

**THE DARDANELLES**  
**IN NW-TURKEY:**  
*THE LAST UNKNOWN MAJOR MIGRATION  
ROUTE IN EUROPE ?*

**Report of a birdwatching exploration  
from 16th-23rd April 2006**

**Participants**

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# 1. Introduction part I: an unknown migration route ?

## 1.1 The great example

The best known migration hotspots in the Mediterranean basin are most famous for their soaring birds: Gibraltar/Tarifa (Spain), Cap Bon (Tunisia), the Strait of Messina (Italy), the Bosphorus/Istanbul (Turkey), Borçka (Turkey) and Israel as a whole. Major bottlenecks for *other* bird species are less well known. Most of them migrate over a wide front, island-hopping or flying straight away over the Mediterranean. At some island capes (e.g. Mallorca, Corsica, Cyprus) bottleneck effects are known which funnel the migratory birds to a small area. Such places can be wonderful for birdwatchers.

The Dutch example of Breskens shows that, given the right meteorological circumstances, with specific coastal geographic features, all kinds of migrating birds can be funneled in a sometimes spectacular way. The migration at this spot is very diverse: from thousands of swallows to tens of thousands of Meadow Pipits, from numerous Knots to Spoonbills, from Merlins to Orioles. Regular rarities include Red-rumped Swallow, Gull-billed Tern, Pallid Harrier or Bee-eaters. The record day-count numbers 143 species, seen or heard from the counting post! These conditions appear mostly when the wind is blowing from easterly directions, driving the birds from inland to the shore. But that's not all, there is also a bottleneck effect. At the 5 km wide estuary of the Schelde river, there is a sudden bend in the migration route of birds along the southern North Sea shore. They want to avoid the sea-crossing as long as possible and eventually arrive at this bottleneck (see [www.birdingzeeland.nl](http://www.birdingzeeland.nl)). And right here, the birdwatchers sit and wait for the show.



Fig. 1: Counting post Breskens (NL) with main migration routes in spring, especially with (S)E-winds. Yellow=land birds, Blue=coastal birds.

Wouldn't there be such circumstances anywhere in the Mediterranean? Surely there must be! After some careful map scanning we decided to give it a try and to explore a "new" birdwatching area, never investigated before, where we thought this kind of mass migration spectacles might take place: the Dardanelles in NW Turkey.

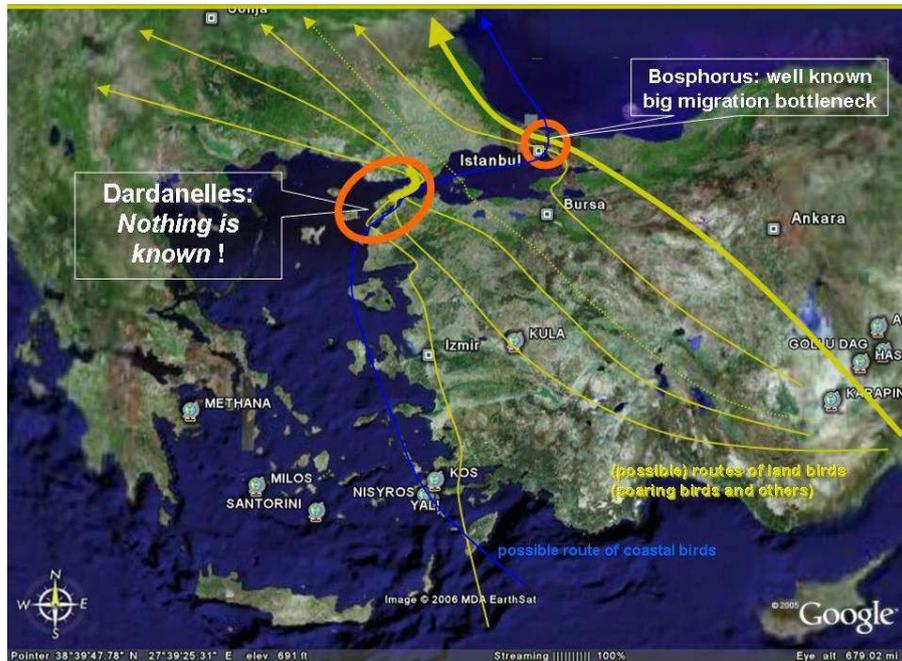


Fig. 2: Main spring migration routes in Turkey. In autumn, directions are reversed but less concentration is to be expected in Dardanelles area because the area is more "behind the corner".

The local geographic features were not the only reason to go and check this out. There are more questions to be solved!

- Where do the 30 000 White Pelicans from the Danube Delta cross the Bosphorus-Dardanelles Straits? Nobody knows this but is *not* at the Bosphorus. Maybe the Dardanelles?
- In Israel, the numbers of Levant Sparrowhawks and Lesser Spotted Eagle counted in autumn are much higher than those known from the major bottlenecks (i.e. Bosphorus and Borçka combined) (Shirihai, 1996). Could there be a so far unknown area where these birds pass? Maybe the Dardanelles?

## 1.2 How to find a migration hotspot

Wind direction and the shape of the coastal area are of major importance to look for a good spot. The winds in NW Turkey are predominantly coming from the northeast (about 180 days/year). This wind drives the birds to the southwest, a deviation from their theoretical NW-SE route. In this way (in spring) they get more concentrated along the west coast, especially because most birds hesitate to cross the sea as long as possible. By flying NW (in spring), they eventually arrive in the area of the Dardanelles, where they can easily cross the narrow straits and don't need to cross the much wider Sea of Marmara or Egean Sea. This theory especially involves the central and eastern European birds. Birds with a more northerly or northeasterly destination (around Black Sea) follow a more rigid route to the Bosphorus area. It is well known that huge numbers of soaring birds use this Bosphorus route, but virtually nothing is known of the Dardanelles route!

Another geographic feature is also important: when the birds have crossed the Dardanelles Straits, they have only reached a peninsula and about 10 km further up, they have to cross the much wider Saros Bay. Our hypothesis is/was that (at least the soaring) birds do "drive round" this bay before continuing in their NW or N directions. So we expect that at the base of this Gallipoli peninsula, the funelling effect would be maximized.



*Fig. 3: Map of western Turkey with hypothetical spring migration routes of soaring birds (yellow) and coastal birds (blue). Yellow route: especially with northerly to easterly winds (who prevail here most of the year), southward drifting of more northbound migrating birds is to be expected, finally making them arrive at the Dardanelles area while avoiding to cross the Sea of Marmara or the Egean Sea. In this hypothesis we suspected that the birds would also avoid to fly over the wide Saros Bay, to the north of the Gallipoli Peninsula. Another possibility is that a number of birds cross the Sea of Marmara at the central peninsula at Bandırma at the south coast (thin yellow line). This might be the pelican route, because the nearby Kuş Gölü is famous as a staging post for thousands of White Pelicans, but especially in autumn. We have no information about spring numbers there.*

In **autumn**, we expect a less powerful funneling effect as more birds will be "guided" by geographical features in the direction of Istanbul. Nevertheless, mass migration could occur on occasional days with easterly winds. Also, most or all pelicans may well pass here as well as a good deal of the Levant Sparrowhawks of eastern Europe ? A Dutch ornithologist (Cor Kessels) mentioned us that he has seen a few days of mass migration at around 25th of September 2000 with "up to 10,000 raptors and storks" seen but with no further details. They flew over the peninsula and crossed the Dardanelles in the area of Çanakkale and westwards. In this period a sudden weather change appeared from stable high pressure weather to unstable and much colder low pressure weather with a strong NE-wind drifting the birds beyond Istanbul in the direction of the Dardanelles (archives [www.wetterzentrale.de](http://www.wetterzentrale.de)). No further countings are known so far.

### 1.3 Completely neglected area

The proximity of the famous and lovely island of Lesbos with its numerous migrant birds was a guarantee that this region could turn up a lot of interesting birds. Thanks to Google Earth (<http://earth.google.com>), it is now possible to look directly "from space" to a formerly unknown region to look for appealing birdwatching locations. On the internet in general, we couldn't find any birdwatching report of the region, except for a few general mentions of some Hoopoes or wheatears, seen by occasional birders passing by. Some maps from satellite tracking showed that some birds effectively flew by this westerly route, although a majority chooses the easterly route over Istanbul. See figures 4 and 5. Also about 1 out of 4 Czech Black Storks chose this route instead of the Bosphorus (e.g. <http://capi.internet.cz/images/cesty96.jpg>). Ornithological literature about bird migration rarely mentions the Dardanelles, and if so, only with hypothetical statements as "possibly there is some migration here too". Personal questions to Andrea Corso (Sicily) and Rob Bijlsma (Netherlands, author of "Bottleneck areas for migratory birds in the Mediterranean region: an assessment of the problems and recommendations for action". ICBP, Cambridge) brought no new information but enthusiastic moral support. Also, the recent "Raptor Watch: A Global Directory of Raptor Migration Sites" (Birdlife International, 2000) gives not a single figure for this site. In "The Birds of Israel" by H. Shirihi (1996), there is an extensive chapter about the raptor migration in the Middle East. But not a single word about the Dardanelles, it isn't even shown on the maps where it looks that there is only the Bosphorus between European and Asian Turkey. Nobody ever went to take a look, so it seems...

We tried to get into contact with local Turkish birdwatchers via [www.birdingpal.org](http://www.birdingpal.org), the Middle East Birdnet (Yahoo) and the Ornithological Society of the Middle East ([www.osme.org](http://www.osme.org)). Though we got some really interesting information about the Kavak and Meriç deltas (thank you, Ozkan Uner!), no local birders could be contacted. Even Dave Gosney did not make a nice booklet with hotspots here.

So we got to do it on our own.

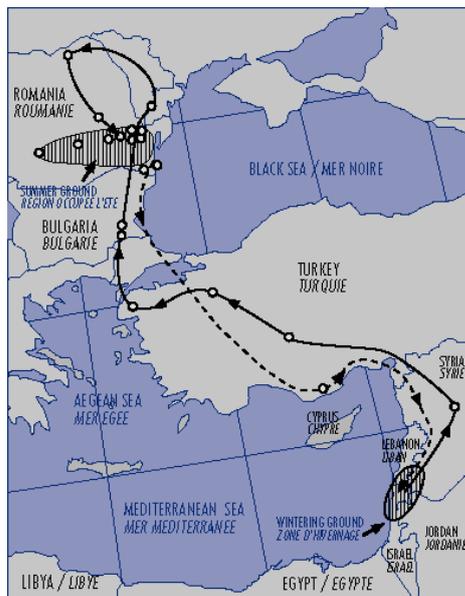


Figure 4 (left): This is the route of a White Pelican with a satellite transmitter. The dotted line is unsure because of transmitter problems. The birds may well have passed over the Dardanelles. ([http://www.cls.fr/images/argos/documents/newsletter/nslan51/migration\\_pelicans.gif](http://www.cls.fr/images/argos/documents/newsletter/nslan51/migration_pelicans.gif))

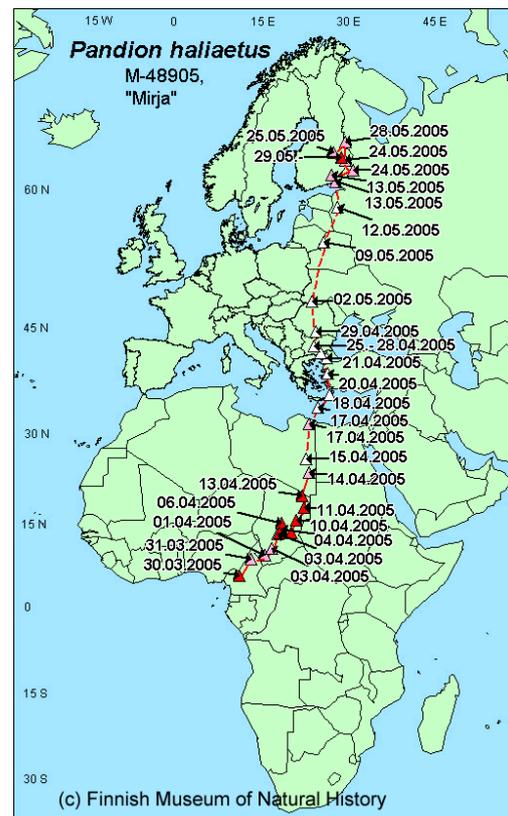


Figure 5 (right): The Finnish Osprey "Mirja" flew over the Dardanelles on spring migration. <http://www.fmnh.helsinki.fi/elainmuseo/satelliittisaakset/2002/kartat/mirja2005kevat.gif>

## 2. Introduction part II: birding areas and other practical information

Apart from the Dardanelles area with the Gallipoli peninsula, Saros Bay, Kavak Delta and Kumkale at the Asian side, we also visited the Turkish part of the famous Evros Delta, which is called Meriç Delta in Turkish (and Greece is Yunanistan).

