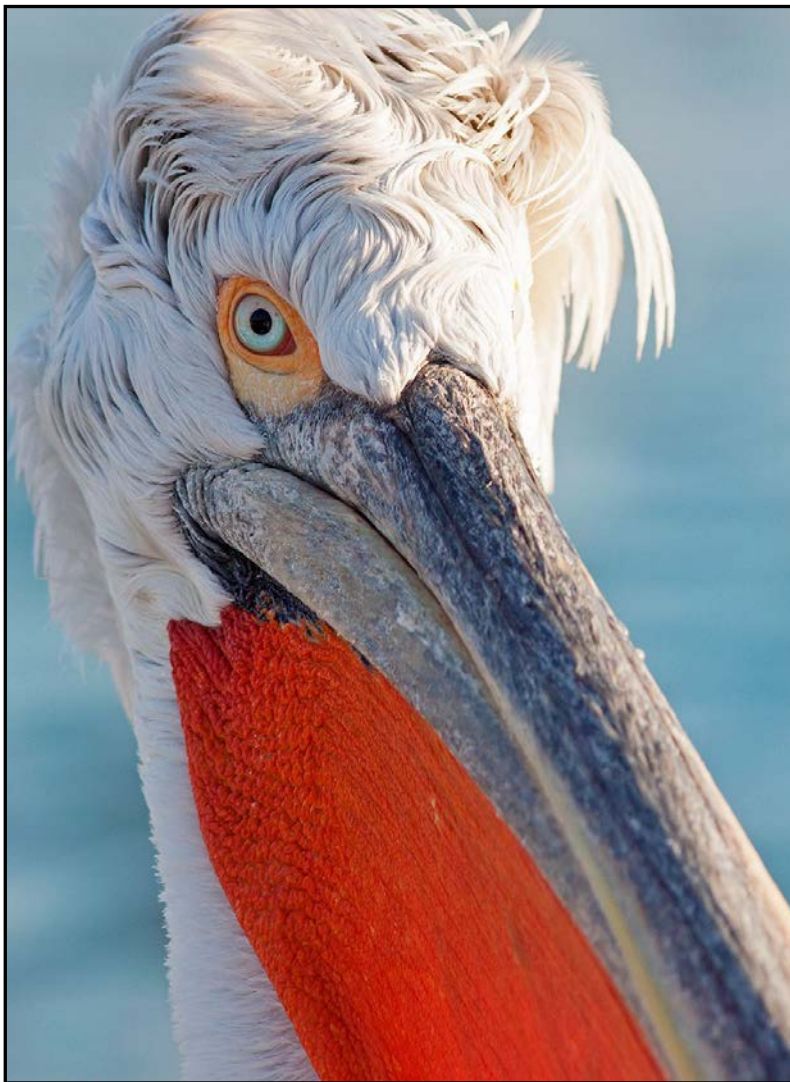


Birds of Lake Kerkini in Winter

Holiday Report 9-17 January 2015

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Introduction

The base for our holiday was Chrysohorafa, a village located within Lake Kerkini National Park, northern Greece. It is a magical area for observing wildlife and particularly birdwatching and is an internationally renowned wetland site with protected status under the Ramsar Convention. It is also one of the best places in the world to see the globally endangered Dalmatian Pelican. The Park boasts over 300 bird species. The main reason for this abundance is the richness in diverse habitats such as the lake itself fed by the Strymonas River, alpine pastures and emerald green mountains covered in forests of beech, hornbeam, oak, black pine and oriental plane. It has been widely known for its avifauna since the beginning of the 20th century. Our aim therefore was to spend a relaxing week exploring the area for birds, in the hope of seeing some of these avian delights and to offer some financial support from the proceeds of the holiday to BirdWING, who promote conservation in the area. This year funds are being used to help fund sniffer dogs trained to find poisoned baits put out by unscrupulous people who would harm birds of prey.

The nine guests joining Greenwings were Angela, Trevor, Pam, John, Liz, Derek, Lynne, Anne and Robin. George Spiridakis took care of the bird guiding, assisted by Julian. The guests arrived in 3 parties; the first coming on Friday evening and the second two groups on Saturday.



We stayed at Hotel Limneo, a small family hotel owned and run by Nikos Gallios, a committed conservationist who is doing much to promote the area for conservation and ecotourism. He attended our needs in a very calm, friendly and professional way and nothing was too much trouble for him or indeed for his parents who often helped out. His rooms were all well-equipped, clean and modern, and each morning he prepared an excellent buffet breakfast from home-made or locally produced savours like Bougatsa, yoghurt, fresh bread, boiled eggs and omelettes. He also provided a picnic lunch for us each day.

The weather throughout most of the week was exceptional. Although mornings were typically frosty and cold, sunshine was with us on most days, such that by lunchtime with temperatures reaching 15 °C, guests were removing their coats and sometimes their jumpers. This all made for a wonderful winter birding experience with very good views of the birds.

Below is the programme for the week, followed by a description for each day, a gallery and a species list.

Day 1, Friday 9th Jan: Arrival of first party in Thessaloniki and transfer to hotel.

Day 2, Saturday 10th Jan: Western Lake Kerkini, arrival of second /third parties, Korafiori marshes.

Day 3, Sunday 11th Jan: Megalahori, Eastern Embankment and Lithotopos.

Day 4, Monday 12th Jan: Riverine Forests, Sidirocastro and Upper Strymonas River.

Day 5, Tuesday 13th Jan: Acladochori and Orvilos foothills.

Day 6, Wednesday 14th Jan: Kalohori Lagoons and Axios Delta.

Day 7, Thursday 15th Jan: Boat Trip, Western Embankment and Mavrovouni Hills.

Day 8, Friday 16th Jan: Vironia and 1st party Return to UK.

Day 9, Saturday 17th Jan: Mavrovouni Hills, 2nd and 3rd party return to UK



Day 1, Friday 9th January

Our first group arrived at Thessaloniki Airport in the early evening and were met by George who took them to dinner in a local restaurant and then met up with Nikos, for the relatively short journey to the hotel.

Day 2, Saturday 10th January

The plan this day was for Angela, Pam, John and Trevor to explore some of the embankments and then have an excursion on the lake by boat. The weather was cold but warmed in the late afternoon as our second group of guests arrived.

Stop 1: We had breakfast at 7.30, George arrived and were off at 8.30 when it was just light. Our first bird of the holiday was Collared Dove which were common in the village.

We drove to the East Bank of the lake and went along a dirt road, birding as we went. This took the whole morning and we had lunch somewhere towards the end of the road. It was very cold and we were glad of our padded jackets. In the distance were the snow covered mountains that separate Greece from Bulgaria. The fields and wetlands around us were flat and empty apart from a few trees, some flooded areas and thousands of birds. These were mainly Mallard to begin with but we also saw Gadwall, Wigeon, Teal and Shelduck. There were Mute Swans close by on the ice and we also saw several Whoopers more distantly. We had not gone far before we saw the first lifetime bird of the holiday. This was a Greater Spotted Eagle perched in a somewhat distant tree. We had good scope views and during the morning saw 2, possibly 3 more, the last one soaring over our heads with a Common Buzzard and a Peregrine. In all we saw perhaps a dozen Common Buzzards, a couple of Kestrels, Marsh Harrier and Sparrowhawks during our leisurely drive along this road. Other good sightings included perhaps a dozen Grey Herons, a few Great Egrets, 20 plus distant Common Cranes, several flocks of Greater White fronted Geese and a good number of Greater Flamingos. We spent a bit of time taking pictures of a very co-operative juvenile Flamingo. Also



seen were small charms of Goldfinches and a lovely pair of Black Redstarts that we were able to get pictures of. We also saw several Green Sandpipers, a few Snipe and both White and Grey Wagtail.

