

## Lesbos Bird Checklist 04.05.-13.05.2019 by Frederik Bexter

### Introduction:

At this time of the year there were no direct flights to Mytilini from Germany. That's why I have to fly above Munich and Athens but everything went well.

As most of the birders visiting the island I stayed in Skala Kallonis in the Pasiphae Hotel. Many of the important bird areas lay nearby and in the evening there are several good tavernas around. My personal highlight was 3 juvenile foxes in the hotel garden and the daily calling Scop's Owls.

In the first days the weather was very windy and cloudy with some rain at temperatures around 20°C. But these conditions produce good numbers of waders. The last 3 days reached temperatures between 25-30°C followed by increasing activity of butterflies and dragonflies.

A rental car is absolutely necessary to reach all areas. I booked a car of Thrifty car rental and had no problems. Sometimes the track conditions are really heavy caused by a lot of dirt tracks with big holes or livestock on the streets. The most difficult track is without doubts the road between Sigri to Eresos but driving carefully will be successful.

### Literature:

Steve Dudley (2010): A Birdwatching Guide to Lesbos –just brilliant

Facebook Group: Lesbos Birders + WhatsApp group

### Travel itinerary:

4/5 Kalloni Saltpans, Skala Kallonis Area

5/5 Metochi Lake- Kavaki-Perasma- Raptor Watch Point- Kalloni Saltpans- Tsiknias River-Christou River

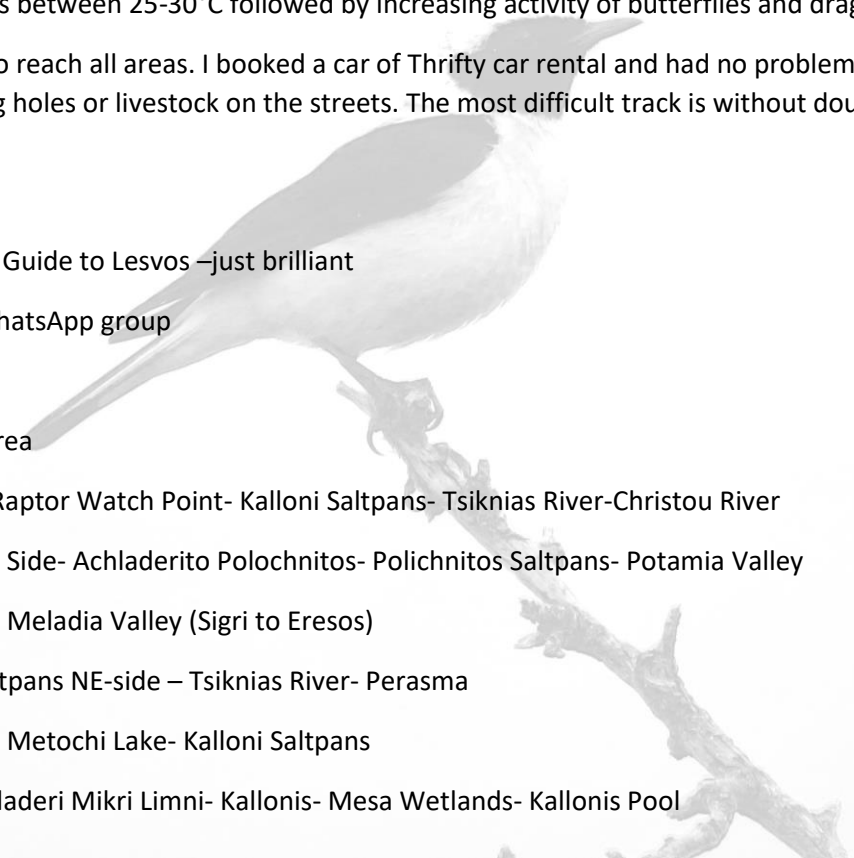
6/5 Kalloni Saltpans- Achladeri Picnic Side- Achladerito Polochnitos- Polichnitos Saltpans- Potamia Valley

7/5 Kalloni Pool- Ipsilou- Sigri Fields- Meladia Valley (Sigri to Eresos)