And it all worked out very well ! We found some really interesting areas, rich in birds and other wildlife and with great potential for even more. Some of these areas are not protected. We hope our information can help local conservation organisations to fulfill their all too necessary work. That's also the reason why we give all our observations in detail.

Because the weather was not good enough for strong migration waves, and thermals were developing only rarely and for just a few hours a day, there were rather few migrants around in terms of numbers. But in terms of species, we really saw a lot: 171 species of birds, 14 species of reptiles and amphibians and 31 species of butterflies. The most interesting species were Imperial Eagle (possibly breeding at the peninsula, to be confirmed!), migration of Black-throated Diver and Pomarine Skua, thousands of Little Gulls on migration and many more Spanish Sparrows, Isabelline Wheatears at many places, Citrine Wagtail, Masked Shrike, Pallid Harrier, lots of Long-legged Buzzards, Merlin, Roller, lots of Garganeys, Ortolan Buntings, etc. An indicator that migration was slowed down severely was that we only saw less than 20 Common Swifts or Bee-eaters in total, and only very few warblers, Nightingales or flycatchers. We are 100% sure that *many, many more is possible here*, even to put Lesbos far away in the shadow...

This, combined with a rich cultural history in the area (World War I, Troy, ...), flexible tourist accommodation and only small distances to be covered, this area can be a future hotspot for birdwatchers, not only in spring, but autumn and even winter might be very good as well. Lucky birders can still make major discoveries here, that's for sure !

### 2.1 Practical information

#### 2.1.1 Car, roads, maps and ferryboats

We drove around in a minivan who did well all the time (Hyundai Starex SV, hired through a local agent for National and Alamo ([www.yesnational.com](http://www.yesnational.com))). The price was about 550 € for 7 days. A four-wheel drive vehicle is not really necessary, but could be useful in wet weather to reach more remote places in the deltas or National Park. Otherwise you can always walk these few kilometers instead of driving. Fuel is very expensive now in Turkey, even 50% more expensive than in Belgium. One liter of diesel costed 1,5 €. No wonder there is so few local traffic.

The Dardanelles are to the west of Istanbul. So you needn't drive through this huge city, a real bonus. The distance from Istanbul to Gelibolu town is about 300 km (4 hours drive). The main roads are asphalted and mostly in (very) good condition. Traffic is rather poor outside the large cities of Istanbul and Tekirdağ.

Good maps are scarce in Turkey. We used the map "Marmara Bölgesi" (Marmara Region Map; 1/375.000) from Mapmedia (obtainable e.g. at "Van atlas tot Zanzibar" in Gent, Belgium, but fairly easy to find in Turkey itself). It gives 'good indications' of directions, but you need some 'intuition' in town centers. You definitely need a map at your arrival to leave Istanbul, moving through a spaghetti of highways.

Crossing the Dardanelles Strait is possible at Gelibolu to Lapseki (longer, more expensive) and at Eceabat to Çanakkale. In Çanakkale you can choose between the official ferry ("*feribot*") and privately owned boats a little more to the south at Kilitbahir. For the official ferries, see [www.canakkaletravel.com/feribotingilizce.htm](http://www.canakkaletravel.com/feribotingilizce.htm) for timetables. The private boats are running every hour or more and should be less expensive (about 9,5 € per person one way) than the larger official ones.

#### 2.1.2 Hotel and food, Gallipoli peninsula

We took the first hotel we encountered in Gelibolu: Özen Otel, Endüstri Meslek Lisesi Karşısı 10 (see map). We were the only guests. Two friendly boys guarded the hotel and cared for the breakfast (5.30 am? No problem!). The rooms were pretty clean and comfortable with private bathroom. Price: 11 euro per person per day including Turkish breakfast: bread, a handful of black

olives, a hard-boiled egg, jam, honey and lots of tea (*çai*). The boys and the boss, Mr. Yusuf Özen, only speak Turkish (and Armenian...). To make reservations by phone, be prepared! (tel. 0 286 566 35 52; fax 0 535 985 59 45). They have no e-mail yet. This hotel is perfectly situated for the whole peninsula as there are good roads and only few traffic. In Gelibolu, there are plenty of restaurants in the town center or at the delightful little fisherman's harbour. Alcohol (*bira* or *raki*) is not served everywhere, though publicity is omnipresent. Yeni Raki has a fixed official price and is sold in almost every shop (about 13 € for a 0,70 liter-bottle = 23 TL).

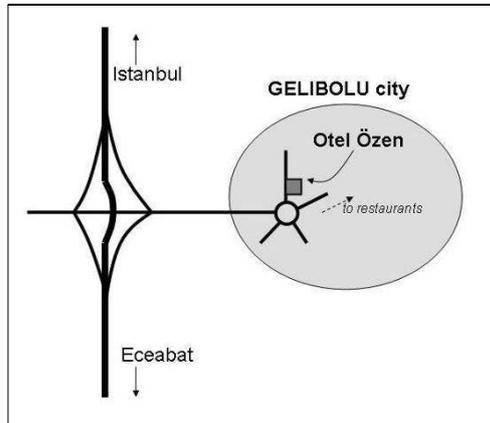


Fig. 6: Özen Otel map.

Try to avoid the two days before and after 25th April as this is ANZAC-day: Australian and New Zealand War And Beer Tourists come in large numbers to the World War I-remembrance activities at the Gallipoli National Park and hotels in the main towns tend to be full, even Özen Otel. Also a lot of Turkish tourists visit "their" cemeteries as well. But anyway, outside the main WWI locations, you might have it all for your own. Even the salt lake Tuz Gölü inside the National Park will not draw the crowds because of its remoteness, according to WWI-websites.

In about one hour of driving you can get from Gelibolu to the western tip of the peninsula. Çanakkale at the southern shore could be a better place for exploring this side (and visiting Kumkale on consecutive days) to avoid expensive and time-consuming ferry-crossings.

### 2.1.3 Hotel and food, Meriç delta

We stayed at Ipsala, the border town just before entering Greece. There is only one hotel, Sebat Otel (sebatotel@ttnet.net.tr, tel. 0(284)616 15 61). The receptionist did speak some English. We payed about 9 € per person per night but without breakfast (15 TL). For birdwatchers, a nice attraction is surely the 25 or so Lesser Kestrels breeding on the hotel and nearby buildings! You can see them sitting on the balcony at very close distances (3 m) from your room! There is also a stork nest on top of the local mosque, a nice view!

Shops abound in Ipsala for your daily picknick stuff and drinks. Most shops in Turkey are open by 7am and close at 9pm or even later.

The town of Enez at the river mouth could also be a good place to stay, saving a long drive westwards in the morning. There is only one small hotel at the town center, probably a rather basic one when seen from the outside.

### 2.1.4 Army, Police

As this is a sensitive and very strategic border area, there are lots of military installations and police controls. Don't try to photograph these of course (but we were once asked by themselves to make a picture of their group!) and be discreet with scopes and binoculars in their neighbourhood. We only encountered very friendly officers, being glad that there was finally happening at least something that day. This phrase might help you (thank you, Stijn Vanacker): AFRIKA'DAN AVRUPA'YA UÇAN KUŞLARI ARIYORUZ.

This should mean: "We do research on birds who are flying from Africa to Europe". We could use this phrase at least six times, with immediate success, and thus no hassle at all. Time is ticks ! ;)

## 2.2 The birdwatching areas

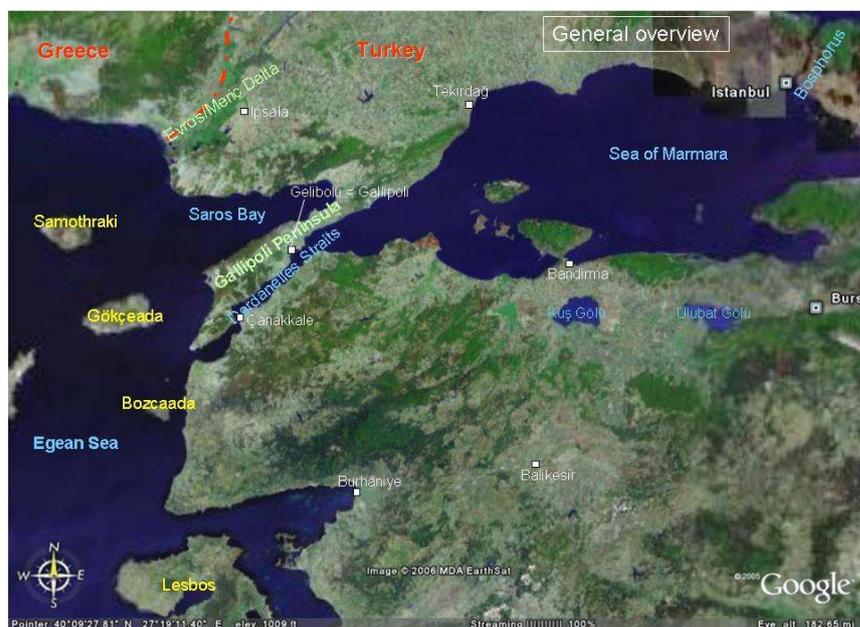


Figure 6.1: General overview of Bosphorus-Dardanelles area.



Figure 6.2: General birdwatching locations.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 Dirikköy watchpoint     | 7 Gallipoli NP  |
| 2 Kavak Delta             | 8 Tuz Gölü (Gallipoli NP)                             |
| 3 Koruköy watchpoint      | 9 Kumkale watchpoint                                  |
| 4 Kemikli Burnu peninsula | 10 Küçük Menderes river (bridge watchpoint) and delta |
| 5 Kavakalti river valley  | ? Probably interesting locations                      |
| 6 Kavakalti lake          |   |

### 2.2.1 Kavak Delta, Saros Bay and Dirikköy watchpoint

The Kavak river is a small river with a delta of about 3000 ha, at the bottom end of the Saros Bay. It is bordered by mixed agricultural land. The delta is mentioned in Birdlife International's book about 'Important Bird Areas in Europe', or look at <http://ims.wcmc.org.uk/ipieca/species/iba/TURKEY.html> . We expected that that very SE corner of the Saros Bay, near a hamlet called Dirikköy, would be a good migration watchpoint and visited this place on most early mornings. We found a track leading to a deserted picnic spot with an excellent view on both the bay and the southern delta. There is also a freshwater lagoon nearby with lots of waders, ducks and herons. In the bay there were bottle-nosed dolphins and plenty of coastal birds. According to a website for skuba-divers, this is one of the least polluted bays in this part of the Mediterranean with plenty of fish and even a few of the fourty or so Monk Seals left in Turkey.

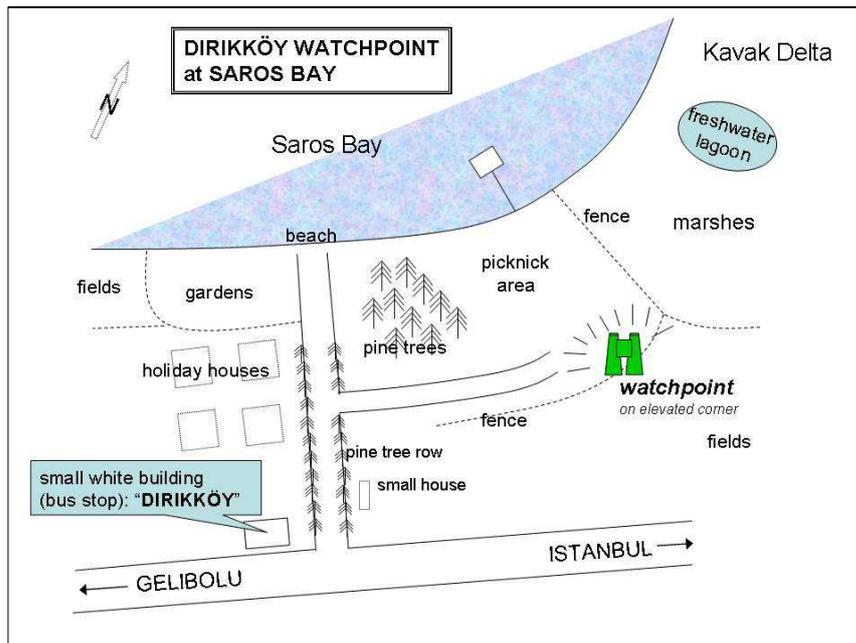


Fig. 7: Dirikköy Watchpoint map.