Stop 2: We had lunch (a picnic prepared by Nikos) and as it was now past 1pm we went to Lake Kerkini where we met Nikos who took us out on his boat to get pictures of the Dalmatian Pelicans. They were amazing and as soon as we got to the shore near to where his boat moored, we could see them well and close in. We spent perhaps an hour taking pictures as Nikos rowed the boat and threw a few fish to the Pelicans. Towards the end of our time there Julian, Liz, Lynne and Derek arrived from England. On the way to the lake, they'd made a brief stop at Lithotopos, to watch Dalmatian Pelicans and both Pygmy and Great Cormorant in the late afternoon light, which was rather pleasing. It was really nice to meet Julian again after seeing him at the Birdfair and having several long chats on the telephone.



Stop 3: We then moved on to the western shores of the lake, and stopped a couple of times to watch the birds on the shoreline. We were particularly pleased to see a small flock of Little Stints. There were also vast numbers of Pochard, several Flamingos, Great White Egret, a fine Spoonbill and a tree full of about 20 Jays.

Stop 4: Our last stop of the evening involved a short walk through some bushes and we were delighted by perhaps half a dozen Cirl Buntings coming to roost in a small bush. Our last bird of the day as we drove back into the village was Little Owl and a pair were perched on a rooftop just a few metres from the hotel.

We got back to the hotel at 5.45 and all met at 7pm for a short walk to a local taverna where we had a very nice meal of assorted Greek dishes. Julian had to leave early to drive back to Thessaloniki to pick up the Robin and Anne and by 9pm we were in bed doing the trip report and looking at pictures. It had been a good day and George had proved himself to be a really good guide and a very nice person .

Day 3, Sunday 11th January

The plan this day was to explore the Eastern Embankment near Megalochori. After a hearty breakfast, we set out on a drive through agricultural fields, which are a feature of Serres Plain, the vast open space to the south of the mountains. Much of the area is fairly low intensity farming, criss-crossed by ditches and dykes, fringed with reeds, and offering very good bird watching.



Stop 1: We parked briefly at the roadside to watch White Wagtails in a field with standing water. The birds were picking food - presumably invertebrates - from the water. A little further on, we approached a roadside bush full of a mixed flock of Tree and House Sparrows. Clearly the area provided sustenance for the birds, and was a reminder of how farming practices can meet the needs of both people and wildlife, and also reminiscent of how farming had once been in the UK. As we passed through one of the little villages, George stopped by an old farm building and pointed out a Little Owl. In the bushes below, a couple of Black Redstarts could also be seen.

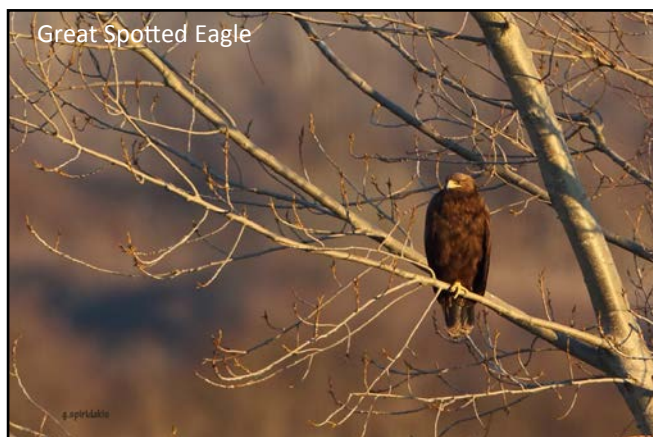
Stop 2: We moved to the Eastern Embankment near Megalochori. When we got out of the minibuses, we were able to see many birds on one of the pools in an area which was free of ice. A



Female Marsh Harrier was flying low over the water and landed in the Phragmites. With scopes and binoculars we were able to get good views of Pochard, Gadwall and a Red-crested Pochard which displayed a lovely pink bill and an obvious tawny crest. A flotilla of about 200 Coots were also seen here. On the other side of the embankment, a Syrian Woodpecker was seen in one of the distant trees, distinguishable from Great Spotted by its lack of a complete black stripe behind the cheeks and pinker vent feathers. A Green Woodpecker was also seen in the trees on the other side. We also saw lots of Buzzards flying by effortlessly and here or there perching in the trees. These birds were to become something of a feature of the holiday and at the end of the week, Robin had made an impressive count of around 75 Buzzards seen in total. Julian spotted a flock of swans flying in over the marshes but they were at this point too distant to properly identify. One of the most impressive birds seen here was a male Merlin perched obligingly in the open on a small weathered branch poking up from the sward. It was extremely well lit by the winter sun and we were all able to appreciate its blue-grey back.

Stop 3: At about 10am we continued to our next stop. Here we saw 3 Greylag Geese and a single Green Sandpiper, one of several which were to be seen this day. Trevor also homed in on a flock of Linnets. At this stop, another flock of swans were seen in the distance, but this time with scopes set up we were able to identify both Whooper and Bewick's. We made a count of 43 Whooper and 5 or 6 Bewick's. We were able to separate the species on overall size of the birds and bill patterning; the Whoopers appearing larger and having more extensive yellow on the bills, whereas the Bewick's had far less yellow and a more round-headed appearance. Among the swans we also noticed some Common Cranes which occasionally made their "krou-krou-krou" calls.

Stop 4: We continued along the embankment and stopped by a small wet flush where we could see Little Ringed Plover in the running water and close-by another three Green Sandpipers. In the distance, we saw a huge flock of White-fronted Geese, possibly 500 in number. We were also able to count a dozen Cranes. Liz and Derek followed a flock of about 50 Skylarks which kept wheeling about in front of us then landing on the wet grass. It soon became apparent that the reason for this continued movement was the presence of two Merlins, which must have spooked them. At least one of the falcons was a perched female, the other was bathing. The by now ubiquitous Buzzards were occasionally harried by a Sparrowhawk. Other birds seen here included Chiffchaff, Stock Dove, Shellduck and Pintail (the latter spotted by Liz and Derek). At around 11:30am we stopped for coffee and continued our leisurely bird watching. Over coffee, we added Goldfinch, Tree Sparrow and White Wagtail.



Stop 5: 12:35 am. Nikos had decided to spend the day with us and even brought his own scope with him. We were all very pleased as he found the first Great Spotted Eagle of the day, perched in a willow in the near distance. Eventually others were seen in flight, appearing very dark against the snow capped Mt. Orvilos. One of these drew much closer, flying almost overhead and then approached the perched bird which let out a little call.

