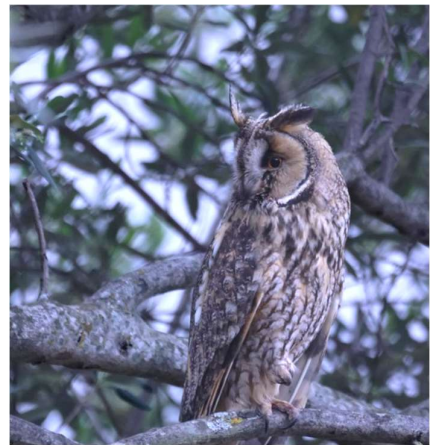




LESVOS TRIP REPORT

April 24 – May 05, 2025



Our wonderful Sunrise Birding group at Kremasti Bridge, Lesvos.

Lesvos Spring Migration Magic - 2025

24th April – 05th May

TOUR SUMMARY:

Our 23rd Lesvos Spring Migration Magic tour continues to be based at our ideally located hotel right in the middle of this bird rich island in the Eastern Aegean. The grounds of the hotel held European Scops Owl and Long-eared Owl, whilst hirundines nested in the eaves and busily fed over the lake opposite.

Local expert guide Stylianos Zannetos was joined by Paul Manning who has extensive knowledge of the island's wildlife and also ran the earlier orchids and flora extension.

The location allows easy access to a number of habitats across the island and provides us the flexibility to take advantage of weather conditions when planning our daily routes.

The rivers, small agricultural areas, coastal sand dune complex and salt pans close to the hotel are of significant importance for migratory birds. Herons, egrets, and crakes were a regular feature along the Tsiknias River, whilst Marsh Harriers quartered the fields and the air was filled with the ever-present sound of European Bee-eaters, Black-headed and Corn Buntings, and Crested Lark. Dalmatian Pelican, Eurasian Spoonbill and Greater Flamingo stood high above the many shorebirds that included Spur-winged Plover and breeding plumage Curlew Sandpiper, whilst Collared Pratincole, White-winged and Gull-billed Terns hawked overhead.

Not far away, the group enjoyed Krüpers Nuthatch, one of the island's specialities, frantically feeding young in the Calabrian Forest, whilst Chaffinch and Short-toed Treecreeper called from the surrounding trees.

The west of the island cannot be properly covered in a single day which gave us time to enjoy highlights that included Cinereous Bunting, 4 European Rollers in one tree, and more than 100 Red-footed Falcons. This part of the island is a UNESCO Geopark and a guided tour around the museum put some context to the extraordinary geological formations, whilst a visit to the beautiful mountain top Ipsilou Monastery added to the cultural experience.

HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- **Great Snipe, found by the group in the evening and enjoyed by many others the following day**
- **Rüppell's Warbler, it had been windy all week, but our plan worked!**
- **Crested Lark, because it's the first bird everyone sees and is an iconic part of every trip**
- **Eleni's beautiful rose garden**
- **Krüper's Nuthatch**
- **Cinereous Bunting at a watering hole**
- **The mighty Dalmatian Pelicans**
- **Long-eared Owl**
- **Scops Owl**
- **Eating at the wonderful tavernas**
- **Great Tit, Blue Tit, and Goldfinch**
- **The groups all-embracing interest of wildlife, scenery and culture**
- **Finally, the pair of immaculate Spur-winged Plovers, so well presented that we named them Giorgio Armani and Donatella Versace**



We had the opportunity to observe 126 Red footed falcons migrating north.



