

# Trip report: Crete (Greece), 8 September – 6 October, 2002

*Thomas Pettersson & Thord Fransson*

## Introduction

The overriding purpose of this trip was to catch as many as possible Garden Warblers *Sylvia b. borin* in order to study their fat deposition on their migration towards Africa. The studies are conducted by Dr. Thord Fransson. Participants on this trip: Paul Elfström (22/9 – 6/10), Thord Fransson (8 – 22/9 and 29/9 – 6/10), Roger Mellroth (8 – 15/9), Thomas Pettersson (15 – 29/9).

The catching was carried out in central Crete, south of its capital Iraklio. The place chosen was near a man-made dam, Partira Lake, some 7 kilometres southwest of Arkalohóri. The surroundings consist of farmland with olive groves *Olea europaea*, vineyards and cereal fields. There is a few fig trees *Ficus carica* and lemon trees *Citrus sp.* scattered in the area. The lemons were unripe while the figs were overripe and almost completely gone. The olives were of course also unripe. There was also a large amount of Blackberry, possibly *Rubus ulmifolius*, with ripe fruit in the area. The grapes were gathered at the time for our stay.

We were catching daily 9<sup>th</sup> September to 6<sup>th</sup> October, except on 29<sup>th</sup> September when it was raining. Mist nets, usually twelve in four different positions, were raised before dawn. Catching continued most days to about 11.00 am. Tape recorder with song of Garden Warbler were used the whole nights (from dusk) and throughout the catching period. Afternoons were “free” for other activities. The following sites were visited during the four weeks in purpose of bird watching.

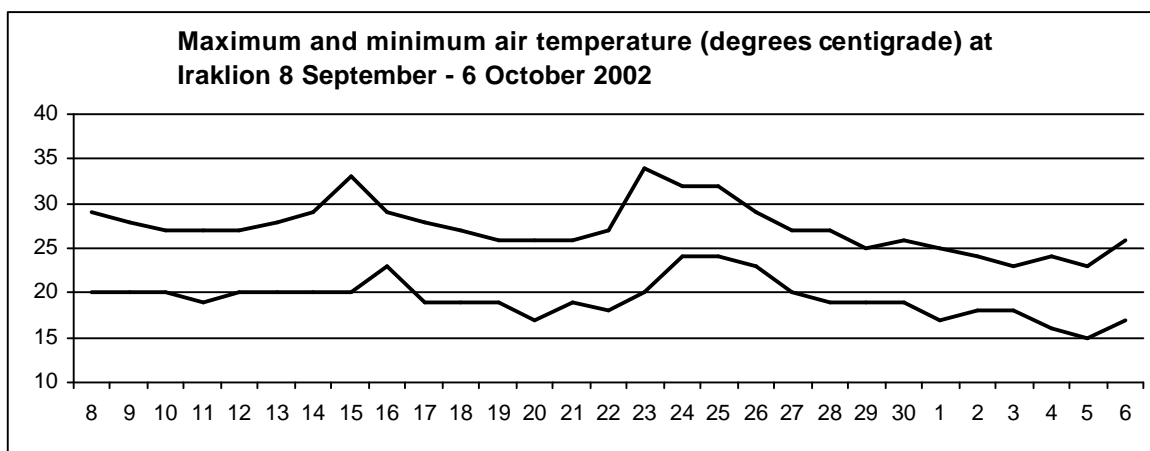
- ?? **Amourgelles Lake**, a man-made dam, situated just a few kilometres west of Partira Lake, was visited four times: 10/9, 16/9, 23/9, 27/9.
- ?? **Aposelemis River mouth and pools**: 9/9, 24/9, 29/9.
- ?? **Aski**. Hills north east of Kastelli, between Lyttos and Aski, with good views of Dikti Mountains. Visited 12/9, 13/9, 14/9, 17/9, 25/9.
- ?? **Asteroussia Mountains** on the south coast. We took the narrow, steep and winding road southwards from Sternes. If you come from east, turn at the school (on the right side of the road) in Sternes. We usually stayed birding about where the road reaches its highest elevation, close to the peak of **Kofinas** (1 231 metres above sea level). But once TF and RM continued down to Moni Koudouma at sea level - a thrilling experience! This place was visited on 11/9, 18/9 and 26/9.
- ?? **Ierápetra Reservoir** is a large dam, situated some 5 kilometres north west of Ierápetra, was visited once, 20/9.
- ?? **Livada Pool**, a man-made dam situated between Thrapsano and Apostoli, was visited seven times: 9/9, 12/9, 14/9, 15/9, 17/9, 22/9, 28/9. This site is apparently not the same as “Thrapsano Pool”, described by Stephanie Coghlan (1996).
- ?? **Lassithi Plateau** (Oropedio Lasithiou) was visited 25/9 and 3/10.

Moreover the beach of Tsoutsouros was visited 19/9, 30/9 and 2/10.

First light at about 06.10 a.m., sunrise at 07.30 and it was getting dark around 8.00 p.m. The Scops Owls used to start calling at about 7:45 p.m.

## Weather

The weather was settled during the first three weeks. Wind from north predominated with few exceptions. Wind from south coincided with markedly increased air temperature for short periods around 15-16/9 and 23-25/9. No precipitation at all until in the afternoon of 28/9. The next two days there were a lot of showers and thunder. Ringing activities had to be cancelled on 29/9 because of rain. The temperature continued to decrease slowly in the first week of October.



## References

- Baker, Kevin. 1993. *Identification Guide to European Non-Passerines*. BTO Guide 24. British Trust for Ornithology. Thetford. ISBN 0-903793-18-0.
- Coghlan, Stephanie. 1996. *A Birdwatching Guide to Crete*. Arlequin Press. ISBN 1 900159 10 4.
- Handrinos, George & Triantaphyllos Akriotis. 1997. *The Birds of Greece*. Helm. London. ISBN 0-7136-3929-6.
- Sfikas, George. 1987. *Wild Flowers of Crete*. Efstathiadis Group. Athens. ISBN 21183504?
- Svensson, Lars. 1992. *Identification Guide to European Passerines*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Stockholm. ISBN 91-630-1118-2.

## Map

Die General Karte, Kreta 2001. Mairs Geographischer Verlag, Ostfildern.

## Annotated species list

We follow the systematics adopted by

?? Josep del Hoyo, Andrew Elliot & Jordi Sargatal. 1992-2002. *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. Vol. I – VII. Lynx Ediciones. Barcelona.

?? Stanley Cramp & C. M. Perrins. 1988-1994. *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa*. Vol. V – IX. Oxford University Press. Oxford.

### Abbreviations and symbols

ad. = adult, adults

imm. = immature, immatures

juv. = juvenile, juveniles

? = male

? = female

?-c = female coloured, i.e. not an adult male

**Little Grebe / Smådopping / *Tachybaptus r. ruficollis*** (PALLAS 1764). 10-15, both ad. and juv., seen throughout at Partira Lake. Seen also at Amourgelles Lake at all visits, 16 at most 16/9 (TF, TP). 51 counted at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Black-necked Grebe / Svarthalsad dopping / *Podiceps n. nigricollis*** BREHM 1831. 8 (both ad. and juv.) at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Cory's Shearwater / Gulnäbbad lira / *Calonectris d. diomedea*** (SCOPOLI 1769). Four sightings: 2-3 Aposelemis River mouth 13/9 (RM, TF); 1 off Iraklio harbour 22/9 (TF); 1+1 heading east off Aposelemis River mouth 24/9 (PE, TP); 1 at Aposelemis River mouth 29/9 (PE, TF).

**Grey Heron / Gråhäger / *Ardea c. cinerea*** LINNAEUS 1758. 1-3 seen almost daily 8/9-5/10 at Partira Lake. Noteworthy sightings: 9 at Amourgelles Lake 16/9 (TF, TP); 8 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP); 33 in a flock migrating south at Partira Lake 28/9 (PE, TP); 4 came in from sea at Iraklio airport 29/9 (TP); 8 at Partira Lake 1/10 (PE, TF).

**Purple Heron / Purpurhäger / *Ardea p. purpurea*** LINNAEUS 1766. 6 ad. + 1 juv. at Aposelemis River mouth 9/9 (TF, RM); 1 juv. at Amourgelles Lake 10/9 (TF, RM); five sightings of 1-2 at Partira Lake 21/9-3/10, but 7 seen there on 22/9 (TF); 2 at Amourgelles Lake 16/9 (TF, TP); 1 at Amourgelles Lake 23/9 (PE, TP).

**Little Egret / Silkeshäger / *Egretta g. garzetta*** (LINNAEUS 1766). 1-2 at Partira Lake throughout the period; 1 with dirty plumage at Pírgos 18/9 (TF, TP); 5 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Squacco Heron / Rallhäger / *Ardeola ralloides*** (CARNIOLA 1769). At Partira Lake singles were seen on 8/9, 10/9 and 22/9, though 3 there on 30/9 (PE, TF). 1 at Livada Pool 17/9 (TF, TP); 3 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Black-crowned Night-heron / Natthäger / *Nycticorax n. nycticorax*** (LINNAEUS 1758). A total of 17 sightings at Partira Lake, evenly scattered throughout the period. High counts were 4 on 10/9 (TF, RM) and 9 on 30/9 (PE, TF). 5 ad. + 2 juv. roosting at Amourgelles Lake 16/9 (TF, TP).

**Little Bittern / Dvärgrördrom / *Ixobrychus m. minutus*** (LINNAEUS 1766). Five sightings: 1 juv. roosting at Partira Lake 16/9 (TF, TP); 2 flushed at Partira Lake 28/9 (PE); 1 juv. at Partira Lake 30/9, 4/10 and 5/10 (PE, TF).

**Glossy Ibis / Bronsibis / *Plegadis falcinellus*** (LINNAEUS 1766). Only one sighting: 1 at Aposelemis River mouth 24/9 (PE, TP).

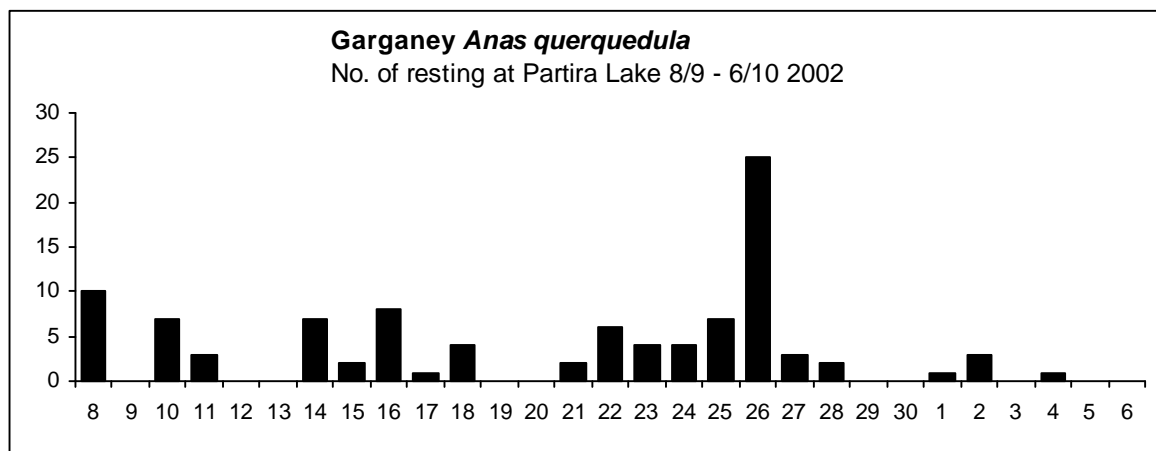
**Gadwall / Snatterand / *Anas strepera*** LINNAEUS 1758. One pair (? and ?) at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Common Teal / Kricka / *Anas c. crecca*** LINNAEUS 1758. Six sightings of 1-2 at Partira Lake 8/9-5/10; 7 at Livada Pool 14/9 (TF, RM); 207 counted at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Mallard / Gräsand / *Anas p. platyrhynchos*** LINNAEUS 1758. Two sightings: c. 50 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP); 2 at Livada Pool 22/9 (PE, TP).

