GREECE:
A CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE PELOPONNESE

MAY 16–25, 2018

LEADERS: VICTOR EMANUEL, BARRY LYON, & DR. PAUL WOODRUFF

LIST COMPILED BY: BARRY LYON

Common Poppy (Papaver rhoeas) © David Barton

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By Barry Lyon

Sun-drenched islands, Athens and its iconic Acropolis, and the wine-dark Aegean Sea are evocative images that capture the allure of Greece. For others, particularly those who have previously traveled in Greece, it is the large multi-fingered Peloponnese Peninsula that is the preferred destination. Far removed from the sprawling capital city, the Peloponnese is a land of pastoral settings, beautiful coastlines, and remarkable historical sites that rival, even surpass, those of the mainland. It was against this backdrop that we conducted our latest cruise in Greece: A Circumnavigation of the Peloponnese.

Under the banner of Birds & History, we performed a complete circuit of the Peloponnese, a six-day journey that incorporated visits to five major archaeological sites, the charming seacliff settlement of Byzantine-era Monemvassia, the wonderful and lightly visited island of Kythira, and several photogenic ports of call. Add to this an impressive assortment of birds and natural history, engaging presentations by Dr. Paul Woodruff, and a grand finale transit of the Canal of Corinth.

Visits to renowned historical sites formed the core of the program. In succession, we visited Epidaurus, Mycenae, Nestor’s Palace, Olympia, and Delphi. Each of these sites merits a visit on its own, but together they provide a grand sweep of ancient Greek history from Mycenaean times to the Roman era, a period spanning more than thirteen-hundred years. Each location offered
something unique or especially memorable. Among the highlights was seeing the well-preserved theater at Epidaurus, the Lion’s Gate and beehive tomb at Mycenae, the ancient stadium at Olympia, and Delphi for its cliffside position and scenic surroundings. Time at several of the on-site museums enhanced our understanding and appreciation of civilizations long gone. Among the treasure-troves of artifacts on display at all sites, most over two-thousand years old, were standout pieces such as the linear B samples at Mycenae, the helmet of Miltiades and statue of Hermes at Olympia, and the Charioteer sculpture in bronze at Delphi.

Southern Greece is not widely perceived as one of the world’s great birding centers, yet what the regional avifauna lacks in quantity is made up for in quality. Highlights from our time at sea, at the archaeological sites, and from excursions to Dinari Lagoon near Pylos included “Scopoli’s” and Yelkouan shearwaters, Little Ringed Plover, Yellow-legged Gull, Little Owl, Western Rock Nuthatch, Sardinian Warbler, Crested Lark, and “Balkan” Western Yellow Wagtail in addition to a slew of other common and widespread birds. Best, perhaps, on the short list of our top experiences were the sightings of Eleonora’s Falcons over the town of Mylopotamos on Kythira, and the gorgeous White-winged Tern at Dinari Lagoon, the latter a lifer for Victor Emanuel!

This cruise was successful in many ways, but perhaps no more so than for the opportunity to travel with classicist and scholar, Dr. Paul Woodruff. Through his onboard presentations, group readings, and historical interpretation, Paul brought the culture and civilization of ancient Greece to life. Yes, the local guides with whom we worked throughout the trip were generally very good, but it was Paul’s presence, grace, and inimitable style that made it all so special.
ITINERARY

May 16, 2018 – Participants for Greece: A Circumnavigation of the Peloponnese departed today for Europe.

May 17 – We arrived in Athens throughout the day with transfer to the Divani Acropolis Hotel, situated in close proximity to the famed Acropolis of Athens and adjacent Plaka. This evening we enjoyed a trip welcome followed immediately by dinner at Attikos, a lovely rooftop restaurant sited just below the southwest slope of the Acropolis. In addition to a delicious meal, we were treated to evening views of the Parthenon, an inspiring sight to be sure.

May 18 – This morning marked our first full day together in Greece. Because we weren’t scheduled to board our ship until later in the afternoon, we had most of a day in Athens, significant for the reason that our program did not include any further time in the Greek capital.

One of the reasons we’ve always liked the Divani Acropolis Hotel is that it is so conveniently located. Within minutes one can walk to the Acropolis, the Ancient Agora, the Plaka, and the Acropolis Museum. On the Athens Pre-trip, we used part of the first day for a trip to the top of the Acropolis to see the ancient structures built to honor the Olympian Goddess Athena. For the cruise we would use the morning hours of the first day for a visit to the Acropolis Museum at the base of the famous hill.

The Acropolis Museum is in many ways one of the great showpieces of Athens. Constructed as a replacement for the outdated and undersized museum that sat atop the Acropolis itself, the new museum was built not only to showcase the many priceless artifacts from antiquity recovered in the area, but also to bring to the attention of a twenty-first century audience the fact that Athens was militarily and culturally the center of the world in the middle of the fifth century B.C., and that the heritage of modern-day Greeks is tied to those ancients who lived here so long ago. Designed by Bernard Tschumi and Michael Photiades, the museum, with its airy spaces, huge viewing windows, glass floors, and rising ramps, is a triumph of beauty and good taste, at least in the opinion of this author.

We would spend three hours in the museum, with plenty of time for touring and taking in the many exhibits, video presentations, and gift shop. Some of the group also spent time outside on the veranda watching for birds.

Following our museum visit, we boarded a coach and headed to the port of Piraeus where we had lunch at a waterfront restaurant. After lunch it was time to board the ship, which we did with considerable anticipation.

Upon boarding the Harmony V, our home for the next week, we would spend the next couple of hours getting settled in our cabins, participating in mandatory safety training, and learning our way around the vessel. We also made time to take in a presentation by Paul in advance of the next day’s visit to Epidaurus.

We departed Piraeus around 6:00 p.m. for the short trip across the Saronic Gulf.
May 19 – This morning we awoke to find the *Harmony V* anchored amid the serene waters of mountain ringed Epidaurus Bay. This location on the western side of the Saronic Gulf is less visited by larger vessels and thus we had the place to ourselves. Unlike Attica, and Athens in particular, Epidaurus is a lightly populated place inhabited mostly by locals and served as the jumping off spot for the namesake archaeological site.

We disembarked the vessel aboard Zodiacs—our only such disembarkation of the voyage—and were tendered to shore, at which point we boarded a bus for the 30-minute ride to the archaeological site.

