathasia's Moussaka was fabulous, so much so that we all overate.

After dinner, we headed out on an owling adventure. We finally got on the Scops Owl, but we had to try hard for it. We also heard Eurasian Curlew and Nightjar. A Little Owl went over as well and we

heard it when we went back inside. Wow! Great night!

May 23: Mandra Marsh, Kalamokastro, Sidirokastro waterfall, Strimon Marshes, Chistorohafa

An early morning outing at Mandra Marsh yielded good looks at a Common Cuckoo and Calandra Lark.

At Kalamokastro the Lesser Kestrels once more afforded nice looks. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was on a pole north of Kalamokastro.

Then we drove to Lake Kerkini. I saw a Levant Sparrowhawk just outside Eleftheropolis when everybody was eating something, so nobody else really got on it.

The waterfall area behind Sidirokastro was very quiet initially. We did not find Gray Wagtail there. When we got back to the car, we ran into a pocket of birds including a Great Spotted Woodpecker, a Hawfinch, a Cirl Bunting and a Spotted Flycatcher.

When we pulled into the Strimon Marshes, it started to rain. We could not find a Common Sandpiper.

Then we checked into the Limneo. Nikos graciously offered to take us out birding for an hour. We checked for Syrian Woodpecker in the village, but came up empty. Instead, an Eagle Owl flew out of the wood in Chistorohafa!!! Can you believe it?? A first for Nikos! At the Pump Station we did not find the resident Kingfisher, but Great Reed Warbler, 2 Little Bitterns, a perched up Common Cuckoo, a Dalmatian Pelican and 2 Night-herons were not too shabby!

May 24: Vironia Quarry, Mandraki, Vironia Tracks, Promachonas

We looked for the Syrian Woodpecker in the morning, but couldn't find it. A Little Owl made a brief appearance.



The weather was still nice (forecast had been somewhat bad), so we headed for the Vironia Quarry. A Sombre Tit briefly showed when we got out of the car. The Eastern Orphean Warbler was singing tentatively, but never came out and eventually shut up. What a

difference from 2 weeks ago! Also at the quarry were 2 Common Ravens, Common Whitethroat, Blue Rock Thrush, Black-eared Wheatear and Crag Martin. A pretty cute baby wild boar was running around the quarry in search of mom.

Mandraki was heating up mid morning. We found myriad Great Crested Grebe, Squacco and Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Pochard, Garganey, Great Reed Warbler and pelicans in the distance.

After a great lunch at the Vironia railroad tavern, we first saw a Booted Eagle en route and then a Levant Sparrowhawk at the wood near the access for Strimonas Marshes.

We spent the rest of the afternoon hunting for new species at the Promachonas woodpecker wood. This impressive river bottomland forest held many singing birds, but it was difficult to get on them. We saw Blue Tit, Nuthatch and Great Crested Woodpecker, but only heard Blackcap and Short-toed Treecreeper. A Middle Spotted Woodpecker was briefly quarreling with a Great Spotted, but only Stefan was able to get on it (so it's not on the official list).

Our second check for Common Sandpiper along the Strimonas failed to retrieve the target. Then the rains started and birding was over for the day.

May 25: Lake Kerkini boat ride, Eastern Embankment

Nikos's boat left Kerkini harbor at 6:30am, so we had to get up early. The boat ride is fabulous with lots of great looks at Squacco Heron, Eurasian Spoonbill, Little Egret, Glossy Ibis, Pygmy and Great Cormorant nests. We also saw a rare Cattle Egret on a nest. Both pelican species afforded good looks for comparison. 4 Black-necked Grebes were another highlight.



Before lunch we headed over to Korfoudi and finally got a well-seen Black Kite. A Green Woodpecker played hide and seek with us. Then we went to lunch at Dionysos in Kerkini Village.

In the afternoon we briefly went up the road from Ana Poreia to the high elevations, but the road proved to rough

for Stefan to feel comfortable, so we turned back. A Levant Sparrowhawk and a crisp Booted Eagle were seen over Livadia.

After that we headed over to the Eastern Embankment. We were amazed at how quickly the seemingly pleasant weather had turned in a just 45min. Lots of birds there, mostly repeats, but we saw 4 Ferruginous Ducks and all three marsh terns (Black, White-winged and Whiskered Tern) with a thunderstorm looming.

A final search for the Syrian Woodpecker was unsuccessful and we decided to give up.

Some of us also checked the canal near the Pump Station for a reported Baillon's Crake, but we also dipped on that.