**Northern Pintail / Stjärtand / *Anas a. acuta*** LINNAEUS 1758. C. 10 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Garganey / Årta / *Anas querquedula*** LINNAEUS 1758. Regularly seen at Partira Lake throughout the period, mostly small groups up to 10, but occasionally 25 on 26/9 (PE, TP); 4 at Livada Pool 15/9 (TF, TP); 1 at Livada Pool 17/9 (TF, TP); c. 50 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP); 4+1 at Livada Pool 22/9 (PE, TP); 1 at Aposelemis River mouth 24/9 (PE, TP).



**Northern Shoveler / Skedand / *Anas clypeata*** LINNAEUS 1758. 1 ? (eclipse) at Livada Pool 12/9, 14/9 (TF, RM), 17/9 (TF, TP) and 22/9 (PE, TP); 1 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TP).

**Common Pochard / Brunand / *Aythya ferina*** (LINNAEUS 1758). A total of 136 counted at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Ferruginous Duck / Vitögd dykand / *Aythya nyroca*** (GÜLDENSTÄDT 1770). 4 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Tufted Duck / Vigg / *Aythya fuligula*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 5 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Osprey / Fiskgjuse / *Pandion h. haliaetus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 1 migrating at Kofinas Oros on 11/9 (TF, RM).

**Western Honey Buzzard / Bivråk / *Pernis apivorus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 1-2 south of Iraklio 8/9 (TF, RM). Four sightings at Partira Lake: a total of 65 (!) migrating on 13/9 (TF, RM); 1 on 14/9 (TF, RM); 5 on 15/9 (TF, RM); 3 on 30/9 (PE, TF). 1 juv. at Livada Pool 22/9 (PE, TP); 1 juv. near Aski 25/9 (PE, TP); 1+6+1 migrating at Kofinas Oros 26/9 (PE, TP).

**Black Kite / Brun glada / *Milvus m. migrans*** (BODDAERT 1783). 1 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP).

**Bearded Vulture / Lammgam / *Gypaetus b. barbatus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 2 subadults seen twice at Kofinas Oros, 18/9 (TF, TP) and 25/9 (PE, TP).

**Eurasian Griffon / Gåsgam / *Gyps f. fulvus*** (HABLIZL 1783). Four sightings at Partira Lake: 3 on 19/9 (TF); 2 on 30/9 (PE, TF); 9 on 1/10 (PE, TF); 1 on 5/10 (PE, TF). C. 40 at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM); 3 at Aski on 12/9, 4-5 there on 13/9 and 30 on 14/9 (TF, RM); 4+2 at Aski 17/9 (TF, TP); c. 40 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP); c. 20 near Mournies

- 20/9 (TF, TP); c. 15 at Lassithi Plateau 25/9 (PE, TP); c. 40 at Kofinas Oros 26/9 (PE, TP); c. 10 near Tsoutsouros 2/10 (PE, TF); c. 15 along the road to Lassithi 3/10 (PE, TF).
- Short-toed Snake-eagle / Ormörn / *Circaetus gallicus*** (GMELIN 1788). 1 at Partira Lake 14/9 (TF, RM).
- Western Marsh-harrier / Brun kärrhök / *Circus ae. aeruginosus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Seven sightings of 1-2 at Partira Lake, evenly scattered over the period. 5 migrating at Aski on 12/9; 1 ? at Aposelemis River mouth 24/9 (PE, TP); 6 migrating at Lassithi Plateau 25/9 (PE, TP); 1 at Kofinas Oros 26/9 (PE, TP).
- Montagu's Harrier / Ängshök / *Circus pygargus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Two sightings: 1 juv. at Aski on 12/9 (TF, RM); 1 at Partira 22/9 (PE).
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk / Sparvhök / *Accipiter n. nisus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 1 ? at Partira Lake 26/9 (PE, TP); 1-2 at Partira Lake 30/9 (PE, TF); 1 at Partira Lake 1/10 (PE, TF); 1 at Partira Lake 2/10 (PE, TF).
- Eurasian Buzzard / Ormvråk / *Buteo b. buteo*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Commonly seen throughout, except in higher altitudes at Kofinas Oros where the species was absent.
- Lesser Spotted Eagle / Mindre skrikörn / *Aquila p. pomarina*** C. L. BREHM 1831. Two sightings: 1 juv. at Amourgelles Lake 23/9 (PE, TP); 2 juv. near Tsoutsouros 2/10 (PE, TF).
- Golden Eagle / Kungsörn / *Aquila chrysaetos*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 2 ad. at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM) and 1 ad. there on 18/9 (TF, TP); 2 ad. near Kato Kasteliana 19/9 (TF, TP); 2 at Lassithi Plateau 25/9 (PE, TP); 1 juv. near Tsoutsouros 2/10 (PE, TF). Cretan birds are presumed to belong to the subspecies *A. ch. homeyeri* SEVERTSOV 1888.
- Bonelli's Eagle / Hökörn / *Hieraaetus f. fasciatus*** (VIEILLOT 1822). 3 (1 ad. and 2 juv.) at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM); 3 (2 ad. and possibly 1 juv.) at Kofinas Oros 26/9 (PE, TP).
- Booted Eagle / Dvärgörn / *Hieraaetus pennatus*** (GMELIN 1788). Four sightings: 2 at Partira Lake both 13/9 and 14/9 (TF, RM); 1 ad. (dark morph) at Amourgelles Lake 23/9 (PE, TP); 1 juv. near Tsoutsouros 2/10 (PE, TF).
- Common Kestrel / Tornfalk / *Falco t. tinnunculus*** LINNAEUS 1758. Commonly seen throughout, even at higher altitudes. Seen almost daily at Partira Lake the whole period, usually 1-3 birds but apparently more, about 5, 24-28/9. Noteworthy sightings: c. 25 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP); c. 10 at Kofinas Oros 26/9 (PE, TP).
- Red-footed Falcon / Aftonfalk / *Falco vespertinus*** LINNAEUS 1766. 1 juv. perched on a wire north of Vóni 25/9 (PE, TP).
- Eleonora's Falcon / Eleonorafalk / *Falco eleonorae*** GENÉ 1839. Eight sightings at Partira Lake: 1 ad. (dark morph) 13/9 (TF, RM); 1 ad. (light morph) 16/9 (TF, TP); 1 ad. (light morph) daily 21-24/9 (PE, TF, TP); 1 subad. (light morph) 22/9 (PE, TP); 3 on 27/9 (PE); 2 ad. (both dark morph) on 6/10 (PE, TF). 2 ad. (both dark morph) at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP). 2 over the sea at Tsoutsouros 30/9 (PE, TF).
- Peregrine Falcon / Pilgrimsfalk / *Falco peregrinus*** TUNSTALL 1771. 1 juv. ? at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM); 2 at Aski 12/9 (TF, RM); 1 juv near Kastelli 13/9 (TF, RM); 1 ad. at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP); 2 juv. at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP). We presume that all birds belong to the breeding subspecies, *F. p. brookei* SHARPE 1873.
- Chukar / Berghöna / *Alectoris chukar cypriotes*** HARTERT 1917. 1 north of Kastelli on 13/9 (TF, RM).
- Common Quail / Vaktel / *Coturnix c. coturnix*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 1 at Tsoutsouros 2/10 (PE, TF).
- Water Rail / Vattenrall / *Rallus a. aquaticus*** LINNAEUS 1758. 1 at Partira Lake 4/10, 5/10, 6/10 (PE, TF).
- Little Crake / Mindre sumphöna / *Porzana parva*** (SCOPOLI 1769). 1, probably juv., at Partira Lake 21-22/9 (TF, TP).

**Common Moorhen / Rörhöna** / *Gallinula ch. chloropus* (LINNAEUS 1758). Numerous at Partira Lake throughout, but the number were very difficult to estimate, perhaps as many as 50 present, both ad. and juv. 1 ad. caught on 19/9 (TF, TP), obviously feeding on blackberries, some distance away from the water. 6 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP). It should be pointed out that no one was seen at Livada Pool or at Amourgelles Lake.

**Common Coot / Sothöna** / *Fulica a. atra* LINNAEUS 1758. 1-2 at Partira Lake probably throughout, but seen at only ten occasions. C. 340 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP). 3 at Aposelemis River mouth 24/9 (PE, TP).

**Black-winged Stilt / Stytlöpare** / *Himantopus h. himantopus* (LINNAEUS 1758). Two sightings, both at Partira Lake: 4 juv. 18/9 (TF, TP); 1 ad. 28/9 (PE, TP).

**Stone-curlew / Tjockfot** / *Burhinus oediconemus* (LINNAEUS 1758). Heard and seen at Partira Lake at every dusk and dawn throughout. During the period 8-27/9 they were believed to be not more than about 5 individuals, staying in the area, but at dusk on 28/9 suddenly no less than 40 were seen flying around (PE, TP). On 1/10 95 were counted (PE, TF), on 5/10 more than 100 (PE, TF) and on 6/10 75 individuals (PE, TF). The subspecies *B. oe. saharae* (REICHENOW 1894) breeds on Crete and the birds we saw probably belong to that race, but occurrence of migrating birds of the nominate subspecies cannot be ruled out.

**Common Ringed Plover / Större strandpipare** / *Charadrius hiaticula* LINNAEUS 1758. 1 juv. at Partira Lake 16/9 (TP). It probably belonged to the subspecies *Ch. h. tundrae* (LOWE 1915).

**Little Ringed Plover / Mindre strandpipare** / *Charadrius dubius curonicus* GMELIN 1789. 1 juv. seen at Partira Lake at seven occasions, evenly scattered during the period. 1 at Aposelemis River mouth on 13/9 (RM).

**Common Snipe / Enkelbeckasin** / *Gallinago g. gallinago* (LINNAEUS 1758). 1-3 seen at Partira Lake almost daily 8-20/9, thereafter only two sightings of singles on 1/10 and 5/10. 1 at Livada Pool 28/9 (PE, TP).

**Spotted Redshank / Svartsnäppa** / *Tringa erythropus* (PALLAS 1764). 1-2 juv. at Partira Lake almost daily 9-28/9, thereafter only one sighting of a single on 6/10 (PE, TF).

**Common Greenshank / Gluttsnäppa** / *Tringa nebularia* (GUNNERUS 1767). Six sightings of 1-2 at Partira Lake 12-19/9; 1 at Partira Lake 30/9 (PE, TF).

**Green Sandpiper / Skogssnäppa** / *Tringa ochropus* LINNAEUS 1758. Ten sightings at Partira Lake evenly scattered throughout the period. Most sightings concerned 1-2 individuals, but 4 were seen on 19/9 (TF, TP). 1 at Aposelemis River mouth 9/9; 3 at Livada Pool 9/9; 1 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Wood Sandpiper / Grönbena** / *Tringa glareola* LINNAEUS 1758. Seen daily at Partira Lake throughout the period. High count was 7 on 14/9 (TF, RM). 4 at Livada Pool 15/9 (TF, TP); 1 at Livada Pool 17/9 (TF, TP).