For our birds and history programs that visit important archaeological sites, our goal always is to arrive at the time of opening so as to avoid the crowds and the midday heat. Epidaurus (or Epidavros in Greek) was the center of healing in the ancient Greek world, and its great sanctuary, the Asclepeion, and adjacent theater, drew people from across Greece. Today, the theater stands as the most intact example of a Greek theater from antiquity, while the Asclepeion survives largely in fragments and foundations. Touring with local guides, we split the group in half, starting with the ancient theater and finishing amid the expansive grounds of the Asclepeion and other sites. A visit to the theater was a highlight and made all the more rewarding with a short reading performance devised by Paul and performed by several of our fellow participants.

![Theater at Epidaurus © David & Kathy Barton](image-url)
Throughout the morning we managed to take in some birding, butterflying, and wildflower watching. Following the tour, we had time for birding, which paid off with sightings of Eurasian Jay, Eurasian Magpie, Great Tit, and European Greenfinch. Of course, the star of the show was the Little Owl that emerged from under an excavation shelter.

By late morning it was time to return to the ship. Retracing our route, we were back on board the *Harmony V* by 12:30, right on time for lunch and an afternoon of cruising.

Throughout the afternoon, we made our way south along the coast toward our next port of call: Nafplio. The scenery was terrific every step of the way. Some of us watched for birds from the viewing deck while others napped. Late in the afternoon, Dr. Woodruff delivered his second presentation.

We arrived at Nafplio around 8:00 p.m., at which point we took advantage of the opportunity to walk around the town.

**May 20** – Briefly the capital of Greece following the war of independence in the 1820s, Nafplio is today a scenic port town in a long bay off the Saronic Gulf. Nafplio is also the gateway into the Argolid plain, a vast low-lying area dominated by agriculture. In ancient times, this part of Greece was the center of Mycenaean civilization, which was controlled variously by a succession of city-states. Mycenae itself is paramount, but Tyrins and Argos had their glory days as well.

As with our visit to Epidaurus on the previous day, our plan for Mycenae was similar. The morning was arranged so that we would arrive at Mycenae when it opened, at which time we would divide into two groups in advance of a tour of the ancient acropolis.

Prior to entering the heart of the site, we stopped at the Treasury of Atreus, a beehive tomb erected as a monument to a Mycenaean king, supposedly of the house of Atreus. From here we traveled the short distance to the main archaeological site. Mycenae is a hilltop citadel from atop which it is easy to understand why the site was of vital strategic importance to its one-time inhabitants. Entering through the famed Lion’s Gate, we took our time viewing the burial shafts, fortification walls, and other dwellings, all of which contributed to our understanding of Mycenae as a site of great wealth and power. While so much attention is given to the classical period of ancient Greece, it is remarkable to ponder the fact that Mycenae saw its heyday approximately eight-hundred years earlier.
Birds were not plentiful, yet the rocky, hilly habitat was not entirely unproductive. The trip’s first Western Rock Nuthatches elicited a lot of interest. Beyond birds, we saw Peloponnese Wall Lizards and many lovely wildflowers.

Our morning at Mycenae concluded with a trip to the site museum. The museum became crowded but offered a nice experience nonetheless. Our trip back to the ship took about thirty minutes.

Upon arrival at the port, we had about an hour and a half before Harmony V would depart, thus providing time for other activity options. Many people chose to walk back into Nafplio on a tour with cruise director Joseph, or simply go into town for a cup of coffee or a bit of shopping, while others among us opted for a birding jaunt along the shore of Kea Bay. The latter activity was fruitful. While the third week of May sees the end of the migration period, we still located a number of birds we would not see again. Standout memories included scope views of Kentish and Little Ringed plovers and views of a spectacular Western Yellow Wagtail of the southeastern European race. Other highlights included Little and Common terns and Crested Lark.

Soon we were back on board the ship heading south. Our next port would be Monemvassia, representing a cruise of about six hours to reach. This schedule was great: an active morning of sightseeing and walking followed by an afternoon of relaxation and leisure. A bit of seawatching produced a number of Cory’s (Scopoli’s) Shearwaters and a couple of groups of Common Bottlenose Dolphins. It was a nice afternoon, albeit a windy one. Late in the day Paul delivered his third presentation.

We arrived in Monemvassia around 7:00 this evening, with time to explore the old Byzantine town for a couple of hours before returning to the ship. Monemvassia is a wonder of Greece. Yes, it is touristy in many ways, but it undeniably retains a charm unto itself, no doubt because of its Byzantine architecture and spectacular cliffside location.

May 21 – The Harmony V departed Monemvassia in the middle of the night so that we could reach our next destination, the island of Kythira, early the next morning. The distance was lengthy, and we cruised through the night, but at sunrise we found ourselves offshore of the island. Our timing was well-executed, and for good reason: the nearby islet of Avgo (Egg in Greek) is home in the warmer months to a colony of Eleonora’s Falcons. The captain obliged us by navigating around the island where off its steep western face we saw ten or more falcons.
darting and soaring over the surrounding water. Seeing Eleonora’s Falcon is always a big deal on any trip to Greece, and this site has proven among the more reliable. Unfortunately, we were amid a gale, with high winds tearing down at us from the northeast. We watched the falcons as long as we could before they headed over to Kythira where they would spend the day hunting. Meanwhile, we were buffeted heavily until we could eventually reach the shelter of beautiful Kapsali Bay.

Situated on the south coast of Kythira, Kapsali Bay is a lovely circular bay with an ample swim beach, seaside promenade, and cafes. As we had a whole day here, we included activities that would provide exposure to the island’s landscapes, history, and charm. Kythira is something of a jewel among Greek islands in that it hasn’t been inundated by mass tourism and everything that goes along with it. The island’s population is small and getting smaller, yet the outside world has been tastefully felt here, thus traditional ways of life can be encountered alongside the pleasures of a modern café.

Disembarking the ship after breakfast, we boarded a bus for the island interior, specifically the village of Mylopotamos. Mylopotamos is a small place, yet it is a lovely and quiet little village that caters to locals and occasional visitors alike. It was our tough luck to be here on such a windy day, but we had no problem making the most of it. A number of the group enjoyed a birding and wildflower walk through the length of the town out into the country while others of us took in cups of tea and coffee and even a bit of shopping. For the birders among us, happiness was the discovery of a Spanish Sparrow or two around town, as well as several Eleonora’s Falcons.

