



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX
Telephone: 01603 300552
www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: chris@honeyguide.co.uk



Crete
14 – 21 April 2015

Participants

Jill Jordan
Angela Turner and Sue Montgomery
John and Sue Goldsmith
Jean Dunn
Susan Runicles

From the Salisbury and District Natural History Society

Rosemary and Gerald Nicholls
Elisabeth Richmond
Barbara Carter
Grace Hickman
Brenda Davis
Ailsa McKee

Leaders

Chris Durdin and Tim Strudwick
Report by Chris Durdin

All the photos in this report were taken during the holiday week by leaders or group members identified by their initials.

Cover photos: top – Cretan festoon, four-spotted orchid;
middle – dragon arum, Frangocastello, yellow asphodels in Kourtaliótiko Gorge;
bottom – crown anemones on Omalós plateau, chukar at Festos (all by CD except dragon arum by JD).

We stayed at the family-run Hotel Sofia in Plakias, <http://www.sofiahotelplakias.com/index-2.html>

Below: the group at the top of the Samaria Gorge (JD)



As with all Honeyguide holidays, £40 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the lammergeier project of the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands. There are just five breeding pairs of lammergeiers on Crete in 2015.

The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. This gives a total of £650 to HOS, which brings Honeyguide's total contributions to HOS since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £9,935. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £99,270 to April 2015.

More information about the work to protect bearded vultures – as they prefer to call them in Greece – is on the website of the Hellenic Ornithological Society www.ornithologiki.gr/page_cn.php?aID=907

'Crete exercises a distinctive fascination over all who stay there, and it is hard to say to what this is exactly due. It lies perhaps not only in the sheer beauty of the island and in the sense of its golden and mysterious past, but in something always about one that the word "atmosphere" only half expresses, an influence – circumambient, elusive – that makes it seem in some sort an enchanted land.'

A Trevor-Battye¹ in the preface of *Camping in Crete*, 1913.

Daily Diary

14 April – arrival

It may have felt like the middle of the night, but at 05:30 Gatwick was very busy with a long queue at bag-drop. The seven who'd stayed overnight night at the Corner House Hotel met the seven from Salisbury and Jill was there too, and finally we found Susan on the plane. The easyJet flight was smooth and on time to a warm and sunny Heraklion. It didn't prove too challenging to get 16 people plus baggage into the two minibuses from Budget, but we hadn't got far west of Heraklion – to Pantanassa bridge – when a tyre blew on the VW transporter that Tim was driving. John leapt into action, a veteran of punctures in challenging conditions in Africa and, despite an ill-fitting wrench, eventually the wheel nuts were loosened enough so the spare tyre could be brought into service. In the meantime alpine swifts flew overhead, Rosemary had found a dead stone marten and various wayside flowers were noted, such as crown daisy, pitch trefoil, branched broomrape and the medick-like disk trefoil *Hymenocarpus circinatus*.



Wheel change (SG)

That made us even later for lunch at Sinolakis Taverna near Bali, but it was no problem: our group table was ready by the window and we were soon tucking into a delicious spread of Greek salads, meatballs, tsatsiki, dolmades and chips, the bread and water that comes with every Cretan meal, plus a pudding and raki 'on the house'. Outside, a girl bunting was singing. We completed the journey smoothly, turning across the island at Rethymnon to go over the spine of Crete, through the Kourtaliótiko Gorge and on to Plakias.

At the Hotel Sofia, Vagelis settled everyone into rooms, organised tea and was quickly in touch with a friend to organise a replacement tyre. Our evening meal was at the Sofia Taverna where a new and slimmed down menu worked well, with some choosing a starter rather than a main course for a meal that wasn't too big after a very late lunch.

15 April – Plakias, Mirthios and Kotsiphou

Several of us met at 07:15 for some pre-breakfast birdwatching in Plakias, almost immediately bumping into the Naturetrek group staying at the other end of the town, who kindly shared with us where they'd seen a freshwater crab by a red bottle cap from the bridge, and there it was. At the western end of town there was a little ringed plover on the beach and yellow wagtails flew through twice. Beach flowers included the intense red of asparagus pea, pink sheets of *Silene colorata*, sea medick and yellow bartsia.



Olive mill (CD) and Erhard's wall lizard (TS)

It was warm enough to take breakfast in the Hotel Sofia's courtyard under the Norfolk Island pine. By 9:15 we assembled for a morning's local walk. There were alpine swifts over Plakias and we turned inland, in no time moving into countryside, mostly olive groves. The first bit brought lots of new plants:

wild pear, lentisc, salsify and honeywort to name just a few. Sardinian warblers rattled and several times there was the distinct and for most people familiar shout of Cetti's warbler. The morning's walk took us over the bridge and then a left turn towards the remains of a Venetian water mill once used to produce olive oil – over which an Erhard's wall lizard clambered – before a right turn back towards the main track from Plakias to Mirthios. The sun brought out butterflies including holly and common blues, southern speckled wood and clouded yellows, with more fleeting views for some of Cleopatra and painted lady. Perhaps the best butterfly of all was Cretan festoon, towards the end of the walk, which was helpfully freshly emerged and very tame.

¹ Aubyn Trevor-Battye is the grandfather of holiday participant Elisabeth Richmond, and she brought a copy of his book *Camping in Crete* with her on the holiday. The book is an account of his exploration of Crete in 1908 and, probably, 1909. More information on http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aubyn_Trevor-Battye

Also recently emerged was a red-veined darter perched on a fence, allowing good views of the blue underside to the eyes. Other notable insects included Egyptian grasshopper, violet carpenter bee, mammoth wasp and several chafers. There were fleeting views of a female pied flycatcher and, later on, a male collared flycatcher. Several griffon vultures drifted by. Any number of plants were identified and perhaps everyone would have different highlights: bellardia, shining figwort, shrubby St. John's-wort, wild gladiolus, Jersey toadflax and the endemic *Scutellaria sieberi* are just a few of these.

We returned to Plakias and met up at the minibuses for the short drive to Mirthios for an excellent lunch at the aptly named Panorama Taverna. From there we drove through Kotsiphou gorge and above Kenevos into a shady grove of downy oak, under which there were drifts of white-flowering *Cyclamen creticum*. Ailsa found some flowering friar's cowl. We took a short stroll and enjoyed the views over snow-capped mountains; in the other direction a girl bunting sang in a strawberry tree with a stonechat on its very top.