Dirikköy watchpoint: the bottom end of Saros Bay (left). Freshwater lagoon nearby (right).



Fig 8: Kavak Delta map showing minor roads excellent for birding (dotted line). Numbered observation points were given by O. Kuner. "Kavak delta 1" was not visited by us (no time).

On figure 8 we show a few dirt tracks leading into the delta plains. There are reed marshes, lagoons with brackish water and sand dunes. These have a lovely natural vegetation with lots of anemones and orchids, seemingly undisturbed.



Kavak delta, southern part (left). Steppe vegetation with red anemones (right).



*Reed marshes bordering dunes (left). Isabelline Wheatear (right).*



*Orchis mammosa (left). Orchis morio (center). Zerynthia polyxena (right).*

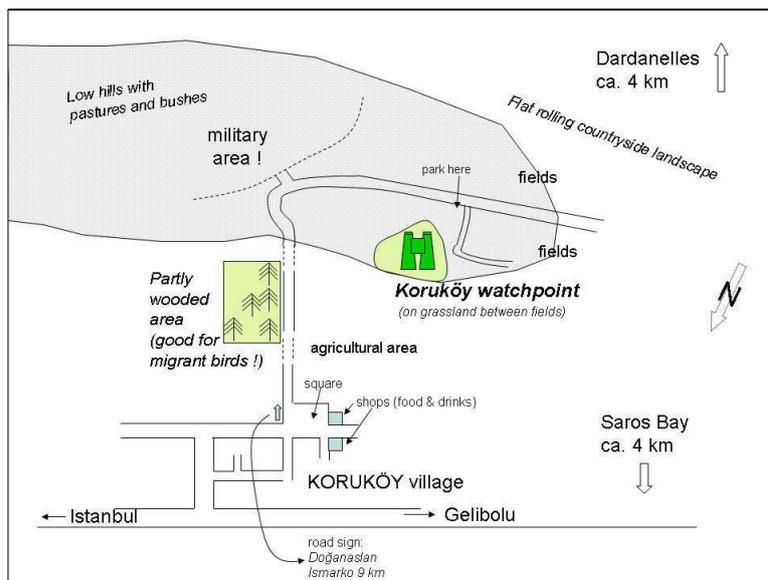
Another watchpoint in the northern area was given by Ozkan Uner (see "Kavak delta 1" on fig. 8), but we didn't have time to visit it. A full day is the least to do justice to this area. Always keep a look up in the sky as it really is on a possibly very good migration route ! Hundreds of Little Gulls, Mediterranean Gulls and three species of marsh terns followed the river inland on migration. Raptors make the detour of the bay or hunt over the plains. These also look very promising for groups of Red-footed falcons on electric wires a few weeks later.

## 2.2.2 Koruköy watchpoint and little woodland

This place is near the base of the Gallipoli peninsula. There are low hills in the centre of the peninsula. At our watchpoint, there is a splendid view where you can see the Dardanelles, the peninsula, Saros Bay and beyond at one elevated point. See map how to reach this spot. On the way from Koruköy village (with food shops) to the watchpoint, you pass an interesting open woodland which could attract loads of songbirds at good days, as there are not many of these bushes in the open neighbourhood. See map for directions. Keep a low profile and hide your camera's and binoculars while passing along the military area entrance ! This area also seems promising, having well developed natural scrub, but is not accessible. Short-toed Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard hunt over these low hillsides.



*Panoramic view to the west from Koruköy watchpoint. To the left is the Dardanelles Strait, to the right is Saros Bay.*



*Fig. 9: Koruköy watchpoint map.*



*Closer look: to the south (left), to the north (right).*

### 2.2.3 Gallipoli National Park

The western third part of the peninsula is a National Park of 33.000 ha, installed primarily for historical reasons as this was where a dirty part of World War I was fought, with half a million dead or wounded soldiers (one out of two for each party!) in seven months... The area was left nearly untouched afterwards, except for some small-scale agriculture and forestry, so no wonder the area is of a splendid natural beauty and peace now. A large forest-fire in July 1994 destroyed much of the native pine forest, so now there is much maquis instead. There are a few little villages and a large visitor's centre at Karatepe. Here you can buy maps, books and cold drinks. They also have a map of the minor roads (see fig. 11). Most roads in the southern part are asfalted for easy access though.

Visiting this area is free of charge. We had only one day, which is far below the needed time to do this wonderful area justice. We did not visit the limestone cliffs which could be very interesting for plants, reptiles and butterflies (and birds of course, such as Rüppel's warbler, Cretschmar's Bunting or Rock Nuthatch, all of which we dipped).

We drove into the park along the northern side, after having visited Kavakalti Lake (see further). In this area we saw a displaying Imperial Eagle, indicating possible breeding in the National Park. Breeding is not indicated for this area in any European bird atlas. In the whole area there might be several pairs because it looks very suitable for these wonderful birds of prey.

Between the villages of Beşyol and Küçük Anafarta we explored low hills with scrub where songbirds and butterflies abound. The view on top is splendid with songs of Ortolan Bunting, Orphean Warbler and Woodlark in the background. Here we saw several raptors (Short-toed Eagles, Red-footed Falcons, Marsh and Montagu's Harriers) flying northwest in good thermal conditions, presumably leaving the peninsula northwards at the very northwestern tip ?

From Chocolate Hill (World War I-name, see fig 10) you have yet another splendid view with very good potential to see migrating birds, possibly also in autumn with easterly winds.



Fig 10: Map of Tuz Gölü and surroundings. Approximate (mostly) dust road system in the area. Good maps are available at tourist information of National Park (Karatepe). See fig. 11 for an image of the map of the whole national park.

The most promising attraction is the salt lake, Tuz Gölü or Suvla Gölü (all lakes in Turkey seem to have several names). It is a beautiful lake with a deserted salt factory at the northern shore. The other shores are mostly grazing pastures. There are also plenty of small pools around the old salt works to keep birdwatchers busy searching for birds for at least a whole day. As it is 10 km from the main tourist interest points, and involves a walk to reach it, very few tourists ever come here. Few locals too because there aren't a lot in the park. We saw a few hundred shorebirds in total, Gull-billed and Little Terns and Pallid Harrier on only one hour in the evening, all what was left of our splendid day in the park. Later in the season, Spur-winged Plover should be a certainty in this kind of habitat. This lake really deserves a day visit on its own to walk around it completely (on foot). Near the coastline, there are also pristine dunes, so botanists will surely find something interesting too.

Around the lake small fields bordered by trees dominate the landscape and give it a lovely pastoral look. By the end of April, these fields must be spectacularly colored by flowers. Undoubtedly shrikes, Rollers and Black-headed Buntings must be numerous from the end of April onwards!



*Landscape (left) bordering Tuz Gölü which can be seen in the distance (right).*



*Tuz Gölü in evening light (left). Rocky outcrops in the south of the NP which we couldn't visit because of lack of time (right).*



Fig 11: General map of Gallipoli National Park, northern side (southern side not visited because of lack of time, but certainly worth visiting).

#### 2.2.4 Kavakalti Dere valley and lake

About halfway between Gelibolu and Eceabat on the peninsula, a small river valley runs in a north-south direction, ending in the Dardanelles Strait. This valley might very well funnel a lot of migrant birds that have crossed the Straits at the smallest crossing to the north of Canakkale (see fig. 6.2). About 10 km inland on the peninsula there is a dam with a freshwater lake with grassy borders and reed beds, surrounded by shrub. The valley itself consists of small fields, lots of trees and ditches. We had some rain the morning we visited but did see active migration of many hundreds of Spanish Sparrows, swallows and Wood Sandpipers. A bit later in spring this could be a marvelous place for watching marsh terns, herons and a lot more. Spread along the shores, there was a nice variety of waterbirds too. The most special observation however was a displaying adult Imperial Eagle over the hills!



Fig. 12: Map of Kavakalti Dere valley and lake. The valley is a perfect migration corridor. The small fields and hedges are well worth searching for birds.



Kavakalti Dere valley (left), Kavakalti lake as seen from northeastern side (right).

### 2.2.5 Büyük Kemikli Burnu peninsula

This is a small peninsula at the northern side of the Gallipoli peninsula, stretching into the Saros Bay. At the beginning of it, there are some smaller brackish and salt marshes (about 50 ha) that could harbour interesting birds. Possibly this small peninsula is used by birds to cut of the long crossing over the bay. We saw one male Montagu's Harrier doing this in low active flight. We visited this place shortly on one evening only.

There are other small coastal lagoons along this coast. They might be good areas to search for birds on days without migration.



*Fig. 13: Map of Büyük Kemikli Burnu peninsula The village of Bolayir is situated on a small hill and might be a very good observation point.*



*Büyük Kemikli Burnu beach and part of lagoon.*

### 2.2.6 KUMKALE WATCHPOINT and local river delta (west end of southern shore of Dardanelles Strait)

Full of expectations, we called this spot "Big Breskens" (see introduction). See map for directions (fig. 14).

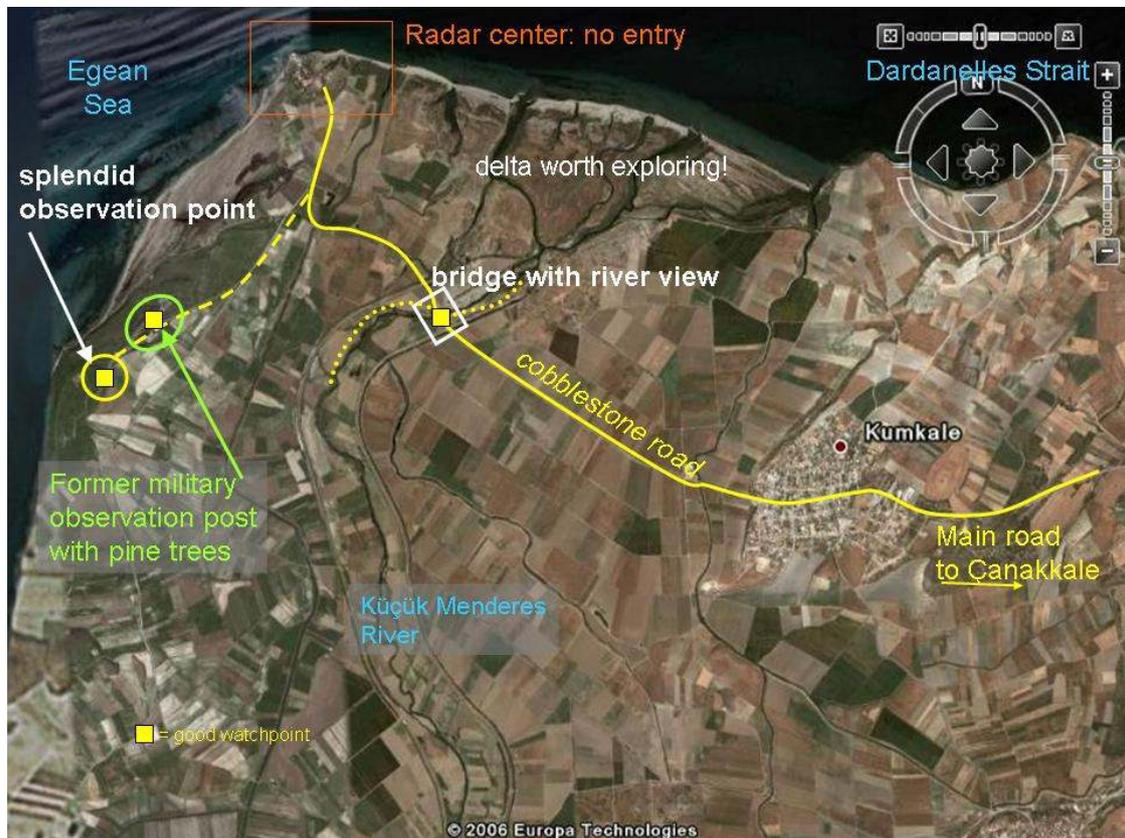


Fig 14. Map of Kumkale watchpoint and local river delta (Küçük Menderes)

The watchpoint is absolutely marvelous with a stunning 360° view in all directions! It is situated on a low row of hills of about 30 m above sea-level, covered with scrub and flowers. At the seaside there is a rocky and sandy stretch of shore, inland are small fields. We were there with a slight easterly wind, driving the migrating birds right above our heads (see day-to-day report). Unfortunately around 11pm the wind turned to west (sea breeze) and visible migration was cut off. With strong winds from NE to SE a *fabulous* migration spectacle might be seen here of literally all kinds of land birds: all kinds of raptors, storks, cormorants, herons, swallows, swifts, Bee-eaters, Hoopoes, buntings, larks, pipits, wagtails, Spanish Sparrows, etc, etc, ... With strong winds from westerly directions this must also be a good spot for seawatching (shearwaters, gulls, terns, herons, ducks, shorebirds, skuas, divers, ...).