We returned to the ship in time for lunch and an afternoon break. In the midafternoon, Paul delivered his fourth lecture, after which time we enjoyed a late afternoon trip to the island capital of Chora (pronounced “hora,” and sometimes spelled that way). One of the real neat elements to our day here was the fact that we were guided by the island’s two-term mayor, now retired. What a treat it was to be in the field with someone familiar with all things Kythira. The man certainly knew his history and clearly took pleasure in guiding us through the town’s old streets and plazas before topping out at the Venetian fortress on a promontory just above the town. What a beautiful place Chora is, and what a wonderful setting.

Back on board the ship for dinner, we finally departed Kythira ahead of a night of cruising.

May 22 – At a little after 6:00 a.m., the ship entered stately Navarino Bay where we would shortly arrive at the port of Pylos. Pylos is another of Greece’s very attractive coastal settlements, and a place of human habitation since the time of Homer, at least. Here, we had a full day at our disposal, which allowed for a diversity of activities. The main event of the morning was a visit to the archaeological site of Nestor’s Palace, located about forty-five minutes to the north. The site’s close proximity and small size meant that we could include ahead of time an optional birding excursion to Dinari Lagoon.

Situated at the north end of Navarino Bay, Dinari Lagoon is a brackish marshland, a rarity in these parts, that provides sanctuary to migrating birds in the spring and fall. Our birding outing was not just chock-a-block with birds, but we did enjoy several interesting sights that certainly
made the trip worthwhile, including scope views of Sardinian Warbler, Crested Lark, and Corn Bunting. A fly-over group of wayward Rosy Starlings was a great surprise as well.

Toward the end of our birding outing, we were joined by the rest of the group that had come up from the ship. All together we made the short hop up to Nestor’s Palace. Old Nestor, for whom the palace was obviously named, was said to be a wise and powerful king from the Mycenaean world—so Homer tells us—who clearly would have presided over a fertile and verdant land. The site itself has been transformed into an impressive facility complete with a permanent roof and suspended walkways to keep wear to the actual site to a minimum. In all, we spent about two hours here touring the site with local guides and watching the video (well-done, by the way) that makes sense of what the visitor is seeing.

By late morning it was time to return to the ship. Following another sumptuous lunch, the group had the option of walking into the town, relaxing on board, or making a return birding trip to Dinari Lagoon. The birding group was small yet was treated to a very unexpected sighting of an adult White-winged Tern—clearly a late-migrating bird. Upon returning to the ship before dinner, Victor tried valiantly to round up anyone who would be interested in making a return trip to see this special bird. Most of the group was in town, thus he found few takers. Nevertheless, he and a few others charged back out there to find the bird still present. Success.

After dinner tonight, the ship departed the bay and continued its journey north.

May 23 – After another late-night cruise we arrived in the port of Katakolo on the western side of the Peloponnesse in advance of a day at Olympia, another site of major importance in the ancient Greek world. From Katakolo, we would bus to Olympia, arriving in time for the opening of the site. Because a couple of giant cruise ships were scheduled to “disgorge” their passengers to Olympia on the day of our visit, we chose to start with a visit to the museum before it got crowded and before proceeding to the archaeological site.

Most of the important archaeological sites in Greece are accompanied by an on-site museum. While all are certainly of interest, some of the museums are of special importance, and the museum at Olympia is one of them. Largish, beautifully organized, and filled with spectacular
artifacts, a trip to this museum is an essential part of a visit to Olympia. Splitting into two groups, we would spend a little over an hour touring the exhibits and galleries before continuing down to the main site.

Again, dividing the group, we spent a couple of hours working our way around the ruins complex. The ancient stadium was possibly of greatest interest, but the ruins of the temples of Zeus and Hera and the gymnasium were also essential stops.

After the day’s early start and a full morning on foot, it was time for lunch. Thanks to the local contacts of Joseph, our cruise director, we enjoyed a superb lunch at a local taverna that is popular among locals and that normally is open only for dinner. The restaurant’s lovely setting and airy atmosphere contributed greatly to what was a lovely experience.

Our next activity was a trip back into central Olympia and a chance to visit the museum of the Olympic Games, where we spent an hour. Some of the group chose to spend the time birding around the grounds of the museum, which actually worked out quite well. I later saw the photographs of the Short-toed Treecreeper from the pine trees that lined the entry path!

By midafternoon it was time to get a move on, however, with one last stop in store. Indeed, Joseph took us to a family-operated store where we would sample wine, olives, and olive oil for purchase, among a variety of other gift objects. This experience was pleasant, and as always in these situations, it’s nice to support people who sell locally made products.

By the time we departed Olympia it was getting on toward 4:00 p.m. Instead of riding back to Katakolo, however, we boarded the bus and made an overland trip north to the port city of Patra on the Gulf of Corinth. Upon departing Katakolo this morning, the Harmony V departed the port for Patra, a journey that would take all day. The plan was to rejoin the ship at 6:00 p.m. The plan was well executed, as our arrival in Patra occurred not long after the ship arrived in port.

Re-embarking the ship was satisfying. It had been a full and excellent day, and it felt good to be back “home.” That said, we weren’t done yet. We still had some distance to travel.

Once we had received clearance to depart, the ship cruised out of the port and into the Gulf of Corinth. By this time of the day the temperatures were ideal, and with a bit of cloud cover we enjoyed the last couple of hours at sea making our way up the gulf. A highlight was the opportunity to pass under the Rio-Antirrio Bridge that spans the full width of the gulf. This bridge is notable for several reasons, not least of which is that it is recognized as one of the world’s largest cable-stayed suspension bridges.

May 24 – During the night we arrived in the port of Itea, farther east up the gulf and situated on the north shore, which actually is on the Greek mainland. Itea is a gateway to Delphi, where we would spend the first part of our day.

This site, along with the Acropolis of Athens and Olympia, was one of monumental importance in the ancient world. Greeks traveled from far and wide to visit the site of the venerable oracle
and the all-important treasuries that were located here. Delphi sits on the south flank of Mount Parnassos and is certainly one of the most visually attractive of the ancient sites of Greece.

As always, our arrival coincided with the opening of the site, and for a final time we divided into two smaller groups for a tour of the museum prior to heading out to the site itself. Delphi is a fascinating place and also a beautiful one owing to its relatively verdant natural setting. For the duration of the morning we worked our way through the museum and around the archaeological site.

With about an hour at our disposal prior to returning to the ship, the birders among us made an effort to locate some of the special birds that one may encounter at Delphi, including Blue Rock-Thrush, Black-eared Wheatear, Woodchat Shrike, and more Western Rock Nuthatches. Others walked down to a spring at the lower end of the property to check for birds in the shaded understory.