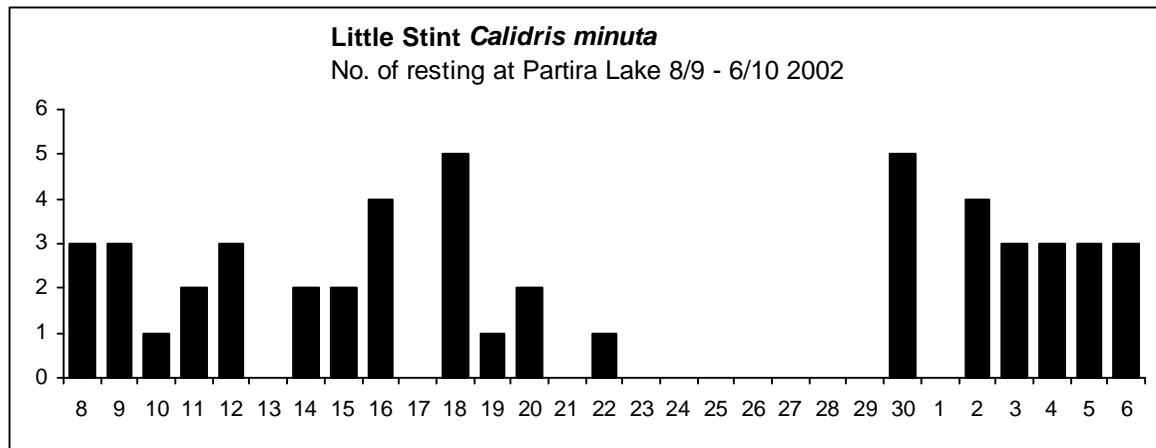
**Common Sandpiper / Drillsnäppa** / *Actitis hypoleucos* (LINNAEUS 1758). 1-2 at Partira Lake daily 8-20/9; 1 at Partira Lake daily 28/9-4/10; 1 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Little Stint / Småsnäppa** / *Calidris minuta* (LEISLER 1812). Eighteen sightings at Partira Lake with high counts of 5 on 18/9 (TF, TP) and 30/9 (PE, TF). 1 at Aposelemis River mouth 9/9; 4 at Livada Pool 9/9; 1 ad. in winter plumage at Livada Pool 14/9 (TF, RM); 1 juv. at Livada Pool 17/9 (TF, TP); 2 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Temminck's Stint / Mosnäppa** / *Calidris temminckii* (LEISLER 1812). 1 at Partira Lake 4/10 and 6/10 (PE, TF).

**Curlew Sandpiper / Spovsnäppa** / *Calidris ferruginea* (PONTOPPIDAN 1763). 1 juv. at Livada Pool 17/9 (TF, TP), 22/9 (PE, TP) and 28/9 (PE, TP); 2 at Partira Lake 18/9 (TF, TP); 1 at Partira Lake 19-20/9 (TF, TP).

**Dunlin / Kärrensäppa** / *Calidris a. alpina* (LINNAEUS 1758). Eight sightings at Partira Lake: 1-2 on 11-15/9 (TF, RM); 1 on 18/9 (TF), 3/10 (PE, TF) and 5-6/10 (PE, TF).



**Ruff / Brushane / *Philomachus pugnax*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 1-2 juv. at 13 occasions at Partira Lake 14/9-2/10; 1 juv. at Livada Pool 17/9 (TF, TP).

**Yellow-legged Gull / "Kaspisk trut" / *Larus cachinnans michahellis*** J. F. NAUMANN 1840. 2-3 off Aposelemis River mouth 13/9 (TF, RM); 2-3 off Gournes 15/9 (RM); 1 ad. at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP); 1+1 off Aposelemis River mouth 24/9 (PE, TP); 1 off Aposelemis River mouth 29/9 (PE, TF); 1-2 off Tsoutsouros 30/9 and 2/10 (PE, TF).

**Whiskered Tern / Skäggtärna / *Chlidonias h. hybridus*** (PALLAS 1811). 1-3 juv. at Partira Lake 10/9-5/10, occasionally 6 on 30/9 (PE, TF), none seen on 4/10 and 6/10. 21 (2 ad. and 19 juv.) at Livada Pool 14/9 (RM). 2 juv. at Amourgelles Lake 16/9 (TF, TP) and 19/9 (TF, TP). 1 ad. at Livada Pool 17/9 (TF, TP). 1 ad. + 3 juv. at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP). 1 at Livada Pool 22/9 (PE, TP).

**White-winged Tern / Vitvingad tärna / *Chlidonias leucopterus*** (TEMMINCK 1815). 1 juv. at Partira Lake 26-28/9 (PE, TP).

**Black Tern / Svarttärna / *Chlidonias n. niger*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 1 juv. at Amourgelles Lake 16/9 (TF, TP).

**Rock Dove / Klippduva / *Columba l. livia*** J. F. GMELIN 1789. Feral birds seen daily, e.g. a flock of 15 at Partira Lake 14/9-6/10. Possibly "true" birds: c. 30 at Kofinas Oros 26/9 (PE, TP).

**Common Woodpigeon / Ringduva / *Columba p. palumbus*** LINNAEUS 1758. Partira Lake: singles 8/9, 10/9, 14/9 and 16/9; 20 on 25/9; 10 on 26/9; 1 on 27/9; 4 on 5/10; 2 on 6/10. Seen also at other places on 12/9 (TF, RM), 13/9 (TF, RM), 17/9 (TF, TP) and 18/9 (TF, TP).

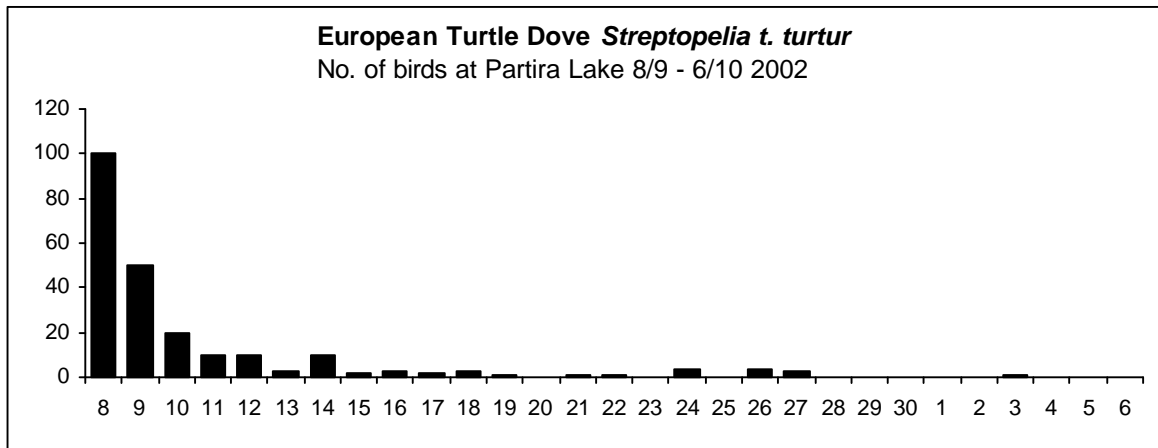
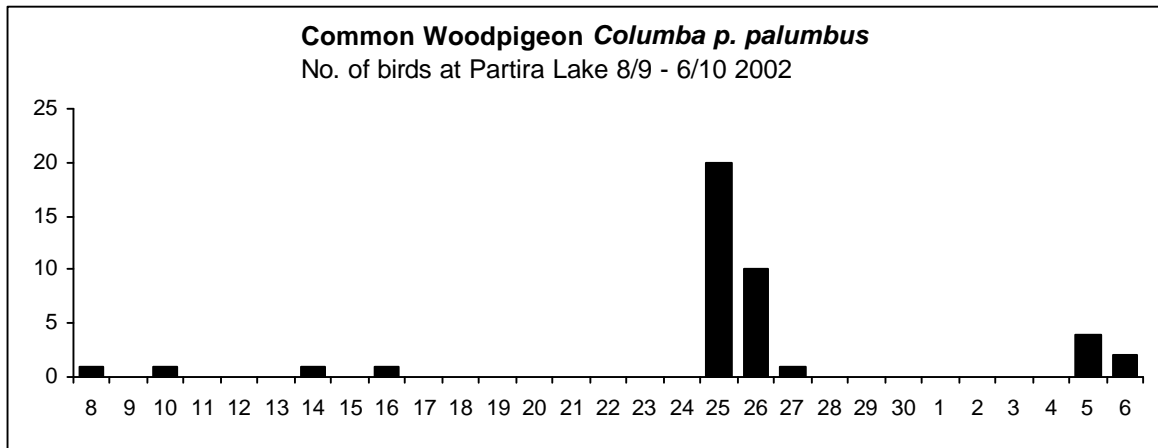
**European Turtle Dove / Turturduva / *Streptopelia t. turtur*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Seen almost daily the two first weeks at Partira Lake, rapidly decreasing in number the first three days. After 19/9 the species was noted for only six days. 2 juv. were caught on 17/9 and 18/9 respectively (TF, TP). Not recorded elsewhere.

**Eurasian Collared-dove / Turkduva / *Streptopelia d. decaocto*** (FRIVALDSZKY 1838).

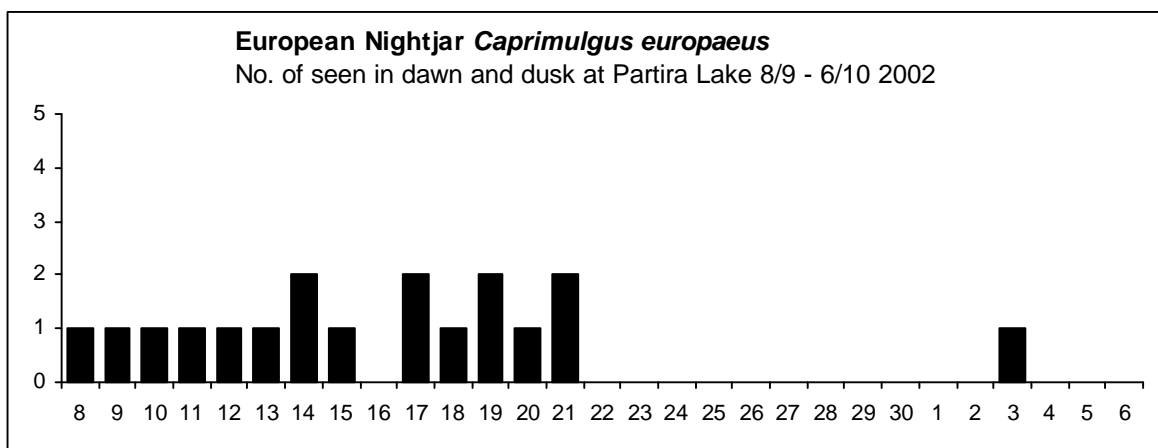
Unfortunately we have incomplete notes, but the species seemed to be surprisingly sparse in towns and villages. The species was noted at about every two days during the month.

**Common Cuckoo / Gök / *Cuculus c. canorus*** LINNAEUS 1758. 1 at Partira Lake 1/10 (PE, TF).

**Common Barn-owl / Tornuggla / *Tyto alba*** (SCOPOLI 1769). A total of fourteen sightings of 1-2 birds, all at dusk or dawn. Birds were seen at different sites, indicating three territories: Partira Lake, Agia Semni and an industrial building between Agia Semni and Arkalohóri. Breeding birds on Crete belong to the subspecies *T. a. erlangeri* W. L. SCLATER 1921.



**Eurasian Scops-owl / Dvärguv / *Otus scops*** (LINNÉ 1758). One or two, perhaps sometimes three, heard calling most mornings and evenings at Partira Lake. 1 heard once (second half of September) in the centre of Arkalohóri (PE, TP). We presume that all sightings concern the resident subspecies *O. s. cycladum* (TSCHUSI 1904).