Stop 6: At about 1:30pm, we stopped for lunch and watched the Water Buffalo in the distance. George was able to spot two Ruddy Shellduck on the open water which was a really good find.

Chiffchaffs were also flitting about the waterside bushes.



Stop 7: After lunch, we continued our journey along the embankment and stopped off at a spot where a solitary Black Stork had been seen. It was another wonderful bird and we learned from George's girlfriend Effie, that this particular Stork was well known to the authorities, having

been ringed a few years earlier. A fair way off in the distance we were also able to scope out several flocks of Greater Flamingos on the lake. Some of the birds appeared very bright pink in colour whereas others were much greyer. We also encountered Spoonbills here. Looking to the east, we found another Sparrowhawk and whilst scoping, George pointed to a distant Goshawk. It was possible to see the very broad supercilium, and also appreciate its size, compared to the legions of



Woodpigeons perched in a nearby Poplar. Eventually the bird flew towards the Woodies and unsurprisingly they took flight. As we drove off to our next stop, a presumed female Goshawk flew right by the vehicles, hugging the ground closely and giving us very good views.

Stop 8: We arrived at our next stop just before the weir and a little chapel. After disembarking

the vehicles, we moved down to the dyke and saw Pygmy Cormorant and Little Grebe. At the weir, we saw Little Egret, Grey Heron and Kingfisher, which, for a brief moment perched and allowed a few good views and occasionally called. A solitary Dalmatian Pelican flew over.

Stop 9: After regrouping, we drove back to the hotel, stopping on the way for a Little Owl sitting in an aperture in one of the buildings close to Limneo. We were also able to find another Black Redstart sitting on one of the buildings and a Great Tit.

Stop 10: We decided on one final stop at Lithotopos by the dam. The water was full of birds including Dalmatian Pelicans, Great and Pygmy Cormorants, Black-headed and Yellow-legged Gulls, Grey Herons, and a little further out on the lake, flocks of several hundred Great-crested Grebes.



Day 4, Monday 12th January

The aim today was to visit some fields to the east for passerines, then venture into woodland on the Bulgarian border for woodpeckers and finally make a quick visit to the town of Sidirocastro. The day started cold, with fairly strong winds but by the afternoon the winds eased a little and the sun appeared, making it feel slightly less cold.

Stop 1: We set off after a hearty breakfast at about 8:45 am and headed out to our first destination, some fields and a disused quarry. The roads were very quiet and so we arrived a little sooner than anticipated. The first birds were a pair of Kestrels which are known to nest in the quarry face. A flock of about 40 passerines flew over, alternately perching in small shrubby bushes, and landing on the ground. Their call notes were very bunting like and it wasn't long before we had much better views and were able to identify them as Corn Buntings. Mixed in with them were about half a

dozen Linnets. Occasionally, a small charm of Goldfinches would also fly over, along with a small number of Greenfinches. Sparrowhawk was also seen along with a few Blackbirds. After a while we crossed over to a small scrubby hillside and hollow in order to escape the wind and found it much more sheltered and noticeably warmer. Two Buzzards were seen flying over one of the hills, and as we ventured further along, Lynne spotted a Corn Bunting in a bush, well lit by the improving light, which gave good views with bins and scopes. We soon found Hawfinches, ultimately at least nine of them perched in full view, giving us all a really good chance to appreciate their form and colour. The bills were incredibly stout, and the pinkish breast colours, chestnut head and white tail bars could also be seen very well. It has to be said that this bird is much harder to see in the UK, due in part to its scarcity and also its habits of lurking in tall leafy trees but here in northern Greece, it seems to be doing well and inhabits very different habitat, often perching completely in the open. George told us that the birds' favoured winter food is the seed of Christ's Thorn, a plant which is very common in the area, and perhaps a good reason for the birds' ability to exist in much greater numbers.

Stop 2: The wind had grown very strong again by the time we entered the woodland and river border with Bulgaria. The noise of the wind through the Poplars made it very hard to use our ears to locate any birds so we had to rely on sight alone for a while. Liz managed to home in on Marsh Tit and John found our first Nuthatch, one of several encountered during the walk. As we moved deeper into the woodland, we saw Song Thrush and eventually Middle Spotted Woodpecker and then Great Spotted Woodpecker. Soon, we were also able to add Short-toed Treecreeper to our list, as it flew from tree to tree, flying down low and then crawling up the boughs. When we reached a bend in the river, the wind seemed to abate a little and we could hear Grey Wagtails calling. Julian then located a Green Woodpecker which stayed perched about twenty feet up on a



branch for a long time. He also announced that he'd seen a couple of Woodcock, one of which had flown across the track but was unfortunately not seen by others. We continued further and eventually arrived at a railway line and road which cross the border between Greece and Bulgaria, where the flags of both countries were flying next to the border controls. As we returned up the same track we'd used earlier, we located a Syrian Woodpecker and were eventually able to scope it and make out the white cheeks and lack of complete black line. Chaffinches were also seen and heard. Just before arriving at the vehicles for the next part of the journey, some of our party ventured into a little field and saw a number of members of the thrush family, including Redwing, Song Thrush and Blackbird.

Stop 3: We decided that we were due for a refreshment break and drove to a little taverna that George knew. The owner served us coffee and also kindly allowed us to eat our picnic lunches here.

Stop 4: After lunch, we drove to Sidirocastro, in the hope of finding Rock Nuthatch on one of the rock faces there. It was still very cold but we could hear the bird calling occasionally, along with Black Redstart and so we searched diligently for the birds.

George scrambled up the small track and eventually spotted a bird. Eventually, we found a sheltered spot beside a tall building which afforded us a more comfortable vantage point and our patience paid off. The Rock Nuthatches plumage matched the colours of the rock face incredibly well, but occasionally, their movement gave them away and we were able to get some decent views. We also managed to see several more Black Restarts.

Stop 5: Our final stop of the day was the castle of Sidirocastro. On the way in, a female Black Redstart was seen, along with a lot of Chaffinches, but alas, we could neither hear nor see Blue Rock Thrush. Robin managed to add another Sparrowhawk to our list and some of us climbed to the watchtower at the top of the old castle and we were able to get good views of Serres Plain and some of the small towns and villages dotted about.

Day 5, Tuesday 13th January

Our plan this day was to head east towards Mount Orvilos and make some roadside stops for passerines and raptors. The weather was frosty to start off with but sunny.

Stop 1: We stopped first by a little waterfall and a cave used by pot-holers which was reputedly one



of the longest in the world. After admiring the cataract, we watched carefully for Dipper but unfortunately none were seen. We did however manage to hear and then see two Ravens, Great Tit, Blue Tit and Chaffinch.

Stop 2: We continued in an easterly direction and stopped by some pines, where we waited in the hope of seeing raptors and passerines. Here we saw Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Raven, Sombre Tit, Long-tailed Tit, male Blackcap and Corn Bunting. Julian had to make a quick trip back to the hotel and on his return, was informed that the rest of the group had seen their first Bullfinches of the trip. Also seen at this spot were Cirl Bunting, Rock Bunting, at least five Hawfinches, Marsh Tit, Robin, Sparrowhawk, and Chiffchaff. A singing Sardinian Warbler was heard but not seen and two more Sparrowhawks were observed mobbing a Hooded Crow. Our first butterfly of the trip, a Red Admiral, was also encountered.