At last it was time to depart, and our timing was such that we arrived back at the ship in time for lunch. The entire afternoon was spent making our way further east up the Gulf of Corinth, a positively interesting journey that brought exposure to the incredibly rugged nature of the Greek landscape. With sightings of Cory’s Shearwaters and Bottlenose Dolphins to enliven things, a number of us spent the cruise time watching for wildlife and taking advantage of the opportunity to see this part of the world from this rather remarkable perspective.

Around 5:00 p.m. the *Harmony V* reached the head of the gulf, from which we would enter the Canal of Corinth. After waiting for clearance, we embarked on a transit of the four-mile canal in order to get back into the Saronic Gulf. And what an experience it was! Traveling slowly through the channel, we gained instant appreciation for the magnitude of the engineering feat required to construct the passage. Indeed, at times it seemed that we could practically reach out and touch...
the perpendicular canyon walls. The journey was made all the more interesting by our sightings of Eurasian Jackdaws and several Lesser Kestrels.

We emerged from the canal after 6:00, at which point we instantly entered an especially serene corner of the Saronic Gulf. With very little development in any direction, we were treated to a natural setting that appeared much as the ancient Greeks might have seen over two thousand years ago. It was a lovely evening on the water.

Simultaneously, the ship staff was executing check-out procedures in advance of disembarkation the following morning.

Right at sundown the *Harmony V* pulled into port on the island of Aegina, a mere few miles from the port of Piraeus. Following a final dinner, we were given the opportunity to go ashore and take a walk through the attractive town.

**May 25 – Harmony V** departed Aegina in the middle of the night so as to be in the harbor of Piraeus by first light. Disembarkation took place throughout the morning, with participants transferring to the airport or area hotels.
BIRDS


Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl (Anatidae)
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) – The Mallard of Europe is the same bird as the Mallard of North America. This species, along with a number of other waterfowl species, occurs widely across the northern hemisphere. Two pair were seen at Dinari Lagoon north of Pylos on the birding excursion of May 22.

Shearwaters & Petrels (Procellariidae)
Cory’s Shearwater (Calonectris diomedea diomedea) – Cory’s Shearwater is a widely occurring Atlantic Ocean seabird whose range includes the Mediterranean Sea. For decades, ornithologists have been aware that almost all of the Mediterranean breeding birds differ morphologically and vocally from populations that breed on islands in the open Atlantic Ocean, such as at the Canary Islands, Madeira, and the Azores. Taxonomists have traditionally treated the two populations as distinct subspecies under a parent species we know as “Cory’s Shearwater,” with birds of the Atlantic known as Calonectris diomedea borealis, and the Mediterranean birds given the name Calonectris diomedea diomedea. European birders have applied the common name of “Scopoli’s Shearwater” to birds of the race diomedea.

Cory's "Scopoli's" Shearwater © David Barton
With advances in the study of mitochondrial DNA, it has become clear that the birds of the Mediterranean differ genetically as well from the more widespread Atlantic form, thus paving the way for recognition of Scopoli’s Shearwater as fully distinct at the species level. Indeed, European taxonomists have formally adopted the change. Because the eBird/Clements taxonomy, which VENT uses globally for all of its checklists, often lags behind other taxonomic systems in adopting recent changes, Scopoli’s Shearwater has not yet been recognized in this taxonomy. I raise this latter point for two reasons: first, we enjoyed many wonderful views of “Scopoli’s Shearwater” in the nearshore waters all around the Peloponnese; and 2) because the names “Cory’s” and “Scopoli’s” were used interchangeably throughout the trip, thus possibly causing confusion. The fact is that we formally referred to the birds we saw as “Cory’s Shearwater” because VENT adheres to the eBird/Clements taxonomy for its checklists, yet we want to point out that it probably is only a matter of time before eBird/Clements formally adopts the European decision and recognizes “Scopoli’s Shearwater” as a distinct species. Visually, the main difference is that “Scopoli’s” shows more extensive white feathering at the base of the primaries on the underwing.

Yelkouan Shearwater (Puffinus yelkouan) – Yelkouan Shearwater is the other of the two shearwater species that inhabits the eastern Mediterranean. It is patchy in distribution in Greece’s offshore waters—common in some areas and completely absent in others—and becomes progressively more numerous farther east and north, such as in the Aegean Sea and around the Bosporus Straits. We saw the bird on two different days: in the early morning of May 21 when several birds were seen by part of the group offshore of the island of Kythira, and then again on the 23rd when a single bird was seen very well by many of us late in the day in the Gulf of Corinth. I expected this bird to be more numerous than it turned out to be. I attribute the lack of sightings to the fact that May is the nesting season, when birds are staying closer to their colonies on offshore islets. Yelkouan Shearwater is told from the larger Cory’s Shearwater by its much smaller size, faster flight style, and striking black and white plumage. This species was formerly known as Levantine Shearwater.

Cormorants & Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)
European Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) – This species is the only member of its family to occur in the Mediterranean in the warmer months of the year. One or two were seen in flight in the harbor at Epidaurus on the morning of the 19th; one or two others were seen at sea while en route to Nafplio later in the day.

Heron, Egrets & Bitterns (Ardeidae)
Gray Heron (Ardea cinerea) – A single bird was seen at Kea Bay outside Nafplio late in the morning of May 20; a couple of other birds were seen at Dinari Lagoon north of Pylos on the 22nd. This bird is the Eurasian counterpart to our Great Blue Heron.
Great Egret (Ardea alba) – A single Great Egret was seen in flight at Dinari Lagoon on the morning of the 20th. This is the same species as we have in North America, but a different subspecies, alba.
Little Egret (Egretta garzella) – One or two Little Egrets were seen on the birding excursion to Kea Bay near Nafplio late on the morning of May 20; about half a dozen others were seen at Dinari Lagoon north of Pylos on the morning of the 22nd.
Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) – The funny little Squacco Heron is a bit of an oddity in appearance. The smallest of the European herons and egrets, this bird exhibits a striking mix of white and yellow-brown plumage. The two birds we saw at Dinari Lagoon on the afternoon of the 22nd were likely late-moving migrants, although the possibility that the birds were over-summering can’t be ruled out.