We returned in the direction from which we'd come, turned right and stopped again a very short distance away on a botanically rich stretch. Perhaps the showiest flowers were the white sheaths with a yellow spadix of Cretan arums, though the many pink heads of Italian man orchid were pretty striking, too. A giant orchid was still in bloom – late for this species – beyond which was a fine loose-flowered orchid. A drier slope had hummocks of one-flowered clover and among some loose rocks were the gentle lilac crucifer flowers of *Ricotia*, another endemic. There were ravens cronking and another stonechat on a wire. We returned to Plakias where, after checklists, we ate at Muses Taverna, again good food but let down by one meal arriving well after all the others.



Cretan arum (JD); *Ricotia cretica* (CD)

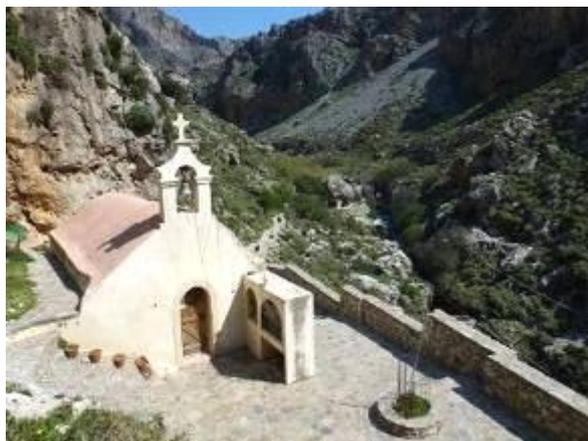
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16 April – Kourtaliótiko Gorge and Spili

A fire engine was in the street and smoke was coming from a window in the office above the kitchen of Muses Taverna. Our early morning walk west along the seafront by a flat calm sea was more-or-less birdless, but there were two showy endemic plants: many big bushy shrubs of Cretan ebony with its pink sainfoin flowers, and a fine spike of *Petromarula*, the Cretan wall lettuce.

After re-fuelling both minibuses we were soon in Kourtaliótiko Gorge on this fine, warm day. Griffon vultures were immediately in the air over the cliffs, with a particularly impressive tight four-strong squadron. Tim was quick to pick up on a cuckoo, which a little counter-intuitively flew south. Also in the air were high-flying alpine swifts, ravens, jackdaws and two red-billed choughs. A blue rock thrush perched nicely and allowed good views through the telescope. Tree spurses dominated the higher hillside and contrasted nicely with the compact yellow-green mounds of Greek spiny spurge. Sue G found a Cretan iris and later the telescope came in useful to see it in its high, inaccessible position: later that afternoon more were close by.

Most of the group descended into the gorge down the steps. There were many notable flowers, including Cretan tulips, these well off the path, patches of *Ricotia cretica*, Cretan gorge comfrey (*Procopiana*) and Cretan cyclamen. An Ophrys orchid was a puzzle: later study shows it was a mammoose orchid. Scented white flowers hung from storax trees at the bottom: rustyback fern grew on dry rocks and maidenhair fern in damper places. Looking up, a Bonelli's eagle flew in and out of sight high above the cliffs.



Kourtaliótiko Gorge (CD)

Spili town was our destination for lunch: the car park has loos and it's pretty and shady by the fountains in the town square, ideal for a picnic. Judging by the boys playing football it was the school holidays. There was time for tea or an ice cream and shopping.

Turning opposite the monastery we climbed into the Kedros foothills, soon reaching the 'Spili bumps', renowned for orchids. The patch of land by the layby was surprisingly wet underfoot, though that suited loose-flowered orchid, and plants in this area included sawfly orchids, milky orchids and the first of many *Orchis italica*. The showy yellow flowers on some of the few-flowered orchids *Orchis pauciflora* this season made their name seem quite inappropriate. There was a good patch of Barbary nut irises in flower alongside some *Iris cretica* and the pretty white flowers of *Gagea graeca*.

After crossing the road, immediately there were red tulips *Tulipa doerfleri* in a low cereal crop. The bank on our left was superb for all flowers and conveniently at waist or head height: there were four-spotted orchids alongside Boryi's orchids and man orchids plus crown anemones and corn marigolds in the edge of fields. The Naturetrek group was on the main 'bump' so we compared notes, some walking round and adding rainbow orchid *Ophrys iricolor* to an orchid list that was now up to fourteen just on today's visit to Spili bumps.



Tulipa doerfleri, *Orchis pauciflora* (CD)

Tonight's meal was in the fish taverna Tasomanolis, with fine views over Plakias Bay in the evening light. Some of us found that the meal for two – swordfish, barracuda and dorado – was plenty for three.



Plakias Bay in the evening light (CD)

17 April – Festos and Ayia Triada

The early morning crew, now into a routine of a start at 07:00, drove west with a brief stop at the new harbour along the coast and then to Souda. A Cetti's warbler perched in the open for a moment but otherwise there was a lack of birds. A pink, *Silene bellidifolia*, was a new species though the main botanical feature was the grove of Cretan palms in the gully leading up from the beach.

The weather was perfect again as we drove east via Spili and Timbaki, with a brief diversion caused – from what we saw elsewhere along the way – by landslips along the main road during the cold and wet winter. There were fine views in both directions over the fertile plains, though the snow-capped Psiloritis (Mount Ida) was a little lost in cloud. On the short walk up to the café and entrance into Minoan Festos, Brenda caught the distinctive call of a chukar. We soon located two birds not far away in open land that we overlooked, and they even stayed still enough for us all to see them well through the telescope, including how one had a deformed bill that was elongated and curved downwards. Everyone had a drink and refreshments and several paid the modest entrance fee to take a self-guided tour of the archaeological site. The chukars were still there as we descended to the car park, and a cuckoo dashed through.

The 12:15 car park rendezvous allowed an hour's gentle pottering in pursuit of wildlife along the road towards Ayia Triada. There were the distinctive orange bryony (or gourd) ladybirds *Henosepilachna elaterii* on squirting cucumber and there was another interesting gathering of red-and-black brassica shield bugs which later homework has named as *Eurydema ventralis*. Among the various flowers found there were many pyramidal orchids, Cretan ebony and the red-flowered narrow-leaved bugloss. Gerald's sense of smell led him and then us to the most colossal and perfectly shaped dragon arum. Swallowtail butterflies were out in good numbers, perhaps ten or more. Tim and I returned to the Festos car park for the minibuses and collected everyone for what remained of the three kilometres to Ayia Triada, where we picnicked.