**European Nightjar / Nattskärria / *Caprimulgus europaeus*** LINNÉ 1758. Seen daily (dusk and dawn) 8-21/9 at Partira Lake. Most of them were seen flying but at the end of the period they were also frequently seen sitting on gravelled roads. After that only one sighting: 1 at Partira Lake 3/10 (PE, TF). Three specimens were caught on 10/9 (1 juv.),



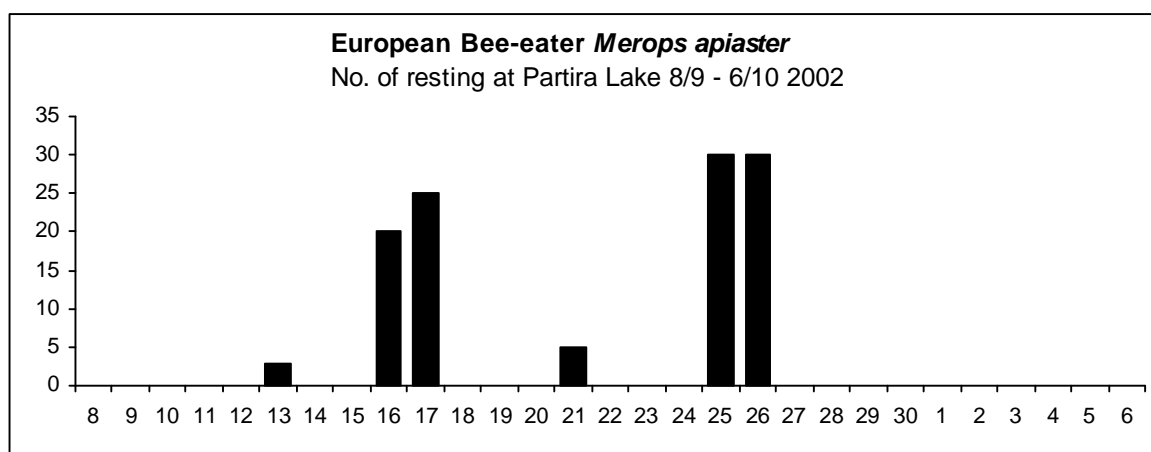
13/9 (1 ad. ?) and 15/9 (1 ad. ?). Their rather short wings (174 mm, 182 mm and 187 mm, respectively) indicate the subspecies *C. e. meridionalis* HARTERT 1896, which is a migrant breeder on Crete.

**Alpine Swift / Alpeglare / *Tachymarptis m. melba*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Five sightings at Partira Lake: 30 on 8/9, 5 on 9/9, 3 on 10/9 (TF, RM); then *c.* 20 on 16/9 (TF, TP), *c.* 40 on 26/9 (PE, TP) and 3 on 1/10 (PE, TF). Seen also at other places 12/9 (TF, RM), 13/9 (TF, RM), 22/9 (TF); 5 at Arkalohori on 26/9 (PE, TF).

**Common Swift / Tornseglare / *Apus a. apus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). A few seen in the area of Arkalohori on 8/9, 9/9 and 13/9 (TF, RM).

**Common Kingfisher / Kungsfiskare / *Alcedo a. atthis*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 1-3 seen daily at Partira Lake throughout the period. Six specimens were caught, three of them more than once. All of them were males in their first calendar year according to colouring on bill and tarsus. Wing length varied from 75 to 80 mm, average 78 mm. 1 at Aposelemis River mouth 24/9 (PE, TP). All birds are believed to belong to the nominate subspecies, thus not the same race occurring in northern Europe, *A. a. ispida* LINNAEUS 1758.

**European Bee-eater / Biätare / *Merops apiaster*** LINNAEUS 1758. Six sightings at Partira Lake, see diagram. 41 at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM); *c.* 15 at Aski 12/9 (TF, RM); *c.* 20 at Aski 13/9 (TF, RM); *c.* 10 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).



**Eurasian Hoopoe / Härfågel / *Upupa e. epops*** LINNAEUS 1758. Singles seen at Partira Lake at six occasions: 8/9, 10/9, 12/9, 13/9, 17/9 and 5/10. 1 ad. was caught on 5/10 (PE, TF).

**Eurasian Wryneck / Göktyta / *Jynx t. torquilla*** LINNAEUS 1758. 1-2 seen at seven occasions at Partira Lake, evenly scattered throughout the period. Three birds were caught on 10/9 (unknown age), 27/9 (juv.) and 5/10 (juv.).

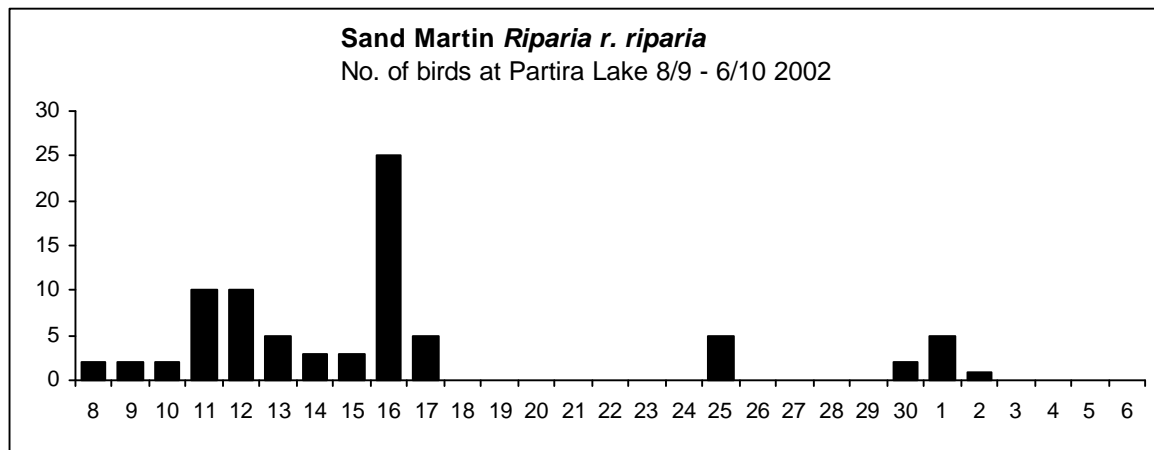
**Greater Short-toed Lark / Korttålrarka / *Calandrella b. brachydactyla*** (LEISLER 1814).

Two sightings: 2 at Aposelemis River mouth 9/9 (TF, RM); 1 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP).

**Crested Lark / Tofslärka / *Galerida cristata*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Very common throughout. *C.* 10-15 daily at Partira Lake. Cretan birds belong to the subspecies *G. c. meridionalis* C. L. BREHM 1841.

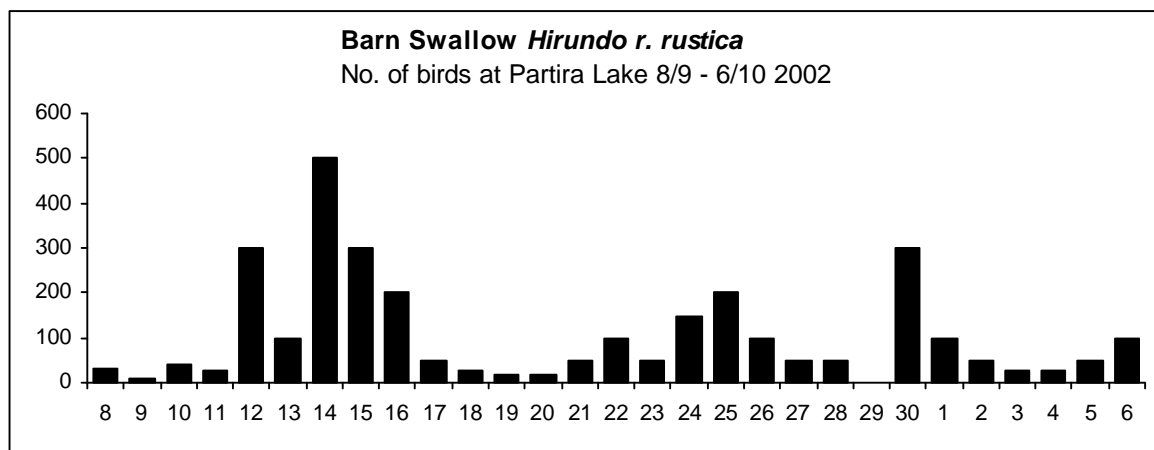
**Woodlark / Trädlärka / *Lullula arborea*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Up to five birds heard singing on the slopes at Partira Lake throughout the period. 1 singing at Kofinas Oros 26/9 (PE, TP). Birds breeding in Greece belong to the subspecies *L. a. pallida* ZARUDNY 1902.

**Sand Martin / Backsvala / *Riparia r. riparia*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Seen daily 8-17/9 at Partira Lake, thereafter seen only four days, see diagram. 1 ad. was caught on 16/9 (TF, TP). *C.* 5 at Amourgelles Lake 23/9 (PE, TP).



**Eurasian Crag Martin / Klippsvala / *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*** (SCOPOLI 1769). 40 at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM); 1 near Mournies 20/9 (TF, TP); a few at Lassithi Plateau 25/9 (TP).

**Barn Swallow / Ladusvala / *Hirundo r. rustica*** LINNAEUS 1758. Seen daily throughout the period at Partira Lake. The number varied considerably and three peaks in migration can be discerned, see diagram. Altogether 10 birds were caught, 1 ad. and 9 juv.



**Red-rumped Swallow / Rostgumpsva / *Hirundo daurica*** LINNAEUS 1771. Recorded nine days at Partira Lake 10-30/9, at most 10 on 12/9 (TF, RM). C. 5 near Mournies 20/9 (TF, TP); c. 5 at Amourgelles Lake 23/9 (PE, TP); 8 resting on a wire at Vóni 24/9 (PE, TP). 3 at Tsoutsouros 30/9 (PE, TF) and 4-5 at Tsoutsouros 2/10 (PE, TF). Birds breeding in Greece belong to the subspecies *H. d. rufula* TEMMINCK 1835.

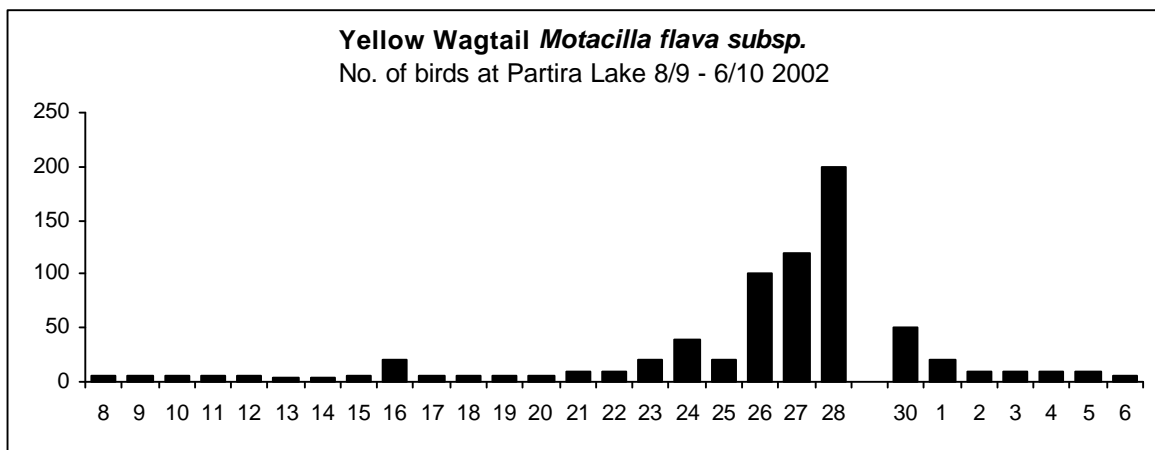
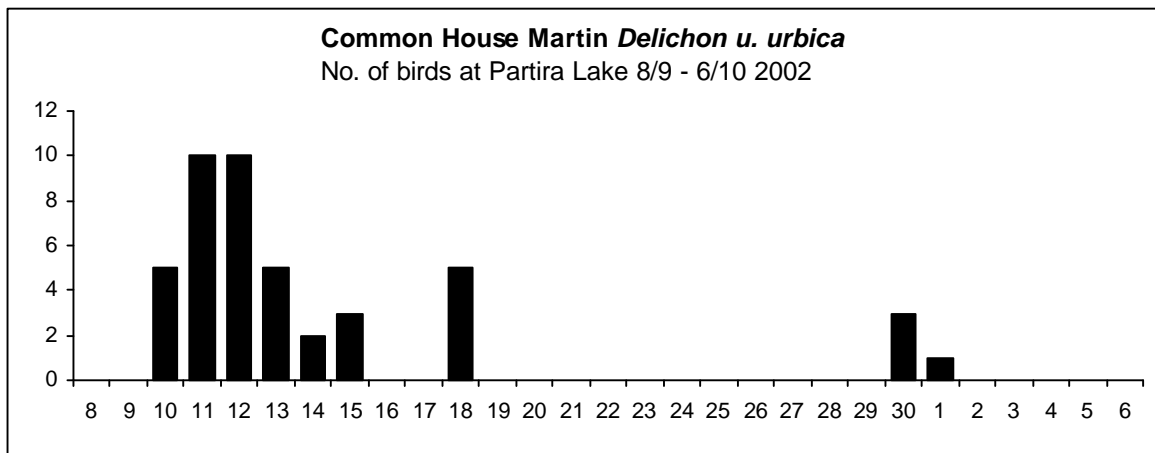
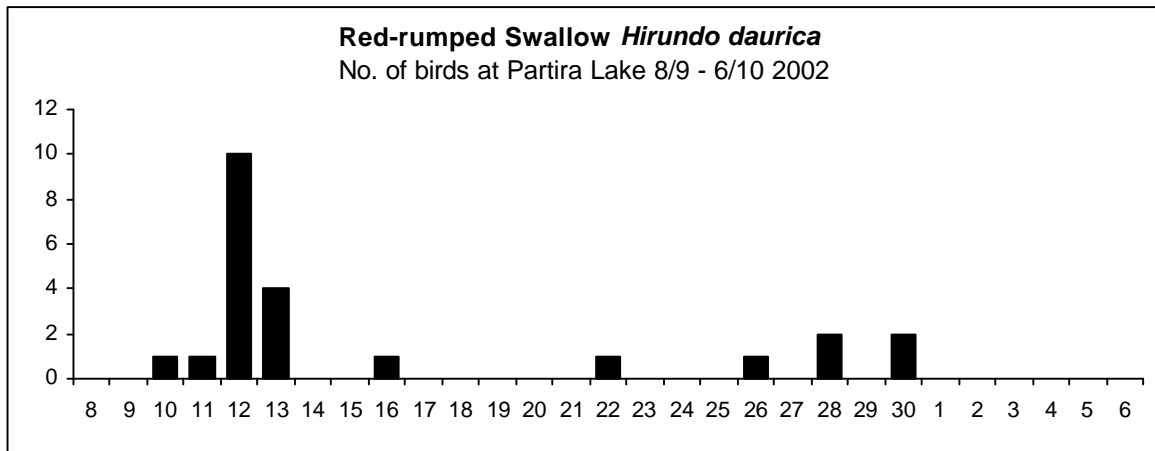
**Common House Martin / Hussvala / *Delichon u. urbica*** (LINNAEUS 1758). A marked peak in migration was noted at Partira Lake 10-15/9, thereafter seen only three times: 18/9 and 30/9-1/10. 200 at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM).