Stop 3: We made our third stop by a roadside gorge and managed to catch a glimpse of a large raptor, possibly a Goshawk and also a Buzzard. We were at about 150m.

Stop 4: At 340m, we made a brief stop before lunch, looking at the southern aspect of Orvilos. Trevor saw a Wren here.

Stop 5: By now we were all rather hungry, so stopped for lunch at a useful parking space at around 400m with a drinking fountain. Another Rock Bunting was seen and heard, and also Sparrowhawk. Here we had some great views of Middle Spotted Woodpecker, possibly the best of the holiday. The red crown feathers were particularly bright in the sunlight, especially when seen through binoculars



or scope. We also had views of Syrian Woodpecker and a couple of Hawfinches. We'd planned to travel further into the mountain but with time pressing on, decided to head back in a westerly direction, in the hope of picking up some different birds on the Strymonas River.



Stop 6: At around 3:45, we reached the Upper Strymonas River. As we drew up, we observed a flock of gulls and searched for anything unusual. In amongst the Yellow-legged and Black-headed, we found a bird intermediate in size between the other gulls; a juvenile Common Gull. The bird is really not that common in the area, so it was a good find. A raft of about 50 Wigeon were also seen on the river and eventually we were able to watch as they moved up onto the grass with a smaller flock of Teal. A Water Pipit was seen in the shallows picking food and shortly after, a Green Sandpiper was spotted by Pam creating ripples in the shallows. Unfortunately, it did not allow us to get close enough for good photos. On the ground ahead, some Linnets landed and started feeding and in amongst them, what at first appeared like a pipit, was identified as Skylark.

Stop 7: Our last stop of the day was made a little further along the river, for views of a beautiful Great Grey Shrike. One of these birds had been seen by Lynne, Liz, and Derek on the transfer from the airport so it was nice that the whole group had a chance to see this particular bird. As we turned the vehicles and started our short journey back to the hotel, we watched small flocks of Linnets and Corn Buntings taking off and landing close by. We ate dinner that night at a lively taverna in George's home town of Achritochori.

Day 6, Wednesday 14th January

This day was to be a day spent exploring the lagoons around Thessaloniki and the pools and marshes of Axios Delta for a variety of wetland birds and passerines. It involved a longer drive than



normal so we set off at around 8am after a hearty breakfast prepared by Nikos. The weather was again very sunny and grew warmer throughout the day.

Stop 1: We arrived after an hour and a quarter at Kalachori and parked at the roadside right by the first lagoons, which virtually abut the town and which form part of the Gallikos River Environmental Park. The first bird seen was a female Stonechat, perching obligingly on some roadside reeds. As we continued along the road, we also caught sight of the first of many Marsh Harriers of the day and also Mallard and Shelduck.

Stop 2: We moved to a spot where the road petered out, washed away by Christmas floods. This meant we could take the vehicles no further but with beautiful weather, it was not going to pose a problem and after the drive, we were thankful to be able to enjoy a leisurely walk along the old broken road. At the intersection of the old road and a track, we watched as a herd of Water Buffalo slowly ambled by in a long line. It must have taken a good 20 minutes before they'd all passed. As we peeped our heads over some reeds and looked into the first lagoon, we were able to see Little Egret and the much larger Cattle Egret, along with a small number of Greater Flamingos which were feeding in the lagoons. As we watched through scopes, bins and naked eyes, a few Pygmy Cormorants flew over followed by Avocets and Teal. A small party of these landed on the water and made their characteristic whistles. On the



riverside, at least 30 Coot were seen silhouetted by the sun and in the opposite direction over the marshes and wet meadows, four more Marsh Harriers were spotted, some of these being very dark, and others much paler.

Stop 3: We crossed a pile of rubble guarding the old road and very quickly had good views of Crested Larks. One of the birds posed quite well for photos on the rubble. As we moved further along the old road, Robin and Anne spotted another Great White Egret and a Pygmy Cormorant drying its wings in heraldic fashion. Moving further along the road, lots of Grey Herons were seen, their long necks and heads poking up from behind the Phragmites and Tamarisk bushes, looking very much like sentinels of the marshes. At this point, George mentioned that he'd heard but not seen the calls of a Penduline Tit. As we moved along, we got some good views of Reed Buntings and John who was scoping out some Common Sandpipers, also realised that there among them, two Ruff and a Common Snipe. Conversation throughout the week had included some light-hearted references to collective nouns for birds. We learned that the noun for Ruffs is 'Hill'. With this in mind, a 'fling' of Dunlin were seen.

Stop 4: As we continued our morning walk, we also managed good views of at least 20 Avocets. Some of the birds were feeding in characteristic sweeping fashion, a bit like Flamingos, others were swimming and still others ill flying in or flying off. More Shelduck were seen flying in and way off in the distance, George found a pair of Pintail. Julian spotted a flock of 20 Whooper Swans which landed and as we homed in on these, we also found a large raft of Pintail. As we continued towards the end of the track, Derek spotted Red-breasted Merganser and Liz and Pam found some



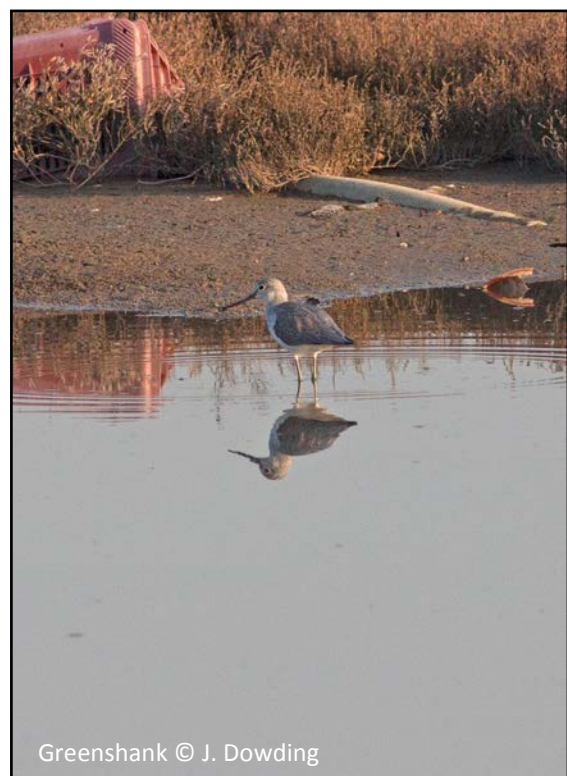
Spoonbill at Gallikos © J. Dowding

Shovelers. One of the key species we were hoping to find was Black-necked Grebe and we were fortunate enough to find some of these on the lagoon side, but quite far off. There was also a 'company' of Wigeon and a 'flush' of Gadwall. Eventually we reached a breach in the old road caused by the floods which was simply impassable so returned back down the track. On the way back, George spotted two Mediterranean Gulls flying over and again picked out the calls of Penduline Tit. Scouring the bushes and reeds, Julian eventually managed to locate one of the birds and soon, our entire company was watching a number of the birds, some at very close quarters. George explained that the Penduline Tits in this area utilise the Tamarisk bushes rather than riverside Willow to construct their nests in. Other birds seen on the walk back to the vehicles included Curlew and about a dozen Grey Wagtails.