After lunch, we walked along the wide rough road towards the Geropotamos river. Tongue orchids were in good numbers and on a patch of wall bases on our right there were several *Ophrys cretica/ ariadne* types, and two hill orchids *Orchis collina*, a surprise as it's an early species, perhaps another flower influenced by the preceding winter. A squacco heron flew through as we approached the river, which after several years of being completely dry was so full of water this year that there weren't many places for birds.

Again Tim and I retrieved the vehicles and collected everyone from the road over the river. We rejoined the main road back towards Timbaki but soon took a left turn opposite the Nissan garage. This took us, after a wiggle over a bridge and a right turn, along the old airfield and down to and along the back of the beach near Kalamaki, with a curlew flying around as we arrived.

Ahead of us were two reedy lagoons, no doubt normally salty here by the sea but on this occasion after a wet winter probably almost entirely fresh. There was the sound of a red-throated pipit's flight call and that of short-toed larks as we were getting out of the minibuses. Two larks settled and stayed helpfully still for telescope views, as then did a red-throated pipit, albeit backlit, on the top of a sandy cirque. On the lagoon, we had to ignore the pair of garganeys for a moment as six squacco herons flew past and dispersed into the wetland. There was time then to find the male garganey, especially, for everyone to see, when we weren't distracted by shouts of purple heron and distant bee-eaters mingling with swallows on the far side of the wetland. A female marsh harrier quartered lazily over the wetland, and one then three ferruginous ducks flew to and fro several times, giving excellent views.



Coastal pool near Kalamaki; hill (or fan-lipped) orchid, at Ayia Triada (CD)

Ninety minutes later we were back in Plakias in time for an hour's down time. Following checklists our evening meal was in Gio-Ma Taverna, run by our old friend Manolis.

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18 April – Moni Préveli

Damnoni beach, a short drive away before breakfast, was quiet for birds, though there was a little egret and little ringed plover on the beach. Flowers included a fine specimen (and some not-so-fine ones, too) of pale bugloss, sea spurge on the beach and several *Muscari spreitzenhoferi*.

A short drive took us to the helicopter pad by the 'new' monastery at Moni Préveli. Looking into the treetops there was a distinct lack of migrants so, after a brief discussion about the making of the Cretan landscape, we walked slowly down the adjacent track. There the lack of birds apart from finches and sparrows continued, and we found our way to the last bit of the path blocked by a locked gate. Turning round, by the *Erodium gruinum* and Roman nettles, we headed back, though scans towards the sea located a turtle dove and a black-eared wheatear in the distance. It was already a hot day and soon everyone was in the café. Several of the group then went into the monastery and came back with good reports of that and the museum. The keenest birders decided to follow up an ortolan bunting that Tim had heard around the corner. It took time, but we had views of a pair that were clear but distant. A tree pipit settled on a rock and Sardinian warblers and stonechats completed the open country mix.



Sub-adult Bonelli's eagle (TS); Honeyguiders on the Venetian bridge (JD); Tim under arrest? (JD)

The WW2 memorial, celebrating the monks' assistance for escaping Allied troops, provided a brief stop, and there was an all-too-brief view of about twenty purple herons coming in and dropping into the Préveli river in the middle distance. We went on to the Turkish or Venetian Bridge upstream on the river where we found shade under trees for our picnic. Over the distant hillside to the east there were two lammergeiers as well as several griffons. Closer to ground level Gerald saw a black and white bird that must have been a flycatcher. There were several flowers of interest, including the pink *Kholrauschia*, the tiny bellflower *Campanula erinus*, reversed clover, woolly clover, big pods of *Medicago orbicularis*, tiny rosettes of *evax* and a large and showy bean broomrape. A sub-adult Bonelli's eagle flew over as we were on the point of leaving.

We returned to Plakias for the free afternoon, which was well-timed as the weather was hot. Most people had some time pottering around Plakias and the seafront. Tim walked on the headland to the east, including through a couple of tunnels. Jean, Jill and I took the path that runs around the back of Plakias. We bumped into Angela, Sue and Elisabeth who showed us a common sandpiper with some chickens among olive trees in a back yard. In the open area east of the town the three of us found two male Spanish sparrows with a big flock of Italian sparrows, and three nosed grasshoppers.

We paid a second visit to the Sofia Taverna for our evening meal.

19 April – Ayia Lake and Omalós Plateau

The early birders re-found one of the Spanish sparrows, the little ringed plover was on the beach again and there was a distant flock of migrant egrets, but otherwise it was quiet. We were back for breakfast promptly to allow for an earlier departure at nine o'clock sharp. That was to allow more time for the long drive to the north coast and inland again, once we had taken the turn onto the Omalós road off the Chania bypass. Some in the first bus had glimpses of glossy ibises and a booted eagle as we neared our destination.

Tucked into the scented orange tree groves was Ayia Reservoir. It was busy this Sunday morning with a range of visitors including some filming interviews. Immediately there were many alpine and common swifts over the lake and a little crane at the water's edge. A good start, but overall the wet and cold winter meant a



Little crane and Balkan green lizard both at Ayia Reservoir (JG)

high water level and a lack of floating and fringing vegetation and the absence of the expected ducks and waders. A few dragonflies included red-veined darter and emperor. Back near the café the little cranes rewarded some patience, with a male and a female showing very well at close range, albeit often for moments

only as they crept among the open areas of reedmace shoots. After coffee or fresh orange juice, it was time to round up the group – during which time a squacco heron flew past some of us – and to depart.

The winding drive took us up the much improved road almost as far as the edge of Omalós plateau, stopping almost on the dot of one o'clock for our picnic in among the cypress trees. A couple of tiny plants caught the eye of group members: a dwarf gromwell *Lithospermum incrassatum* and burnt candytuft *Aethionema saxatile*. More obvious were many little bushes of *Daphne oleoides*.



Burnt candytuft and *Tulipa bakeri*, (TS); *Romulea linaresii* ssp. *graeca* (JG)

Minutes later, there in front of us was the impressive mountain plain of Omalós. Our first stop this very warm but overcast day was by a fenced orchard, where the absence of livestock has allowed an enchanting sheet of pink tulips *Tulipa bakeri* to flourish. Spiny plants outside the fence were Cretan barberry. Four people were harvesting *horta* – mountain greens – and it was good to see that these included two who were relatively young, so the tradition looks set to continue. A little farther on and the purples and reds of crown anemones dominated, mingled with more tulips and a few widow irises. By the roadside Gerald found some violet-coloured sand crocuses: *Romulea linaresii* ssp. *graeca*, only confirmed on Crete in April 1994, at Omalós.