8/5 Parakila Olive Groves- Kalloni Saltpans NE-side – Tsiknias River- Perasma

9/5 Agriosikos- Achladeri Picnic Side- Metochi Lake- Kalloni Saltpans

10/5 Achladeri Northern Track – Achladeri Mikri Limni- Kallonis- Mesa Wetlands- Kallonis Pool



11/5 Kallonis Pool- North of Dafia-Perasma- Potamia Valley

12/5 Sigri-Eresos (Meladia Valley)- Ipsilou- Potamia Valley

13/5 Parakila Olive Groves- Kalloni Saltpans- Airport area

\* all areas are described in Steve`s book

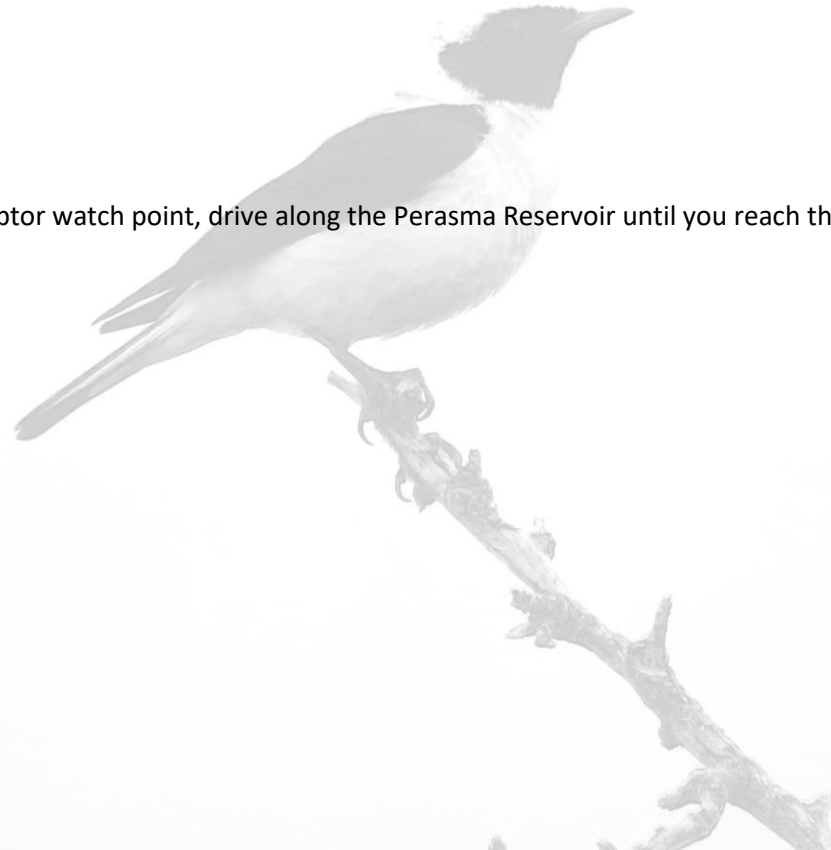
\* Agriosikos: road from Kalloni to Filia, drive left at the high of red and white mast-> Bonelli`s Warbler

\* Kavaki: Rueppell`s Warbler

\* Achladeri: Krueper`s Nuthatch

\* Ipsilou: all rocky species

\* Perasma: in my opinion the best Raptor watch point, drive along the Perasma Reservoir until you reach the first barn with red roof, follow track to second barn and park around there