**Hawks, Eagles & Kites (Accipitridae)**

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipter nisus*) – Eurasian Sparrowhawks were seen on three occasions, and on zero occasions were the birds actually seen well. As luck would have it, all three of our sightings were of birds seen in flight from the bus while we were moving from the proverbial point A to point B. The first sighting occurred on Kythira late in the morning of the 21st while we were returning to the ship; the other two sightings took place near Pylos, the first when we were returning to the ship for lunch, and the second in the afternoon when we were moving between the ship and Dinari Lagoon.

Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) – We saw Common Buzzards on two days of the trip—May 21 and 22 to be precise—but as with the sparrowhawk, we only saw birds in flight. A couple people noted buzzards over the hills surrounding Kapsali Bay on Kythira on the 21st, while a couple of others were noted at distance over the agricultural lands of Dinari Lagoon on the 22nd. To be clear, the term “buzzard” implies a different type of bird in the U.S. than in Europe where the term is used to describe raptors of the genus *buteo*.

**Stilts & Avocets (Recurvirostridae)**

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) – The handsome, delicate Black-winged Stilt was seen well in two locations: the first sighting occurred on May 20 when a breeding pair was discovered on the shore of Kea Bay near Nafplio; and the second sighting was of several birds amid the flooded shallow pans and marshlands of Dinari Lagoon on the 22nd. Nice scope views for all.

**Plovers & Lapwings (Charadriidae)**

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) – A pair of Kentish Plovers was located amid the gravel, shell mounds, and refuse along the shore of Kea Bay near Nafplio on the morning of May 20. This species has a predilection for hot and dry settings—precisely where we found ourselves on this excursion. Until a couple of years ago Kentish Plover was considered a subspecies of Snowy Plover, a bird with which we North Americans are more familiar.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) – The sprite Little Ringed Plover is similar to the Kentish Plover in habitat choice. We had nice views of a couple of birds at the same place as the above species.

**Sandpipers & Allies (Scolopacidae)**

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) – A single female Ruff was seen in the marshlands of Dinari Lagoon on the afternoon of May 22. Most Ruffs have passed north through the region by this point in the migration cycle, but it is not especially remarkable to find stragglers here and there.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) – A single bird was seen briefly by Roy among the other birds at Kea Bay near Nafplio late in the morning of May 20.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – A single bird was seen well among the other birds at
Kea Bay near Nafplio late in the morning of May 20.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers (Laridae)**

Slender-billed Gull (*Chroicocephalus genei*) – A single subadult bird (probably entering its second summer), was seen briefly at Kea Bay near Nafplio late in the morning of May 20. While probably not rare, this sighting seemed unexpected given the late date.

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*) – Yellow-legged Gull is THE gull of the Mediterranean basin during the breeding season. This handsome bird was common and seen well every day of the trip.

Yellow-legged Gull © David Barton

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) – A single Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen on the breakwater among the Yellow-footed Gulls as we were cruising out of the port of Patra in the early evening of May 23. Our view of the bird was clear but not prolonged. This species occurs in Greece primarily during the winter months but, as with many gulls, a few non-breeders linger into the warmer months. Important to point out about Lesser Black-backed Gull is that it occurs in five different varieties, all of which are recognized races. Of these, three are known to occur in Greece. While our view of the bird was too brief to conclusively identify it to subspecies, my feeling is that it likely belonged to the race *fuscus*, more commonly known as “Baltic Gull.” Without providing an overkill of detail, the races of Lesser Black-backed Gull vary in darkness of the back and folded wings (mantle), a trait that becomes clearer from a bird’s second year of life. Our bird exhibited a pattern of blotchy dark gray and black feathering on the back, suggesting a second-year bird (adults would be uniformly dark). Second, the black feathers were so dark as to match the black tips of the bird’s folded wing. The other races of this species are lighter-backed and more contrasty in appearance between the back and folded wings. Third, this is the most often encountered race in Greece.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) – Those who participated on the birding excursion to the shores
of Kea Bay outside Nafplio on the morning of May 20 were rewarded with dandy views of this, Europe’s smallest tern. Little Tern is closely related to the Least Tern of North America.

White-winged Tern (*Childonias leucopteras*) – On the afternoon of May 22, a return trip to Dinari Lagoon north of Pylos struck pay dirt in the form of a beautiful adult White-winged Tern flying back and forth over the marshland. This bird is probably not truly rare in this part of Greece, yet the unexpected appearance of so beautiful a bird in such a lovely setting amid the glow of the late afternoon light was special. White-winged Terns breed patchily in Eastern Europe and western Asia and winter in Africa. It is a passage migrant through Greece.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) – Several individuals were seen well just offshore of the beach at Kea Bay near Nafplio on the morning of May 20. This is the same species as occurs in North America.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) – A single basic plumaged bird flew around the bay at Itea prior to our excursion to Delphi. Only a few people were outside to see it before it disappeared.

**Pigeons & Doves (Columbidae)**

Rock (Feral) Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – Common and seen daily.

Common Wood-Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) – A single birds was “heard only” at the archaeological site of Epidaurus.

European Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) – A single bird was “heard only” from the Eucalyptus trees near the west end of Dinari Lagoon, north of Pylos, on the morning of the 22nd.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) – This species is one of the most frequently encountered birds in Greece, no matter where one goes. We saw plenty of them.

**Owls (Strigidae)**

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) – One of the trip’s great birding highlights was the sight of a Little Owl that we flushed from under a work shelter at the archaeological site of Epidaurus on the morning of May 19. Good views and good photo-ops for all!

**Swifts (Apodidae)**

Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*) – Europe’s largest swift, the majestic Alpine Swift, presents a
marvelous sight as it forms feeding groups over cities, towns, archaeological sites, and coastal headlands. Greece is actually one of the better places in Europe to see Alpine Swift—and see it we did! We observed the bird on four different days, but most memorable was the site of numerous individuals rocketing over the lofty Venetian fortress at Chora on the island of Kythira on May 21.

**Common Swift (Apus apus)** – Common Swift is actually more numerous than the preceding species, and the swift most likely to be encountered in various ports of call. For instance, we enjoyed tremendous morning shows of Common Swifts wheeling, peeling, and screeching over the towns of Nafplio and Pylos on May 20 and 21, respectively.

**Pallid Swift (Apus pallidus)** – This bird is very similar to the above species and often very difficult to discern when they are flying together. Pallid Swift occurs widely in coastal Greece, yet nowhere (to our knowledge) is it common. We were able to pick out several individuals from the screeching masses of Common Swifts in the port of Nafplio on the morning of May 20. Pallid Swift is recognized by its browner plumage (as opposed to blackish), scaled underparts and more extensively pale throat and face. Even then these marks can be difficult to discern.