At the first stop a woodlark sang and at the second so did a curlew, and Ailsa directed some of us towards a black-eared wheatear.

At the café at the top of Samaria Gorge, some walked up the rather ragged steps and others had a short drive to the entrance, but all saw the wild aubretia and Cretan mouse-ear plants. A dark, broad-winged immature lammergeier soared low over the café. Drinks seem to take ages to come, during which time Tim re-located the lammergeier over a distant peak, not far from a griffon. Two choughs called and flew past.

Moving on, we stopped for the last time on the plateau by the 'Mediterranean temporary pond' with its water crowfoot and tadpoles. The immature lammergeier was joined by two others high in the sky over us: yes, three lammergeiers, probably more than one-tenth of Crete's population. In the turf were hundreds of white flowers, easy to overlook as most of them were closed: John was alert to the notion that they were crocuses, namely *Crocus sieberi*.

Back in the minibuses we drove off the plateau at five o'clock and, aided by the much improved road and a very smooth journey, we arrived back in Plakias at seven o'clock. Happily the Tasomanolis Taverna was able to feed us at short notice, and very good it was too.

20 April – Souda, Frangokastello and Kotsiphou gorge

After a very windy night the cloud was hanging low in Kotsiphou Gorge, and there were even some light spots of water blowing onto Plakias, but not so you could call it rain. Those up before breakfast walked west along the coast at varying paces, where there was a small arrival of martins and a honey buzzard that – I learned – wasn't far from over the heads of Jill and me, though we missed it.

First stop was Souda, along the coast, to see the Cretan palms. Three griffons were out early in the wind and a Spanish sparrow showed briefly in among the sheep, but otherwise it was quiet for birds. It was a chance to view or re-view many plants, including two species of goatsbeard side by side, and yellow-wort was a new flower.

The drive up the hill and through narrow streets in Sellia was OK – we didn't encounter anyone coming the other way – and we headed west. A new bit of road and bridge on the approach to Rodakino was notable for the drivers: for the passengers there was striking coastal scenery with many hillsides awash with yellow flowers, especially Jerusalem sage. We drove across the low coastal plain and parked against the wall of the castle of Frangokastello. After hunting for and finding mandrake plants, as ever scruffy-looking but including one with two flowers, some visited the coastal café first then walked along the top of the low cliff, and the main group walked first. The winter rain meant the flowers looked better than I've ever seen them, which made up a little for it being quiet for birds. Red-tipped sage, rayless chamomile, love-in-a-mist and the grey-leaved *Ballota pseudodictamnus* were new flowers, and there was a group of dragon arums in flower. A crested lark sat patiently while everyone had excellent views, and a black-eared wheatear also perched on shrubs and fences. A tawny pipit dropped into the low vegetation and then flew past. At the café, a confiding Erhard's wall lizard seemed happy to be photographed.



Crested lark (JD); pink butterfly orchid (CD); Emperor dragonfly, egg-laying (JD)

We ate our picnics near the castle and minibuses, during which time a hoopoe flew one way and back again. After that, we looked at a mason bee constructing a nest in the ear of a bust of an unknown (to us) notable person, then we walked on a little way to see a pink butterfly orchid in the garrigue-type coastal scrub, nearby which was our first white horehound. There was also a tiny iris that at the time was noted as *Gynandryis monophylla*, though it might have been a very dwarf form of Barbary nut *Gynandryis sisyrinchium* shown in Fielding and Turland.²

² *Flowers of Crete* by John Fielding and Nicholas Turland, 2005 (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)

Dropping down towards the beach, in the patch of scruffy-looking fen there was a black-headed yellow wagtail by a puddle. There was a rich growth of a spurge and buttercups which later study show to be *Euphorbia hirsuta* and *Ranunculus marginatus*. On the sand, tiger beetles ran around furiously and 'nun's farts' – compacted balls of sea grass that had drifted onto the strandline – attracted the interest you'd expect with a name like that. Emperor dragonflies patrolled some open fresh water where a female was laying eggs, and tucked under a bush it was possible to make out Balkan terrapins.



A newly hatched Balkan terrapin (CD); tiger beetle (TS); the distinctive acorn cups of Valonia oak (CD)

After driving round a little more of the coastal plain we headed back east and returned to Plakias. It was early – 4:30 – giving time for John and Sue G to join me for a quick potter in Kotsiphou gorge where we saw chough and crag martin and added several plants to the growing list.

Over dinner in Gio-Ma taverna the group shared their highlights of the trip, which are listed below.

21 April – Heraklion airport and home

The timing was ideal: breakfast at eight o'clock as usual and there was time to gather a picnic, then a relaxed getaway in the sunshine at 9:30. We stopped briefly in a lay-by near Armeni under an oak tree, but it was the large-scaled acorn cups on the ground that we were looking for, a distinctive feature of Valonia oak. The drive was without incident to the drop-off for departures at Heraklion airport. The airport processes were straightforward; the flight left in good time and arrived back at Gatwick ahead of schedule.

Holiday highlights

Jill	Little crane, terrapins, fields of tulips and anemones, the scenery.
Angela	Omalós tulips, Spili flowers, the group.
Sue M	Finding common sandpiper in an olive orchard and lining it up in her telescope, dragon arum, Moní Préveli.
Jean	First swallowtail, dragon arum, Kourtaliótiko Gorge, crested lark, emperor dragonfly.
Elisabeth	Kourtaliótiko Gorge, tulips and anemones, the scenery of rugged gorges and snow-covered mountains.
Rosemary	Nice weather, friendly group, anemones, wealth of yellow flowers.
Gerald	<i>Arum creticum</i> , dragon arum, <i>Tulipa bakeri</i> at Omalós and the way the group worked well.
Brenda	Tulips and anemones, garganey, scenery, seeing Samaria Gorge again.
Ailsa	Orchids at Spili, scenery including the gorges around Plakias, tulip fields, how we integrated well.
Sue G	All the wildlife was fantastic, weather, 'how much we have laughed.'
John	Fields of anemones and tulips; our two illustrious leaders for whom nothing was too much trouble.
Barbara	Scenery, both geologically and the colourful flowers; black-headed yellow wagtail.
Grace	Two new birds, little crane and chukar; fields of tulips and anemones; the big broomrape at the Venetian bridge.
Susan	As first-timer with Honeyguide and holidaying on her own, "It's been wonderful". Omalós with its tulips, anemones and scenery; ferruginous ducks.
Tim	Diversity and abundance of flowers in general; seeing several new flowers; hanging mullein on Plakias headland; the purple Romulea.
Chris	Hearing about Barbara's love life; pink butterfly orchid; little crakes; pools at Kalamaki, a new place to visit; the food.

