

Kos (Greece) 21-21 April 2011

This is a brief report of a rather short April 2011 holiday in the island of Kos (Dodecanese, Greece). I was with my girlfriend, so that it was not a 100% birding holiday, we mostly were around the island, doing also some soft hiking.

This island is interesting because is located near Turkey, it seems to have nice bird species in all seasons (of course in spring too).

Basic facts:

- from 21 April morning until 26 April after noon
- flights with Ryanair from Bergamo Orio al Serio airport
- rented a small car at Hertz in the airport (previously done via Internet)
- stayed at the good Kos Palace Hotel, in Tigkaki. This is a very good choice, because it is in the middle of the island, and near the (maybe) best hot spot, the Alykes Lake. For the hotel, I did a [Trip Advisor review](#), with some photos which are in black and white (my mistake).
- late April is still minus than low (!) season, which means that most of the hotel are closed and many small towns are populated just with locals who are setting up things for the forthcoming summer
- many gas stations and... high priced fuel!

Birdwatching facts:

- Before the holiday, I checked various birding reports and infos, so I did a [Kos birding map](#) using (of course) Google Maps. After the holiday I added some improvements. If someone is going in Kos for birding, I really suggest to check it out.
- As I already wrote, it was not a full birding experience. Besides, despite being in late April, migration seemed to be rather late. So, I missed many species which I was almost sure to find in late April, such as Cuckoo, Hoopoe, Roller, Black headed bunting...
- I met no other birder except for Stewart (hi!) who actually lives there, and I met "by chance" at Alykes lake.
- Kos is a 287 km² island, so is not a very big, it's about 1/5 of Rhodos or Lesvos. In a few days it's possible to reach all the main birding sites. As you can see from the notes in my above mentioned Google map, I actually missed some areas, especially in the east.

Visited areas:

- everyday: Alykes lake, Tigkaki and Marmari area, various sides.
- 22 April: Kos town
- 23 April: Paleo pili (=Old Pili)
- 24 April: from Zia to the top of Mount Dikeos
- 25 April: West side (south of Kephalos) and Antimachia fortress
- 26 April: area north of Kardamena and south of Antimachia fortress

Link to [Picasa gallery](#) with pictures of main visited places and some birds and reptiles.

Bird list:

1. Chukar Partridge / *Alectoris chukar* / Paleo Pili: common, N of Kardamena (heard), Asfendiou road: 1, Antimachia fortress (heard)

2. Greylag Goose / *Anser anser* / Ziparion water reservoir: 1 ("escaped"?)
3. Ruddy Shelduck / *Tadorna ferruginea* / Alykes: common
4. Mallard / *Anas platyrhynchos* / Alykes: 2
5. Cory's Shearwater / *Calonectris diomedea* / Tigkaki coast: 1-4 in the sea
6. Greater Flamingo / *Phoenicopterus roseus* / Alykes: 10-50 (everyday)
7. Grey Heron / *Ardea cinerea* / Alykes: 4-5, Ziparion water reservoir: 1
8. Little Egret / *Egretta garzetta* / Alykes: 1-3
9. Short-toed Snake Eagle / *Circaetus gallicus* / Paleo Pili: 1, N of M. Dikeos: 1
10. Western Marsh Harrier / *Circus aeruginosus* / Kos Palace 1f, Alykes: 1f
11. Long-legged Buzzard / *Buteo rufinus* / common
12. Bonelli's Eagle / *Aquila fasciata* / Antimachia: 1 ad (+ maybe 1 subad.)
25/4/2011
13. Lesser Kestrel / *Falco naumanni* / Kos Palace 1, Alykes: 1-3 (2 date). See also
Common Kestrel....
14. Common Kestrel / *Falco tinnunculus* / Alykes + M. Dikeos + N of Kardamena
(some maybe Lesser Kestrel, not well discerned)
15. Red-footed Falcon / *Falco vespertinus* / Alykes: 1-2 (3 dates)
16. Peregrine Falcon / *Falco peregrinus* / SW Kos (S Kefalos): 1
17. Common Moorhen / *Gallinula chloropus* / Alykes: common
18. Black-winged Stilt / *Himantopus himantopus* / Alykes: common
19. Spur-winged Lapwing / *Vanellus spinosus* / W Alykes: 2 (24/4/2011), 6 (25/4/2011)
[video](#)
20. Common Ringed Plover / *Charadrius hiaticula* / Alykes: 2-3
21. Little Ringed Plover / *Charadrius dubius* / Alykes: 2-3
22. Kentish Plover / *Charadrius alexandrinus* / Alykes: 4 (E side, coast) + various (W
side)
23. Marsh Sandpiper / *Tringa stagnatilis* / Alykes: 1
24. Common Greenshank / *Tringa nebularia* / Alykes common
25. Wood Sandpiper / *Tringa glareola* / Alykes: 1 (various dates)
26. Common Sandpiper / *Actitis hypoleucos* / Alykes common
27. Ruddy Turnstone / *Arenaria interpres* / Alykes: 1
28. Little Stint / *Calidris minuta* / Alykes: 10-15 (3 dates)
29. Temminck's Stint / *Calidris temminckii* / Alykes: 1
30. Curlew Sandpiper / *Calidris ferruginea* / Alykes: 4
31. Dunlin / *Calidris alpina* / Alykes: 1
32. Ruff / *Philomachus pugnax* / Alykes: 6
33. Yellow-legged Gull / *Larus michahellis* / common
34. Gull-billed Tern / *Gelochelidon nilotica* / Alykes: 4
35. Common Tern / *Sterna hirundo* / Tigkai - Alykes area: 1-3
36. Whiskered Tern / *Chlidonias hybrida* / Alykes: 6
37. Great Spotted Cuckoo / *Clamator glandarius* / N of Kardamena: 2 juv.
38. Eurasian Scops Owl / *Otus scops* / common
39. Alpine Swift / *Tachymarptis melba* / SW Kos (S Kefalos): 1
40. Common Swift / *Apus apus* / common
41. Pallid Swift / *Apus pallidus* / Kos town
42. European Bee-eater / *Merops apiaster* / Kos Palace (heard)
43. Woodchat Shrike / *Lanius senator* / SW Kos (S Kefalos): 1, Zipari: 1, Kardamena
area: 2-3
44. Eurasian Magpie / *Pica pica* / common
45. Western Jackdaw / *Coloeus monedula* / common