**Kavaki- View to Molyvos Castle**



**Mount Ipsilou**



**Parakila- Olive Groves**



**Achladeri-Field of Poppies**



**Kalloni Salt pans- View out of NE-Hide**



**Polichnitos Salt pans**

Number	English name	Scientific name	German name	Location	Comments
1.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Rostgans	Kalloni Saltpans, Perasma Reservoir, Potamia Reservoir Meladia River	severals with ducklings
2.	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Brandgans	Kalloni Saltpans	
3.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Stockente	1 Metochi Lake, 4 Kalloni Saltpans	uncommon
4.	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Chukarhuhn	Petrified Forest (at start of track)	shown completely free for 15 minutes
5.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Zwergtaucher	>5 Metochi Lake	
6.	Great Crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Haubentaucher	5 Tsiknias River mouth offshore	
7.	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Rosaflamingo	Kalloni Saltpans, Christou River	
8.	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea ssp. diomedea</i>	Gelbschnabelsturmtaucher	>10 Airport offshore	
9.	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	Mittelmeer-Sturmtaucher	>30 Kavaki	
10.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Schwarzstorch		
11.	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Weißstorch		
12.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Kormoran	3 Kalloni Saltpans, offshore	uncommon
13.	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Krähenscharbe	1 Airport offshore	
14.	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Zwergdommel	3 Metochi Lake	completely free, one was walking the car track along
15.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Graureiher	1 Kalloni Saltpans, 1 Kallonis Pool	uncommon
16.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Silberreiher	2 Kalloni Saltpans east side, 1 Kallonis Pool	uncommon
17.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purpurereiher	1 Kalloni Pool	rare

18.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Seidenreiher	>20 Kalloni Saltpans	common
19.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Kuhreiher	1 Kalloni Saltpans	scarce
20.	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Rallenreiher	1 Metochi Lake, >7 Kallonis Pool	
21.	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Nachtreiher	1 Tsiknias River mouth	
22.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Löffler	1 Mesa wetlands	
23.	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Schlangenadler		common
24.	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	Schreiadler	Perasma	Scarce
25.	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Zwergadler	Perasma	scarce pale morph
26.	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Rohrweihe		
27.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sperber		
28.	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Habicht		
29.	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Mäusebussard		
30.	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Adlerbussard		
31.	Honey Buzzard		Wespenbussard		
32.	Peregrine Falcon		Wanderfalke		
33.	Eleonora's Falcon		Eleonorenfalke		
34.	Eurasian Hobby		Baumfalke	1 Metochi Lake	
35.	Lesser Kestrel		Rötelfalke	Meladia Valley	
36.	Common Kestrel		Turmfalke	Fields north of Kalloni Saltpans, Skaal Kallonis hotel ruin	
37.	Water Rail		Wasserralle	Kallonis Pool	only heard
38.	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>	Kleines Sumpfhuhn	Metochi Lake (1ad, 2juv.)	
39.	Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Teichhuhn	Metochi Lake, Kallonis Pool	
40.	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Blässhuhn	Metochi Lake	
41.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Stelzenläufer		
42.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Säbelschnäbler		
43.	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Kiebitzregenpfeifer	1 Kalloni Saltpans NE-side	

44.	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	Seeregenpfeifer	Alykes wetlands, Christou River	very close at Christou River
45.	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	Sandregenpfeifer	Alykes wetlands	
46.	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius	Flussregenpfeifer	Potamia valley (breeding area), 1 Kalloni Saltpans	
47.	Spur-winged Plover		Spornkiebitz	1 Sigrí Fileds, 1 Kalloni Saltpans East-side	
48.	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	Flussuferläufer		uncommon, 1 day up to 8 birds
49.	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa	Bruchwasserläufer		common
50.	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	Grünschenkel	2 Kalloni Saltpans	observed only on 1 day
51.	Ruff	Calidris pugnax	Kampfläufer	> 10 Kalloni Saltpans	
52.	Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea	Sichelstrandläufer	>6 Kalloni Saltpans	arrived the last two days
53.	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii	Temminckstrandläufer	>10 Kalloni Saltpans SW-side	common
54.	Little Stint	Calidris minuta	Zwergstrandläufer	>10 Kalloni Saltpans SW-side	common
55.	Great Snipe		Bekassine	1 Kalloni Saltpans	
56.	Slender-billed Gull	Chroicocephalus genei	Dünnschnabelmöwe	1 Kalloni Saltpans NE-Hide	
57.	Black-headed Gull		Lachmöwe	1 Tsiknias River mouth	
58.	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	Mittelmeermöwe		
59.	Audoin's Gull		Korallenmöwe	1 Perasma Reservoir	observed on 2 days
60.	Little Tern	Sternula albifrons	Zwergseeschwalbe	Kalloni Saltpans	most common tern
61.	Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	Trauerseeschwalbe	5 Kalloni Saltpans NE-Hide	
62.	White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leuco	Weißflügel-Seeschwalbe		daily seen, most common of the 3 <i>Chlidonias</i> -species
63.	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	Weißbart-Seeschwalbe	Kalloni Saltpans	flock of 24 one day, otherwise only a few birds
64.	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	Flusseeeschwalbe		common
65.	Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis	Brandseeschwalbe	3 Tsiknias River mouth	
66.	Gull-billed Tern		Lachseeeschwalbe	2 Kalloni Saltpans NE-hide	