SYSTEMATIC LISTS

BIRDS

Little grebe	Several on Ayia Reservoir
Squacco heron	1 at Ayia Triada, 6 at the pools near Kalamaki (both 17/4), 1 at Ayia Reservoir 19/4
Little egret	5 at the pools near Kalamaki, also at Damnoni and Plakias
Great (white) egret	1 at the pools near Kalamaki, 17/4
Grey heron	3 at the pools near Kalamaki
Purple heron	1 at the pools near Kalamaki, a flock of c20 arriving at Préveli
Glossy ibis	Seen from the first minibus close to Ayia Reservoir
Garganey	A pair at the pools near Kalamaki, 17/4
Ferruginous duck	3 at the pools near Kalamaki, 17/4
Black kite	1 over the north coast road, 14/4
Honey buzzard	1 at Plakias, 20/4
Lammergeier	2 from Venetian bridge near Moní Préveli 18/4; 3 at Omalós 19/4, one clearly immature
Griffon vulture	Small numbers seen regularly over hills
Marsh harrier	2 at the pools near Kalamaki, 17/4
Booted eagle	2 pale phase birds near Ayia Reservoir, 19/4
Bonelli's eagle	1 briefly in Kourtaliótiko Gorge 16/4; a sub-adult from the Venetian bridge, 18/4
Buzzard	Common and widespread
Kestrel	Common and widespread
Chukar	2 at Festos, 17/4, heard on three other days
Little crane	At least 3 at Ayia Reservoir, 1 male, 2 females
Moorhen	Recorded at Ayia Reservoir, Damnoni and the pools near Kalamaki
Coot	Recorded at Ayia Reservoir and the pools near Kalamaki many at Ayia Reservoir
Little ringed plover	1-2 regularly on Plakias beach
Curlew	1 the pools near Kalamaki
Greenshank	2 at Ayia Triada, 17/4
Green sandpiper	Recorded on 17/4
Wood sandpiper	1 at the pools near Kalamaki, 17/4
Common sandpiper	1-2 birds seen around Plakias
Yellow-legged gull	Common and widespread
Feral pigeon	Even many of the pigeons in the gorges looked like feral pigeons rather than rock doves
Woodpigeon	Only recorded in Kourtaliótiko Gorge, 16/4
Collared dove	Common in towns and villages
Turtle dove	1 at Moní Préveli, 18/4
Cuckoo	Singles in in Kourtaliótiko Gorge, 16/4 and Feston, 17/4
Swift	Small numbers on 3 days from 17/4
Alpine swift	Seen daily
Bee-eater	c.12 Festos and 6 at the pools near Kalamaki, both 17/4
Hoopoe	Singles on three days, at Plakias, Festos and Frangocastello
Short-toed lark	7 by the pools near Kalamaki, 17/4
Crested lark	Less common than usual, seen only on 3 days
Woodlark	Heard on three days
Sand martin	Small numbers on three days
Crag martin	In the gorges
Swallow	Small numbers passing through daily
House martin	Recorded on two days
Tawny pipit	1 at Frangocastello, 20/4
Red-throated pipit	1 by the pools near Kalamaki
Tree pipit	1 at Moní Préveli, 18/4
Yellow wagtail	1 black-headed at Frangocastello, 20/4; 2 at Plakias 15/4, one of which was black-headed
White wagtail	Seen on three days
Wren	Heard in the gorges and mountains
Stonechat	Small numbers in most places
Northern wheatear	Recorded on three days in small numbers
Black-eared wheatear	Recorded on 5 days in small numbers inc. at Kourtaliótiko Gorge, Préveli and Omalós
Blue rock thrush	In Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Blackbird	Recorded on three days
Cetti's warbler	Heard or seen regularly and in most lowland sites
Sedge warbler	1-2 singing at Ayia Reservoir
Great reed warbler	Single singing males at Plakias, Damnoni and Ayia Reservoir
Sardinian warbler	Common and widespread
Blackcap	Small numbers seen and heard in several places
Collared Flycatcher	Males at Plakias on 2 days, 15/4 and 21/4
Pied flycatcher	A female at Plakias, 15/4
Blue tit	Common and widespread
Great tit	Common and widespread
Woodchat shrike	Single birds at near Kalamaki and Frangocastello
Jay	Near Kanevos and at Omalós
Red-billed chough	2 in three places: Kourtaliótiko Gorge, 16/4, Omalós, 19/4 and Kotsiphou Gorge, 20/4
Jackdaw	A few in the gorges and at Omalós
Hooded crow	Very common and widespread
Raven	Widespread in small numbers

Italian sparrow	Common and widespread
House / Italian sparrow	Near Bali, a male that looked like a hybrid
Spanish sparrow	2 at Plakias 18/4, then 1 in the same place on 19/4; 1 at Souda 20/4
Chaffinch	Common and widespread
Greenfinch	Common and widespread
Goldfinch	Common and widespread
Serin	Singles at above Kanevos and Ayia reservoir
Linnet	A few birds on several days, especially at high altitude
Cirl bunting	Bali, Plakias and Omalós
Ortolan bunting	A pair at Moní Préveli, 18/4
Corn bunting	Recorded on five days on coastal slopes and on higher ground.