**Hoopoes (Upupidae)**

Eurasian Hoopoe (Upupa epops) – Typically rather confiding by nature, hoopoes proved elusive on this trip. While at dinner at the rooftop restaurant in Athens on the first night of the tour, a number of people saw a hoopoe in flight over one of the nearby apartments. The only other individual seen was a bird along the roadside on Kythira on the 21st, and even there it was not seen by more than a handful of the group. I attribute the paucity of sightings to birds staying closer to their nest sites at this time of the year.

**Rollers (Coraciidae)**

European Roller (Coracias garulus) – European Roller is an uncommon but regular migrant through Greece, Roy John saw a single bird on a power line while traveling to Dinari Lagoon from Pylos on the afternoon of the 22nd.

**Falcons & Caracaras (Falconidae)**

Lesser Kestrel (Falco naumanni) – A widespread and fairly common bird in northern Greece, Lesser Kestrel is a highly localized nesting species in the south of the country; in fact, the Canal of Corinth area is about as far south as they get. Unlike the similar Eurasian Kestrel, which nests in isolated pairs in a variety of habitats, including in cities and towns, the Lesser Kestrel is more rural-loving by nature, where birds form colonies in places such as old buildings and road cuts. And speaking of the Canal of Corinth, this site is a known nesting locality for the bird. During our transit of the canal on the afternoon of the 24th, we saw a total of three birds—two females and one male—flying among the crenellations and pockets deep within the depths of the canal. The females are essentially inseparable from the female Eurasian Kestrel, but the males are distinguished by their all blue head and blue medial bands on the upper wing.

Eurasian Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus) – We had to wait until May 22 before we saw our first kestrels of the trip—a couple of birds in the vicinity of Dinari Lagoon—but then we saw the bird on several occasions on the ensuing two days, including an apparent female at
the mouth of the Canal of Corinth. Interestingly, most of these birds were seen at
distance.

Eleonora’s Falcon (*Falcon eleonorae*) – Our sighting of this species in numbers on the island of
Kythira was one of the trip’s premier birding experiences. Eleonora’s Falcon winters in
Madagascar and East Africa before returning to Europe in the spring. Within Europe, the
bird is restricted as a breeder to the Mediterranean basin from Spain to the Aegean Sea
where it nests colonially on islands with high cliffs. Not common anywhere, Greece is the
bird’s stronghold, with more nesting pairs here than in any part of its range. Interestingly,
its life history is quite different from that of other birds. Eleonora’s Falcons nest at the
end of summer and early fall, a time that coincides with the southbound migration of
Eurasian songbirds. From their seacliff colonies, the falcons pick off vulnerable
songbirds as they migrate south over the open water of the Mediterranean. Prior to the
nesting season, they arrive at their colony sites as early as April, and
throughout the rest of the spring and
deep into summer they hunt birds
and insects over nearby islands and
the coastal mainland. Upon arrival
in the offshore waters of Kythira
early on May 21, we detoured to the
nearby islet of Avgo (Egg) for a
short circuit of the rock. Avgo is a
known nesting site for Eleonora’s
Falcons, and sure enough, upon
arrival on the islet’s west side we
spotted a minimum of 10 birds
coursing around the cliff face and
surrounding waters. We watched
the birds for approximately ten
minutes until they began to disperse to nearby Kythira proper where they would spend
the day hunting. Later in the morning, following a bus ride to the village of Mylopotamos
in Kythira’s interior, we caught up with the birds in a big way. Throughout the morning
we were treated to repeated views of falcons as they foraged directly over the town and
surrounding hills. It took a while to obtain high quality views for everyone, but we
managed it immediately prior to returning to the ship when we watched at length an
individual hunting while suspended on a persistent stiff wind. We were on the island for
the entire day and saw falcons intermittently from the mid-morning into the late
afternoon. We were told that the year’s count of falcons residing in the Kythira area is 17.

**Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)**

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) – Native to parts of Africa and India, the lovely Rose
-ringed Parakeet presents an improbable sight in a major metropolis such as Athens. Its
popularity as a cage-bird has led to the establishment of naturalized populations in major
cities worldwide, Athens included. A number of the group saw parakeets around the
Acropolis Museum on the morning of the 18th.
Shrikes (*Laniidae*)

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*) – A beautiful male Woodchat Shrike appeared among the ruins of Delphi on the morning of May 24. This sighting occurred near the end of our guided tour when the group was split into two subgroups, and thus was not seen by all. This species is highly migratory and occurs in Greece only during the warmer months.

![Woodchat Shrike © David Barton](image)

Crows, Jays & Magpies (*Corvidae*)

Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) – This handsome and iconic European bird was seen almost every day of the trip. Among the more memorable sightings was the single bird along the back fenceline at Epidaurus on the morning of the 19th; numbers of others were seen on ensuing days.

Eurasian Magpie (*Pica pica*) – One of the most frequently encountered birds of the trip, we saw magpies on all days but one. This instantly recognizable member of the corvid family is closely related to our Black-billed Magpie of North America.

Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) – This small crow-like bird was seen in low numbers within the depths of the Canal of Corinth on the afternoon of May 24.

Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*) – The two-toned Hooded Crow presented a fairly common sight throughout the voyage, with birds seen on five of the trip’s seven full days.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) – Common Raven occurs patchily in coastal southern Greece. For instance, our first sightings occurred late in the day of May 20 as we prepared to enter Monemvassia. A number of others were seen the next day on Kythira, while another few birds were seen around Pylos on the day after that. However, no ravens were seen before May 20, and none were seen after the 22nd.

Larks (*Alaudidae*)

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) – Wonderful scope views were had of a territorial male bird on
the shore of Kea Bay near Nafplio on the morning of May 20. Others were seen amid the shallow pans of Dinari Lagoon on the 22nd. This charismatic species is the expected dry country lark of the Mediterranean basin.

**Swallows (Hirundinidae)**
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – This bird was common and seen almost daily throughout the trip. It is the same species as occurs in North America, but of a different race, *rustica*, that features a white belly instead of buffy-orange.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) – This southeastern Europe specialty bird was initially seen over the village of Mylopotamos on Kythira on the 21st, but at least part of the group had much better views of a couple of birds flying over the ruins of Delphi on the 24th.

Common House-Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) – This attractive insectivore was a common sight throughout the trip, with birds recorded on five of the trip’s seven full days. House-martins occupy most of Europe in the warmer months before departing for Africa in the autumn.

