

The Audubon Society of New Hampshire

presents

Birding in Greece

April 22 - May 02, 2004

Long ago the ancient poets wrote down the first epics, of a time of war and love, of families and feuds, trickery and revenge, Gods and Heroes. Join New Hampshire Audubon president, David Houghton and see for yourself where these legends were born. Greece has had a long and turbulent history, but thankfully in this modern age a great deal of care is being put into preserving the remains of "The Glory that was Greece."

Greece is also well-known as a top birdwatching destination, and April/May is the best time to see birds in the country as they stop to rest on their journey north from their wintering grounds in Africa. Many make Greece their home such as the colorful Bee-eater and the exotic Hoopoe, while others, like the White-winged Black Tern, are just passing through. Upwards of 150 species of birds are possible on this trip.

Flowers will be in bloom at this time also, in a country that boasts over 6,000 species of flowering plants. The wealth of plant-life can be partly explained by the diverse climate in the country, from the mountainous and alpine north to the hot Mediterranean south, and partly by the 2,000 plus islands that are part of the Greek Archipelago. The islands survived the floods that submerged the Mediterranean Basin and consequently they maintained their floral diversity. Many of the flowers that are familiar to us take their names from Greek Gods and heroes, including Hyacinth, Narcissus and the rainbow goddess Iris.

Audubon's own Eric Masterson will accompany the trip and give the benefit of his own extensive birdwatching travels in Greece. In addition we will provide a local Greek expert on the history and customs of the places visited. The first seven days of the trip will be spent birdwatching around a schedule that will take us to some of the most ancient and important archeological sites in existence today. The ruins of ancient Greece are good places to see many of our target species including Rock Nuthatch, Rock Thrush, Alpine Swift, Sardinian Warbler, Cretzschmar's Bunting and many more. Greece's ubiquitous olive groves are also good birding spots. In addition we will be keeping a sharp eye out for the more than 15 species of raptor that we might see on the trip. The final few days will be spent in Lesbos, an island famous for its spring migration.

Arriving at Athens' splendid new airport, opened last year and ready for the Olympic Games in 2004, we immediately drive south on to the Peloponnese. Our destination is the village of Tolo, an ideal base from which to explore much of "Classical Greece", and our visits will include the ancient theatre at Epidavros, Mycenae (famous from the Trojan War), and the beautiful old town of Nafplion - the first capital of Greece when it regained independence in 1830.

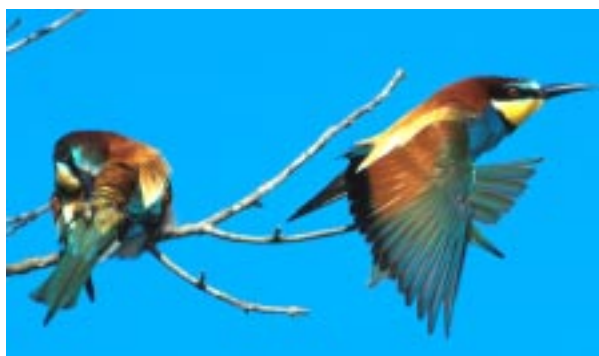
Leaving Tolo, we wend our way slowly back to Athens. We'll make stops in Corinth, supposed to be the "wickedest city in the Ancient World" and so troublesome to the Romans that they razed it to the ground, and ancient Delphi, where the most famous oracle in ancient Greece was consulted. Perched on the side of a mountain, it is still a dramatic and evocative site. We'll spend the end of our tour on the Island of Lesbos, one of the most bird-rich and stunningly beautiful locations in Europe for observing spring migration.

While we avoid spending much time in Athens, the capital, we will stay there for our last night and wrap the tour up with a traditional taverna dinner, with local music.

The tour has been paced for comfort, with short travel times and the minimum number of one-night stays. There will be ample time for birding, sightseeing and shopping, or just sitting on the beach and doing nothing - as, for the poet Tennyson's Lotus Eaters, "it is a land in which it seemed always afternoon."