But that's not all. There is a nice little river delta nearby which is visible from the observation post. The stream's name is "Küçük Menderes" but don't confuse with the better known river with the same name south of Izmir. The river runs through agricultural land between two dikes, but is lined by gallery forest, reed beds and sand banks. There is a bridge (see map) with good looks to all of these habitats, and it is easy to walk along this river itself. The delta has large reedbeds and a few freshwater lagoons, but we didn't have enough time to explore all this. According to the extremely strategic situation, any species of regular or vagrant bird might turn up here.

We all definitely want to go back there when the wind is good !! But even in bad weather there is plenty of good habitat to explore.



*Observation tower on the perfect spot (left). Cultivated river valley as seen from this tower (right).*



*View north of observation tower (Dardanelles Strait entrance), including river valley to the right. See also picture on front page.*



*View south of observation tower on coastal ridge followed by migrant birds flying nicely overhead.*



*View from bridge in south direction.*



*View from bridge looking north. Watch sand bars for waders, Citrine Wagtail and much more.*

To reach this area, drive SW from Çanakkale, following directions for Intepe and/or Izmir. Turn right at the road sign for Kumkale and Truva Müzesi. In the village of Kumkale, look for a cobblestone road through large fields (harriers!) on a dike going NW. Stop for a look around at the river bridge! Go on nearly up to the very tip where a small but active military basis is situated, i.e. at the very mouth of the Dardanelles Strait itself. Turn left on a dirt road about 500 m before this basis. After another 500 m you reach a deserted military camp. And another 500 m further again you reach the top of the hill with a white radio tower. Next to this you will see the concrete observation post which you can reach on foot easily.

### 2.2.7 MERIÇ DELTA

This is a huge area of rice fields, ditches and marshes. In spring there are large inundations of these fields. Unfortunately much of the natural habitat, such as gallery forest, reed and tamarisk marshes, has been destroyed for agricultural 'development'. Fortunately some outstanding marshes remain, like Gala Gölü, a national park. Near Yeni Karpuzla a lot of bulldozers were working on new big concrete irrigation channels, but I read on the internet (link no longer available) that together with this works, a better hydrological protection of the remaining nature areas is realised. Let's hope so. The marshes suffer from a changed inundation regime and eutrophication. The local fishing 'industry' has only recently collapsed because of changing conditions for the once numerous fishes. This can cause problems for migrating birds like pelicans and cormorants too, who should be numerous here (but were rather scarce at our day of visit).

Ipsala is a convenient town to stay (see 'Hotel' section). Because of irrigation works, we couldn't reach Gala Gölü from the east (Ipsala) so we had to make the detour south via Keşan and Baraği to Enez.

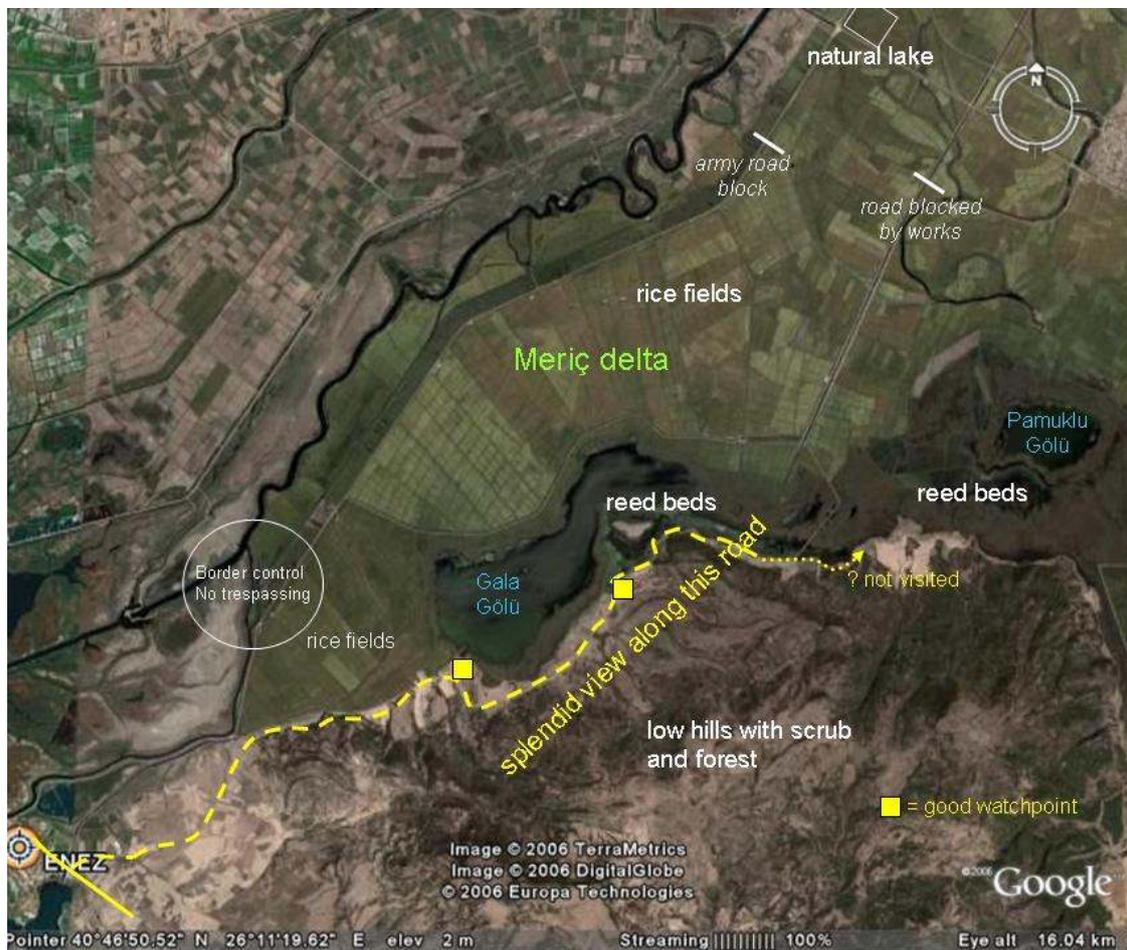


Fig. 15: Map of Meriç Delta with birding route (dust road) and good watchpoints. Approach from the east (or continuing east) is possible, but take prints of satellite map (see Google Earth) because irrigation works may always block roads. The natural (looking) lake in the north of this map had plenty of Mute Swans and Garganeys. This area is reachable from Yeni Karpuzla (village to the NE, not on this map), but you cannot go directly south from there as roads are blocked.



Fig. 16: Map of Meriç river mouth near Enez with birdwatching locations. Dotted road is mostly dust road.

When you come to a bridge just before Enez, turn right before the bridge (see fig. 15). This road will take you to Gala Gölü. You should better not stop nor use binoculars and cameras before having passed the military border area. Follow the north side of the low hills that border the alluvial plains, there is only one dirt road following this. After a while you will see the immense reed beds of Gala Gölü. At many places it is possible to climb on foot on these hill slopes to have a look at the marshes at your feet with excellent light conditions (sun in the back). The slopes are grazing pastures mixed with scrub, teeming with songbirds, reptiles, dragon- and butterflies. Continue along this road as far as you can. In bad weather a four-wheel drive vehicle is advisable to pass some wetter crossings. In dry weather (which we had) a normal car can do the trip. Because we saw 'too many' birds etc. we didn't manage to get all the way to Pamuklu Gölü which is also part of the National Park. Keep an eye out for eagles over the forested hills too, we saw two White-tailed Eagles circling overhead ! These rather old broadleaved forests themselves look good for birds too (from the distance, we didn't get there).



Flooded rice fields in cultivated delta (left). View over Gala Gölü (right) at western end of it.



*Rare tree nest of White Stork along shores of Gala Gölü (l.). Track along Gala shores: 4-wheel drive advised during or short after wet weather, but not really necessary in dry periods.*



*Eastern end of Gala Gölü with low hills covered with scrub that is full of life.*

Near Enez, there are more bird-rich lagoons. Drive into the town (over the bridge mentioned before), follow the main road and you'll arrive at the town center. Keep continuing on this main road which is turning left beyond the main square. So you reach the Bucurmene (brackish water) an Taşalti Lagoons (salt water) and Dalyan Lake (fresh water). Look where the birds are, you can drive or walk a little further through the salt marshes (see map). There might be lots of mosquitos here on warm evenings, be prepared for your own comfort.



Other comfort: the Greek radio on FM 104.7 had mostly good local and international music all day!

*Enez (background) and Dalyan lagoon.*

### 2.2.8 Other places we didn't visit

There appears to be a good watchpoint in a public park next to the village of *Bolayir*, on the Gallipoli peninsula, as mentioned in the "Rough Guide to Turkey". It is situated on a low hill. This may be worth trying. As the Dardanelles Strait becomes much narrower here than at Koruköy, more soaring birds might cross along here.

At the northern shore of the Saros Bay there are two more large *salt lakes*, of course named Tuz(la) Gölü.

The scarce *old pine forests* on the peninsula or in the hills to the north and east of the Saros Bay might be worth looking for Krüper's Nuthatch. It has never been mentioned to appear in this part of the country, but has anyone ever looked for it ?

The southern tip of the peninsula, inside the National Park, has some *rocky limestone outcrops*, part of the former battlefield left untouched for 90 years. We expect a lot of botanical and butterfly interests here, and birds as Cretzschmar's Bunting or Rüppell's Warbler may possibly breed here. Not to do at or closely around Anzac Day (25th April) when the area is full of tourists. At all other times tourist numbers will probably be rather low and not problematic in the early morning ;).

According to Google Earth, between Çanakkale and Lapseki on the *southern shore* there are *coastal lagoons* near Kerniklialan, most probably worth a visit. The same goes for a sheltered coastal bay just to the north of Lapseki, at a place where many soaring birds coming from the east might cross, because it is here that the Sea of Marmara becomes the Dardanelles Straits ('dire straits' in fact ;).

At about 200 km east from Lapseki is the well-known *Kuş Gölü* (or Manyas Gölü) with Kuş Çennetti (or "Bird Paradise") with a large heronry and colony of Dalmatian Pelicans. It is a long way for a day trip but not impossible. To make a round-trip you can take a ferry from Bandırma (to the north of Kuş Gölü) to Istanbul. The practical disadvantage is that you arrive near the old city-centre of Istanbul, so a good deal of traffic jams might cross your path... While in Bandırma, check the skies for a possible other forgotten migration route over the nearby islands !

### 3. DAY TO DAY OBSERVATIONS

#### Abbreviations

x = common (easy, low numbers)

xx = abundant (easy, large numbers)

m = male, f = female, p = pair

sp. = species

NE = northeast, SW = southwest, etc.