The king of the Pine Forest – Krüper's Nuthatch



Colourful meadows and poppies



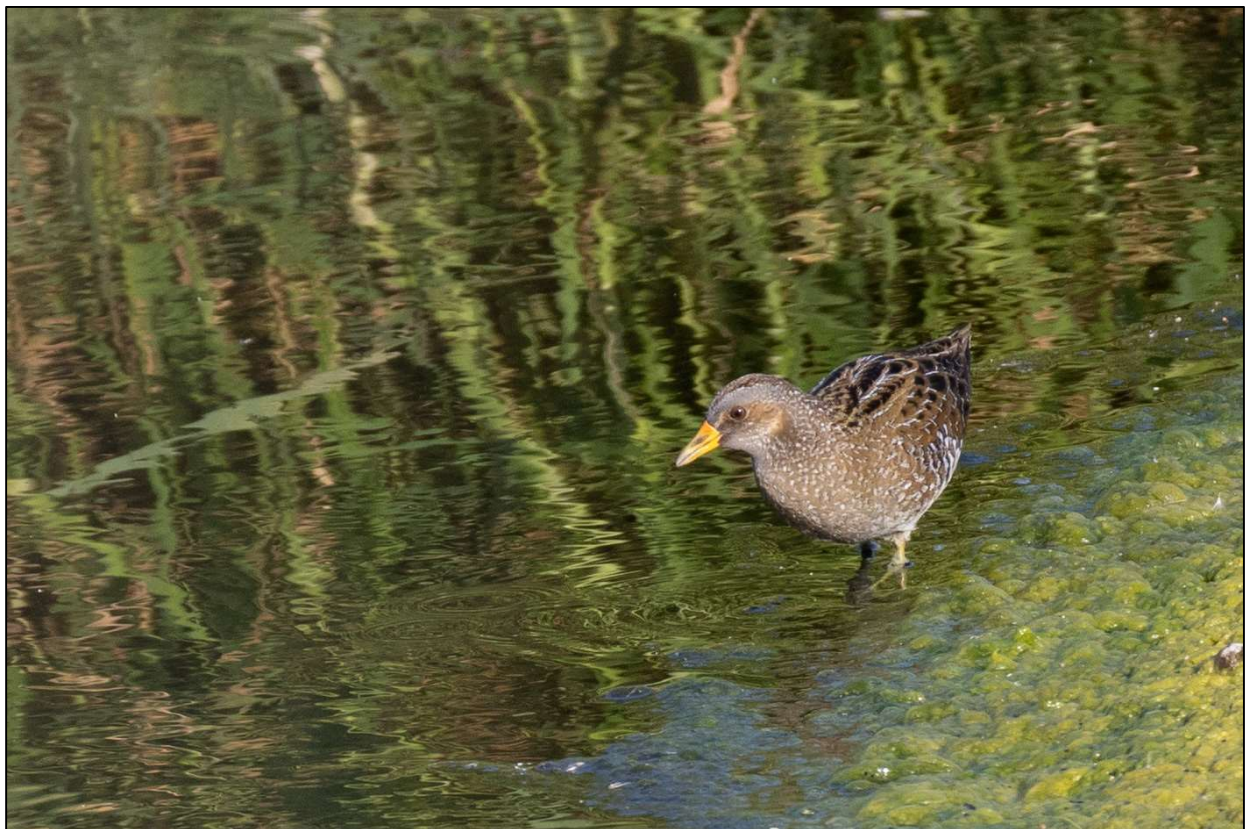
Dalmatian Pelicans in the afternoon light, Kalloni salt pans.



Picnic at Eleni's beautiful rose garden



The handsome Spur-winged Plover known as Georgio Armani.



Spotted Crake!

WILDLIFE LIST for Lesvos 2025

A = Number of species recorded on tour

B = Number of days out of 6 recorded

H = Heard Only with highest number heard in () N/C = No Count C=Common

This list is in line with IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v(13.2) and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomies – any additional notes see appendix *