Stop 5: By now lunch beckoned, so we sat down to enjoy our tortillas and sandwiches in the sunshine. We'd parked by a rather primitive farmstead where some of the reeds were crammed full of a mixed flock of Tree and House Sparrows.

Stop 6: After lunch, we took a little stroll across the grazing marshes which were interspersed with Tamarisk. Anne sat on a small ridge watching Meadow Pipits and on the way to the next stop, George took the group to a secret location where Common or English Partridges were seen. In the air numerous Marsh Harriers could be seen along with a few Pygmy Cormorants.

Stop 7: Our next location was the Axios Delta, an area renowned for its birds. Before arriving, we stopped at the roadside and watched a flock of Black-headed Gulls, eventually finding a number of Common Gulls. In the roadside bushes, flocks of thousands of sparrows, could be seen and



occasionally these took flight, like a murmuration of Starlings, swirling around in the air and creating a real spectacle. These were identified as House, Spanish and Tree Sparrow and the huge numbers were another reminder of how different the British countryside had been in bygone days.

Stop 8: We then drove along the track leading beside the delta, past rows of fishing sheds, which were obviously used by fishermen, as evidenced by the piles of mussel shells which were discarded at the roadside or sometimes used to fill in the potholes in the track. Where the delta opened out, we managed to get some better views of Black-necked Grebes. As is the want of birds with diving habits, they were at times difficult to follow, especially with scopes, because they kept popping up in different places but with perseverance, we all managed to see them well.



Stop 9: We continued to a spot by a little lagoon, just past the fishing sheds, and saw Greenshank, Redshank, Grey Plover and Spotted Redshank. Also seen were a flock of around 30 Dunlin. As we were watching these, a Chiffchaff kept darting around a small tamarisk bush seemingly playing peek-a-boo with us. With the light fading, we decided to head back to the hotel, stopping occasionally on the way for more passerines, especially another flock of Corn Buntings and also a Little Owl peeping out from the roof of one of the sheds. As we approached the hotel on the Lithotopos road, George stopped to geo-tag a dead Wildcat which Nikos had alerted him to.

Day 7, Thursday 15th January

The aim today was to spend time watching the Dalmatian Pelicans near one of the little harbours, using one of the fishing boats, and then investigating some of the western embankment and shores of the lake, along with the Mavravouni Hills for passerines, waders and raptors. Two boat trips were undertaken, the first one visiting one of the small islands where the Pelicans come ashore to dry off and the other boat exploring a bit more of the lake and another island, while Liz and Derek explored a small foothill of Mavrovouni.

Stop 1: The first boat set off at around 8:30am with Thomas, one of the local fishermen. The morning was frosty and the temperature was around -3° centigrade, so warm coats and fleeces were the order of the day. This party spent an hour and a half watching Dalmatian Pelicans, Great and Pygmy Cormorants, and a single Rosy (Great White) Pelican. The morning light was particularly dreamy, but as the sun rose higher in the sky, the lighting conditions posed quite a challenge for

photography. Nevertheless, some good photos were taken. The fishermen habitually toss the pelicans any by-catch and so as Angela said, the birds followed the boat, 'like ducklings.' At this time of the year, the birds are therefore quite confiding but later on, especially when breeding, they steer clear of people. The adult Great White Pelican was coming nicely into breeding condition and displayed the rosy face and throat which made for an interesting picture. The second boat went out as the first came in and this party managed to find at least three Great White Pelicans, along with the greater number of Dalmatian Pelicans, Great and Pygmy Cormorants.



Stop 2: We then moved off to the Mavrovouni Hills to meet with Derek and Liz who had climbed a small foothill and spent a leisurely time watching a Goldcrest for about 15 minutes. They also saw a small flock of five Cirl Buntings, Wren, Jays, Mistle Thrush and a flock of around 50 Chaffinches. Here we also watched a Goshawk, a pair of Sombre Tits, Goldfinches, Long-tailed Tits, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Goldcrest in the adjacent Olive grove, four Siskins in an Oriental Plane. We also had excellent views of a Firecrest and were able to follow it for a short while as it flitted about some low vegetation.

Stop 3: Having collected Lynne, Robin and Anne from the harbour, we continued along the western shore and drove down to an open area overlooking the lake. Here we watched a pair of Goldeneye, Great-crested Grebe and Meadow Pipits. As had been the case for much of the week, Common Buzzards were living up to their name and plenty more of these fine raptors were encountered.

Stop 4: At around noon, we decided to move to Kerkini Village for a quick coffee before lunch. Once inside the small taverna, we were able to take our coats off and enjoy a rather slow cup of coffee.

Stop 5: We then headed off to the western embankment where we parked the vehicles and ate our tortillas. The high elevation of the embankment gave us great views across the lake so it wasn't long before scopes were set up and we were able to enjoy some lunchtime birding. The first birds to be seen were Little Egret, picked out by Robin, and then George noticed a Goosander flying past with rapid wing-beats across the lake. We were joined by Kostas, one of the National Park rangers who patrol the lake. Whilst George and Kostas were chatting, Pam, Liz, Derek, Angela and Trevor managed to get their scopes on the Goosander which had now settled on the lake. It was easy to see the contrasting head and neck markings, which separate this bird from Red-breasted Merganser, along with its slightly less upturned bill.

Stop 6: After lunch and a group photo, we continued driving along the embankment, passing several different passerines including Hawfinch, Chaffinch and Goldfinch. Occasionally we would stop to check out birds on the lake, where the vegetation would allow. A number of Great White Egrets and Pygmy Cormorants were standing at the water's edge, along with rafts of duck further out.



Stop 7: We eventually reached a spot giving good views over the lake and were able to watch at least 30 Greater Flamingos which were feeding and calling. Occasionally one or two would take flight and in so doing, reveal their bright red wing coverts. George, ever on the lookout for something different found a Caspian Gull which merited some close observation. The bird was similar in appearance to the more ubiquitous Yellow-legged Gulls but one characteristic easily spotted was the longer bill. From our high observation point, we could now easily view some of the ducks which were present. Pintails were showing well and with binoculars it was possible to make out their long tails. There was a lot of movement out on the lake, with birds coming and going all the time. Among them, Shovelers, Teal and also Goldeneye, of which at least six were seen. As the afternoon sun continued to warm us and the birds, we also saw Little Grebe, more Great White Egrets, Lapwing and Little Ringed Plover. At this point, Pam had homed in on a very white looking