N 2 = northerly wind, 2 beaufort (wind speed)

Cloudiness is noted in x/8 parts : 0/8 = completely blue sky, 8/8 = completely overcast

#### 16th April 2006: Arrival at Istanbul, transfer to Gelibolu

We arrived at about noon at the international airport, picked up our van and went directly west! The chap of the hiring company guided us through the traffic, but with a good map it is not so difficult to find your way using main highways.

#### Istanbul – Gelibolu (afternoon) in general

White stork: 12 migrating near airport Istanbul, 1 on the road

Purple Heron: 6 migrating

Alpine swift: about 20 in city areas near Istanbul

Raven 1

Little Owl 1 (centre of Bolayir, evening)

#### Stop at road 5 km west of Tekirdağ

**Imperial eagle:** 1 near-adult in tree next to the main road (splendid !), stayed around after take-off because of our sudden stop... (around 17h, presumably a migrant bird that stopped off because of finished thermals?)

Skylark 1 singing (one of the only two locations on the trip, the other at Enez)

Stonechat 1 pair

Northern Wheatear 1m

Spanish Sparrow 50

Night: at Özen Otel in Gelibolu



*The tree where the Imperial Eagle (right) was sitting in first... And a digiscope image of the bird.*

## 17th April 2006: First check of Saros Bay and Koruköy watchpoint

Weather: sunny but stable (few thermals in the afternoon only), 10-25°C

### Saros Bay at Dirikköy watchpoint (6.45-12.00)

An early start, having to wake up the waiter sleeping in the sofa... At 6.45h we found a terrific spot in the SE corner of the bay with a broad view over the bay, the Kavak delta and inland. The freshwater lagoon held many birds, as did the bay itself. Migration was slow, but nice birds were seen somewhere around every minute during all morning.

#### *Migrating birds*

Cormorant 2	Yellow Wagtail 5
Purple Heron 1 (our first bird here)	White wagtail 2
Little Egret 2 + 7	Tawny Pipit 3
White Stork 7 + 1 (over low hills)	Tree Pipit 11
Black-tailed Godwit ±70 (1 group)	Barn Swallow 18
Gull-billed Tern 3 (via delta)	Sand Martin 3
Short-toed Lark 2	Linnet 2
Common Buzzard 3 (first at 9.25am)	Siskin 1 m
Short-toed Eagle 4 (closely following shoreline)	Spanish Sparrow 390
Bee-eater 4	Ortolan Bunting 2
	Corn Bunting 5



*Migrating Short-toed Eagle (left). Tree frog (right)*

#### *Birds at sea*

Black-throated Diver 13+3+10=26 on migration (either NE or E, high up in loose groups), about 10 at sea (about 50% summer plumaged adults)  
Yelkouan shearwater ±250  
Shag 1  
Mediterranean Gull ±150  
Little Gull 15 at our arrival, ±400 at 10.00am

Yellow-legged Gull (large colony on islands in bay, many 100's of pairs)  
Sandwich Tern 7 (migration)  
Common Tern 4  
Black Tern 5  
Arctic Skua 1 ad (dark phase)  
Skua sp. (Arctic/Pomarine) 1 (light phase)  
Pomarine Skua 1ad+1 3rd y (migrating); 4 ad landed at sea

*Mammals* :: Bottle-nosed Dolphin ±10



*Mediterranean and Yellow-legged Gulls (left). Yellow ophrys (right).*

*Birds in Kavak delta (incl. small lagoon)*

Bittern 1 calling from distant reedbeds	Collared Pratincole 4
Great Egret 1+	Curlew 1+
Little Egret	Avocet 4
Glossy Ibis 11 + 4	Wood Sandpiper
Mute Swan 15	Green Sandpiper
Garganey 85	Marsh Sandpiper 3
Pintail 1 pair	Black-tailed Godwit 1
Shoveler	Lapwing 10+ displaying
Mallard 4	Black-winged Stilt
Ruddy Shelduck min. 11 pairs	Little Ringed Plover 1
Marsh Harrier	Little Stint 7
Merlin 1 male hunting	Calandra Lark 1

*Birds inland (shrub, village, low hills)*

Short-toed Eagle 1 (low hills)	Northern Wheatear 3
Nightingale	Goldfinch
Wood Warbler 1	Greenfinch
Blackcap 1	Serin
Great Tit	

*Butterflies*

Lasiommata megera 3, Aricia agestis 1, Pieris napi 1, Papilio machaon 3, Iphiclydes podalirius 1, Issoria latonia 2, Pieris brassicae 4, Colias crocea, Euchloe ausonia

*Plants*

Yellow Ophrys (*Ophrys lutea*)

Inland watchpoint between Dirikköy and Koruköy (12.30-14.00h)

Near some old pastures we found a plateau with a good view to watch raptor migration, because thermals had finally developed. We saw some migrating raptors closely following the hills or heading for the Kavak delta detour. So far our theory proved right! There were also lots of local birds around.

*Local birds*

Long-legged Buzzard 2	Blackbird 1
Syrian Woodpecker 1	Whitethroat 1
Hoopoe 1	Lesser Whitethroat 1
Crested Lark	Sardinian Warbler 1m
Short-toed Lark several local birds	Pied Flycatcher 1m
Calandra Lark 1p	Red-backed shrike 1m
Northern Wheatear 3	Spanish Sparrow 15
Isabelline Wheatear 2p	Cirl Bunting 1m
Song Thrush 1	Corn Bunting x

*Reptiles:* Glass Lizard 1, Stripe-necked Terrapin 1 (both in small wet ditch)

*Butterflies:* Pontia edusa 1, Nymphalis antiopa 1, Antiocharis cardamines 1m

*Birds on active migration*

White Stork 8 in total	Hobby 1
Short-toed Eagle 3	Kestrel 5
Lesser Spotted Eagle 5 in total	Red-footed Falcon 1f
Booted Eagle 2	Swift 4
Long-legged Buzzard 1 imm	Red-rumped Swallow 1
Buzzard 6	Spanish Sparrow 100
Goshawk 1 female to NW	

Koruköy, low hills SE of village: fields, wood and watchpoint

Between the village and the low hills, you first cross some arable fields. There is a small open wood with plenty of migrant birds possible. To reach the watchpoint on the most southerly hillside, you pass along a strategic military watchpoint (see fig. 9). Keep low-profile and smiling, the chaps were very friendly-looking. It is a minor road to the watchpoint, which we found almost by coincidence. A nice surplus is a nearly flat platform on the hillside, perfect for placing many

telescopes ! The view to both sides of the peninsula is splendid. The yellow-colored oilseed rape-fields add to the view quality, with background vocals of three lark species.

*Fields*

Quail 1 heard  
 Spanish Sparrow 150  
 Ortolan Bunting 10 (1 group)  
 Corn Bunting

*Small woodland*

Hobby 1	Red-backed Shrike 1m
Sparrowhawk 1f	Woodchat Shrike 1m 1p
Syrian Woodpecker 1	Greenfinch several
Tawny Pipit 1	Goldfinch x
Pied Flycatcher 1m	Chaffinch 1
Spotted Flycatcher 1	Ortolan Bunting 2m 1f
Golden Oriole 1m	

*Reptiles:* Spur-thighed Tortoise 1

*Butterflies:* Carcharodus alceae, Iphiclides podalirius, Vanessa atalanta, Lycaena phlaeas



*Woodchat shrikes (left) and Ortolan Buntings (right).*

*Migration watchpoint (active migrants) (5-6 pm = late)*

stork sp. 15 (very far, to the west)  
 Hen Harrier 1 ad m  
 Tawny Pipit 1  
 Calandra Lark min. 5 singing birds around  
 Crested Lark 2  
 Short-toed Lark min. 2 singing birds around

From this watchpoint, we could see a glistening wetland at the base of the Büyük Kemikli Burnu peninsula (Saros Bay). After some searching we explored this place too. There are some fresh and brackish water lakes with muddy shores next to a small beach. There are many beach bungalows in the neighbourhood. As anywhere in the area any migrant could be expected here, especially waders.

*Büyük Kemikli Burnu peninsula (after 6.30pm)*

Garganey 1m	Wood Sandpiper 8
Montagu's Harrier 1m migrating: following the small peninsula and then continuing NE over the sea	Kentish Plover 4
Common Buzzard 1 migrating	Little Owl 1
Long-legged Buzzard 1 close-by in the fields with prey	Red-rumped Swallow 6 migrating
	Black-eared Wheatear 1m
	Isabelline Wheatear 2
	Ortolan Bunting 2 (on wires)

*Amphibians:* Green Toad (heard)



*Büyük Kemikli Burnu peninsula with small coastal lagunes (l.). Evening atmosphere at Eceabat (r.)*

### **18th April 2006: Kavak delta**

*Weather: cloudy (few thermals in the afternoon only), 10-25°C, wind East 2-3*

#### Saros Bay at Dirikköy watchpoint (7.20-9.00)

A little less early start today after some nice Raki the evening before. Next try to see the huge bird movements ? Not really, but lots of birds around anyway !

#### *Migrating birds*

Black-throated Diver 2 over to Dardanelles, 5  
back to Egean Sea  
Mallard 2 (high)  
Red-rumped Swallow 38  
Barn Swallow 50  
Short-toed Lark 10  
Tawny Pipit 1

Tree Pipit 3  
Yellow Wagtail 5  
Spanish Sparrow 660  
Goldfinch 8  
Ortolan Bunting 1  
Corn Bunting 3

#### *Birds at sea*

Black-throated Diver a few  
Yelkouan Shearwater 720 !  
Little Gull 580 ! plus 100+ active migration  
Mediterranean Gull 100's  
Black Tern 1  
Sandwich Tern 42

#### *Birds around (mostly lagoon and surroundings, and shrub)*

Night Heron 3  
Bittern 1 heard  
Grey Heron 2  
White Stork 1  
Garganey 100  
Shelduck 10  
Ruddy Shelduck min. 20  
Peregrine 1 imm hunting over delta plains  
Marsh Harrier min. 5  
Black-headed Gull 8

Black-winged Stilt 40  
Ruff ca. 200  
Wood Sandpiper 4  
Black-tailed Godwit 2  
Greenshank 1  
Whimbrel 1  
Hoopoe 1  
Nightingale 1  
Willow Warbler 1

#### Kavak Delta (N of the river)

We visited several places in the delta (see fig. 8).



*Birds on migration*

Black Stork 1  
 White Stork 47 (N) + 130 (E) (over peninsula)  
 Little Egret 6 + 2  
 Short-toed Eagle 1 + 3  
 Lesser Spotted Eagle 2  
 Hen Harrier 1f

Montagu's Harrier 1f  
 Montagu's/Pallid Harrier 1f  
 Marsh Harrier 1imm  
 Buzzard 1  
 Red-footed Falcon 1m (close-by !), 1f  
 Sand Martin 2

*Local birds*

Cormorant 2  
 White Stork 3  
 Purple Heron 1  
 Little Egret ≠  
 Bittern 1 heard  
 Marsh Harrier 1m, 3f  
 Merlin 1m  
 Kestrel 1  
 Long-legged Buzzard 1  
 Ruddy Shelduck  
 Water Rail 1 heard  
 Moorhen  
 Oystercatcher 1  
 Kentish Plover

Collared Pratincole 15  
 Gull-billed Tern 5  
 Little Owl 1  
 Hoopoe 1  
 Calandra Lark x  
 Short-toed Lark x  
 (Black-headed) Yellow Wagtail x  
 White Wagtail 2  
 Tawny Pipit 2  
 Red-throated Pipit 2  
 Isabelline Wheatear 2p (little hill)  
 Whinchat 1m  
 Great Reed Warbler ≠  
 Whitethroat 1p (breeding)



*Birds at sea*

Great Crested Grebe 1  
 Black-necked Grebe 12  
 Little Tern 1  
 Common Tern 4

*Reptiles:* Grass Snake 1, Spur-thighed Tortoise 7

*Amphibians:* Green Toad 1, Marsh Frog xx

*Butterflies:* Coenonympha pamphilus, Zerynthia polyxena x in dunes, Pieris rapae, Pieris brassicae, Vanessa cardui, Colias crocea, blue sp., Papilio machaon, Nymphalis antiopa 1  
*Plants:* Ophrys mammosa 100's, Orchis morio 100's, lots of anemones, etc



*Marsh Frog (left) and Green Toad (right).*



*Lots of Orchis morio in dune vegetation.*

Watchpoint hill, Koruköy (3.15pm – 5.35pm, 8/8 thin very high clouds, rather hazy, ENE 3)  
 Because thermal development had started (see *migrating birds*), we decided to give the watchpoint hill a try. After 5.35, we made a stroll in the neighbouring fields.