MAMMALS			
Eastern hedgehog – road casualties	Beech marten – many road casualties	Black rat – dead in a tree at Mirthios	
REPTILES			
Balkan (Stripe-necked) terrapin – Frangocastello	Balkan green lizard – Plakias, Festos and various brief glimpses		
Erhard's wall lizard – Plakias and Frangocastello			
AMPHIBIANS			
Cretan marsh frog – Préveli River, and many tadpoles presumed to be this species			
Green toad – 'toadlets' and tadpoles at Souda			
BUTTERFLIES			
Swallowtail	Eastern dappled white	Small blue	Southern comma
Cretan festoon	Clouded yellow	Common blue	Southern speckled wood
Large white	Cleopatra	Red admiral	Wall brown
Small white	Small copper	Large tortoiseshell	Small skipper
Green-veined white	Holly blue	Painted lady	Pygmy skipper
MOTHS			
Hummingbird hawk-moth	Pine processionary moth (tents/caterpillars)		
BEEES			
<i>Apis mellifera</i> – honeybee			<i>Osmia signata</i> – a mason bee
<i>Bombus terrestris</i> – buff-tailed bumblebee (but white-tailed in Crete!)			<i>Osmia latreilli</i> – a mason bee
<i>Chalicodoma (Megachile) sicula</i> – a mason bee			<i>Xylocopa violacea</i> – violet carpenter bee
<i>Andrena fuscosa</i> – a mining bee			
ANTS			
<i>Messor barbarus</i> – harvester ant			
WASPS			
<i>Vespa germanica</i> – German wasp	<i>Polistes gallicum</i> – a paper wasp	<i>Podalonia hirsuta</i> – a sand-wasp	
<i>Megascolia flavifrons (maculata)</i> – a mammoth wasp	<i>Ancistrocerus</i> sp. – a mason wasp		
FLIES			
<i>Bombylus discolor</i> – dotted beefly	<i>Machimus</i> sp. – a robber fly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i> – marmalade hoverfly	
BUGS			
<i>Graphosoma lineatum</i> ssp. <i>italicum</i> – "Millwall bug"	<i>Eurydema ventralis</i> – brassica bug		
<i>Spilostethus (Lygaeus) pandurus</i> – a black and red ground bug	<i>Lygaeus equestris</i> – a black and red ground bug		
<i>Aquarius najas</i> – large pondskater	<i>Eurydema ventralis</i> – brassica bug		
<i>Nezara viridula</i> – southern green shieldbug	<i>Calocoris nemoralis</i> – a black and red flower bug		
<i>Sciocoris</i> sp. – sandrunner shieldbug			
BEEETLES			
<i>Agapanthia cardui</i> – a long-horned beetle	<i>Trichodes</i> sp. (perhaps the endemic <i>T. creticus</i>) – a soldier beetle		
<i>Tropinota hirta</i> – a hairy chafer	<i>Oxythyrea cinctella</i> – a black-and-white flower chafer (virtually hairless, rather glossy, two spots & a continual white border to thorax)		
<i>Oxythyrea dulces</i> – another black and white chafer (hairier, duller, & usually more spots on the thorax)	<i>Calomera (used to be called Cicindela) littoralis</i> – a tiger beetle (Frangocastello beach)		
<i>Cicindela campestris</i> ssp. <i>suffriani</i> – green tiger beetle (Omalós)	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i> – seven-spotted ladybird		
<i>Henosepilachna elaterii</i> – gourd or bryony ladybird	<i>Ocypus olens</i> – devil's coach horse		
<i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i> – red palm weevil			
ODONATA			
<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i> – red-veined darter	<i>Ischnura elegans</i> – blue-tailed damselfly		
<i>Anax imperator</i> – emperor (blue emperor)			
ORTHOPTERA			
<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i> – Egyptian grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i> / <i>A. turrita</i> – nosed grasshopper		
<i>Oedipoda germanica</i> – red-winged grasshopper			
OTHER INVERTEBRATES			
<i>Potamon potamios</i> – freshwater crab	<i>Albinaria (corrugata) inflata</i> – Cretan door snail		

PLANTS

Key and nomenclature: Latin names of plants follow those used in *Flora of the Cretan Area* (Turland et al 1993), with additions from *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993). Also used as references: *The Orchids of Crete and Karpathos* by Albertis Antonis (a photoguide); *Wild Flowers of Crete* by George Sfikas; *Flowers of Crete* by J Fielding & N Turland; and *Wild Flowers of Crete* by Vangelis Papiomitoglou.

* Endemic to Crete P Planted NiF not in flower

Introduced and not native to Crete, and cultivated or planted species

FERNS AND ALLIES	
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern
<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	similar to black spleenwort
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern
<i>Cheilanthes acrostica</i>	
<i>Dryopteris (vilarii) pallida</i>	a rigid buckler-fern
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	a horsetail
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Club-moss
CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae – Cypress Family	
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Cypress
<i>C. sempervirens</i> var. <i>pyramidalis</i>	Funeral Cypress
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> ssp. <i>macrocarpa</i>	Prickly juniper
Pinaceae – Pine Family	
# <i>Araucaria araucana</i>	Norfolk Island pine
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian pine
# <i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone pine
FLOWERING PLANTS – Dicotyledons	
Aceraceae – Maple Family	
<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	
Aizoaceae – Aizoon Family	
# <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig
Anacardiaceae – Pistacio Family	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree or lentisc
Apiaceae (=Umbelliferae) – Carrot Family	
<i>Apium nidiflorum</i>	Fool's watercress
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo
<i>Ferula communis</i> ssp. <i>communis</i>	Giant Fennel
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel NiF
<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited water dropwort
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's needle
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders
<i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum</i> subsp. <i>rotundifolium</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Mediterranean Hartwort (equally 2-lobed petals)
<i>Tordylium officianale</i>	a hartwort (with unequally lobed petals)
Asteraceae (=Compositae) – Daisy Family	
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	
<i>Anthemis rigida</i> ssp. <i>rigida</i>	Rayless Chamomile
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> var. <i>coronarium</i> (<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>)	Crown Daisy
<i>C. coronarium</i> var. <i>discolor</i>	Crown Daisy
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn Marigold
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Aromatic inula
<i>Filago (Evax) pygmaea</i>	Evax
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Mediterranean Thistle
<i>Helichrysum conglobatum</i>	a curry-plant without scent
<i>Pallenis (Asteriscus) spinosus</i>	Spiny golden star
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>	Shrubby Cudweed
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	
<i>Scorzonera cretica</i>	Cretan Viper's-grass
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle
<i>Tragopogon (Geropogon) hybridus</i>	
<i>T. sinuatus (porrifolius)</i>	Salsify
Apocynaceae – Oleander Family	
<i>Nerium oleander</i> ssp. <i>oleander</i>	Oleander
Berberidaceae – Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	

