

Leisurely Lesvos



Lesvos – 1st – 8th May 2024

Introduction

I joined the Wild travel organised trip to Lesbos, we flew from Stansted to Mytilene with Jet 2 (we had a 45 min delay coming back (mostly made up during the flight). The tour was mostly in a comfortable small bus with two good UK guides. Things were well organised and quite laid back, the tour was very easy paced and most of the participants were much older than myself.

We stayed in the Malemi Hotel, 3* but is looking a little past its best , food was generally good and the location was good just outside Skala Kalloni, with easy access to some nice wildlife habitat.

Weather was generally good, a bit colder than normal and we had rain on one day.



Wednesday 1st May

I was feeling pretty awful at Stansted but got the plane to Lesvos anyway sleeping the whole way, I got off and was pretty bad. Back at the hotel I discovered the issue an infected wound on my leg, so it was off to hospital for the rest of the day. What a start to the trip.



Striped Hawkmoth



Provence orchid



Collared Pratincole

Thursday 2nd May

I was late to breakfast arriving as the group were leaving, but I caught them up and we had a look at the local wetland area where a nice selection of waders. They continued on and I stayed in the area near the hotel. I found some Balkan terrapins, wood sandpiper etc. before heading to the hotel to rest for a few hours. I did manage to photograph the Levant water frogs in the hotel pond.

I took a walk late afternoon again to local wetland where a twitch was on about 10 birders were watching a Citrine wagtail, and I had a nice male Balkan green lizard on the way back to the hotel.

I ran the moth traps just outside the hotel until the batteries ran out and had a Turkish house gecko in my room as I went to bed.



Levant Water Frog



Kruper's Nuthatch

Friday 3rd May

We spent a few hours in the pine forest, the home of the endemic Kruper's nuthatch and after a while we managed to locate a couple of them and they did eventually show quite well. The woodland also had some nice plants, jersey toadflax, wild gladioli, Narbonne Star-of-Bethlehem, large venus looking glass.

We headed further up the hills into the chestnut forest. Here was an excellent selection of plants, scarlet lily, toothed orchid, Provence orchid, Holmboe's orchid, green winged orchid, sword leaved helleborine, common broomrape and many more. Cardinal butterfly

We ended at the Messa wetlands for a wander some nice Oriental iris, zitting cisticola, squacco heron, purple heron, bittern.

After dinner I set the moth trap up and watched the common pipistrelles feed round the hotel. Geometrician moth was the pick.



Ipsilou monastery

Saturday 4th May

A grey and overcast day we headed to Ipsilou monastery the area was quite birdy with Isabelline, Northern and Eastern black wheatears, stonechat and Cinerous bunting along with a pair of Western rock nuthatch and much more. Some nice plants attracted my attention Mediterranean Catchfly, Campanula lyrate and Stachys cretica subsp lesbiaca

Heavy rain saw us head to the monastery for shelter before popping to the Petrified forest museum to wait out the rain. The rain stopped so we headed to the Petrified forest park. The sun came out and so did the butterflies some nice Balkan marbled whites along with a Cretschmar's bunting and an Eastern Orphean warbler to finish the day off.

The moth traps produced little as it was quite chilly overnight , yellow belle and cotton bollworm the best.



Black Veined White



Olive Tree Warbler

Sunday 5th May

We headed to some Olive groves and it was not long before we located an Olive tree warbler, it was quite elusive but we eventually managed reasonable view. We did locate a Masked shrike on a nest and watched as the parents kept swapping position on the nest. We drove to a lake for a wander some nice little bitterns and eventually a view of a little crake. Plenty of insects including a mammoth wasp. After lunch we headed to the Salt pans, plenty of flamingo's, a Dalmatian pelican and a nice selection of marsh terns and looking for worn snakes we found a small spur thighed tortoise.

We took a wander finding a nice Temminck's stint, lesser grey shrike and some showy collared pratincoles. Rock flipping turned up a worm snake and the pool at the end of the pans held marsh sandpiper, Temminck's stint and wood sandpiper. The pick was a pair of Spur winged plover on one of the salt pans,

I ran the moth traps down by the marsh, it caused a lot of interest with passing people. A fox also came to take a look but was probably more interested in my secondary target, mice. I put a few small mammal traps down to see what I could catch.