*Migrating birds*

Sparrowhawk 2  
 Montagu's Harrier 1m, 1m, 1f (on the road, 7.30pm)  
 Osprey 1 (5.35pm) to N  
 Collared Dove 8 in total (unexpected)  
 Barn Swallow 12  
 Short-toed Lark 1

*Birds around*

Long-legged Buzzard 1 ad  
 Quail 1 heard  
 Calandra Lark 10 singing males !  
 Whinchat 2  
 Nightingale 1  
 Whitethroat 1p  
 Ortolan Bunting 24 (1 group near village)  
 Corn Bunting x

*Mammals:* Fox 1 traffic victim, 3 large bats in a bunker

*Butterflies:* Lycaena phlaeas, Pontia edusa, Pieris rapae, Pieris brassicae, Pieris napi, Euchloe ausonia, Vanessa atalanta, Vanessa cardui, Colias crocea, Carcharodus alceae, Lasiommata megera, Nymphalis antiopa 1, Nymphalis polychloros 1 in orchard, Papilio machaon 1, Iphiclides podalirius, Issoria latonia, Hummingbird Hawk-moth 10's on migration



*Montagu's Harrier*

### **19th April 2006: Kumkale watchpoint (entrance to the Dardanelles)**

*Weather: started 8/8 cloudy, wind E 4-5=promising!?, 10°C and hazy; later clearing to partly cloudy 2/8, wind S 3-5, 20°C.*

Today we would try the very promising watchpoint of Kumkale in the most NW corner of Turkish Anatolia. A strong easterly wind added much to the group excitement, promising a funneling effect for migrants, being pushed against the coastline ? This was true for the first 2 hours in Kumkale, but after this, the wind turned and migration seemed to have evaporated immediately. Also, deeper inland and to the south, the weather was still very bad, so no real big migration wave could be expected. Still this spot deserves a lot of attention, we're sure about the potentials! We also explored the still largely natural river bed of the small local Küçük Menderes river where there were plenty of birds. Also the agricultural fields are worth exploring.

#### Eceabat to Kilitbahir (ferry crossing the Dardanelles Strait)

Blackbird ≠ on the road

Yelkouan Shearwater min. 200 seen flying W and E

Squacco Heron 3 on migration E



*Oil tankers and Squacco Herons use the same corridor to go east: The Dardanelles Straits.*



*Yelkouan shearwaters flying east through the Dardanelles with the old Çanakkale fort in the background.*

Kumkale Watchpoint ('Big Breskens') (9.30am - 12am)

*Migrating birds*

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cormorant 3                          | Alpine Swift 1        |
| White Stork 1                        | Hoopoe 1              |
| Night Heron 7                        | Barn Swallow 50       |
| Little Egret 2                       | Sand Martin 15        |
| Montagu's Harrier 1m, 1m, 1m, 1m = 4 | House Martin 4        |
| Marsh Harrier 1f                     | Red-rumped Swallow 15 |
| Long-legged Buzzard 1                | Tree Pipit 1          |
| Buzzard 1, 2 = 3                     | Golden Oriole 1m      |
| Hobby 1                              | Woodchat Shrike 1m    |
| Lesser Kestrel 4, 1, 1 = 6           | Goldfinch 2           |
| Kestrel 1                            | Spanish Sparrow 100's |
| kestrel sp. 1                        | Serin 1               |



*And the title of 'bird of the day' goes to... Pallid Harrier !*

*Local birds*

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Little Grebe 1                   | Ruddy Shelduck 2 (wet field)                            |
| Yelkouan Shearwater 100's at sea | Coot 1  |
| Great Egret 1                    | Pallid Harrier 1 2 <sup>o</sup> y very close, hunting!! |
| Little Egret 2                   | Short-toed Eagle 1                                      |

Buzzard 1  
 Sparrowhawk 1f  
 Stone Curlew heard only  
 Black-winged Stilt 1 (wet field)  
 Gull-billed Tern 2 (far away, over delta)  
 Quail 1  
 Hoopoe 1 at old graveyard  
 Crested Lark  
 Pied Flycatcher 1m  
 Spotted Flycatcher 1

Black-eared Wheatear 1m  
 Sardinian Warbler ≠  
 Lesser Whitethroat 1  
 Whitethroat  
 Cetti's Warbler 1 at old graveyard  
 Nightingale 1 at old graveyard  
 House Sparrow  
 Raven 1  
 Ortolan Bunting 2 + 20  
 Corn Bunting x

Also a very probable Cinereous Bunting was seen by Johan, but couldn't be relocated... The island of Lesbos is the nearest known breeding place, sites on the western Turkish mainland are not known to us but could be in the vicinity!

At 11.30am a sea breeze developed suddenly (NNE 2), dropping temperature by 5° in two seconds and finishing off migration at once.

*Reptiles:* Worm Snake 1 (under stone), Turkish Gecko 3

*Butterflies:* Lasiommata megera, Euchloe ausonia, Pieris rapae, Pieris brassicae, Vanessa atalanta, Lycaena phlaeas, Carcharodes alceae, Papilio machaon, Polyommatus icarus, Erynnis marloye ≠



*Just some beauties.*



*Turkish Gekko (l.) and group of Spanish Sparrows, a common migrant (r.).*

Kumkale Bridge over Küçük Menderes river

Pygmy Cormorant 3 (morning)  
 Cormorant 1  
 Black Stork 3x 1ad low (local)  
 Purple Heron 1  
 Night Heron 1  
 Marsh Harrier 2  
 Pallid Harrier 1 2°y female probably, hunting (morning)

Montagu's Harrier 1m  
 ringtail harrier sp. 1  
 Moorhen  
 Wood Sandpiper 15  
 Green Sandpiper 1  
 Common Sandpiper 1  
 Little Ringed Plover 1  
 Temminck's Stint 3

Little Stint 3  
Roller 1 (morning)  
Kingfisher 1  
Citrine Wagtail 1m  
Black-headed Yellow Wagtail 30  
White Wagtail 6  
Pied Flycatcher 1m, 1f  
Redstart 1m  
Nightingale

Great Reed Warbler 1  
Reed Warbler 1  
Blackcap 1m, 1f  
Penduline Tit 1m with nest  
Masked Shrike 1f  
Woodchat Shrike m  
Red-backed Shrike m  
Hawfinch 3  
Spanish Sparrow 300

*Reptiles:* Spur-thighed Tortoise 3, European Pond Terrapin 1

*Butterflies:* Vanessa cardui



*Black Stork (above) and stunning male Citrine Wagtail along the river bank.*

On the way back we chose to take the ferry more to the north, from Lapseki to Gelibolu. The landscape between Kumkale and Lapseki is mostly agricultural (cereals) with lots of trees and low forested or grazed hills as a background. The ferry is as expensive as elsewhere and you even have to pay to park in the waiting lane of cars! In one of these lanes, and happily not ours, a fat ugly woman with blonded hair (!) in a luxury jeep, middle-aged, crashed two (!) cars in front of her by starting to fast. By driving back 'a little', she made the same fault and crashed two (!) other ones behind her! In ten seconds! Unbelievable !

On the Dardanelles, we saw:

Diver sp. 1 migrating east  
Mediterranean Gull 20, mostly imm.  
Black-headed Gull 3 imm.  
Common Tern 5 migrating east  
House Martin 20 in town

*Mammals* : Bottle-nosed Dolphin 8

## 20th April 2006: Dirikköy watchpoint (Saros Bay) and Gallipoli National Park

Weather: started 8/8 cloudy, wind E 1-2, 14°C and hazy; later 1h of rain, in the afternoon clearing to partly cloudy 2/8, wind N 2, a lot of thermals 26°C.

Another less early start to give Dirikköy a try. After this we went to a hidden freshwater lake near Kumköy in the center of the peninsula. The main target was the salt lake Tuz(la) Gölü in the Gallipoli NP as well as the rocky calcareous hills there, but that was too much for this bird-filled day. We'll visit these rocks the next time...

### Dirikköy watchpoint (Saros Bay) (8-9 am)

#### *Migrating birds*

Black-throated Diver 1 E, 2 W  
Marsh Harrier 1m  
Mediterranean Gull 50  
Sandwich Tern 24  
Black Tern 11

Yellow Wagtail 54  
Barn Swallow 30  
Sand Martin 4  
House Martin 8  
Spanish Sparrow 1165 !

#### *Local birds*

Little Grebe 1  
Yelkouan Shearwater a few 100's  
Glossy Ibis 8  
Little Egret 12  
Teal 1m

Little Gull 50  
Common Tern 10  
and much the same lagoon birds as previous days

### On the road (E-87)

Turtle Dove 2 migrating E  
Blackbird ≠  
Nightingale ≠  
Jay 1

Raven ≠  
Chaffinch ≠  
Ortolan Bunting 1m singing (olive grove)  
Cirl Bunting 1m song

### Valley of Kavakalti Dere (rain) + Kavakalti freshwater lake (weather clearing, wind N 2) (10am-1pm)



Valley with small fields (l.) and Kavakalti dam with good views over lake (r.).

#### *Migrating birds*

Short-toed Eagle 2+1 = 3  
Montagu's Harrier 1m  
Buzzard ≠  
Hobby 2  
Wood Sandpiper 25

Cuckoo 1  
Tawny Pipit 1  
Tree Pipit 1  
Spanish Sparrow min. 600

#### *Local birds*

Great Crested Grebe min. 6 p.  
White Stork 1  
Glossy Ibis 6  
Little Egret 3

Squacco Heron 1  
Little Bittern 1m  
Mute Swan 1  
Garganey 3m

IMPERIAL EAGLE 1 ad displaying over the hills to the north of the lake, and maybe another adult a bit later  
 Short-toed Eagle 2  
 Goshawk 1 ad f (local bird)  
 Coot min. 3p  
 Moorhen  
 Greenshank 1  
 Little Owl 2

Hoopoe 2  
 Great Spotted Cuckoo 2  
 Cuckoo 2  
 Syrian woodpecker 1m  
 Crested Lark x  
 Black-eared Wheatear 2m  
 Northern Wheatear 1p  
 Red-backed Shrike 1f

*Butterflies:* *Lycaena thersamon* 1m, 1f, *Vanessa cardui*, *Coenonympha pamphilus*, *Carcharodes alceae*, *Anthocharis cardamines* 1m  
*Dragonflies:* *Sympetrum fonscolombeii* 1m, *Sympetma fusca* 1



*Lycaena thersamon* (left), *Sympetrum fonscolombeii* (right).

Maquis area between the villages of Besyol and Küçük Anafurta (2-4 pm)

We chose this area to stop after a drive through fields and other hills. From the top of these, the view is magnificent in all directions. It is possible that, at least in these circumstances, raptor migration funnels to the NW tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula, as we saw several raptors flying in that direction. There were good thermals this afternoon, but unfortunately, we were not at a more strategic location. Anyway, there was more than enough to keep us busy and happy !

*Migrating birds*

Short-toed Eagle 5  
 Hen Harrier 1f  
 Red-footed Falcon 2  
 Tree Pipit 1

*Local birds*

Long-legged Buzzard 2ad (displaying)  
 Sparrowhawk 1  
 Wood Lark 1p breeding  
 Black-eared Wheatear m  
 Blackbird x  
 (Eastern) Orphean Warbler 1m, 1f

Sardinian Warbler x  
 Whitethroat  
 Ortolan Bunting ≠ singing males  
 Cirl Bunting 1m  
 Corn Bunting

*Reptiles:* Green Lizard, Balkan Wall Lizard, Glass Lizard

*Butterflies:* *Erynnis marloyi*, *Carcharodes alceae*, *Papilio machaon*, *Iphiclides podalirius*, *Anthocharis cardamines*, *Pieris rapae*, *Colias crocea*, *Leptidea sinapis*, *Callophrys rubi*, *Polyommatus icarus*, *Glaucopsyche alexis*, *Aricia agestis*, *Pseudophilotes vicrama*



*Butterflies:* Pseudophilotes vicrama (left), Callophrys rubi (center) and Orchis simia.