**Tawny Pipit / Fältpiplärka / *Anthus c. campestris*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Four sightings: 1 at Partira Lake 8/9 and 12/9 (TF, RM); 3 at Partira Lake 15/9 (TF, RM); 2 at Partira Lake 18/9 (TF, TP).

**Tree Pipit / Trädpiplärka / *Anthus t. trivialis*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Recorded in low numbers at Partira Lake on 18 days during the month. The highest number was 8 on 30/9 (PE, TF). One bird in its first calendar year was caught on 16/9 (TF, TP).

**Yellow Wagtail / Gulärla / *Motacilla flava*** LINNAEUS 1758. Recorded throughout the period at Partira Lake, mostly at dusk when birds were moving to roosts. A marked peak was at the hand 26-28/9, at most c. 200 birds. According to the calls, both subspecies *M. f. flava*

and *M. f. feldegg* MICHAHELLES 1830 was involved. At Aposelemis River mouth at least one juvenile *M. f. feldegg* was seen on 24/9 (PE, TP).



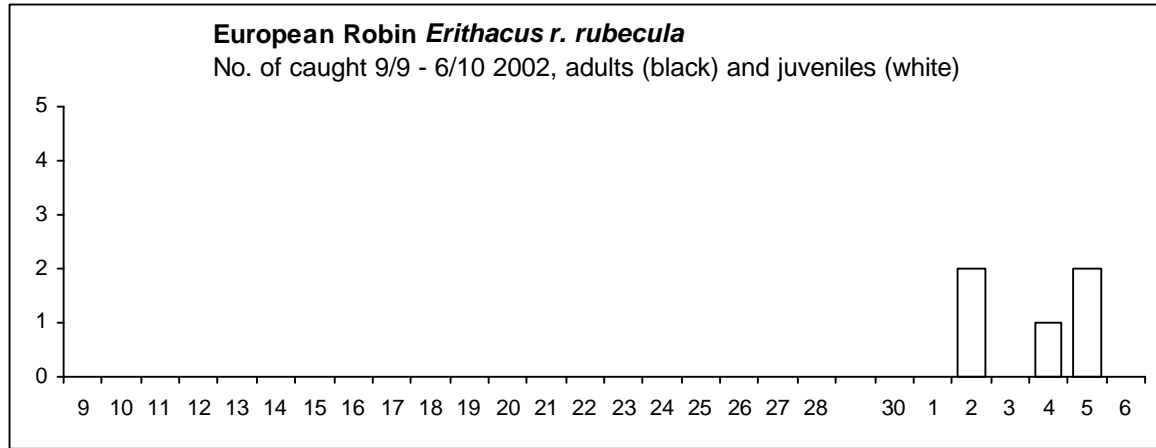
**Grey Wagtail / Forsärsla / *Motacilla c. cinerea* TUNSTALL 1771.** 2 at Partira Lake 14/9 (TF, RM).

**White Wagtail / Sädesärsla / *Motacilla a. alba* LINNAEUS 1758.** 2-3 at Tsoutsouros 30/9 and 2/10 (PE, TF).

**Winter Wren / Gärdsmyg / *Troglodytes troglodytes* (LINNAEUS 1758).** Three sightings: 1 at Kofinas Oros on 18/9 (TF, TP); 1 at Lassithi Plateau on 25/9 (PE, TP) and 3/10 (PE, TF).

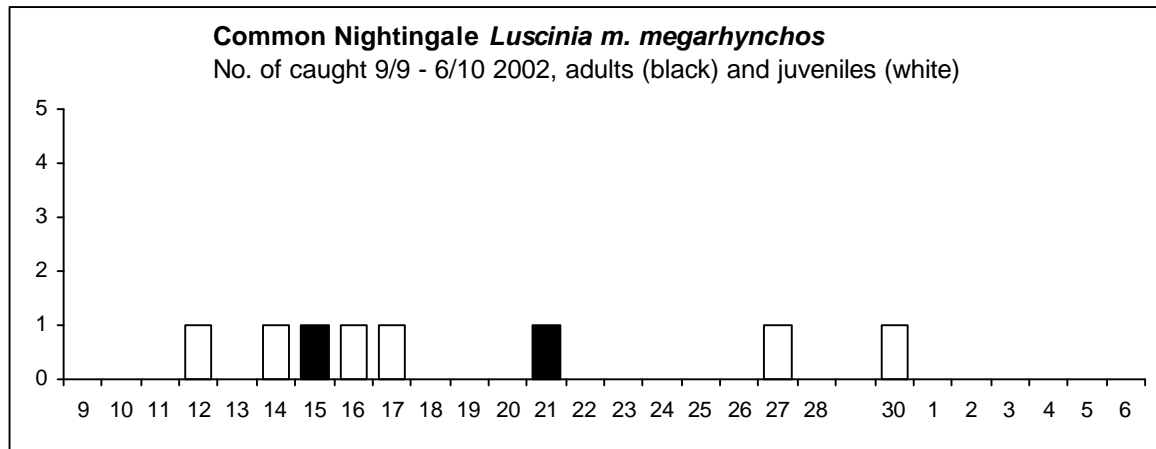
We presume that all sightings concerned the resident subspecies *T. t. cypristes* (BATE 1903).

**European Robin / Rödhake / *Erithacus r. rubecula*** (LINNAEUS 1758). First sighting on 2/10 at Partira Lake and thereafter sighted almost daily. Five birds were caught 2-5/10, all of them birds in their first calendar year. Maximum weight 17,8 g with fat score 5.



**Common Nightingale / Sydnäktergal / *Luscinia m. megarhynchos*** C. L. BREHM 1831.

Altogether eight birds caught, two adults and six juveniles, 12-30/9. Maximum weight 28,5 g at fat score 6. Also one field sighting at Partira Lake on 18/9 (TF, TP).

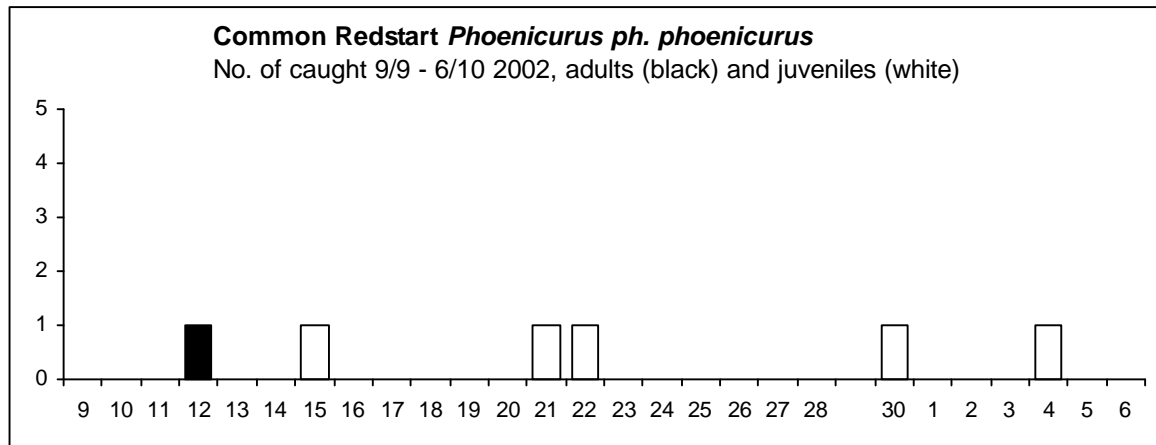


**Common Redstart / Rödstart / *Phoenicurus ph. phoenicurus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). A total of six birds caught, one adult female and five birds in their 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year. All were females. Maximum weight 18,8 g at fat score 6. Field sightings of singles at Partira Lake on 27/9 (PE) and 1/10 (PE, TF).

**Whinchat / Buskskvätta / *Saxicola rubetra*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Seen almost daily in low numbers, one or twos, at Partira Lake 9-17/9. Thereafter noted only four days, the latest on 1/10. One bird, a female in its first calendar year, was caught on 25/9 (PE, TP). Its weight was 18,0 g at fat score 6. Other noteworthy sightings: 1 at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).

**Common Stonechat / Svarthakad buskskvätta / *Saxicola torquata rubicola*** (LINNAEUS 1766). Daily sightings at Partira Lake throughout and most of them apparently resident birds. Usual daily numbers around five, but 10 on 10/9 and 20 on 11/9 perhaps indicate

influx of migrating birds. Two birds caught: 1 ad. ? on 9/9 with fat score 1; 1 juv. ? on 2/10 with fat score 0.



**Northern Wheatear / Stenskvätta / *Oenanthe oenanthe*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Eight sightings during the month: singles at Partira Lake on 8/9 and 1/10; 15 at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM); 1 at Aski 14/9 (RM); at least 5 at Kofinas Oros on 18/9 (TF, TP); 1 at Ierapetra 20/9 (TF); 1 at Amourgelles Lake 23/9 (PE, TP); 1 at Lassithi Plateau 25/9 (PE, TP). We have no idea about which subspecies involved, the breeding *Oe. oe. libanotica* (HEMPRICH & EHRENBERG 1833) and/or the nominate *Oe. oe. oenanthe* on passage.