May 26: Himarros, Mt Paggeo

We started at a leisurely hour at Himarros only to run into a large English birding group. We strolled downhill as they went uphill. We had prolonged looks at 2 Masked Shrikes, heard an Oriole, but we again did not hear any Olive-tree Warblers there at the well-known site for them. Short-toed Eagle and Black Stork, plus Red-backed and Woodchat Shrike provided a good supporting cast.



We lucked out with the weather at Mt. Paggeo. Mid day it was still pretty nice and it stayed nice until we finally left at around 4pm. On the way up, just after lunch, we briefly saw a Mistle Thrush on the road. Northern Wheatear, Black Redstart and Linnet were easy. We also saw a Rock Partridge/Chukar candidate, but could not get the scope on it even though we had

decent looks.

We hiked about 1/2mi up from the ski resort and found many Ortolan Buntings, a brief flyby of an Alpine Chough, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, but the highlight was a singing Shorelark

(Horned Lark). Tawny and Water Pipit were also seen briefly. A Sphinx Moth was feeding on nectar of some yellow flowers at a pullout for a little while. Overall a great outing!

On the way down we chased a singing Blackcap, but could not get on it. They had been giving us the fits all trip long.

After that we hightailed it back to Alexandroupoli airport. The van had us scared at some point when a plastic flap on the underbody started making a lot of noise at high speeds. But the noise subsided and Budget gave us a thumbs up when I turned in the car.

May 27: Athens Acropolis

After a lay-in until about 8am, a leisurely breakfast and a few minutes of swift watching on the 8th floor of the Evripides Hotel, we moseyed on over to the Acropolis. This was an about 30min walk. We caught a partly cloudy and breezy day, so the climb up wasn't that bad. Alpine Swifts were zipping around relatively several times. We went to the Acropolis Museum afterwards which is nothing short of a bargain at 5 Euros a piece.

Then we split and went our separate ways for the rest of the afternoon only to reconvene to do the list and have a final dinner in the evening.



Highlights and lowlights:

- **Highlights:**

- Spectacular weather and luck with it wherever we needed it. For example, after several afternoons with thunderstorms at Lake Kerkini, we did not have any threatening weather at Mt. Paggeo in the afternoon.
- Rose-colored Starling flocks everywhere!! This species is irruptive and we hit a great year for them. They typically only show up in the second half of May.
- Extraordinary birds included: Pallis Harrier (rare!), Rock Sparrow (found only the day before), a showy Rueppell's Warbler, Cretzschmar's Bunting in the dead heat of the afternoon, Ferruginous Ducks at several locations, a blob of Flamingos near Porto Lagos, Egyptian and Cinereous Vultures at Dadia that we had to work for, a hard-to-get Horned Lark near the top of Mt. Paggeo, an amazing 3 high-mountain Rufous-tailed Rock Thrushes and the shrike slam including the normally elusive Masked.. Not to forget our owling experience where the Scops Owl at Petrinos Lofos eventually showed for everybody who was left and Curlew, Little Owl and Nightjar were also heard. An Eagle Owl was seen flying out of a wood near our hotel at Lake Kerkini.
- Wonderful food throughout including Hovoli, the Armenian restaurant in Alexandroupoli), Vachos at Delphi, the Vironia railroad taverna and our fabulous final dinner at Enistron In Athens.

- **Lowlights:**

- Shorebird migration was on the trailing end, so we did not experience the spread of the earlier trip. Some songbirds seemed to be more elusive than 2 weeks prior.
- We missed some of the lesser targets like Common Sandpiper, Graylag Goose and looks at Blackcap and Chiffchaff. This caused a smirk on the face of Nikos, our Lake Kerkini hotel owner and boatman.
- A Chukar/Rock Partridge got away from us at Mt Paggeo. We were not able to identify it. It was not calling.



List of species: 178 heard/seen

Mute Swan

Ruddy Shelduck (Evros Delta, including a large flock of around 25)

Common Shelduck

Mallard

Garganey (Schinias NP, Evros Delta and Lake Kerkini)

Northern Shoveler

Common Pochard

Ferruginous Duck (a few at Schinias NP, but also Evros Delta and 4 at Lake Kerkini)

Chukar (1 at Immitos Mtn)

Little Grebe

Great Crested Grebe (many 100s at Lake Kerkini)

Black-necked Grebe (4 on Lake Kerkini boat trip)

Scopoli's Shearwater (several in the distance off Alexandroupoli shoreline)

Yelkouan Shearwater (several close-up off Oropos Wetlands and Alexandroupoli shoreline)

Great Cormorant

Pygmy Cormorant (Evros Delta and Lake Kerkini)

European Shag (Fanari lunch spot)

Great White Pelican (Lake Kerkini)

Dalmatian Pelican (Evros Delta, Lake Kerkini)