**Tits, Chickadees & Titmice (Paridae)**
Great Tit (*Parus major*) – Europe’s largest and most common tit species, we saw this bird every day of the trip.

**Nuthatches (Sittidae)**
Western Rock Nuthatch (*Sitta newmayer*) – As the name implies, the rock nuthatch is a bird most likely found in places with lots of rocks. Happily for birders, archaeological sites that feature lots of rocks and bricks and columns and walls serve also serve as wonderful habitat. We enjoyed this charismatic little bird at Mycenae on the 20th and at Delphi on the 23rd. At both sites we were treated to wonderful close-up views.

**Treecreepers (Certhiidae)**
Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*) – For the people who chose not to spend as much time in the Museum of the Ancient Olympic Games in Olympus on the 22nd, sweet reward was the sighting of a Short-toed Treecreeper creeping up a pine outside the museum.

**Bush Warblers & Allies (Scotoceridae)**
Cetti’s Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) – The understated Cetti’s Warbler is a surprisingly common but retiring species of dense, rank, deep vegetation. Only in the spring may the observer have a good chance of seeing the bird well, when it mounts an exposed perch to pour forth its explosive and beautiful song. Cetti’s was seen well by a
number of the group at Dinari Lagoon on the 22nd, while others were heard only the next day at Olympia.

**Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephalidae)**

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*) – A couple of birds were seen amid the tamarisks and eucalyptus at the west end of Dinari Lagoon north of Pylos on the morning of the 22nd. This warbler is actually common throughout southern Greece in the warmer months, yet it is a difficult bird to see well despite its tendency to announce its presence through a monotonous chattery song.

Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) – Eurasian Reed-Warbler is a common and widespread bird across most of Europe during the spring and summer seasons. Although we did not see the bird on this year’s trip, its presence was detected by Roy John, who had “heard-only” birds in the marsh at Kea Bay near Nafplio on the 20th, and again at Dinari Lagoon north of Pylos on the 22nd.

**Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)**

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) – The small Zitting Cisticola is a bird heard far more often than seen. Heard only at Dinari Lagoon north of Pylos on the 22nd.

**Sylviids (Sylviidae)**

Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) – We enjoyed many wonderful views of Sardinian Warblers amid the trees and bushes around Dinari Lagoon on the 22nd. Typically common and easily detected, this species seemed rather scarce this time, a phenomena I attribute to the fact that birds keep a lower profile during the nesting season.

**Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)**

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) – This flycatcher is the sole breeding flycatcher species of southern Greece. We saw birds on three different days, with high quality views occurring at Dinari Lagoon on the 22nd and outside the museum at Delphi on the 24th.

Blue Rock-Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) – About a third of the group was treated to sightings of the attractive Blue Rock-Thrush at Delphi on the 24th. Like the Western Rock Nuthatch, this species is equally at home among the ruins from antiquity as they are on the cliff faces of Mount Parnassos.

Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*) – About a quarter of the group had decent views of a male Black-eared Wheatear atop a tall cypress tree amid the ruins of Delphi on the morning of May 24. This bird is another of the “rock lovers” of southern Greece, where it is most at home in rugged terrain.

**Thrushes & Allies (Turdidae)**

Eurasian Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) – A common and iconic bird, it was seen on five of the trip’s seven days. Our highest quality experience with this bird was of the singing males seen very well at Dinari Lagoon north of Pylos on the morning of the 22nd.

**Starlings (Sturnidae)**

Rosy Starling (*Pastor roseus*) – One of the trip’s biggest avian surprises was the sight of a flock of Rosy Starlings winging northward at Dinari Lagoon on the 22nd. There are a couple of items worth mentioning here: first, we referred to this bird as Rose-colored Starling at the
time of the sighting. To be clear, that name is the old name for the bird. The current name is Rosy Starling. Second, this bird occurs only irregularly in eastern Europe, meaning that it breeds farther to the east but shows up here in migration in unpredictable numbers. It is worth pointing out that the appearance of these birds followed two days of strong northeast winds. As a footnote, another flock was seen by a few people over the museum at Olympia on the 23rd.

Wagtails & Pipits (*Motacillidae*)

Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) – We enjoyed dynamite views of a beautiful individual around the shoreline of Kea Bay near Nafplio on the morning of the 20th. The breeding birds of Greece belong to the race *feldegii*, featuring a bright yellow breast and solid black cap.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) – No more than two or three people saw the White Wagtail on the quay at Itea on the morning of May 24. The species breeds here, and I was watching for it, but alas, good fortune visited only a couple of us on this day.

Old World Buntings (*Emberizidae*)

Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*) – The handsome Cirl Bunting was recorded on three separate days, but to cut to the chase, only the birds around Nestor’s Palace north of Pylos were seen well. Indeed, as many as half a dozen individuals were heard singing around the archaeological site, with several of the birds seen well.

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) – We enjoyed superb scope views of singing male birds on territory around Dinari Lagoon on the 22nd. This species is the least colorful of Europe’s buntings, yet is a handsome bird nonetheless.

Finches, Euphonias & Allies (*Fringillidae*)

Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) – The charismatic Common Chaffinch is as colorful a bird as it is an accomplished songster. This bird is widespread and common in parts of Europe, which could place it in that category of birds we call common but underappreciated. That said, we sure appreciated them. They were as beautiful and full of song as ever in their plentitude around Nestor’s Palace on the 22nd. Others were seen at Epidaurus on the 19th, at Olympia on the 23rd, and at Delphi on the 24th, but at none of these other places were they as sublime as at Nestor’s Palace.

European Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) – Greenfinches were seen or heard on five of the trip’s seven full days. Without question though, they were most abundant at Dinari Lagoon where we enjoyed prolonged scope views.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) – This beautiful little bird was seen or heard on six of
the trip’s seven full days.

**Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)**

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – Seen and heard almost everywhere we went. As common as ever.

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) – The striking Spanish Sparrow occurs widely across the Mediterranean basin, and often side-by-side with the above species. The two species are known to hybridize where they occur together, and apparently the island of Kythira is one such place. In the village of Mylopotamos we had clear views of a bird that was ultimately shown to be an adult male Spanish Sparrow, complete with heavy streaking on the breast and belly. Of course, House Sparrows were present as well. Following our discussion of these birds, and how to separate the two species, several trip participants began producing photographs of other individuals from Mylopotamos that very clearly showed traits of both species. So yes, pure forms of both species were present, as were birds that clearly reflected hybridization. This accounting does not really do justice to the matter, as the situation is even more complex in places where it seems that hybrid populations are now genetically unique enough to warrant full species status (Italian Sparrow).
Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncates*) – We had good views of several groups of animals on three different days. Our first sighting was of several animals close to the boat on the afternoon of April 19 between Epidaurus and Nafplio, the next afternoon between Myceane and Monemvassia, and on April 24 in the Canal of Corinth. This species is the most frequently encountered dolphin in the Mediterranean.