**Black-eared Wheatear / Medelhavsstenskävta / *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca*** (GÜLDENSTÄDT 1775). 10 (4 ad. ??) between Kofinas-Moni Koudouma on 11/9 (TF, RM); 1 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP).

**Blue Rock Thrush / Blåtrast / *Monticola s. solitarius*** (LINNAEUS 1758). 25-30 between Kofinas-Moni Koudouma 11/9; 1 at Partira Lake 11/9 (TF, RM); 2 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP); 1 at Kato Kasteliana 19/9 (TF); 1 ? at Lassithi Plateau 25/9 (PE, TP); 1 at Tsoutsouros 30/9 and 2/10 (PE, TF).

**Common Blackbird / Koltrast / *Turdus merula aterrimus*** (MADARÁSZ 1903). Common and seen daily throughout with 5-10 at Partira Lake. A total of 16 birds caught, 7 adults (2 ??, 5 ??) and 9 in their 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year (7 ??, 2 ??). One of the females was a control and she was ringed at the same spot in September 2001. All birds are believed to belong to the local subspecies with females greyish rather than brownish. No one of the handled birds had a fat score more than 2 which indicate resident birds as well as their rather short wings do. The adult males wings were 127 mm and 130 mm respectively.

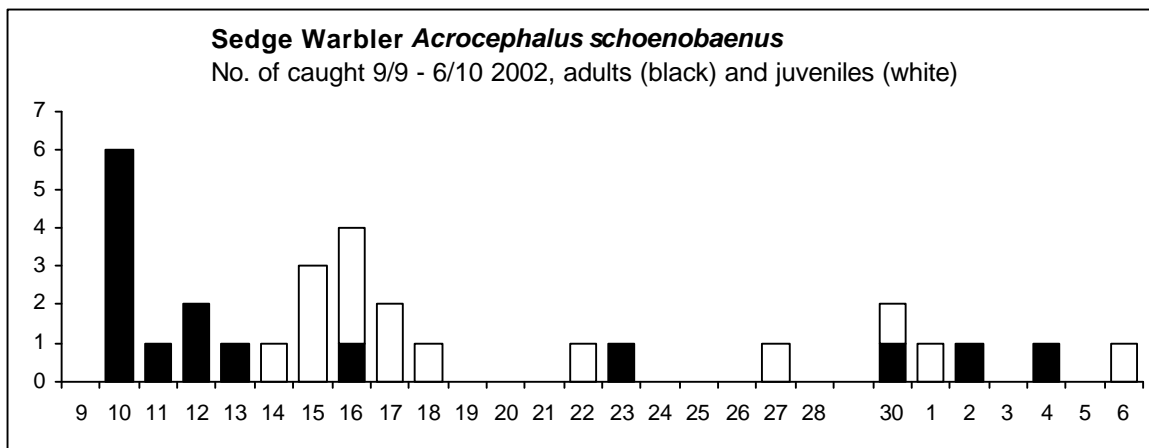
**Song Thrush / Taltrast / *Turdus ph. philomelos*** C. L. BREHM 1831. First sighting on 5/10 when a first calendar year bird was ringed at Partira Lake (PE, TF).

**Cetti's Warbler / Cettisångare / *Cettia c. cetti*** (TEMMINCK 1820). Recorded daily with most often 3-5 birds at Partira Lake. A total of 16 individuals caught during the period, all of them presumed to be resident. Highest fat score was 2 on two of the birds. Two of the birds caught were controls from last years ringing activities at Partira Lake. There are severe difficulties to determine the age of this species, but six of them could be considered to be in their first calendar year according to dark spots on their tongues. Also recorded at Aposelemis River mouth and possibly elsewhere, but we have incomplete notes.

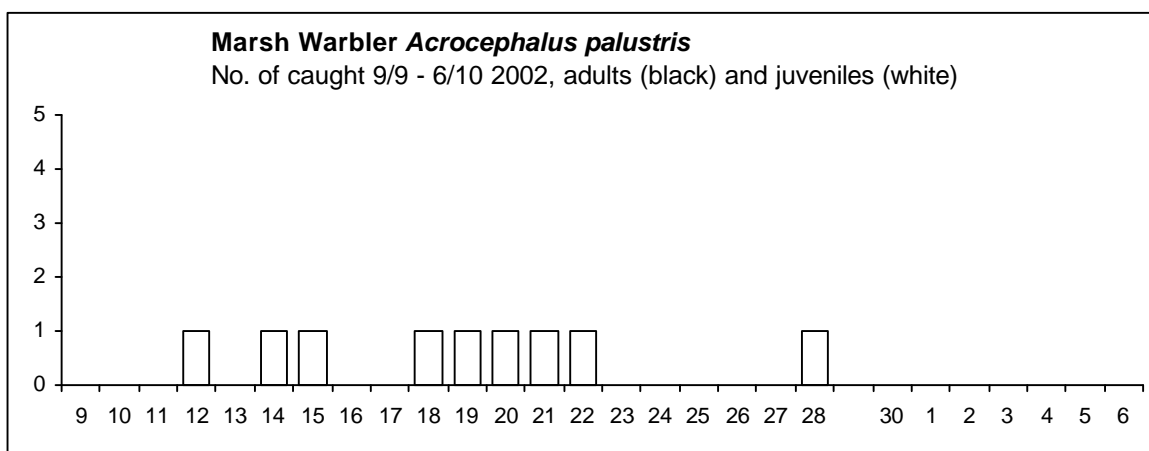
**Savi's Warbler / Vassångare / *Locustella l. luscinioides*** (SAVI 1824). Altogether three singles, all of them in their first calendar year, caught at Partira Lake 15/9 (TF, RM), 17/9 (TF, TP) and 27/9 (PE, TP).

**Sedge Warbler / Sävsångare / *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Recorded in low numbers throughout the period, with a somewhat higher frequency the first week, see

diagram. Altogether 29 birds caught 14 adults and 15 in their 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year. As many as 11 of the adults were caught during a seven day period 10-16/9. Catches of adults after that are perhaps not significant. The same individual was caught on both 23/9 and 30/9 and it had malformed legs. Maximum weight was 16,5 g, with fat score 9 (!) and wing length 65 mm!



**Marsh Warbler / Kärrsångare / *Acrocephalus palustris*** (BECHSTEIN 1798). A total of eight birds caught, all of them in their first calendar year. Apart from a single on 28/9 all birds were caught during the period 12-22/9. Maximum weight was 16,8 g with fat score 8 and wing length 70 mm.



**European Reed Warbler / Rörsångare / *Acrocephalus s. scirpaceus*** (HERMANN 1804).

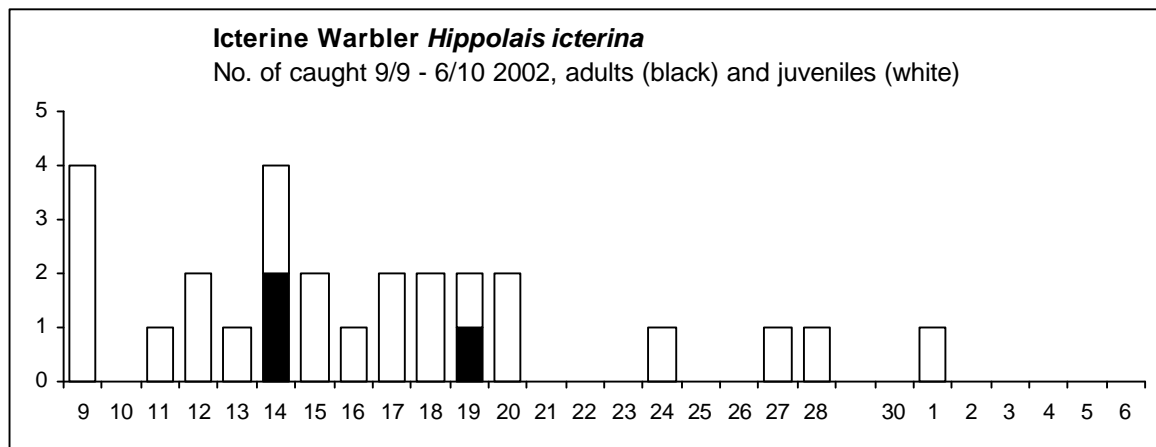
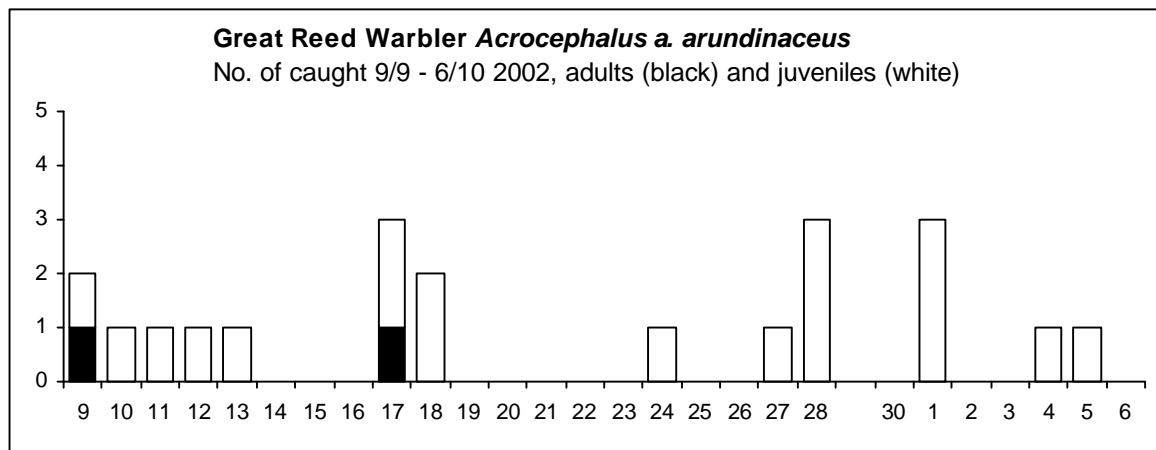
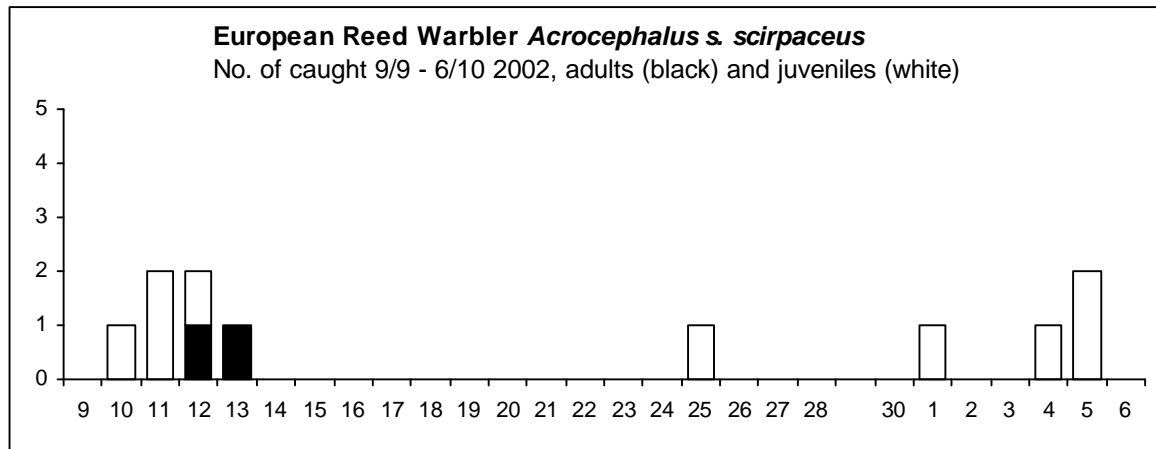
Altogether ten birds caught, 2 ad. and 8 juv., with a rather confusing time pattern, see diagram. Maximum weight was 15,3 g with fat score 7 and wing length 67 mm.

**Great Reed Warbler / Trastsångare / *Acrocephalus a. arundinaceus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). A total of 21 birds caught, 2 adults and 19 in their first calendar year, rather evenly scattered in time, see diagram. Maximum weight was 43,9 g, with fat score 7 and wing length 97 mm.