Little Bittern (1 at Mandraki Harbor, 2 at Pump Station at Lake Kerkini)

Black-crowned Night-heron (Lake Kerkini)
Squacco Heron
Cattle Egret (1 bird on nest on Lake Kerkini boat ride)
Little Egret
Great Egret
Gray Heron
Purple Heron (many at Evros Delta, only 1 at Lake Kerkini)
Black Stork (many at Evros Delta, a few at Lake Kerkini)
White Stork
Glossy Ibis
Eurasian Spoonbill (1 at Evros Delta, several at Lake Kerkini)
Greater Flamingo (~1000 in a big pink bog on 3rd Rhodopi Lagoon)
Black Kite (only 1 on south shore of Lake Kerkini)
Egyptian Vulture (1 at Dadia blind)
Cinereous (or also called) Black Vulture (2-3 around Dadia)
Short-toed Eagle (several birds at various locations)
Western Marsh Harrier
Pallid Harrier (1 late migrant near Orchomenus en route to Delphi)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk (1 at Lake Kerkini)
Levant Sparrowhawk (1 near Strimonas River, 1 at Livadia, Lake Kerkini)
Common Buzzard
Long-legged Buzzard (1 near Loutros Hill)
Lesser Spotted Eagle (1 at Diavolaremo Valley)
Booted Eagle (1 at Livadia, 1 near Vironia, Lake Kerkini)
Water Rail (1 heard calling loudly at Vravra Wetlands)
Common Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Eurasian Stone Curlew (4 on beach at Anthia Marshes)
Black-winged Stilt
Pied Avocet (many at Rhodopi Lagoons)
Eurasian Oystercatcher
Gray or Black-bellied Plover (4th Rhodopi Lagoon)
Spur-winged Lapwing (~10 in military zone of the Evros Delta, 4 at Anthia Marshes)
Northern Lapwing (Evros Delta military zone)
Little Ringed Plover (Loutros, Strimonas river)
Common Ringed Plover
Kentish Plover
Long-billed Curlew (1 heard while owling at Petrinos Lofos)
Ruddy Turnstone (Oropos Wetlands)
Sanderling (3rd Rhodopi Lagoon)
Ruff
Curlew Sandpiper (1 at Oropos Wetlands, 12 at 4th Rhodopi Lagoon)
Little Stint

Spotted Redshank (several at Oropos Wetlands)
Common Greenshank (1 at Schinias NP)
Wood Sandpiper (1 at Evros Delta, 1 at Schinias NP)
Collared Pratincole (several at Evros Delta)
Black-headed Gull
Mediterranean Gull (only 1 at Anthia Marshes)
Yellow-legged Gull
Little Tern
Whiskered Tern (Anthia Marshes, East Embankment of Lake Kerkini)
Black Tern (Lake Vistonidas and East Embankment of Lake Kerkini)
White-winged Tern (1 at Anthia Marshes and East Embankment of Lake Kerkini)
Sandwich Tern (Lake Vistonidas, beach at Anthia Marshes)
Common Tern
Rock Dove
Eurasian Collared Dove
European Turtle Dove (Evros Delta, Lake Kerkini)
Common Cuckoo
Eurasian Scops Owl (Petrinos Lofos)
Eurasian Eagle Owl (1 at Hrisohorafa Syrian Woodpecker wood)
Little Owl (several)
Tawny Owl (1 heard only at Kaisariani Monastery)
European Nightjar (2 heard-only at Petrinos Lofos)
Common Swift
Alpine Swift (near Athens airport and the Acropolis)
European Bee-eater
European Roller (a few at the Evros Delta)
Hoopoe
Eurasian Kingfisher (1 near Penduline Tit nest near Orchomenus)
European Green Woodpecker (south end of Lake Kerkini, mostly heard only)
Great Spotted Woodpecker (1 at Woodpecker Wood near Promachonas, 1 en route)
Lesser Kestrel (Kalamokastro colony)
Common Kestrel
Peregrine Falcon (1 at Schinias NP)
Calandra Lark (Evros Delta Military area, Mandra Marsh)
Greater Short-toed Lark (lark flats of Military area)
Crested Lark
Woodlark (several locations)
Eurasian Skylark (2 at the Evros Delta, also heard larking at Mt Paggeo)
Horned Lark (Mt. Paggeo)
Sand Martin
Eurasian Crag Martin (Vironia quarry, above Arachova, Kapsalo)
Barn Swallow
Common House Martin