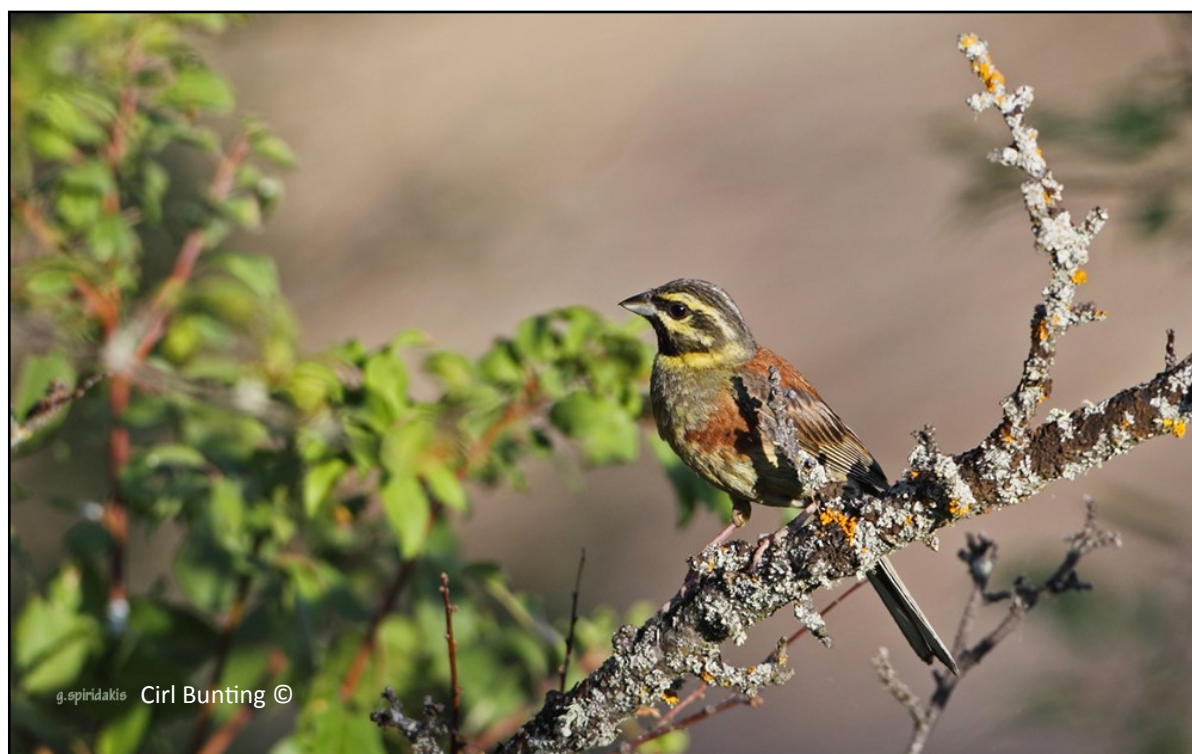
duck way off in the distance and was quite sure, even at long range, that the bird was in fact a male Smew. The bird kept diving for about 10 seconds at a time and then reappearing for a slightly shorter period. Angela confirmed this was indeed Smew and soon all eyes were fixed through scopes and bins and we watched as it continued its behaviour and covered a large distance across the lake.

Stop 8: We moved to one last vantage point on the lake, and in amongst a raft of Pochard, discovered a female Smew or 'Red-head'. The bird could at first glance easily have been mistaken for the slightly larger male Pochards given the overall colouration, but its very pale throat and smaller size gave it away. It was gratifying to be able to watch as this bird preened its feathers and moved far less than the male. The other nice thing to be able to report was the size of the Pochard raft which we estimated must have contained at least 400 birds. This was the last of the day's birding and in the fading light we headed back to the hotel in preparation for the 'Last Supper' moussaka that Nikos and his wife had prepared for us and which Effie helped to serve.

Day 8, Friday 16th January

Today we aimed to explore some of the mountain tracks up to about 500 m. These are to the north and form the border with Bulgaria. As this was to be the last day for some guests before returning to the UK, we also made a visit to Mandraki Harbour, which sits at the northern end of the lake.

Stop 1: After another good breakfast, we made our way towards Vironia and one of the small mountain tracks leading upwards. One of the first birds was a Cirl bunting, sitting and singing merrily in a small tree. We passed a couple of lazy dogs laying on a muck heap which hardly paid attention to us as we drove by. John pointed out that there were already lambs in the small farm.



Just beyond, in the scrubby Christ's Thorn, we saw numerous House and Tree Sparrows which were noisily chirruping away. Chaffinches were also present and must have rivalled the sparrows as one of the most widespread species we'd seen on the trip. Almost as numerous were Magpies and this morning we noticed two small trees containing about 20 Magpies each. We ascended to a view point below the old church where a hunter's camouflaged car was parked. George explained that some hunting was still allowed in the area, principally for Woodpigeon and Wild Boar.

He also explained that the mountain we were now standing on was called 'Belles' in Greek and 'Belatsitsa' in Bulgarian, the latter meaning white or snow-capped which was very apt. The old village had once been located by the church, but harsh winters had caused it to relocate further down the mountain and to rename itself Vironia, but the church still stood in the old location.



Stop 2: By 9:30am we reached a spot at about 300m, opposite an escarpment on the mountain. Here Anne was able to pick up the calls of Ravens, and soon we saw two pairs displaying. At times they would tumble in the air for a good while, before soaring up high again.

Trevor mentioned that he had seen a Peregrine or at least a falcon from our earlier spot, and so indeed it proved to be because a male Peregrine flew out and mobbed the Ravens. George informed us that up until three years previously, Peregrines had built a nest on one of the ledges but that the Ravens had taken over the site for the past two years. It seemed that the Peregrines were not giving up that easily and were trying their hardest to re-occupy the nest and claim lordship over the territory. Watching the aerial battle was quite breathtaking. The Peregrine would fly up at the Ravens at high speed and at the last moment, the Ravens would manoeuvre out of the

way and the Peregrine would fly back to its ledge. Both species displayed remarkable agility and it wasn't going to be an easily settled dispute. Soon, all telescopes and binoculars were focused on the Peregrine and we could make out its bold black mask, grey back and bright yellow legs.

Stop 3: We continued up to the church and parked the vehicles. Most of our group went inside to have a little look around. Outside, a couple of Hawfinches were noted by Robin. Yet again, the birds perched very obligingly in full sunlight, allowing great views. George also pointed out a Rock Bunting drinking from some of the water running down alongside the track and a small charm of Goldfinches passed over our heads.

Stop 4: At 558 m, we reached an area of Hornbeam, Beech and Oak forest. Rather unsurprisingly given that it was still winter, we'd seen few butterflies on the trip. However, we were really excited to see a fresh looking Camberwell Beauty flying along the track and landing in full view. It stopped quite motionless for a while, basking in the glorious sunshine and allowing us to appreciate the deep maroon wing colouration, creamy-white 'petticoat' and blue submarginal spots. The insect must have woken from hibernation and been searching for some food, in the form of tree sap. A little later, we were able to add Peacock to the list and a Small Tortoiseshell which Lynne spotted. She also saw another Camberwell Beauty a little later on. The day was by now very warm and we decided to spend more time walking the track before lunch.