On the road to Tuz Gölü (small fields with lots of trees and shrub around)

- |                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| IMPERIAL EAGLE 1 ad circling overhead | Woodchat Shrike |
| Chukar 2                              | Cirl Bunting    |
| Black-eared Wheatear ≠                | Ortolan Bunting |
| Great Tit                             |                 |

*Butterflies:* Zerynthia cerisyi, Pontia edusa

Chocolate Hill

- Short-toed Eagle 3 local birds
- Montagu's Harrier 1m, 1f (migration)
- Bee-eater 5 (migration)
- Red-rumped Swallow 3 (migration)



*Chocolate Hill, once a strategic hill for war purposes, now ideally situated for peaceful birdwatching.*

### Tuz Gölü

A very peaceful environment, lots of pools and muddy shores, great potential for birds all year round (if not dry in summer).

Spoonbill 2  
Little Egret 6  
Wigeon 1m  
Garganey 8  
Shelduck 12  
Ruddy Shelduck 4  
Pallid Harrier 1 2°y male hunting  
Avocet 6  
Little Stint 60  
Curlew Sandpiper 4  
Wood Sandpiper 20

Marsh Sandpiper 6  
Greenshank 1  
Yellow-legged Gull probably 10p breeding  
Gull-billed Tern 15  
Little Tern 8  
Hoopoe 2  
Black-headed Yellow Wagtail 40  
Sand Martin 30  
Barn Swallow 30 (migration)  
Northern Wheatear ≠ singing  
Isabelline Wheatear 1p



*Tuz Gölü in the distance (l.) with two Spoonbills (r.).*



*Wood Sandpipers (left) at Tuz Gölü (r.).*

## 21st April 2006: Dirikköy watchpoint (Saros Bay), Koruköy watchpoint (raptors) and eastern Meriç Delta

*Weather: day started cloudy, later sunny, wind ESE 3, up to 26°C and rather hazy. Rather poor thermals in the afternoon, but at least there were some today.*

Final try for raptor and stork migration today, from our Koruköy watchpoint between the oilseed rape fields at the base of the peninsula. We spent the early morning at Dirikköy watchpoint first.



*Stone Marten, traffic victim along main road...*

### Dirikköy watchpoint (Saros Bay) (7.30-8.50am)

On the road: Stone Marten 1 roadkill (adult)

#### *Migrating birds*

Black-throated Diver 13 E and 6 NW (totals)  
Marsh Harrier 1y m  
Short-toed Lark 3  
Red-rumped Swallow 6

Barn Swallow 20  
White wagtail 1  
Tree Pipit 3  
Spanish Sparrow 303

#### *Local birds*

Black-throated Diver 4  
Yelkouan Shearwater 610 (closely inshore, at 200 m!, fishing in large groups)  
Glossy Ibis 10  
Little Egret 1  
Oystercatcher 3

Curlew Sandpiper 4  
Mediterranean Gull 375 (no colour-ringed individuals)  
Little Gull 100+  
Little Tern 2  
Black Tern 7



*Saros Bay, full of birds (here : Yelkouan Shearwaters and Pygmy, Mediterranean and Yellow-legged Gulls).*

Migration watching at Koruköy watchpoint (9.25-14.30h)

Rather hazy, only 5 km of sight in the morning, after 12am up to 15 km sight, but still the air wasn't really clear.

*Migrating birds*

White Stork 185 in total (largest group 61)  
Black Stork 11 (largest group 6)  
Short-toed Eagle 3  
Osprey 2  
Lesser Spotted Eagle 1 (10.40am)  
Eagle sp. 1 (*Aquila sp.*)  
Marsh Harrier 6  
Montagu's Harrier 2m  
Buzzard 3  
Kestrel 1  
Hobby 1

Sandwich Tern heard only  
Turtle Dove 9  
Collared Dove 6  
Short-toed Lark 2  
Tree Pipit 2  
Golden Oriole a group of 5m+2f made a short stop on top of a bush!  
Siskin 12  
Spanish Sparrow (not counted, few hundreds)  
Ortolan Bunting 7



*Koruköy watchpoint (l.) and migrating White Storks (r.), right overhead !*



*That's South-East Europe at its best : Golden Orioles come in groups ! - (r.) Iphiclides podalirius.*

The migrating storks and eagles didn't make the detour around Saros Bay but crossed it straightly in NW-direction, thus without change of course after crossing the Dardanelles Straits. In this case, our observation point was situated at a sector where this Strait was still more than 10 km wide. A watchpoint at the centre of the peninsula (or nearer to Gelibolu) could be a better bet to see more birds. So our theory about the detour didn't prove to be true when the birds have a tailwind and good thermals. One group of White Storks was followed by scope. They crossed the Saros Bay (about 13 km wide) in 2 long glides: one after a rise on thermals by leaving the peninsular coast, and the other glide after circling movements more than halfway the Bay, above the sea in fact. This is about the distance that birds have to cross at Gibraltar too.

We stay convinced however that in less favourable conditions (misty weather, headwinds, ...) the detour theory might still be valid. A next visit to the area will clear this out (or you might do so?).

*Local birds*

Long-legged Buzzard 1  
Woodchat Shrike 1p

*Butterflies:* *Nymphalis antiopa* 1

On the road to the Meriç Delta (wooded hills south of Keşan)

Black Stork 2x1  
Short-toed Eagle 1  
Booted Eagle 1 light phase transporting nesting material  
Chaffinch

Meriç Delta, west of Ipsala (Yeni Karpuzla and surroundings)

A lot of bulldozing was going on for irrigation works, creating large concrete canals (sic), cutting of roads and making it impossible to reach the western part of the delta from here. I read somewhere that together with these works measures are taken to reduce eutrophication and pesticide input into Gala Gölü, let's hope they won't "forget" these all too necessary conservation works!

The observations were made on the minor roads between the mostly inundated rice fields. The large numbers of Mute Swan and Garganey were on a natural lake between the fields (see fig. 15).

Cormorant ≠	Ruff 1
White Stork ≠	Wood Sandpiper 15
Purple Heron 2	Common Sandpiper 1
Great Egret 1	Mediterranean Gull 4
Little Egret 10's	Gull-billed Tern 2+23!
Mute Swan 470 (1 group)	Common Tern 15
Garganey 190 (1 group)	Whiskered Tern 7
Osprey 1 hunting	Kingfisher 1
Marsh Harrier ≠	Sand Martin colony with 150 birds
Collared Pratincole 4	

Ipsala city centre (mosque and hotel surroundings)

White Stork 1 active nest on top of the mosque  
Lesser Kestrel 23  
Little Owl 1 heard at hotel



*Meriç delta in early evening light. This is the eastern part with mostly inundated rice fields (left). Mosque in Ipsala city centre with breeding White Stork on top and Lesser Kestrels above (right).*

## 22nd April 2006: Meriç Delta

Weather: beautiful day, sunny, SE 3

We first tried to reach the central delta area by driving west from Ipsala via Koyuntepe. But because of the irrigation works, we couldn't get through. We needed to go back all the way to Keşan and take the main road to Enez via Karahisar, Barađi, Hasköy and Yenice. We made a first stop at the Taşalti Lagoon just before entering Enez, and after that continued eastwards along the southern bank of the delta, to Gala Lake (Gala Gölü), stopping regularly. One of the best viewpoints is at the southern end of Gala Lake. Here you can stand on a hill overlooking almost the whole delta. We didn't get beyond Gala Lake, up to Pamuklu Lake, because there were simply too many interesting birds around ! All morning there was a huge migration movement of Little Gulls and smaller numbers of marsh terns following the delta to the NE. Surprisingly, that same day there were previously unseen numbers of hundreds of Little Gulls on the move in Western Europe too (Belgium, the Netherlands), thousands of kilometers away.

After 6pm we went back to Enez and visited the coastal lagoons there (from sweet over brackish to salt water).

We had no troubles with border police. We were asked one time what we were doing there, but our sentence in Turkish was enough for them to let us go through. Driving along the border road however was not allowed. That was a pity because this 'noman's land' looked promising with a natural Tamarisk vegetation and numerous pools and creeks.

### Meriç delta from Enez up to Gala Gölü

Pygmy Cormorant 20

Cormorant 50

White Pelican 29 (flying at Greek side, morning), 2, 3, 30 (east of Gala Gölü, afternoon, possibly same group)

Black Stork 2x 1 over the hills

Spoonbill 4+1

Glossy Ibis 42

Grey Heron 20

Purple Heron 50

Squacco Heron 20

Little Egret 50

Garganey 40

Teal 1m

Pochard 30

Ferruginous Duck 1p (on Gala Gölü)

Short-toed Eagle 1

Marsh Harrier 10's

White-tailed Eagle 1 imm hunting over the marshes (probably seen also in morning at border tamarisk marshes) + 1 ad over forested hills south of delta (circling overhead with a Black Stork and a Short-toed Eagle !); both in afternoon

Buzzard 1

Hobby 1

Coot 10's

Wood Sandpiper 15+40 on migration

Greenshank 1

Collared Pratincole 20+

Little Gull at least 2000 on migration! (count of 1h between 10.15 and 11.15am: 816 !)

Black-headed Gull

Caspian Tern 6

Little Tern 5

Whiskered Tern 50+

Black Tern 50+

White-winged Tern 15

Common Tern 5

Bee-eater 8 (migration)

Cuckoo

Crested Lark

Barn Swallow 10's

Sand Martin 10's

House Martin 10's

Black-headed Yellow Wagtail

Isabelline Wheatear x open grazing areas

Black-eared Wheatear 4

Nightingale

Blackbird

Blue Rock Thrush 1m (rocky area)

Sardinian Warbler

Orphean Warbler 1m

Great Reed Warbler x

Chiffchaff 1

Golden Oriole heard in oak trees (on the road)

Greenfinch

Raven 1

Magpie x (shrub)

Spanish Sparrow few 100's on migration

Ortolan Bunting 6

*Mammals:* Souslik x

*Amphibians:* Tree Frog, Marsh Frog xx

*Butterflies:* Pontia edusa, Gonepteryx rhamni, Colias crocea, Pieris rapae, Euchloe ausonia, Callophrys rubi, Lycaena phlaeas, Aricia agestis, Polyommatus icarus, Vanessa atalanta, Vanessa cardui, Aglais urticae, Issoria lathonia, Melitaea cinxia

*Reptiles (all common):* Green Lizard, Balkan Green Lizard (one), Balkan Wall Lizard, Grass Snake, Dice Snake

*Dragonflies:* Ischnura elegans, Coenagrion pulchellum, Anax parthenope



Gala Gölü (western end) (l.) and Glossy Ibises (r.) at Meriç delta.



Balkan Wall Lizard (l.) and Pygmy Cormorants (r.).



*Dice snake, fierce looking but not dangerous. Eats fish and throws up when caught : be aware !!*

Enez coastal lagoons (evening)

Black-necked Grebe 3  
 Great Crested Grebe 2  
 Flamingo 1 dead bird  
 Great Bittern 1 (heard)  
 White-fronted Goose 1 ad  
 Mute Swan 3  
 Mallard 3m  
 Shelduck 15  
 Marsh Harrier 10+  
 Little Tern 6  
 Ruff 10  
 Oystercatcher 4 (also display + alarm =  
 breeding)  
 Whimbrel 3  
 Avocet 10

Redshank # (saltmarsh)  
 Greenshank 5  
 Marsh Sandpiper 15  
 Spotted Redshank 3  
 Wood Sandpiper 5  
 Curlew Sandpiper 15  
 Little Stint 5  
 Kentish Plover 20+  
 Grey Plover 1  
 Slender-billed Gull 1 imm  
 Black-headed Gull x  
 Mediterranean Gull ± 2000 (breeding colony)  
 Little Gull 50  
 Gull-billed Tern 3  
 Common Tern ± 200 (breeding colony)

Crested Lark x  
Short-toed Lark ≠  
Calandra Lark ≠  
Skylark 1 (saltmarsh)

Isabelline Wheatear 1  
Calandra Lark ≠  
Black-headed Yellow Wagtail x (breeding in saltmarshes)

Hunting could be a real problem here. We saw a man with a gun criss-crossing the saltmarsh but didn't see him killing a bird. The White-fronted Goose might well have been a long-staying injured bird?

