

SHORT NOTES

A contribution to the knowledge of the vertebrate fauna of Milos island (Kyklades, Greece)

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In the present note we present some data on the vertebrate fauna of Milos island, according to observations made during several visits to the island between September 1996 and June 1997. The avifauna and herpetofauna of Milos island are fairly well known (Stubbs 1985, Report to the Council of Europe, SEH, 66pp.; Magioris 1994, Hellenic Zoological Archives 2: 1-16), but no record on its mammal fauna has been published before. Also, in the herein presented records of birds there are some interesting new data that are discussed below. The observations on reptiles and amphibians confirm the presence of certain species that have been recorded very few times before.

A. Amphibians

Rana ridibunda Pallas, 1771 - Ag. Ioannis, 20-4-1997; Ag. Konstantinos, 6-6-1997.

This is the only amphibian species present on the island and in relatively good populations wherever there are water collections all year round.

B. Reptiles

Mauremys caspica (Gmelin, 1774) - Achivadolimni, at least 4 individuals, 2 juveniles and 2 adults were observed at all seasons.

Hemidactylus turcicus (L., 1758) - Adamas, common on house walls.

Cyrtopodion kotschyi (Steindachner, 1870) - present almost everywhere, but in sparser populations than on the rest of the Kyklades.

Ablepharus kitaibellii Bibron & Bory, 1833 - present in most locations.

Lacerta trilineata hansschweizeri Muller, 1935 - abundant in many locations.

Podarcis milensis (Bedriaga, 1882) - abundant everywhere.

Macrovipera schweizeri (Werner, 1935) - several observations of killed (by cars, lorries, or people) and living specimens at most parts of the island.

Elaphe situla (L., 1758) - personal observation by one of the authors (C.A.) in 1995 near Achivadolimni.

Telescopus fallax (Fleischmann, 1831) - two specimens at Provatas lake, 19-4-1997; several skins found at many sites.

The presence of *Natrix natrix schweizeri* (Muller, 1932) has not been confirmed, and the occurrence of this species on Milos has to be considered as dubious, since all habitats potentially exploited by this snake have been repeatedly visited with no results.

C. Birds

Abbreviations: ind: individuals, R: resident, S: summer visitor, Ms: spring migrant,

Ins: insufficient data, Br: breeding

Phalacrocorax aristotelis (L.) - 3 ind., Ag. Konstantinos, 6-6-1997; Achivadolimni, 24-6-1997. (R)

Nycticorax nycticorax (L.) - 1 juv., corpse of one adult specimen, Provatas pond, 19-4-1997. (Ms)

Ardeola ralloides (Scopoli) - 1 ind., Alyki, 19, 20-4-1997; 20-5-1997. (Ms)
Egretta garzetta (L.) - ca. 12 ind., Achivadolimni, 19, 20, 21-4-1997; 4 ind., Achivadolimni, 20-5-1997. (Ms)
Ardea cinerea L. - 5 ind., Provatas pond, 19-4-1997; 3 ind. Achivadolimni, 21-5-1997; 2 ind., Achivadolimni, 26-6-1997. (Ms, Br?)
Ardea purpurea L. - 1 ind., Provatas pond, 19-4-1997. (Ms)
Plegadis falcinellus (L.) - ca.30 ind., Achivadolimni, 19, 20, 21-4-1997; 2 ind., 20-5-1997. (Ms)
Gyps fulvus (Hablizl) - 3 ind., Ag. Ioannis, 19-11-1996; feedig tracks (hole at belly of dead sheep), Ag.Ioannis, 21-5-1997. (Ins)
Circus aeruginosus (L.) - 1 male, near port (Adamas), 19-4-1997. (Ms)
Buteo buteo (L.) - 1 ind., Ag. Panteleimon, 20-4-1997. (R)
Aquila chrysaetos (L.) - 1 juv., Provatas, 20-4-1997. (Ins)
Falco tinnunculus L. - many observations throughout the island, all seasons. (R)
Falco eleonorae Gene - many individuals at several sites, after 21-5-1997. (S, Br)
Alectoris chukar (J.E.Gray) - 1 female with youngs, Chalakas, 26-6-1997. (R)
Rallus aquaticus (L.) - 1 ind., Achivadolimni, 26-6-1997. (S, Br)
Gallinula chloropus (L.) - 1 ind., Provatas pond, 19-4-1997; 1 ind., Alyki, 19, 20-4-1997. (Ms)
Himantopus himantopus (L.) - 3 ind., Alyki, 19, 20, 21-4-1997. (Ms)
Charadrius dubius Scopoli - 1 ind., Achivadolimni, 20-4-1997. (Ms)
Calidris minuta (Leisler) - 6 ind., Achivadolimni, 20, 21-4-1997; ca.30 ind., Alyki, 20, 21-4-1997. (Ms)
Calidris temminckii (Leisler) - 1 ind., Achivadolimni, 20, 21-4-1997; ca.20 ind., Alyki, 20, 21-4-1997. (Ms)
Tringa totanus (L.) - 2 ind., Alyki, 19-4-1997. (Ms)
Tringa ochropus L. - 2 ind., Alyki, 19-4-1997. (Ms)
Tringa glareola L. - 1 ind., Achivadolimni, 20, 21-4-1997; ca.10 ind., Alyki, 20, 21-4-1997. (Ms)
Actitis hypoleucos (L.) - ca.5 ind., Alyki, 19-4-1997. (Ms)
Larus cacchianans Pallas - many observations at most sites throughout the year. (R)
Columba livia Gmelin - 4 ind., Chalakas, 26-6-1997. (S, Br)
Cuculus canorus L. - calls of 1 ind., Ag. Panteleimon, 20-4-1997. (Ms)
Tyto alba (Scopoli) - nest observed by Mr. G. Petrakis near Pahaina. (R)
Otus scops (L.) - calls of few individuals at several sites. (R)
Athene noctua (Scopoli) - calls of several individuals at many sites. (R)
Apus pallidus (Shelley) - many spring and summer observations at most sites. (S, Br)
Upupa epops L. - several observations at may sites during April and May 1997. (Ms)
Galerida cristata (L.) - many observations at many sites from April to June 1997. (R)
Alauda arvensis L. - many observations at many sites from April to June 1997. (S, Br)
Hirundo rustica L. - many observations at many sites from April to June 1997. (S, Br)
Hirundo daurica L. - sparse observations of few individuals together with *H. rustica* at Provatas pond, 19-4-1997. (Ms ?)
Delichon urbica (L.) - many observations at many sites from April to June 1997. (S, Br)
Oenanthe oenanthe (L.) - many individuals at most sites during April and May 1997 (Ms, S ?)
Oenanthe hispanica (L.) - few individuals at Ag. Ioannis, 20-4-1997. (Ms)
Monticola solitarius (L.) - Prof.Ilias, information given by Mr. G.Petrakis. (R ?)
Turdus merula L. - many observations at most sites throughout the year. (R)
Hippolais pallida (Hemphrich-Ehrenberg) - 2 ind., Adamas, 21-5-1997. (S, Br ?)
Sylvia cantillans (Pallas) - 2 ind., Ag. Ioannis (near coast), 20-4-1997. (Ms, Br ?)
Sylvia melanocephala (Gmelin) - many observations at most sites, April-June 1997. (R)