Stop 5: After a few hundred metres, a river which had swollen and cut across the track made it too slippery to pass and so we decided to head back to a good vantage point overlooking one of the mountain streams where we could eat lunch and watch for birds at the same time. Whilst we were finishing off some very tasty figs Nikos had given us for our dessert, we became more and more aware of the avian activity below. Trevor said he thought he'd seen a Dipper flying over the water and indeed, the habitat seemed ideal. We also spotted Sombre Tit, a party of Long-tailed Tits, Blue Tits, two Short-toed Treecreepers and European Nuthatches.

Stop 6: We then drove towards Vironia Quarry and the old army lookout post giving great views of the lake to the south. As we walked the track, we found several Linnets and Greenfinches which had come down to drink on a small flush. We were also able to watch another 'harmony' of Hawfinches, again all sitting in bushes in the open, allowing good views. We also heard some Jays making quite harsh calls and George suggested that they may have disturbed an owl or some other large creature and were intent upon mobbing it. Shortly afterwards, Angela saw a Brown Hare crossing the track not long before a Sparrowhawk came dashing by at breakneck speed so

the mystery of the Jay's concerns were never properly revealed. On our return to the vehicles, some of the group were able to see a male Black Redstart.



Stop 7: We arrived at our final stop of the day at Mandraki Harbour on the northern shores. Although it was by now past 3pm, the light was still very good and it wasn't long before we found at least 20 White-fronted Geese only a hundred metres or so from the harbour. These were feeding alongside a similar number of Wigeon and two Lapwings. In the near distance, some raptor movement was seen and determined as a Buzzard mobbing a Great Spotted Eagle. Over the grazing marshes, a flock of 30 or so Skylarks were seen alternately feeding and flying around. Several small waders were seen including Common Sandpiper, and a single Whooper Swan noticed in a marshy area to the east. Soon, two Peregrines also flew over us and then parted company, one bird flying off into the mountains to the north and the other to the east. For some of the group too this was to be a parting of company and the last birdwatching of the holiday. Angela, Trevor, Pam and John said their goodbyes to the others and returned to the hotel to collect their luggage and prepare for their transfer to Thessaloniki airport.

Day 9, Saturday 17th January

With Lynne, Derek and Liz having a 1pm flight back to the UK today, after a fairly unhurried breakfast, Julian drove this second party to the airport, after saying their goodbyes to Anne and Robin who had the pleasure of their last day with George to themselves, before heading home to the UK themselves. They had the good fortune of seeing a Wildcat, a mammal which is to be found in Kerkini National Park, and which the group had only managed thus far to see as road-kill.

Stop 1: We started the day visiting the foothills of Mavrovouni, in a try to spot some Sombre Tits. After walking a track and waiting and watching in the favourite habitats of that species, we were unable to spot one, though George heard one calling briefly but somewhat far away. We saw numerous Hawfinches, many Jays, Mistle Thrushes, Great Tits, Blue Tits, and Long-tailed Tits.

On the way to the second stop a mammal crossed the road very quickly, and when our group reached the point where it had disappeared in the vegetation, it was seen it again. This time the animal darted into cover giving a very short time but still good view of it and its characteristic tail. It was a gorgeous Wildcat.

Stop 2: On the 2nd stop, again we were unlucky with the Sombre Tit, but we had once again many Hawfinches, giving us very good views, Cirl and Rock Buntings, Black Redstart and some more common passerine species.

Stop3: The next point was Kerkini harbour, where we had our lunch and watching some Blue Tits



and Goldfinches sitting and feeding right next to us. After driving along the west bank of the lake, we'd seen many water birds this time, mainly species we'd seen the previous days.

Stop 4: Our last stop of the day was not for birding, but at Methoriakos stathmos where we had a cup of coffee and enjoyed the sun. After that stop we decided to go back to the hotel,

without managing to see the 'precious' Sombre Tit, but feeling satisfied with all the birds we had seen and of course the incredible view of the Wildcat.

Just before we arrived at the hotel, the Little Owl was there at his usual place to say a "Goodbye" to Robin and Anne and to thank them for visiting Lake Kerkini!

Footnote:

A total of 124 bird species were seen on the holiday and Sardinian Warbler was heard by George. Not all species were seen by every guest but that said, most of the group should have seen around 110 or so bird species and enjoyed some tremendous views of birds such as the Hawfinches, Dalmatian Pelicans and Pochards as well as the spectacle of mixed flocks of thousands of Sparrows interspersed with Corn Buntings.

Acknowledgements:

Greenwings would like to thank all the guests on this trip for their wonderful support, good humour and enthusiasm throughout the holiday, and also for their help in compiling species lists and for the use of their photographs. Special thanks must also go to George for his expert guiding and Nikos and his parents, for their wonderful hospitality.