Tulipa orphanidea

Monday 6th May

I caught a House mouse in the small mammal traps, but nothing else.

We spent the day walking in the Petri area and it was a butterfly extravaganza.

Spotted fritillary, large tortoiseshell, swallowtail of note but the large congregations of Ilex hairstreaks and Aegean meadow browns on the white oregano were amazing. Sombre tit were the target species here but we had lots of Western rock nuthatch as well. Snake eyed lacertids and starred Agama were quite showy.

I set the moth traps just outside the hotel, a southern white bellied hedgehog ran across the road and the scops owl showed in the top of a tree. James had found some singing tree frogs so I popped down to the marsh to see them.



Starred Agama



Giant Antlion

Tuesday 7th May

We had a little wander round a headland, a Great Antlion was of note. Then we headed to Molivos Castle , there was a good selection of invertebrates, Ladybird spider, mantis sp, forrester moth, burnet moth, rock grayling.

We had a Leisurely lunch in a restaurant by the harbour watching a spoontailed lacewing flyby and land in the harbour. James rescued it for some photos before it flew off. We headed back to the hotel stopping at a Monastery for a wander, Levant water frog, a selection of dragonflies and butterflies.

I ran the moth traps in the hotel, and the group took a night walk to see the Tree frogs and also hear the loacal long eared owls .



Cinerous Bunting

Wednesday 8th May

It was a final Moth show and tell with a nice selection from my traps the passenger and *Chrysocrambus dentuellus* of note. James had caught a rather nice *Proteuchloris neriaria*.

We headed to the airport passing the flamingo filled salt pans before flying home.



Chrysocrambus dentuellus



Proteuchloris neriaria

Birds - 117

Ruddy Shelduck	Mallard	Common Shelduck
Greater Flamingo	Little Grebe	Rock Dove
Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Turtle Dove
Alpine Swift	Common Swift	Stone Curlew
Black Winged Stilt	Avocet	Collared Pratincole
Spur Winged Plover	Kentish Plover	Little Ringed Plover
Ruff	Curlew Sandpiper	Temminck's Stint
Little Stint	Common Sandpiper	Marsh Sandpiper
Wood Sandpiper	Yellow legged Gull	Little Tern
Whiskered tern	Black tern	Common Tern
Spotted flycatcher	Robin	Citrine Wagtail



Western Rock Nuthatch

White Winged Tern	Scopoli's Shearwater	Black Stork
White Stork	Cormorant	Dalmatian Pelican
Little Bittern	Grey Heron	Purple Heron
Little Egret	Squacco Heron	Honey Buzzard
Short toed eagle	Long Legged Buzzard	Common Buzzard
Scops Owl	Long eared Owl	Hoopoe
European Bee-eater	Bittern	Kestrel
Red footed falcon	Red Backed Shrike	Lesser Grey Shrike
Masked Shrike	Woodchat Shrike	Jay
Hooded Crow	Raven	Sombre Tit
House Martin	Marsh harrier	Cetti's Warbler
Krupers Nuthatch	Western Rock Nuthatch	Nuthatch

Cretzschmar's Bunting

Blue Tit	Great Tit	Woodlark
Crested Lark	Zitting Cisticola	Eastern Olivaceous warbler
Sedge Warbler	Reed Warbler	Sand Martin
Crag Martin	Swallow	Red Rumped Swallow
Wood Warbler	Olive tree Warbler	Jackdaw
Marsh Warbler	Chiff chaff	Eastern Orphean Warbler
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	Blackbird	Nightingale
Blue Rock Thrush	Stonechat	Whinchat
Northern Wheatear	Isabelline Wheatear	Eastern Black Eared Wheatear
House Sparrow	Spanish Sparrow	Blue Headed Wagtail
Black Headed Wagtail	Citrine Wagtail	White Wagtail
Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Goldfinch
Serin	Black headed Bunting	Corn Bunting
Cirl Bunting	Cinereous Bunting	Cretzschmar's Bunting
Common Cuckoo	Moorhen	Coot
Little Crane	Water Rail	Ringed Plover