**Olivaceous Warbler / Eksångare / *Hippolais pallida elaeica*** (LINDERMAYER 1843). 1 seen in the field at Partira Lake 13/9 (RM).

**Icterine Warbler / Härmsångare / *Hippolais icterina*** (VIEILLOT 1817). A total of 27 birds caught, 3 of them adults, with the majority during the first twelve days. Maximum weight was 19,1 g with fat score 7 and wing length 80 mm. One individual in its 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year,

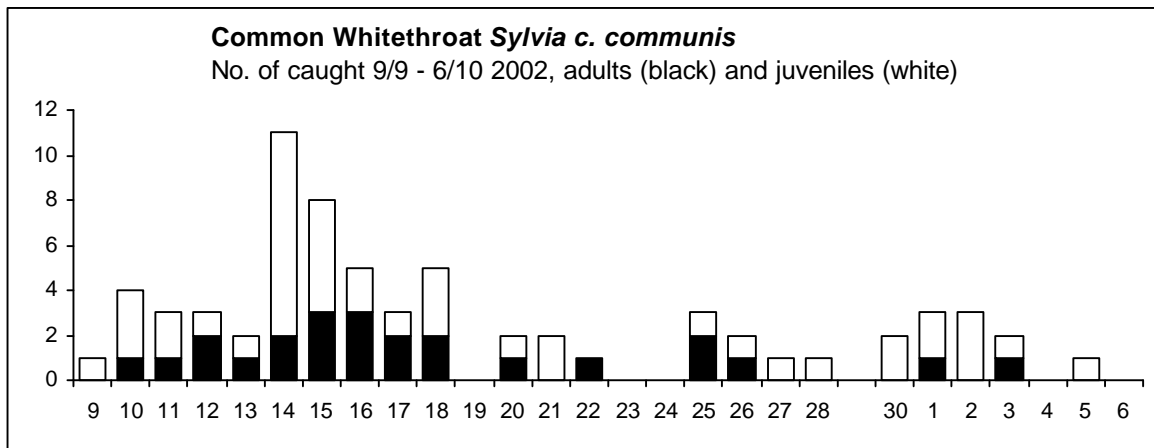
caught 15/9, 19/9 and 24/9, increased its weight from 13,5 g to 15,9 g, i.e. more than 0,2 g per day. Other noteworthy sightings: 1 at Lassithi Plateau 25/9 (PE, TP).



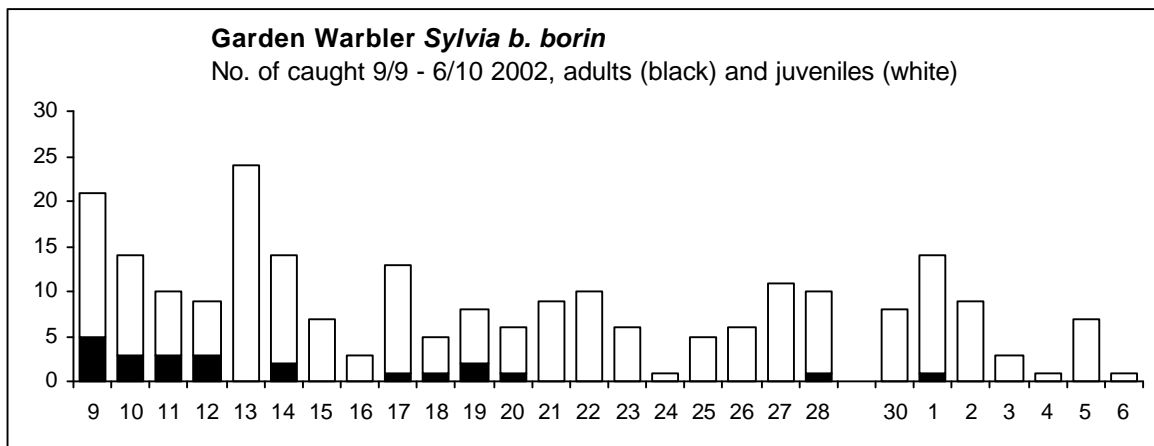
**Sardinian Warbler / Sammetshätta / *Sylvia m. melanocephala* (GMELIN 1789).** A very common species throughout and roughly 10-20 were seen and heard every day at different sites. At Partira Lake a total of 44 birds (3 ad. ??, 3 ad. ??, 20 juv. ??, 15 juv. ??, 1 juv. of unknown sex, 2 ?? of unknown age) were caught, the vast majority with a fat score of 0-2. One had fat score 3, and one 4. Both were birds in their first calendar year and they had not completed post-nuptial moult (moult score 4). Four birds (3 ??, 1 ?) were controls

from last years ringing at Partira Lake. All birds involved are presumed to belong to the resident population.

**Common Whitethroat / Törnsångare / *Sylvia c. communis* LATHAM 1787.** Altogether 59 birds caught, 19 adults and 40 in their 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year. A majority were caught during the first ten days, see diagram. Maximum weight was 20,9 g with fat score 7 and wing length 76 mm. One individual in its first calendar year increased weight from 15,7 g to 20,3 g in twelve days, i.e. almost 0,4 g per day! Other noteworthy sightings: 1 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP).

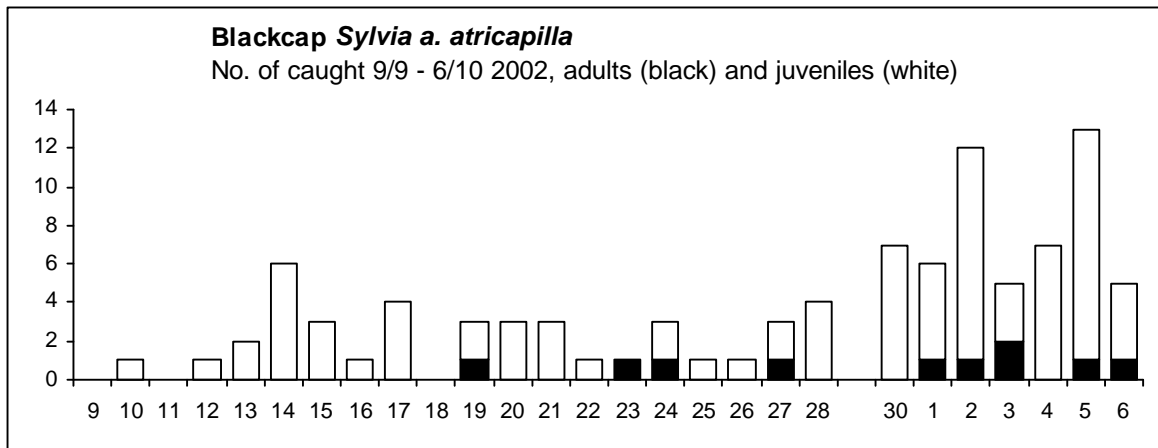


**Garden Warbler / Trädgårdssångare / *Sylvia b. borin* (BODDAERT 1783).** Recorded throughout the month at Partira Lake, but not recorded elsewhere. A total of 223 caught, 22 adults and consequently 201 in their first calendar year. There seem to be a slow decrease during the month, see diagram. Maximum weight was 30,1 g with fat score 7 and wing length 81 mm.

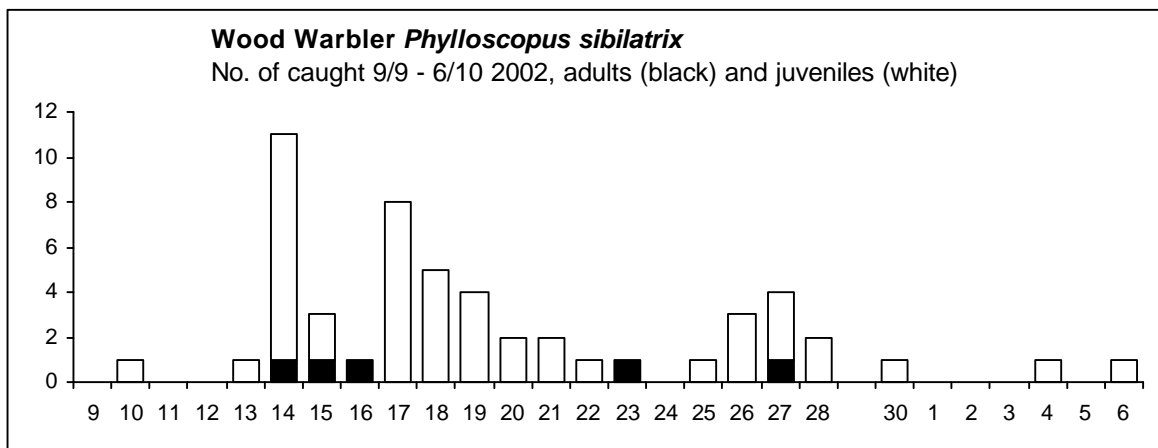


**Blackcap / Svarthätta / *Sylvia a. atricapilla* (LINNAEUS 1758).** Recorded almost daily at Partira Lake, with increasing numbers towards the end of the period, se diagram. A total of 99 were caught, 10 adults (5 ??, 5 ??), 86 in their 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year (41 ??, 44 ??, 1 unknown) and 3 of unknown age (all ??). Maximum weight was 27,7 g with fat score 6 and wing length 77 mm. It's very probable that both short distance migrants and long distance migrants are involved. A few birds had very short wings, e.g. a 1Y ? with 67 mm and a 1Y ? with 69 mm, indicating short distance migrants. The median fat score did not increase during the month, for each week it was 3, 3, 4 and 3.





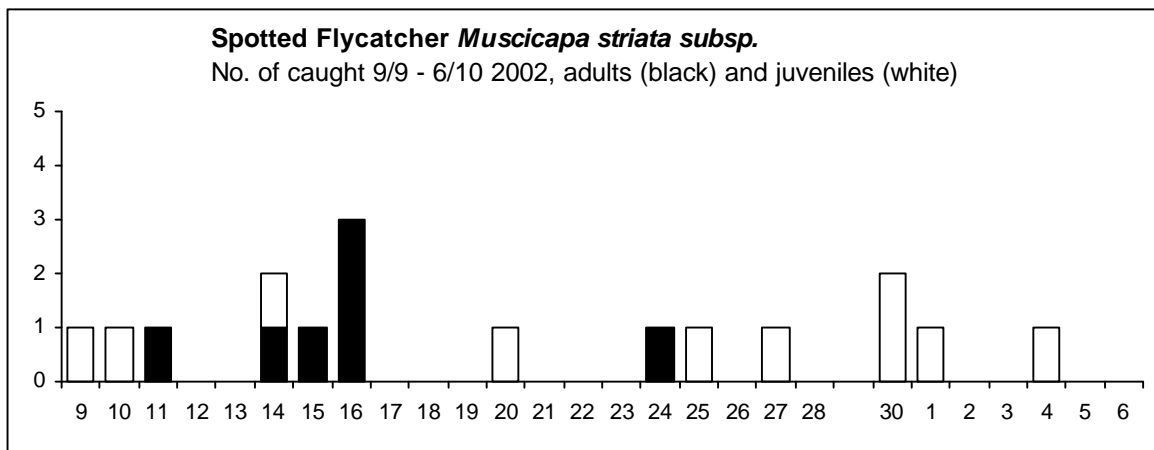
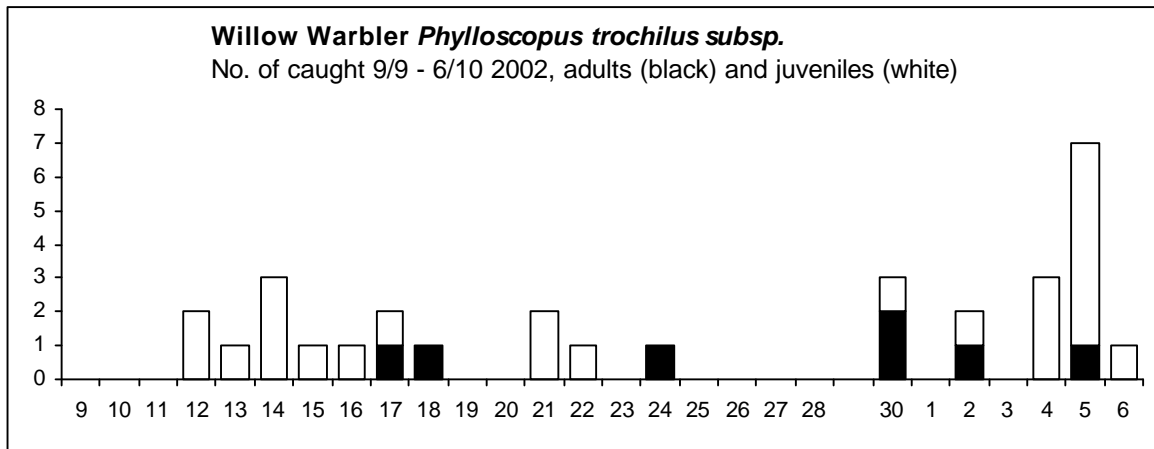
**Wood Warbler / Grönsångare / *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*** (BECHSTEIN 1793). Recorded almost daily at Partira Lake throughout the period. Catching was more frequent the first two weeks, see diagram. A total of 39 individuals were caught, 4 adults and 35 in their 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year. Maximum weight was 11,7 g at fat score 6 and wing length 78 mm. One bird in its 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year was caught five times during a period of more than two weeks, 10-26/9 and it had fat score 6 at every occasion and approximately the same weight. Another one, also in its 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year, increased from 7,5 g on 20/9 to 10,1 g on 30/9, fat score 1 and 5, respectively. Other noteworthy sightings: a few were seen at the scattered trees at Tsoutsouros Beach on 19/9.