67.	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Felsentaube	Meladia Valley, 2 Skala Kallonis in hotel ruin	
68.	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Türkentaube		common
69.	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turteltaube		common
70.	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Kuckuck	Perasma, Metochi Lake	
71.	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	Häherkuckuck	2 Perasma (area between two red roofed barns above the Perasma Reservoir)	
72.	European Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Zwergohreule	Skala kallonis (heard every evening from hotel area), Mini Soccer Pitch	common
73.	Barn Owl		Schleiereule	Skala Kallonis ( Diana's gift shop)	
74.	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Alpensegler	Achladeri Forest, Perasma	
75.	Pallid Swift		Fahlsegler	>1 Meladia River	
76.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Mauersegler		hundreds on 11 <sup>th</sup> May
77.	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Bienenfresser		common, breeding area near Christou River
78.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Wiedehopf	Parakila Olive groves, Agriosikos, Ipsilou	
79.	Middle Sotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Mittelspecht		nesting tree in Parakila Olive groves
80.	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Neuntöter		common
81.	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Rotkopfwürger	Potamia valley	
82.	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	Schwarzstirnwürger	1 Meladia river	scarce
83.	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	Maskenwürger	Olive Groves	common
84.	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Pirol	Metochi Lake, Ipsilou, Sigri Old Sanatorium	
85.	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Eichelhäher	Olive Groves	common Ssp.
86.	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Dohle	Sigri Fields	
87.	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Nebelkrähe		common

88.	Common/Northern Raven	Corvus corax	Kolkrabe	Ipsilou	nesting in highest cliff at Ipsilou roundtrack
89.	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	Haubenlerche		common
90.	Wood Lark	Lullula arborea	Heidelerche	2 Agriosikos, Achladeri Forest	
91.	Sand Martin		Uferschwalbe		uncommon
92.	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	Felsenschwalbe	1 Potamia Valley	
93.	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Rauchschwalbe		common
94.	Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	Rötelschwalbe	>8 Potamia Reservoir (nesting side under bridge, in the evening on wires) Ipsilou (nesting side at military building)	common
95.	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	Mehlschwalbe		common
96.	Sombre Tit	Poecile lugubris	Trauermeise	2 Agriosikos	Scarce, most difficult bird for me
97.	Great Tit	Parus major	Kohlmeise		
98.	Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Blaumeise		
99.	Coal Tit		Tannenmeise	Achladeri Forest	only heard
100.	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	Schwanzmeise	Agriosikos, Achladeri	Family groups ssp.
101.	Krueper's Nuthatch	Sitta krueperi	Türkenkleiber		
102.	Rock Nuthatch	Sitta neumayer	Felsenkleiber		common
103.	Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla	Gartenbaumläufer	Achladeri	
104.	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	Seidensänger	Metochi Lake	common
105.	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus orientalis	Balkanlaubsänger	>7 Agriosikos (Filia Track): Drive from Kallonis to Filia, parking before you reach Filia at the big red-white mast and follow the track until big oak woods and sheep/cow grids occur	Singing from the top of trees, often completely free Song was relatively quiet in comparison to Wood Warbler
106.	Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Waldlaubsänger	1 Ipsilou	