Red Backed Shrike

Herps - 10

Eastern tree Frog	Levant Water Frog	Balkan terrapin
Spur Thighed Tortoise	Starred Agama	Turkish House Gecko
Snake Eyed Lacertid	Balkan Green Lizard	Worm Snake
European Pond Terrapin		



Dragonflies - 9

Dark Spreadwing	Small Bluetail	Broad Bodied Chaser
Southern Skimmer	Small Skimmer	Lesser Emperor
Blue eyed Hawker	Scarlet Darter	Ruddy Darter



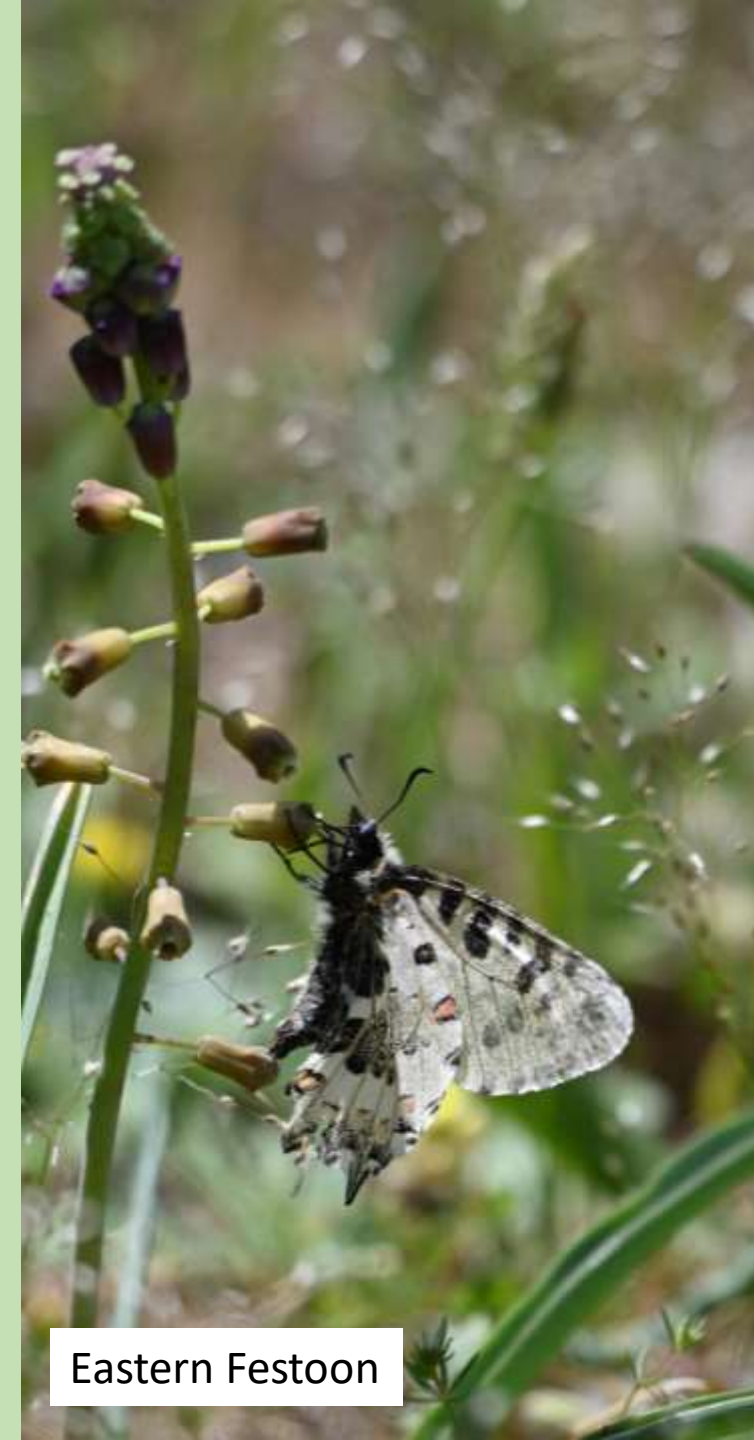
Southern Skimmer



Dark Spreadwing

Butterflies - 33

Mallow Skipper	Small Skipper	Swallowtail
Clouded Yellow	Black Veined White	Large White
Small White	Orange Tip	Eastern Bath White
Eastern Dappled White	Small Copper	Long Tailed Blue
Lang's Short tailed Blue	Eastern Baton Blue	Balkan Marbled White
Orbed Red Underwing Skipper	Painted Lady	Red Admiral
Southern Comma	Spotted Fritillary	Nettle Tree Butterfly
Balkan grayling	Lattice Brown	Aegean meadow Brown
Turkish meadow Brown	Ilex Haristreak	Green Hairstreak
Eastern Rock grayling	Cardinal	Southern White Admiral
Oriental Marbled Skipper	Grizzled skipper	White-banded Grayling
Small heath	Eastern Festoon	