**REPTILES**

Several online resources were consulted for identification including the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and iNaturalist.

Balkan Green Lizard (*Lacerta trilineata*) [PROBABLY] – During the optional birding excursion to Dinari Lagoon north of Pylos on May 22, a number of us had brief views of a thick medium-size all green lizard. A bit of research points to Balkan Green Lizard as the likely species. This lizard is common and widespread over much of the Balkan Peninsula,
including Greece and many of its islands. The dry, semi-arid habitat is perfect for this species.

Peloponnese Wall Lizard (*Podarcis peloponnesiacus*) – A number of us enjoyed close-up views of at least two pairs of these lizards at the archaeological site of Mycenae, near the top of the acropolis. Kudos to David Barton for contributing excellent photos and for uploading photos to iNaturalist for identification.

**INSECTS**

**Butterflies:**
The primary resource for butterfly identification during the tour was:

Another important resource was our local guide during the pre-trip, Lefteris Stavrakas of Greece Bird Tours, who afterward identified numbers of butterflies from photographs.

Last, special acknowledgement is due tour participants David Barton, Mahlon Hale, Roy John, and Robert Warren collectively, for their interest in butterflies and for their image contributions, without which the list would be incomplete.

Swallowtail (Old World Swallowtail) (*Papilio Machaon*)
Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*)
Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)
Small White (Small Cabbage White) (*Pieris rapae*)
Eastern Bath White (*Pontia edusa*)
Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*)
Cleopatra (*Gonepteryx cleopatra*)
Geranium Bronze (*Cacyreus marshalli*)
Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)
Two-tailed Pasha (*Charaxes jasius*)
Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
Southern White Admiral (*Limenitis reducta*)
Southern Comma (*Polygonia egea*)
Balkan Marbled White (*Melanargia larissa*)
Balkan Grayling or Delattin’s Grayling (*Hipparchia senthes or delattini*)
   One or the other; may be impossible
to separate in the field.
Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)
Essex Skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*)

Other insects:
The following list was compiled and contributed by Roy John, a highly competent and thorough
naturalist.

Antlion (adult) (*Myrmeleon formicarius*) PROBABLY
Thread Lacewing (*Nemoptera sinuata*)
Rose Chafer (*Cetonia aurata*)
Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa violacea*) POSSIBLY
Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)
Goblet-marked damselfly (*Erythromma lindenii*)
Thread Lacewing (*Nemoptera sinuata*)
Grey Bush Cricket (Grey Bush-Cricket) (*Platycleis albopunctata*)
Roesel's Bush-Cricket (*Metrioptera roeseli*)
Other creatures:
Also contributed by Roy John.

Garden Snail (*Cornu aspersum*)
Banded Snail (*Eobania vermiculata*)

**BOTANY**
Credit for compilation and contribution of the following botanical list is due entirely to Roy John.

At least two resources were brought to bear in assistance with identification of various plants and wildflowers that we saw along the way, one of which is listed here, the other of which is unknown.


D = Domestic plant
D? = Domestic plant, though hard to be sure

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<tr>
<td>Dwarf Mallow</td>
<td>Sidalcea malviflora</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musk Mallow</td>
<td>Malva moschata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flax</td>
<td>Linum usitatissimum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glasswort</td>
<td>Salicornia ramosissima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everlasting</td>
<td>Helichrysum bracteatum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock Rose</td>
<td>Cistus creticus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burnet Rose</td>
<td>Rosa spinosissima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Broom</td>
<td>Spartium junceum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorse</td>
<td>Ulex europaeus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giant Fennel</td>
<td>Ferula communis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tordylium</td>
<td>Tordylium apulum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Pimpernel</td>
<td>Anagallis arvensis var .caerulea or A. monelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet pimpernel</td>
<td>Anagallis arvensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat’s Rue</td>
<td>Galega officinalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallow Bindweed/Convolvulus</td>
<td>Convolvulus althaeides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbary fig (cactus)</td>
<td>Opuntia Ficus-indica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borage</td>
<td>Borago officinalis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hogweed</td>
<td>Heracleum spondiylium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s Lace</td>
<td>Daucus carota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Parsnip</td>
<td>Pastinaca sativa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem Sage</td>
<td>Phlomis fruticosa</td>
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</table>

Greece: A Circumnavigation of the Peloponnese, 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosemary</td>
<td><em>Rosmarinus officinalis</em></td>
<td>D?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Lavender</td>
<td><em>Lavandula stoechas</em></td>
<td>D?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Stock</td>
<td><em>Matthiola incana</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John’s Wort</td>
<td><em>Hypericum perforatum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bitter Cucumber</td>
<td><em>Citrullus colocynthis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Sea Lavender</td>
<td><em>Limonium vulgare</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Mullein</td>
<td><em>Verbascum thapsus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicory</td>
<td><em>Cichorium intybu</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seaside Plantain</td>
<td><em>Plantago maritima</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Buck’s-horn Plantain</td>
<td><em>Plantago coronopus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ribwort Plantain</td>
<td><em>Plantago lanceolata</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Creeping Bellflower</td>
<td><em>Campanula topaliana</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Peloponnese Campanula</td>
<td><em>Campanula andrewsii</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek chamomile</td>
<td><em>Anthemis chia</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crown Daisy</td>
<td><em>Chrysanthemum coronarium</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Marigold</td>
<td><em>Calendula arvensis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Corn Marigold</td>
<td><em>Glebionis segetum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ox-eye Daisy</td>
<td><em>Leucanthemum vulgare,</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Milk Thistle</td>
<td><em>Silybum marianum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Scabious</td>
<td><em>Kautia arvensis,</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea-lavender</td>
<td><em>Limonium sinuatum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shrubby Ptilostemon</td>
<td><em>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Round-head Leek</td>
<td><em>Allium sphaerocephalon</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow Flag Iris</td>
<td><em>Iris pseudacorus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea Rush</td>
<td><em>Juncus maritimus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Dog’s Tail</td>
<td><em>Lagurus ovatus or Phleum sp</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>