Red-rumped Swallow (seen most days)
Tawny Pipit (Mt. Parnassos, Evros Delta, Mt Paggeo)
Tree Pipit (1 uphill from Lefkimi)
Water Pipit (1 at Mt. Parnassos, 1 at Mt. Paggeo)
Yellow Wagtail (feldegg only)
White Wagtail (Loutros)
Eurasian Wren (Mt. Parnassos)
European Robin (Mt. Parnassos, Kapsalo)
Common Nightingale (heard often; most folks got a glimpse at some point)
Black Redstart (Mt. Parnassos, Mt. Paggeo)
Common Stonechat (near Schinias NP, Mt. Parnassos and Mt. Paggeo)
Northern Wheatear (Mt. Parnassos and Mt Paggeo)
Black-eared Wheatear
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush (2 at Mt. Parnassos, 1 at Mt. Paggeo)
Blue Rock Thrush (Immitos Mtn, Delphi, Vironia quarry)
Common Blackbird
Mistle Thrush (Mt. Parnassos, Mt. Paggeo)
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 (2 heard-only birds uphill from Lefkimi)
Eurasian Reed Warbler (Evros Delta canals)
Great Reed Warbler (heard often, dubbed "Frog Warbler" by the tour participants)
Subalpine Warbler (Immitos Mtn, around Delphi)
Sardinian Warbler (heard around Schinias NP, seen near Markopoulo quarry)
Rueppell's Warbler (3 at Immitos Mtn)
Eastern Orphean Warbler (1 heard-only at Vironia quarry)
Lesser Whitethroat (Mt. Parnassos, Mt. Paggeo, well seen at Kapsalo)
Common Whitethroat (several locations)
Eurasian Blackcap (heard only at Woodpecker Wood near Promachonas, Mt. Paggeo)
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (1 along hike from Dadia blind)
Common Chiffchaff (heard only at Dadia and Mt. Paggeo)
Common Firecrest (Kaisariani monastery, many at Mt. Parnassos)
Spotted Flycatcher
Long-tailed Tit (Kaisariani Monastery, near Promachonas, Dadia)
Eurasian Blue Tit (Delphi, Loutros Valley, near Provachons, Mt. Paggeo)
Great Tit
Coal Tit (Mt. Parnassos)
Sombre Tit (1 near Grammatico, 1 at Vironia Quarry)
Eurasian Penduline Tit (several, but one at nest near Orchomenus)
Eurasian Nuthatch (2 at Woodpecker Wood near Promachonas)
Western Rock Nuthatch (a few at Delphi)
Short-toed Treecreeper (2 heard-only birds at Woodpecker Wood near Promachonas)

Eurasian Golden Oriole (many locations up north, but looks were difficult)
Red-backed Shrike
Lesser Gray Shrike (Only Diavolarema Valley)
Woodchat Shrike (Delphi, Himarros)
Masked Shrike (1 at Loutros Hill, 1 at waterfall near Sidirokastro, 2 at Himarros)
Eurasian Jay
Common Magpie
Western Jackdaw
Alpine Chough (only glimpses at Mt Paggeo)
Hooded Crow
Common Raven
Common Starling
Rose-colored Starling (large flocks at the Evros Delta Visitor Center, Dadia and Lake Kerkini)
House Sparrow
Spanish Sparrow (at stork nests, but also in reeds at Evros Delta and Kalamokastro)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Dadia, Lake Kerkini)
Rock Sparrow (4 at Markopoulo quarry)
Common Chaffinch
European Serin (en route up Mt. Parnassos)
European Greenfinch
European Goldfinch
Common Linnet (Mt Parnassos, Mt Paggeo)
Hawfinch (1 at waterfall near Sidirokastro)
Cirl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting (Loutros Hill, Dadia, Kapsalo; many at Mt Paggeo)
Cretzschmar's Bunting (2 at Grammatico)
Common Red Bunting (2 at Military Zone of Evros Delta)
Black-headed Bunting
Corn Bunting



Other critters:

Bottlenose Dolphin (Alexandroupoli shoreline)

Water Buffalo (domesticated, yet noteworthy; Lake Kerkini)

Wild Boar

Fox

Polecat

Nutria

Spur-winged Tortoise

Common Tortoise

Swallowtail

Red Admiral

Painted Lady

Marbled Fritillary

European Beak (we witnessed amazing hatches of those driving up the slope of Mt. Belles at Lake Kerkini)

Great Green Bush-cricket (Delphi)

Beautiful Demoiselle (Penduline Tit spot)

Sphinx Moth (Mt Paggeo)

Plants:

Jerusalem Sage (Immitos Mtn)

Spanish Broom

Black and Turkish Pine (Dadia)

Dalmatian Toadflax (Delphi area)

**** Pictures courtesy of Ken Chamberlain, Barbara Rumberger and Stefan Schlick. All images in this trip report are copyrighted. ****