Eastern Festoon

Moths - 47



Synaphe moldavica

Striped Hawkmoth	Pale Shoulder	Shark
Tamarisk Grey	Poplar Kitten	Coral Bordered Wave
Yellow Belle	Yellow Shell	Poplar hawkmoth
Delicate	Blair's Mocha	Tamarisk Peacock
Crimson Speckled	Scarce Bordered Straw	Willow Beauty
Channel Island's Pug	synaphe moldavica	bradyrrhoa gilveolella
isturgia murinaria	Zygaena punctum	phaioграмма etruscaria
Chrysocrambus dentuellus	Geometrician	Hummingbird Hawkmoth
Catocala eutychea	Scopula virgulate	White Speck
Silver Y	Passenger	Clytie illunaris
Plumed Fanfoot	Oncocera semirubella	Green Oak Tortrix
Delicate	Lace Border	Gem
Poplar Hawkmoth	Idaea albitorquata	Idaea camparia
Isturgia arenacearia	Menophra berenicidaria	Proteuchloris neriaria
Catocala eutychea	Nola harouni	Apamea syriaca
Lamoria anella	Euchromius superbellus	

Misc Invertebrates - 16

Egyptian Locust	Violet Carpenter Bee	Megarian Centipede
Great Silver Water Beetle	Clerus mutillarius	Great Antlion
Spoontailed Lacewing	Balkan Bush Cricket	Eresus walckenaeri
Mantis	Mammoth Wasp	white spotted rose beetle
Crucifer Shieldbug	Mesobuthus gibbosus	10 Spot Ladybird
Phylaeus chrysops		



Mesobuthus gibbosus



Spoontailed Lacewing

Selected Plants

Mediterranean Cypress	Turkish Pine	Hemlock
Shepherd's Needle	Perfoliate Alexanders	Caper
Oleander	Corn Marigold	Cornflower
Southern Salisfy	Greek Musk Thistle	Leopard's Bane
Pink Hawksbeard	Holy Thistle	Sea Rocket
Three Horend Stock	Campanula lyrata	Venus Looking Glass
Large Venus Looking Glass	Corncockle	Mediterranean Catchfly
Forked Catchfly	Greek Spurrey	Cretan Cistus



Mediterranean linseed

Mallow leaved Bindweed	Squirting Cucumber	Euphorba characias
Hare’s Foot Clover	Cup Clover	Star Clover
Woolly Clover	Sweet Chestnut	Kermes Oak
Valonia oak	Downy Oak	Shining Cranesbill
Ballota acetabulosa	Salvia argentea	Chaste Bush
Pale flax	Persian Lilac	Common Broomrape
Yellow Bartsia	Common Fumitory	White Ramping Fumitory
Corn Poppy	Yellow Horned Poppy	Ivy Leaved toadflax
Tree Medick	Large Disk medick	Narrow Leaved Clover



Holmboe’s Butterfly Orchid



Holy Orchid

Scarlet Pimpernel	Blue Pimpernel	Wild Pear
Almond Leaved Pear	Spiny Burnet	Dog's Cabbage
Osyris alba	Wavy leaved Mullein	Wild Aparagus
Tassel Hyacinth	Ornithogalum narbonense	Ornithogalum nutans
Wild Gladiolus	fritillaria pontica	Green Winged Orchid
Holy orchid	Sword Leaved Helleborine	Violet limodore
Toothed orchid	Provence orchid	Holmboe's Butterfly Orchid
Serapias bergonii	Mediterranean linseed	

Mammals - 5

Common Pipistrelle	Red Fox	Southern White Bellied Hedgehog
House Mouse	Rock Mouse	



House Mouse



Zygaena punctum