Boraginaceae – Borage Family	
<i>Anchusa italica</i> (azurea)	Large Blue Alkanet
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
<i>Cerinthe major</i>	Honeywort
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss
<i>E. italicum</i>	Pale Bugloss
<i>E. plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss
<i>Lithospermum incrassatum</i>	a dwarf gromwell (Omalos)
<i>Myosotis</i> sp.	Forget-me-not
<i>Onosma graecum</i>	Goldendrop
<i>Symphytum creticum</i> (<i>Procopiana cretica</i>)	Procopiana or Cretan gorge comfrey
Cactaceae – Cactus Family	
# <i>Opuntia ficus-barbarica</i> (<i>O. ficus-indica</i>)	Prickly Pear
Campanulaceae – Bellflower Family	
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	
* <i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	Cretan Wall Lettuce
Caprifoliaceae – Honeysuckle Family	
# <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
Caryophyllaceae – Pink Family	
* <i>Cerastium scaposum</i>	Cretan mouse-ear
<i>Petrorhagia velutina</i> (<i>Kohlrauschia velutina</i>)	
<i>Silene bellidifolia</i>	
<i>S. cretica</i>	
<i>S. colorata</i>	Mediterranean catchfly
<i>S. gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly
<i>Stellaria</i> sp.	Chickweed
Cistaceae – Rockrose Family	
<i>Cistus</i> (<i>incanus</i> ssp.) <i>creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus
<i>C. salvifolius</i>	Sage-Leaved Cistus
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	
<i>F. thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Fumana
Clusiaceae – St John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i> ssp. <i>empetrifolium</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort
Convolvulaceae – Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
<i>C. (althaeoides) elegantissimus</i>	(cut leaves, pale in centre of flower)
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder
Cruciferae (=Brassicaceae) – Cabbage Family	
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i>	Burnt Candytuft
<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rock-cress
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubrieta
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Buckler Mustard
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard NiF
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea-rocket
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish
* <i>Ricotia cretica</i>	Ricotia
Cucurbitaceae – Cucumber Family	
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting cucumber
<i>Bryonia cretica</i> ssp. <i>cretica</i>	Cretan white bryony
Dipsacaceae – Scabious Family	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i> ssp. <i>mimica</i>	a two-tone scabious
Dioscoraceae – Yam Family	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony
Ericaceae – Heather Family	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i> P	Strawberry-tree
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree-heath
Euphorbiaceae – Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnos</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge
<i>E. characias</i>	Mediterranean Spurge
<i>E. dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge
<i>E. helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>E. hirsuta</i>	
<i>E. paralias</i>	Sea Spurge
# <i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury

Fabaceae (=Leguminosa) – Pea Family	
# <i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>	Mimosa / blue-leaved wattle
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean trefoil
<i>Anthyllus vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>praepropera</i> (= <i>rubriflora</i>)	Red (Mediterranean) Kidney Vetch
<i>Bituminaria (Psoralea) bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom
# <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob Tree
<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i> (see also <i>Securigera</i> spp.)	Scorpion-vetch
* <i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Shrubby Sainfoin (Cretan Ebony)
<i>Hymenocarpus circinnatus</i>	Disk Trefoil
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow vetchling
<i>Lupinus micranthus</i>	Hairy Lupin
<i>Medicago arborea</i>	Tree Medick
<i>M. arabica</i>	Spotted Medick
<i>M. marina</i>	Sea Medick
<i>M. orbicularis</i>	Large Disk Medick
<i>Melilotus sulcatus</i>	Small melilot
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cock's-comb Sainfoin
<i>Ononis (natrix) hispanica</i>	Large yellow restharrow
<i>Ononis reclinata</i>	Small Rest-harrow
# <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus
<i>Securigera (Coronilla) parviflora</i>	(yellow or pink flowers)
<i>S. securidaca</i>	a yellow crown vetch with flattened pods
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus Pea
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
<i>T. nigrescens</i>	a common annual white clover
<i>T. resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover
<i>T. stellatum</i>	Starry Clover
<i>T. tomentosum</i>	Woolly Trefoil
<i>T. uniflorum</i>	One-Flowered Clover
<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder Vetch
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	Bithynian Vetch (two-tone purple & white)
<i>V. hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow Vetchling
<i>V. sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>V. villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch
Fagaceae – Oak Family	
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm or evergreen oak
Deciduous oaks on Crete, both doubtfully native, are the following:-	
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy oak
<i>Q. ithaburensis</i> ssp. <i>macrolepis</i>	Valonia oak; acorn cups with long, spreading scales
Gentianaceae – Gentian Family	
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Lesser Centaury
Geraniaceae – Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Storksbill
<i>E. gruinum</i>	Long-beaked Storksbill
<i>E. malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Storksbill
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Cranesbill
<i>G. lucidum</i>	Shining Cranesbill
<i>G. molle</i>	Dovesfoot Cranesbill
<i>G. purpureum</i>	Little Robin
<i>G. rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Cranesbill
Lamiaceae (=Labiatae) – Mint Family	
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	
<i>Coridothymus (Thymus) capitatus</i>	Shrubby Thyme
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> P	French Lavender
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Spanish hedge-nettle
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i> (formerly <i>S. triloba</i>)	Shrubby or 3-leaved Sage
<i>S. verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
<i>S. viridis</i>	Red-topped sage
<i>Satureja (Micromeria) nervosa</i>	
<i>S. thymbra</i>	Summer savory
<i>Stachys cretica</i>	Mediterranean woundwort
* <i>Scutellaria sieberi</i>	a big white skullcap
<i>Teucrium alpestre</i>	

