

Lesvos, Greece: Migration!

Species List | April 20 – 27, 2024

with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by host guide James P. Smith with local guide Stylianos Zennetos. Our awesome guests were; Sophia, Julie, Marianne & Richard, David & Beth, Lou & Deb, and Leo & Joanne.

Summary: this was a delightful tour with a delightful group. Each day we journeyed from our single base in Skala Kalloni and became immersed in the joys of a Mediterranean spring on the beautiful Greek Island of Lesvos. Near perfect weather greatly enhanced the tour bringing a mixed bag of conditions and a nice variety of migrants accordingly. In particular, flocks of migrating European Bee-eaters were recorded on every single day including around 75 birds in Faneromeni in the far west of the island on the 24th. We did especially well to have great views of the specialized local breeders including much sought-after species such as Krüper's Nuthatch, Rüppell's Warbler and Cinereous Bunting. And, it was fun to observe the gentle yet obvious westward expansion of Laughing Doves on the island, a former Greek and local island rarity.

The eBird link below details the 151 species of birds observed by the group during the tour. A handful of the species were recorded as 'heard-only' or 'leader-only' observations. Below the link is a summary of some of the other fauna encountered on the trip. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and an estimate of how many;

[Lesvos, Greece: Migration! | April 20-27, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

MAMMALS (4):

Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus* – one or two encountered quite randomly over the last three days of the trip, most of them around mature olive groves.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* – Leo spotted one snoozing on a boulder-strewn hillside at Agra on the 22nd, and another ran right across the road at Faneromeni on the 24th.

Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* – at least six cruising through Kavaki Bay near Molivos on the 25th.

Harting's Vole *Microtus hartingi* – one seen rather briefly near the Old Potomia Reservoir on the 21st.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5):

European Glass Lizard *Pseudopus apodus* – this large, weird legless lizard was first noted at Sigri in the streets below the Petrified Forest Museum where one provided afternoon entertainment for one of the local cats! Another was seen briefly by the Kalloni salt pans on the 25th.

Levant Water Frog *Pelophylax bedriagae* – mostly heard but sometimes seen in freshwater habitats with an especially memorable chorus right outside the Bijou coffee bar on the 26th

Stripe-necked Terrapin (Western Caspian Turtle) *Mauremys rivulata* – found on three days in fresh water habitats, and especially abundant at 'the secret pond' at Filia on the 26th.

Balkan green Lizard *Lacerta trilineata* – one seen in the quaint village of Agios Dimitrios during a Taverna stop on the 23rd.

Green Toad *Bufo viridus* – good numbers of young toads thought to be this species were present by a small pond on the coastal dirt road near Achlerderi on the 23rd.

BUTTERFLIES (5):

Black-Veined White Butterfly *Aporia crataegi*

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Other Fauna:

Dung Beetle *Scarabaeinae* – noted on the 23rd.

Mammoth Wasp *Megascolia maculata* – several at Filia secret pond on the 26th.

Conehead Mantis *Empusa pennata* – great views of this interesting beast at Faneromeni on the 24th.