Gallery and species lists overleaf

Gallery







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Crested Lark © J. Dowding

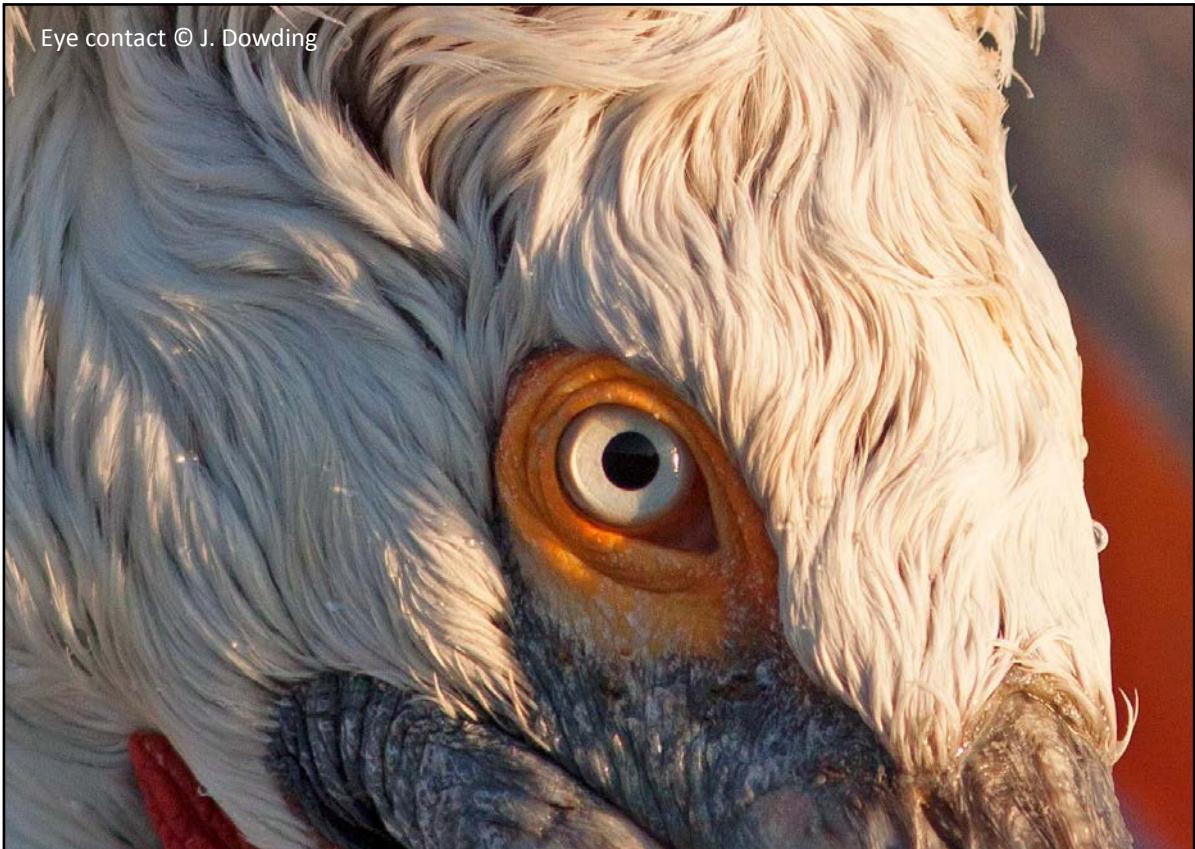




Dalmatian Pelican © J. Dowding



Eye contact © J. Dowding





Birdwatching at Kerkini © A. Plumb



Corn Buntings © J.Dowling





Rosy (Great White) Pelican © J. Dowding



Species list - Winter Birds of Lake Kerkini, January 10 th - 17 th 2015										
	Birds		Sat 10	Sun 11	Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Thu 15	Fri 16	Sat 17
	Grebes	Family - Podicipedidae								
1	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓	✓		
2	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
3	Great-crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
	Pelicans	Family - Pelecanidae								
4	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>						✓ 3		
5	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	✓ 30+	✓				✓ 100+		
	Cormorants	Family - Phalacrocoracidae								
6	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
7	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>	✓ 12+	✓			✓	✓		
	Hérons	Family - Ardeidae								
8	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
9	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
10	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
	Storks	Family - Ciconiidae								
11	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓	✓						
	Spoonbills and Ibises	Family - Threskiornithidae								
12	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓ 10+	✓			✓ 2	✓		
	Flamingos	Family - Phoenicopteridae								
13	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopiterus roseus</i>	✓ 1000's	✓			✓	✓		
	Swans, ducks and geese	Family - Anatidae								
14	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓ 12	✓						
15	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>	✓ 45	✓			✓		✓	
16	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	✓	✓						
17	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	✓	✓					✓	
18	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓						
19	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓ 100's	✓			✓	✓		
20	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	✓	✓						
21	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
22	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	✓ 100'	✓			✓	✓		
23	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		✓			✓	✓		
24	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		✓			✓	✓		
25	Wigeon	<i>Anas Penelope</i>	✓ 10's	✓		✓	✓	✓		
26	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
27	Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		✓				✓		

			Sat 10	Sun 11	Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Thu 15	Fri 16	Sat 17
28	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		✓ 1						
29	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	✓					✓ 2+6		
30	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>						✓ 2		
31	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>						✓		
32	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>					✓			
	Hawks and eagles	Family - Accipitridae								
33	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	✓ 4	✓ 4					✓	
34	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓ 1	✓			✓			
35	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
36	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓ 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
37	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		✓						
	Falcons and allies	Family - falconidae								
38	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
39	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓ 1						✓ 2	
40	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		✓ 3						
	Pheasants and Partridges	Family - Phasianidae								
41	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>					✓			
	Rails	Family - Rallidae								
42	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		✓						
43	Moorhen	<i>Callinula chloropus</i>		✓ 4			✓	✓		
44	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓ 100'	✓			✓	✓		
	Cranes	Family - Gruidae								
45	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	✓ 24	✓						
	Avocets	Family - Recurvirostridae								
46	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					✓			
	Plovers	Family - Charadriidae								
47	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					✓			
48	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓ 10's	✓				✓		
49	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Chardrius dubius</i>	✓ 3	✓ 8				✓		
	Sandpipers and allies	Family - Scolopacidae								
50	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	✓				✓			
51	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	✓ 10+					✓		
52	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓ 10+	✓		✓				
53	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓				✓			
54	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					✓			
55	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					✓			

			Sat 10	Sun 11	Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Thu 15	Fri 16	Sat 17
56	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					✓			
57	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					✓			
58	Woodcock	<i>Scalopax rusticola</i>			✓ 2 JD					
59	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓ 5	✓			✓			
60	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugmax</i>					✓			
	Gulls	Family - Laridae								
61	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
62	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>					✓			
63	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	✓ 6			✓	✓	✓		
64	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michalellis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
65	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinans</i>						✓		
	Pigeons and Doves	Family - Columbidae								
66	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	✓	✓			✓			
67	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumba</i>	✓	✓ 1000's	✓	✓		✓		
68	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Owls	Family - Strigidae								
69	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
	Kingfishers	Family - Alcedinidae								
70	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓						
	Woodpeckers	Family - Picidae								
71	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓	✓	✓				
72	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>			✓	✓				
73	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus syriacus</i>		✓	✓	✓				
74	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus medius</i>			✓	✓				
	Larks	Family - Alaudidae								
75	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓		✓			✓	
76	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>					✓	✓		
	Pipits and wagtails	Family - Motacillidae								
77	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	✓ 3	✓		✓				
78	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓			✓	✓		
79	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
80	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
	Wrens	Family - Troglodytidae								
81	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Chats and thrushes	Family - Turdidae								
82	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

			Sat 10	Sun 11	Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Thu 15	Fri 16	Sat 17
83	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓ 5+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
84	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>					✓			
85	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓	✓				
86	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>			✓					
87	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					✓	✓ 2		
88	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Sylvia warblers	Family - Sylviidae								
89	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				✓				
90	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>				song GS				
91	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓ 3						
	Leaf warblers	Family - Phylloscopidae								
92	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓		✓	✓			
	Kinglets	Family - Regulidae								
93	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>						✓		
94	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>						✓		
	Titmice	Family - Paridae								
95	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
96	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
97	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>			✓	✓ 3				
98	Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>				✓ 1		✓ 2		
	Bush Tits/Long-tailed Tits	Family - Aegithalidae								
99	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓	✓		✓		
	Penduline Tits	Family - Remizidae								
100	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					✓			
	Nuthatches	Family - Sittidae								
101	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europea</i>			✓					
102	Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			✓					
	Treecreepers	Family - Certhidae								
103	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			✓					
	Shrikes	Family - Laniidae								
104	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	✓			✓				
	Crows	Family - Corvidae								
105	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
106	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
107	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				✓				
108	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

			Sat 10	Sun 11	Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Thu 15	Fri 16	Sat 17
109	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓			✓	✓			
	Starlings	Family - Sturnidae								
110	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Old World Sparrows	Family - Passeridae								
111	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
112	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓			✓			
113	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓ 65			✓			
	Finches	Family - Fringillidae								
114	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
115	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	✓	✓ 12+	✓ 6	✓			✓	
116	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓				
117	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>						✓		
118	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			✓	✓				
119	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>				✓ AP				
120	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				✓				
121	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes Coccothraustes</i>			✓ 9	✓		✓ 11		
	Buntings	Family - Emberizidae								
122	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓		✓	✓			
123	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	✓			✓		✓		
124	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓ 2			✓	
125	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>			✓	✓	✓			
	Butterflies									
1	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				✓				
2	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>							✓	
3	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>							✓	
4	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>							✓	
	Mammals									
1	Wildcat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>								✓
2	Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>					✓			