Linaceae – Flax Family	
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Tree Flax
<i>L. bienne</i>	Pale Flax
Lythraceae – Loosestrife Family	
<i>Lythrum junceum</i>	
Malvaceae – Mallow Family	
<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Lesser Tree Mallow
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Mallow
<i>M. sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
Meliaceae – Persian Lilac Family	
# <i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac
Moraceae – Fig Family	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
# <i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry
Myoporaceae – Myoporum Family	
# <i>Myoporum laetum</i> P	Ngaio (from New Zealand)
Myrtaceae – Myrtle Family	
<i>Myrtus communis</i> ssp. <i>communis</i>	Common Myrtle
Oleaceae – Olive Family	
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
Orobanchaceae – Broomrape Family	
<i>Orobanche crenata</i>	Bean broomrape
<i>O. lavandulacea</i>	(on pitch trefoil)
<i>O. ramosa</i>	Branched broomrape
Oxalidaceae – Sorrel Family	
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Yellow oxalis
# <i>O. pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup
Papaveraceae – Poppy Family	
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy
<i>Papaver argemone</i> ssp. <i>nigroinctum</i>	
<i>P. rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
Pittosporaceae – Pittosporum Family	
# <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	Pittosporum
Plantaginaceae – Plantain Family	
<i>Plantago afra</i>	
<i>P. coronopus</i>	Buckshorn plantain
<i>P. lagopus</i>	
<i>P. lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
Platanaceae – Plane Tree Family	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
Polygalaceae – Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala venulosa</i>	Eastern Milkwort
# <i>Polygala x dalmaisiana</i>	Sweet pea shrub
Polygonaceae – Dock Family	
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned dock
Primulaceae – Primrose Family	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel (Scarlet and blue forms)
* <i>Cyclamen creticum</i>	Cretan cyclamen
Punicaceae – Pomegranate Family	
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate NiF
Ranunculaceae – Buttercup Family	
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemone
<i>A. hortensis</i> ssp. <i>heldreichii</i>	
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Maiden's bower
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love-in-a-mist
<i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i>	Turban buttercup
* <i>R. cupreus</i>	(scree, open stony ground, calcareous)
<i>R. ficaria</i> ssp. <i>chrysocephalus</i>	Lesser celandine
<i>R. marginatus</i>	(coastal wetlands)
<i>R. neapolitanus</i> (= <i>R. bulbosus</i> ssp. <i>aleae</i>)	(reflexed sepals)
<i>R. ophioglossifolius</i>	(fen at Frangocastello)
<i>R. peltatus</i> ssp. <i>fucoides</i>	Pond water-crowfoot
Resedaceae – Mignonette Family	
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild mignonette
Rosaceae – Rose Family	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ssp. <i>azarella</i>	Hawthorn
# <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Almond-leaved or Wild Pear
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Bramble
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet

Rubiaceae – Bedstraw Family	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder
<i>Valantia hispida</i>	
Rutaceae – Rue Family	
# <i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon
# <i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Rue
Saxifragaceae– Saxifrage Family	
<i>Saxifraga carpetana</i> ssp. <i>graeca</i>	
Scrophulariaceae – Figwort Family	
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax
<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>	Jersey Toadflax
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Lesser Snapdragon (Weasel's Snout)
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	
<i>P. viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining Figwort
<i>S. peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved Figwort
* <i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	Hanging Mullein
<i>V. macrurum</i>	
<i>V. sinuatum</i>	
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Water speedwell
<i>V. cymbalaria</i>	
Solanaceae – Nightshade Family	
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake
# <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree tobacco
Styracaceae – Storax Family	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax
Tamaricaceae – Tamarix Family	
# <i>Tamarix smyrnensis</i>	Tamarisk
Thymelaeaceae – Daphne Family	
<i>Daphne sericea</i>	
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	Thymelea
Ulmaceae – Elm Family	
<i>Zelcova abelicea</i>	Zelcova, or ambelitsiá
Urticaceae – Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman nettle
Valerianaceae – Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	
* <i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>	Cretan Valerian
<i>Valerianella</i> sp.	a cornsalad
Verbenaceae – Verbena Family	
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste tree
Vitaceae – Vine Family	
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Grape Vine
Monocotyledons	
Agavaceae – Agave Family	
# <i>Agave americana</i>	Century Plant
Amaryllidaceae – Daffodil Family	
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i> NiF	Sea Daffodil (leaves only)
Araceae – Arum Family	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl
<i>Arum concinatum</i>	
* <i>A. idaeum</i>	Cretan Arum
<i>A. creticum</i>	Cretan Arum
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum
Arecaceae – Palm Family	
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Date Palm
<i>P. theophrasti</i>	Cretan Palm
Cyperaceae – Sedge Family	
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog-rush
Iridaceae – Iris Family	
<i>Crocus sieberi</i> ssp. <i>sieberi</i>	
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus
<i>Gynandryis monophylla</i>	
<i>Gynandriris sisyrrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut
<i>Iris</i> (was <i>Hermodactylus</i>) <i>tuberosus</i>	Widow Iris
# <i>Iris albicans</i>	
* <i>Iris (unguicularis) cretensis</i>	Cretan iris
<i>Iris pseudocorus</i>	Yellow Flag

Liliaceae – Lily Family	
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rose Garlic
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel
<i>Asphodelus ramosus (aestivus)</i>	Common Asphodel
<i>Charybdis (Drimia, Urginea) maritima</i>	Sea Squill NiF
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
* <i>M. spreitzenhoferi</i>	
<i>Ornithogalum exscapum</i>	
<i>O. narbonense</i>	a spiked Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	a sand crocus
<i>Romulea linariesii</i> subsp <i>graeca</i>	a sand crocus, Omalos
* <i>Tulipa (saxatilis) bakeri</i>	(pink, Omalos)
* <i>T. cretica</i>	Cretan Tulip (whitish, at Kourtaliótiko)
* <i>T. doerfleri</i>	(red, Spili)
<i>T. saxatilis</i>	Rock tulip (pink, Spili)
Orchidaceae – Orchid Family	
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid
<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Giant orchid
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee orchid
<i>O. (cretica) ariadne</i>	
<i>O. bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee orchid
<i>O. cretica</i>	Cretan bee orchid
<i>O. (scolopax) heldreichii</i>	Marengo orchid
<i>O. episcopalis/holoserica</i>	Bishop's ophrys
<i>O. iricolor</i>	Rainbow orchid
<i>O. sicula</i>	Sicilian orchid, a yellow bee orchid
<i>O. mammosa</i>	Mammose orchid
<i>O. (tentredinifera) villosa</i> ³	Eastern sawfly orchid
<i>Orchis boryi</i>	
<i>O. collina</i>	Fan-lipped orchid
<i>O. italica</i>	Italian man orchid
<i>O. lactea</i>	Milky orchid
<i>O. laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered orchid
<i>O. provincialis (pauciflora)</i>	Few-flowered orchid
<i>O. quadripunctata</i>	Four-spotted orchid
<i>O. papilionacea</i> ssp. <i>heroica</i>	Pink butterfly orchid
<i>Serapias bergonii</i>	Bergon's tongue-orchid
<i>S. orientalis</i>	
Poaceae – Grass Family	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Greater Quaking-grass
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall barley
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
Posidoniaceae – Sea-grass Family	
<i>Posidonia aceanica</i>	Neptune-weed
Smilacaceae – Smilax Family	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common Smilax or Sarsaparilla
Typhaceae – Reedmace Family	
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	

³ Sawfly orchid is now sometimes split into the western species *Ophrys tentredinifera* and the eastern Mediterranean version, *Ophrys villosa*, meaning hairy.