46. Hooded Crow / *Corvus cornix* / Very common
47. Northern Raven / *Corvus corax* / Paleo Pili: 1-3, M. Dikeos: 1-2
48. Coal Tit / *Parus ater* / Paleo Pili common M. Dikeos: heard
49. Great Tit / *Parus major* / Paleo Pili, M. Dikeos, Kos city
50. Eurasian Blue Tit / *Cyanistes caeruleus* / N of Kardamena
51. Crested Lark / *Galerida cristata* / very common
52. Sand Martin / *Riparia riparia* / Alykes: 1
53. Barn Swallow / *Hirundo rustica* / common
54. Common House Martin / *Delichon urbicum* / common
55. Red-rumped Swallow / *Cecropis daurica* / Alykes, Kos town
56. Cetti's Warbler / *Cettia cetti* / N of Kardamena, Alykes
57. Great Reed Warbler / *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* / N of Kardamena (some heard)
58. Sedge Warbler / *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* / Alykes (heard)
59. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler / *Iduna pallida* / common
60. Zitting Cisticola / *Cisticola juncidis* / common
61. Eastern Orphean Warbler / *Sylvia crassirostris* / between the main road and Lagoudi: 1 (23/4/2011)
62. Subalpine Warbler / *Sylvia cantillans* / M. Dikeos 1 (more heard?)
63. Sardinian Warbler / *Sylvia melanocephala* / common
64. Common Blackbird / *Turdus merula* / Paleo Pili, M. Dikeos
65. Common Nightingale / *Luscinia megarhynchos* / common
66. Whinchat / *Saxicola rubetra* / Alykes: 1 , Ziparion water reservoir: 1, SW Kos (S Kefalos): 2
67. Northern Wheatear / *Oenanthe oenanthe* / M. Dikeos common, SW Kos (S Kefalos): 1-2, Paleo Pili: 1f.
68. Black-eared Wheatear / *Oenanthe hispanica* / SW Kos (S Kefalos): 1, Antimachia fortress: 1
69. Blue Rock Thrush / *Monticola solitarius* / Paleo Pili: 1m, M. Dikeos: 1m
70. European Pied Flycatcher / *Ficedula hypoleuca* / Alykes: 1f (26/04/2011)
71. House Sparrow / *Passer domesticus* / very common
72. Western Yellow Wagtail / *Motacilla flava* / Alykes: 1-3 (3 dates)
73. Tree Pipit / *Anthus trivialis* / Kos Palace 1, , N of Kardamena: 1
74. Common Chaffinch / *Fringilla coelebs* / Paleo Pili, M. Dikeos
75. European Serin / *Serinus serinus* / Paleo Pili, M. Dikeos
76. European Greenfinch / *Carduelis chloris* / common
77. Cretzschmar's Bunting / *Emberiza caesia* / Between Pylio and Kardamena (26/4): 1 (more heard); SW Kos (S Kefalos): heard

Some bird photos in the bottom of my [Italian report web page](#).

ciao

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