We were afraid that the dead Flamingo would be our last bird of the trip, but happily, while Ignaas and Wim were visiting a Kuaför for a shaving session, in Ipsala at night a Scops Owl was calling in the city center.



*Enez lagoons and friendly workers returning home.*

### **23rd April 2006: back to Istanbul**

*Weather: beautiful day, sunny*

Time to return home. No birds of special interest on the route to Istanbul. The Lesser Kestrels in Ipsala performed really in the morning well sitting at the balcony of our sleeping rooms !! Perfect photo opportunities...

There was not much traffic, getting to Istanbul Airport was not a problem, it is well indicated on the main roads.



**ANNEX 1 :**

**BIRD LIST**

S = Saros Bay and Kavak Delta including observations from Dirikköy Watchpoint

K = Kumkale Watchpoint, Küçük Menderes river bed and surroundings

G = Gallipoli National Park including Kavakalti Lake and Tuz (or Suvla) Lake

M = Meriç Delta (Ipsala, eastern part, Gala Lake area and Enez area)

m = seen on active migration

	Species	Scientific name	Soort	Saros Bay, Kavak	Kumkale point	Gallipoli NP	Meriç delta	migration
1	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Parelduiker	X				X
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Fuut	X		X	X	
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Geoorde Fuut	X			X	
4	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Dodaars	X	X			
5	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	Yelkouanpijlstormvogel	X	X			X
6	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Aalscholver	X	X		X	X
7	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Kuifaalscholver	X				
8	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Dwergaalscholver		X		X	
9	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Roze Pelikaan				X	
10	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Roerdomp	X	X			
11	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Woudaapje			X		
12	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Kwak		X	X		X
13	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Ralreiger			X	X	X
14	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Kleine Zilverreiger	X	X	X	X	X
15	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	Grote Zilverreiger	X	X		X	
16	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Blauwe Reiger	X			X	
17	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purperreiger	X	X	X	X	X
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Ooievaar	X	X	X	X	X
19	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Zwarte Ooievaar	X	X	X	X	X
20	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Zwarte Ibis	X		X	X	X
21	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Lepelaar			X	X	
22	Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Flamingo				X	
23	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Knobbelzwaan	X		X	X	
24	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Kolgans				X	
25	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Bergeend	X		X	X	
26	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Casarca	X	X	X		
27	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Wilde Eend	X			X	X
28	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Pijlstaart	X				
29	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Slobeend	X				
30	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Smient			X		
31	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Wintertaling				X	
32	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Zomertaling	X		X	X	
33	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Tafeleend				X	
34	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Witoogeend				X	
35	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Zeearend				X	
36	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Visarend				X	X
37	Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Keizerarend			X		
38	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Schreeuwarend					X
39	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Slangenarend	X	X	X	X	X
40	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	Dwergarend					X

	Species	Scientific name	Soort	Saros Bay, Kavak	Kumkale point	Gallipoli NP	Meriç delta	migration
41	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Bruine Kiekendief	X	X	X	X	X
42	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Blauwe Kiekendief					X
43	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Grauwe Kiekendief	X	X	X		X
44	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Steppekiekendief		X	X		X
45	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Arendbuizerd	X	X	X	X	X
46	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buizerd		X		X	X
47	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sperwer	X		X		X
48	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Havik	X		X		
49	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Torenvalk	X	X			X
50	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Kleine Torenvalk		X		X	X
51	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Roodpootvalk	X		X		X
52	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Boomvalk	X	X	X	X	X
53	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Slechtvalk	X				
54	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Smelken	X				
55	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Aziatische Steenpatrijs			X		
56	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Kwartel	X	X			
57	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Waterral	X				
58	little rail sp.	<i>Porzana sp.</i>	kleine ral sp.		X			
59	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Waterhoen	X	X	X		
60	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Meerkoet		X	X	X	
61	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Scholekster	X			X	
62	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>	Kluut	X		X	X	
63	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Steltkluut	X	X			
64	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	Griël		X			
65	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Vorkstaartplevier	X			X	X
66	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Kleine Plevier	X	X			
67	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Strandplevier	X			X	
68	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Zilverplevier				X	
69	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Kievit	X				
70	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Krombekstrandloper	X		X	X	
71	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Temmincks Strandloper		X			
72	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Kleine Strandloper	X	X	X	X	
73	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Bosruiter	X	X	X	X	X
74	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Witgatje	X	X			
75	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Oeverloper		X		X	
76	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Tureluur				X	
77	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Zwarte Ruiter				X	
78	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Groenpootruiter	X	X	X	X	X
79	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Poelruiter	X		X	X	
80	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Grutto	X				X
81	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Wulp	X				
82	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenwulp	X			X	
83	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Kemphaan	X			X	
84	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Middelste Jager	X				X
85	Parasitic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Kleine Jager	X				X
86	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Kokmeeuw	X			X	
87	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	Dunbekmeeuw				X	
88	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Zwartkopmeeuw	X			X	X
89	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus (cachinnans) michahellis</i>	Geelpootmeeuw	X	X	X	X	X
90	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	Dwergmeeuw	X			X	X
91	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Dwergster	X		X	X	X

	Species	Scientific name	Soort	Saros Bay, Kavak	Kumkale point	Gallipoli NP	Meriç delta	migration
92	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Grote Stern	X				X
93	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelocheidon nilotica</i>	Lachstern	X	X	X	X	X
94	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Visdief	X			X	X
95	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Reuzenster				X	
96	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Zwarte Stern	X			X	X
97	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Witvleugelstern	X			X	X
98	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Witwangstern	X			X	X
99	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Turkse Tortel	X	X	X	X	X
100	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Zomertortel					X
101	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Koekoek			X	X	X
102	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	Kuifkoekoek			X		
103	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Dwergooruil				X	
104	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Steenuil	X		X	X	
105	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Gierzwaluw					X
106	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Alpengierzwaluw					X
107	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Hop	X	X	X	X	X
108	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	IJsvogel		X		X	
109	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Bijeneter	X		X	X	X
110	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Scharrelaar		X			
111	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Syrische Bonte Specht	X		X		
112	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Veldleeuwerik				X	
113	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Kuifleeuwerik	X	X	X	X	
114	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Boomleeuwerik			X		
115	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Kortteenleeuwerik	X	X		X	X
116	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	Kalanderleeuwerik	X			X	
117	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Oeverzwaluw	X	X		X	X
118	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Boerenzwaluw	X	X	X	X	X
119	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Roodstuitzwaluw	X	X	X	X	X
120	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Huiszwaluw	X	X	X	X	X
121	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Duinpieper	X		X		X
122	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Boompieper	X	X	X	X	X
123	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Roodkeelpieper	X				
124	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	Witte Kwikstaart	X				X
125	Black-headed Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>	Balkan (Gele) Kwikstaart	X	X	X	X	X
126	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Citroenkwikstaart		X			
127	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Nachtegaal	X	X	X	X	
128	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Gekraagde Roodstaart		X			
129	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Tapuit	X		X		
130	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Isabeltapuit	X		X	X	
131	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Blonde Tapuit	X	X	X	X	
132	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Paapje	X				
133	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Roodborsttapuit	ONLY NEAR TEKIRDAĞ				
134	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Blauwe Rotslijster				X	
135	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Zanglijster	X				
136	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Merel	X		X	X	
137	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Zwartkop	X	X			
138	Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	Orpheusgrasmus			X	X	
139	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Braamsluiper	X	X			
140	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Kleine Zwartkop	X	X	X	X	
141	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Grasmus	X	X	X		

	Species	Scientific name	Soort	Saros Bay, Kavak	Kumkale point	Gallipoli NP	Meriç delta	migration
142	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Cetti's Zanger		X			
143	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Kleine Karekiet		X			
144	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Grote Karekiet	X	X		X	
145	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Fitis	X				
146	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Fluiter	X				
147	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Tjiftjaf				X	
148	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Grauwe Vliegenvanger	X	X			
149	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Bonte Vliegenvanger	X	X			
150	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Koolmees	X		X		
151	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Buidelmees		X			
152	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Grauwe Klauwier	X	X	X		
153	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Roodkopklauwier	X	X	X		
154	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	Maskerklauwier		X			
155	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Ekster	X				
156	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Vlaamse Gaai			X		
157	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Kauw	X	X	X	X	
158	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	Bonte Kraai	X	X	X	X	
159	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Raaf		X	X	X	
160	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Wielewaal	X	X		X	X
161	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Huismus	X	X	X	X	
162	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Spaanse Mus	X	X	X	X	X
163	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Vink	X		X		
164	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Putter	X	X	X	X	X
165	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Groenling	X			X	
166	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Sijs	X				X
167	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Europese Kanarie	X	X	X		X
168	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Appelvink		X			
169	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Ortolaan	X	X	X	X	X
170	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Cirlgors	X		X		
171	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Grauwe Gors	X	X	X	X	X

**ANNEX 2 :**

**BUTTERFLY list**

S = Saros Bay and Kavak Delta including observations from Dirikköy Watchpoint

K = Kumkale Watchpoint, Küçük Menderes river bed and surroundings

G = Gallipoli National Park including Kavakalti Lake and Tuz (or Suvla) Lake

M = Meriç Delta (Ipsala, eastern part, Gala Lake area and Enez area)

	Species	Scientific name	Soort	Saros Bay, Kavak	Kumkale	Gallipoli NP	Meriç delta
1	Inky Skipper	<i>Erynnis marloyi</i>	Zwartbruin dikkopje			X	
2	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodes alceae</i>	Kaasjeskruidkoppje	X	X	X	
3	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Koninginnepage	X	X	X	
4	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Koningspage	X		X	
5	Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>	Zuidelijke pijpbloemvlinder	X			
6	Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisyi</i>	Oostelijke pijpbloemvlinder			X	
7	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Groot koolwitje	X	X		
8	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Klein koolwitje	X	X	X	X
9	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Klein gaderd witje	X			
10	New Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	Oostelijk resedawitje	X		X	X
11	Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>	Oostelijk marmerswitje	X	X		X
12	Orange Tip	<i>Antocharis cardamines</i>	Oranjetip	X		X	
13	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Oranje luzernevlinder	X		X	X
14	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Citroenvlinder				X
15	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Boswitje			X	
16	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Groentje			X	X
17	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Kleine vuurvlinder	X	X	X	X
18	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>	Oostelijke vuurvlinder			X	
19	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	Bruin blauwtje	X		X	X
20	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	Bloemenblauwtje			X	
21	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>	Oostelijk tijmblauwtje			X	
22	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Icarusblauwtje		X	X	X
23	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Rouwmantel	X			
24	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	Grote vos	X			
25	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Atalanta	X	X		X
26	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Distelvlinder	X	X	X	X
27	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Kleine vos				X
28	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Kleine parelmoervlinder	X			X
29	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	Veldparelmoervlinder				X
30	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Hooibeestje			X	
31	Wall Butterfly	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Argusvlinder	X	X	X	

**ANNEX 3 :**

**REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS list**

S = Saros Bay and Kavak Delta including observations from Dirikköy Watchpoint  
 K = Kumkale Watchpoint, Küçük Menderes river bed and surroundings  
 G = Gallipoli National Park including Kavakalti Lake and Tuz (or Suvla) Lake  
 M = Meriç Delta (Ipsala, eastern part, Gala Lake area and Enez area)

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Soort</b>	<b>Saros Bay, Kavak</b>	<b>Kumkale</b>	<b>Gallipoli NP</b>	<b>Meriç delta</b>
1	Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	Groene pad	x			x
2	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	Meerkikker	x	x	x	x
3	Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	Boomkikker	x			x
4	Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	Moorse landschildpad	x	x	x	x
5	Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>	Kaspische beekschildpad	x			
6	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	Europese moerasschildpad		x		
7	Turkish Gekko	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>	Europese tijjak		x		
8	Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	Smaragdhagedis			x	x
9	Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	Reuzensmaragdhagedis				x
10	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis taurica</i>	Taurische hagedis			x	x
11	Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>	Ruïnehagedis			x	
12	European Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus apodus</i>	Scheltopusik	x		x	
13	Worm Snake	<i>Typhlops vermicularis</i>	Slanke wormslang		x		
14	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Ringslang	x			x
15	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	Dobbelsteenslang				x