A	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	B
1	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	5
2	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	3
3	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	4
4	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur turtur</i>	4
5	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	6
6	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	1
7	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus canorus</i>	1
8	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus apus</i>	6
9	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	1
10	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	1
11	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus chloropus</i>	6
12	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra atra</i>	4
13	Little Crake	<i>Zapornia parva</i>	3
14	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	6
15	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	5
16	Grey (Black-bellied) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola squatarola</i>	1
17	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i>	2
18	Spur-winged Plover	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	5
19	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus</i>	1
20	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i>	1
21	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	1
22	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago gallinago</i>	1
23	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	3
24	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	6
25	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	1
26	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	5
27	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	3
28	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	2
29	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	5
30	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola pratincola</i>	1
31	Mediterranean Gull	<i>L. melanocephalus</i>	2
32	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis michahellis</i>	6
33	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons albifrons</i>	3
34	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	1
35	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida hybrida</i>	2

36	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	5
37	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i>	3
38	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	1
39	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	6
40	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	3
41	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i>	2
42	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	1
43	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	5
44	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i>	6
45	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	5
46	European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis desmarestii</i>	2
47	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	5
48	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	4
49	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	2
50	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	3
51	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i>	5
52	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2
53	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5
54	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	4
55	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba alba</i>	2
56	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea cinerea</i>	5
57	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea purpurea</i>	5
58	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1
59	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus gallicus</i>	5
60	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	1
61	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza brevipes</i>	2
62	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus</i>	6
63	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	1
64	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo buteo</i>	4
65	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus rufinus</i>	2
66	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1
67	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops scops</i>	1
68	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	4
69	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1
70	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	6
71	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	2
72	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>	1
73	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	3
74	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3
75	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	2
76	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2
77	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	2
78	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	1
79	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	6
80	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	2
81	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	5

82	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator senator</i>	6
83	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius atricapillus</i>	6
84	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula soemmerringii</i>	3
85	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	6
86	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	6
87	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>	1
88	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	5
89	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	5
90	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea pallida</i>	H(1)
91	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata meridionalis</i>	6
92	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla brachydactyla</i>	1
93	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis juncidis</i>	1+H(2)
94	Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	3+H(3)
95	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	4
96	Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	4
97	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus arundinaceus</i>	1
98	Bank Swallow / Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	6
99	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	1
100	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i>	6
101	Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	6
102	Eurasian Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>	6
103	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>	1
104	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti cetti</i>	2+H(4)
105	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	1
106	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca curruca</i>	1
107	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris crassirostris</i>	1+H(1)
108	Rüppell's Warbler	<i>Curruca ruppeli</i>	1
109	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala melanocephala</i>	1
110	Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>	1+H(2)
111	Krüper's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>	1
112	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer neumayer</i>	1
113	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta eurpaea</i>	H(2)
114	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	1+H(1)
115	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1
116	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula aterrimus</i>	6
117	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes syriaca</i>	
118	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2
119	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	H(1)
120	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos megarhynchos</i>	2+H(4)
121	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca</i>	2
122	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	1
123	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	1
124	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	3
125	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola rubicola</i>	3
126	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1

127	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	1
128	Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	3
129	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus balearoibericus</i>	6
130	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis hispaniolensis</i>	6
131	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	1
132	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1
133	Western Yellow Wagtail sp	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	6
134	Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed)	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	3
135	Western Yellow Wagtail (Black-headed)	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>	4
136	Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed)	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	1
137	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	2
138	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs coelebs</i>	3
139	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2
140	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	1
141	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	5
142	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	6
143	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra calandra</i>	6
144	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>	2+H(2)
145	Cinereous Bunting	<i>Emberiza cineracea cineracea</i>	2
146	Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	2

A	OTHER SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	B
1	Persian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus anomalus</i>	4
4	Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	5
6	Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>	1
8	Snake-eyed Lacertid	<i>Ophisops elegans ehrenbergi</i>	1
9	Levant Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax bedriagae</i>	1
	Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>	3
10	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	2
11	Lesvos Bush Cricket	<i>Poecilimon mytelensis</i>	1
12	Dung Beetle	<i>Scarabaeine</i>	2
13	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	2
14	Old World Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	1
15	Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>	1
16	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	2
17	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	2
18	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	2
21	Southern comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>	2
22	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	
23	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	3
24	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	1