**Willow Warbler / Lövsångare / *Phylloscopus trochilus*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Seen almost daily at Partira Lake, up to 30 the first week, thereafter not more than 10 each day. Altogether 31 birds were caught, 7 adults and 24 in their 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year. Maximum weight was 13,5 g at fat score 6 and wing length 70 mm. Other noteworthy sightings: c. 10 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP). We presume that at least most of the handled birds belong to the subspecies *Ph. t. acredula* (LINNAEUS 1758), although very difficult to determine. Average wing length (mixed ages) was 67 mm with range 62-73 mm.

**Spotted Flycatcher / Grå flugsnappare / *Muscicapa striata*** (PALLAS 1764). Recorded daily at Partira Lake throughout, up to 15-20 the first week, thereafter mostly 5-7. A total of 17 individuals caught, 7 adults and 10 in their 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year, see diagram. Maximum weight was 21,8 g at fat score 6 and wing length 87 mm. Other noteworthy sightings: 1 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP). Birds breeding on Crete belong to the subspecies *M. s.*

*naumanni* POCHE 1904 but migrants of the nominate subspecies also occur, including intermediates between those. We did not catch any bird more than once.



**Red-breasted Flycatcher / Mindre flugsnappare / *Ficedula p. parva* (BECHSTEIN 1794).**

First record on 28/9 at Partira Lake, when 2-3 birds were seen and heard (PE). Thereafter five sightings of singles at Partira Lake (PE, TF).

**Pied Flycatcher / Svartvit flugsnappare / *Ficedula h. hypoleuca* (PALLAS 1764).** 1 seen at Partira Lake 28/9 (TP).

**Collared Flycatcher / Halsbandsflugsnappare / *Ficedula albicollis* (TEMMINCK 1815).**

Single seen and heard at Partira Lake 13/9 and 14/9 (TF, RM).

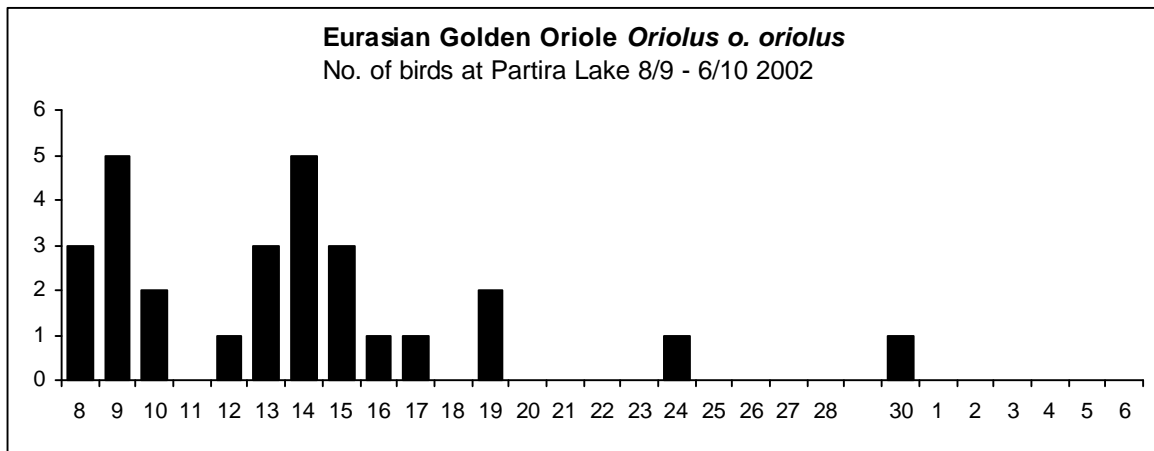
**Blue Tit / Blåmes / *Parus caeruleus calamensis* PARROT 1908.** Common and recorded daily at Partira Lake. Altogether 9 birds were caught, 2 adults and 7 in their 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year.

The average wing length (mixed ages and sexes) was 60 mm, range 57-62 mm. Average weight was 8,7 g with range 8,2-9,2 g. The small size supports that these birds belong to the local subspecies. Four out of six birds (1<sup>st</sup> calendar year) had not completed their body moult (moult score 4, the remaining two had moult score 5).

**Great Tit / Talgoxe / *Parus major niethammeri* JORDANS 1970.** Common and recorded daily at Partira Lake. A total of 15 birds caught (2 ad. ??, 1 ad. ?, 5 juv. ??, 7 juv. ??). Average wing length (mixed age and sexes) 69 mm, range 65-73 mm. Four out of nine birds (first calendar year) had not completed their body moult. This supports that these birds belong to the endemic Cretan subspecies as their pale plumage do.

**Eurasian Golden Oriole / Sommargylling / *Oriolus o. oriolus* (LINNAEUS 1758).** Recorded almost daily at Partira Lake the first two weeks with up to five present. Occasionally song

was heard. Thereafter only two sightings of singles on 24/9 and 30/9. Four birds were caught, all of them the first week: 1 2<sup>nd</sup> year on 9/9; 2 1<sup>st</sup> year on 14/9; 1 ad. ? on 15/9. Other noteworthy sightings: 1 (?-c) at Ierápetra Reservoir 20/9 (TF, TP).



**Red-backed Shrike / Törnškata / *Lanius c. collurio* LINNAEUS 1758.** Observed on 9/9 (TF, RM); 12/9 (TF, RM); 1 at Partira Lake 13/9 (TF, RM); 14/9 (TF, RM); 1 juv. at Iraklio airport 15/9 (TP); 1 ? (wing length 97 mm, fat score 5, weight 33,2 g) caught Partira Lake 16/9 (TF, TP); 1 ? near Aski 17/9 (TF, TP); 1 juv. at Aposelemis River mouth 24/9 (PE, TP); singles at Partira Lake 21/9 (TF, TP), 24/9 (PE, TP) and 1/10 (PE, TF); 1 at Aposelemis River mouth 29/9 (PE).

**Woodchat Shrike / Rödhuvad törnskata / *Lanius s. senator* LINNAEUS 1758.** 1 ad. ? at Garipa on 30/9 (PE, TF).

**Red-billed Chough / Alpkråka / *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax docilis* (S. G. GMELIN 1774).**

Four sightings: c. 50 at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM); c. 50 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP) and 26/9 (PE, TP); 6+8 at Lassithi Plateau 25/9 (PE, TP).

**Western Jackdaw / Kaja / *Corvus monedula soemmerringii* FISCHER 1811.** 2 at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM); c. 10 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP); 1 at Kofinas Oros 26/9 (PE, TP); c. 100 at Spilia 4/10 (PE, TF); 3 at Partira Lake 1/10 (PE, TF) and 8 there on 5/10 (PE, TF).

**Carrion Crow / Kråka / *Corvus corone sharpii* OATES 1889.** Common and seen daily throughout, up to 25 present at Partira Lake on 15/9 (TF, RM).

**Common Raven / Korp / *Corvus corax laurencei* HUME 1873.** Not uncommon and low numbers recorded almost daily. Most often 2-5 present at Partira Lake, but occasionally 18 there on 30/9 (PE, TF). Other noteworthy sightings: c. 30 at Kofinas Oros 11/9 (TF, RM); c. 10 at Kofinas Oros 18/9 (TF, TP); c. 50 at Kofinas Oros 26/9 (PE, TP).

**House Sparrow / Gråsparv / *Passer domesticus x italiae* VIEILLOT 1817.** Common throughout and recorded daily in good numbers. A gathering of at least 50 birds roosting in a well at Partira Lake. During the month a total of 29 birds were caught; 1 ad. ?, 13 juv. ??, 4 juv. ??, 8 of unknown age (4 ??, 4 ??). As many as 21 of the birds were in active moult of primaries.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow / Pilfink / *Passer m. montanus* (LINNAEUS 1758).** Single seen at Partira Lake 12/9 and 14/9 (TF, RM).

**Common Chaffinch / Bofink / *Fringilla c. coelebs* LINNAEUS 1758.** Common and recorded daily, up to 10-20 at Partira Lake. Altogether 15 birds were caught; 1 ad. ?, 1 ad. ?, 7 juv. ??, 5 juv. ??, 1 juv. of unknown sex. Average wing length (mixed ages and sexes) was 84 mm, range 80-88 mm. No one had fat score above 1, and 10 out of 12 1<sup>st</sup> year birds had not

completed body moult. We presume that all handled birds were residents. Cretan birds are sometimes classified as the endemic subspecies *F. c. schiebeli* STRESEMANN 1925.

**European Greenfinch / Grönfink / *Carduelis chloris muehlei*** PARROT 1905. Common and recorded daily at Partira Lake, occasionally up to 50, but mostly 20-30. Surprisingly few caught, only 8 during the period; 1 ad. ?, 5 juv. ??, 1 juv. ?, 1 ? of unknown age. Half of the birds were in active wing moult. We presume that all birds belong to the resident subspecies.

**European Goldfinch / Steglits / *Carduelis carduelis balcanica*** SACHTLEBEN 1919. Rather common and recorded daily at Partira Lake, mostly 10-20 birds, but occasionally 25 on 30/9 (PE, TF). Two birds were caught on 3/10, both adults (? and ?) in active wing moult. Presumably all were resident birds of the local subspecies.

**Common Linnet / Hämpling / *Carduelis cannabina mediterranea*** (TSCHUSI 1903). Apparently uncommon and/or local. Only four sightings at Partira Lake during September, but recorded daily there with 1-5 birds 1-6/10. Perhaps indicating influx of migrating birds. Other noteworthy sightings: seemed numerous at Lassithi Plateau 25/9 (PE, TP).

**Cirl Bunting / Häcksparv / *Emberiza cirlus*** LINNAEUS 1766. 1 seen and heard singing near Aski on 12/9 (TF, RM) and on 17/9 (TF, TP); 2 at Lassithi Plateau on 3/10 (PE, TF).

**Corn Bunting / Kornsparv / *Miliaria c. calandra*** (LINNAEUS 1758). Three sightings, all of them at Partira Lake: 2 on 14/9 (TF, RM); 6+1 on 19/9 (TF, TP); 3 on 21/9 (TF).

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