107.	Common Chiffchaff		Zilpzalp	1 Ipsilou	only heard
108.	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	Blassspötter	Kalloni Salt Pans SW-corner, Kallonis Pool	common
109.	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	Olivenspötter	2 Parakila Olive groves (area between river and end of the groves)	one bird was seen well song stronger, deeper and more intensive compared to Masked Shrike
110.	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	Gelbspötter	1 Parakila Olive groves	
111.	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Schilfrohrsänger	2 Metochi Lake	
112.	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Teichrohrsänger	Metochi Lake, 1 Kallonis Pool	
113.	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Drosselrohrsänger	1 Kalloni Salt pans NE-Hide	
114.	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Mönchsgrasmücke	1 Agriosikos (singing), 2 Ipsilou (1,1),	
115.	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Gartengrasmücke	1 Parakila Olive groves	
116.	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Klappergrasmücke		only heard
117.	Common Whitethroat		Dorngrasmücke	2 Metochi Lake, 1 Meladia River	singing
118.	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	Östl. Orpheusgrasmücke	1 Perasma, 1 Meladia River	
119.	Rueppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>	Maskengrasmücke	1 Kavaki (area under OXY- building)	
120.	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Weißbart-Grasmücke		common
121.	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Samtkopf-Grasmücke	1 Kavaki	Scarce in the north of Lesvos
122.	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Grauschnäpper		common
123.	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Trauerschnäpper	1 Ipsilou	
124.	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (Eastern)	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i> ( <i>syriacus</i> group)	Östl. Heckensänger	1 Sigri Fields, 2 Alykes Wetlands	Eastern ssp. has darker plumage
125.	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Rotkehlchen	1 Agriosikos, 1 Achladeri-Mikri Limni	uncommon

126.	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Nachtigall		common
127.	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Blaumerle	1 Ipsilou, 1 Kavaki	
128.	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Braunkehlchen		common
129.	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Schwarzkehlchen		common (rocky areas)
130.	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschmätzer	2 Petrified Forest, 2 Ipsilou	
131.	Black-eared Wheatear (Eastern)	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> ssp. <i>melanoleuca</i>	Mittelmeer-Steinschmätzer (Balkansteinschmätzer)		Common High plumage variability ssp.
132.	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Isabellsteinschmätzer	Petrified Forest, Ipsilou	
133.	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Amsel		common
134.	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Singdrossel	1 Agriosikos	
135.	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Misteldrossel	2 Achladeri (Picnic side)	
136.	Western Yellow Wagtail (Black-headed Yellow Wagtail)	<i>Motacilla flava</i> ssp. <i>feldegg</i>	Schafstelze (Maskenschafstelze)	Mesa wetlands, Kalloni Saltpans East track, Christou River	
137.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Bachstelze		
138.	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Rotkehlpieper	5 Alykes Wetlands	
139.	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Zaunammer		common
140.	Cinereous Bunting	<i>Emberiza cineracea</i>	Türkenammer	Petrified Foerst, Ipsilou	
141.	Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	Grauortolan		common (rocky areas)
142.	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Kappenammer	Best location was road from Achladeri to Skamnioudi	Common scarce on my first days
143.	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Grauammer		common
144.	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Buchfink		common
145.	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Grünfink		common
146.	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Stieglitz		common
147.	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Bluthänfling	Ipsilou, Meladia Valley	
148.	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Girlitz	Achladeri Forest	
149.	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Kernbeißer	1 Agriosikos	scarce
150.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Haussperling		common
151.	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Weidensperling	Tsiknias River mouth	

152.	Rock Petronia	Petronia petronia	Steinsperling	2 Ipsilou	nesting side at highest cliff in the near of the Ravens in old Red-rumped Swallow nest very vocal
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**Cretzschmars`s Bunting**



**Isabelline Wheatear**



**Red-rumped Swallow**



**Rueppel's Warbler**



**Spanish Sparrow**



**Black-eared Wheatear**



**Bee-eater**



**Chukar Partridge**



**Cinereous Bunting**



**Spur-thighed Tortoise**



**Odalisque**



**Balkan Green Lizard**