Sylvia hortensis (Gmelin) - several individuals at Ag. Ioannis (near coast), 20-4-1997. (Ms)
Phylloscopus sibilatrix (Bechstein) - many individuals at Achivadolimni, 19, 20, 21-4, 20-5-1997. (Ms)

Muscicapa striata (Pallas) - several observations at many sites during April and May 1997. (Ms)

Ficedula hypoleuca (Pallas) - 2 ind., Achivadolimni, 19, 20-4-1997. (Ms)

Oriolus oriolus (L.) - 1 ind., Provatas pond, 19-4-1997. (Ms)

Lanius senator L. - abundant at all sites in April, decreasing population from May to June 1997. (Ms, S ?)

Lanius nubicus Lichtenstein - sparse observations at several sites during April 1997. (Ms)

Corvus corone L. - abundant at many sites throughout the year. (R)

Corvus corax L. - ca.10 ind., Ag. Ioannis, all seasons; sparse observations of flying individuals at several sites. (R)

The presence of *Rallus aquaticus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Calidris temminckii*, *Hirundo daurica*, *Hippolais pallida*, *Sylvia hortensis*, and *Lanius nubicus* on Milos is reported for the first time.

R. aquaticus was definitely breeding on Milos, as the calls of chicks were heard from the hiding site of the observed adult.

The presence of a pair of *A. cinerea* during summer at Achivadolimni is a possible indication of breeding.

G. fulvus have been also observed on the nearby Antimilos island (Magioris & Sfenthourakis 1994, Bios 2: 289-294) where they exploit the abundant corpses of dead wild goats (*Capra aegagrus pictus*), and on Kimolos island (Petraakis, pers. comm.). It is probable that some individuals, presumably from the population of Naxos island, regularly visit these islands to forage. The possibility that they are about to establish a breeding colony on this island group has to be examined seriously, since there is a constant food supply and isolation for nesting.

According to Stubbs (ibid.) *Hieraaetus fasciatus* (Vieillot) breed on the island. The species has not been observed, therefore it cannot be said with certainty if it is still present on the island.

D. Mammals

Erinaceus concolor (Martin, 1838) - many observations of living and dead animals at many sites.

Suncus etruscus (Savi, 1822) - several specimens in pitfall traps, Achivadolimni and 2km east of Achivadolimni throughout the year.

Lepus europaeus (Pallas, 1778) - tracks and feces at many sites. Their distribution on the island is being restricted according to local sources because of the increasing populations of the rabbit.

Oryctolagus cuniculus (L., 1758) - tracks, feces and burrows at many sites. Domestic varieties introduced to the island.

Mus domesticus (Rutty, 1772) - 1 male, Achivadolimni, 20-4-1997 (Sherman traps).

Rattus rattus (L., 1758) - 1 male, Achivadolimni, 20-4-1997; 1 female, Achivadolimni, 21-4-1997; 1 female, 2km east of Achivadolimni, 22-4-1997; 1 male, Achivadolimni, 21-5-1997; 1 male, 1female, Achivadolimni, 22-5-1997; 1 female, 2km east of Achivadolimni, 25-6-1997; 2 males, Achivadolimni, 26-6-1997 (Sherman traps).

These are the first records of mammals from Milos island. The presence of *Mustela nivalis* (L., 1766) has been reported to us by locals, but no confirmed record exists.