Athens - the Acropolis



Bee-eaters are common throughout Greece



Day 1, Thursday April 22nd. Afternoon departure from Boston to New York, where we board Olympic Airways' overnight direct flight to Athens. **Overnight: Plane**

Day 2, Friday April 23rd. Morning arrival at Athens Airport, where you will be met for the transfer to Tolo. There will be plenty of time to unpack and relax from the flights before we meet for dinner. **(D).** **Overnight: Tolo**

Day 3, Saturday April 24th. There is an excursion today to Mycenae, excavated first in 1876 by Heinrich Schliemann, who found the fabulously rich royal graves. This was the home of Agamemnon, of Trojan War fame, and his Lion Gate is still here, just as Homer described it. We return to Tolo via the nearby town of Nafplion, where we'll have free time for lunch and then visit the Palamidi, the Venetian fortress that dominates the town from the top of its hill (it's quite a climb up). The evening is free in Tolo to sample a local taverna. **(B).** **Overnight: Tolo**

Day 4, Sunday April 25th. Our visit today is to the beautiful site of the first theatre - Epidavros. The ancient theatre was excavated about 100 years ago and is still in regular use for Classical Drama. It has amazing acoustics. The rest of the large site forms the Aesclepium, the first Hospital, and the museum has a collection of some of the medical instruments. We return to Tolo mid-afternoon and the rest of the day is free. This evening we'll have dinner with our new friends in Tolo at a local taverna. **(B, D).** **Overnight: Tolo**



Tolo



Delphi

Day 5, Monday April 26th. Leaving Tolo we drive north to the city of Corinth. We'll visit the ruins of the ancient city, walk the marble street and stand on the spot where St. Paul was arrested. After our visit, we'll have lunch and then follow the coast around the south side of the Gulf of Corinth. We cross by ferry to the north side from Rion to Antirion, the site of a fabulous new suspension bridge being completed for 2004. We head up into the mountains of mainland Greece to the center of the world - as Delphi was thought to be in classical times - where dinner awaits us at a restaurant near our hotel. **(B, D).** **Overnight: Delphi**

Day 6, Tuesday April 27th. We have the whole day to explore Delphi, home of the famous Oracle. This is a large site covering part of the hillside and down into the valley. Our local guide will introduce the main site and the museum after which, the energetic can explore the lower sites at their leisure. The evening is free to sample some of the local delicacies. **(B).** **Overnight: Delphi**

Day 7, Wednesday April 28th. This morning we drive through the mountains down to Thebes, the setting for the story of Oedipus Rex. We'll arrive in Athens for an afternoon visit to the Acropolis. The main site of Classical Athens with its Temples and Museum provides wonderful views over the ancient center of the city. We continue to Athens airport to take our brief flight across the Aegean to the island of Lesbos. Time to relax and freshen up before dinner. **(B, D).** **Overnight: Lesbos**



A Subalpine Warbler



European Roller

Day 8-9, Thursday April 29th - Friday April 30th. We have two days to explore the island, the second largest in the Aegean after Crete. Its rich tapestry of habitats, ranging from rocky mountains, forested hills and stony, uncultivated sheep pastures to fertile lowlands planted with figs and olive groves, ensures an exciting variety of migrant and resident landbirds including two breeding specialties: Kruper's Nuthatch and Cinereous Bunting. Along the coast there are salt pans, pools and river margins that act as magnets for the many waterbirds that stop off on migration. **(B). Overnight: Lesbos**

Day 10, Saturday May 1st. A final free day on the island of Apollo's birth before we take a late-afternoon flight back to Athens. We'll check in to our hotel and complete our tour with an evening of Greek food and music at a taverna in the Plaka. **(B, D). Overnight: Athens**



Mycenae - the Lion Gate

Day 11, Sunday May 2nd. This morning we transfer to Athens Airport for the returning Olympic Airways' flight to New York. We connect on the Delta shuttle back to Boston. **(B). Overnight: Home**

Key to included meals:
B = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner



A Crested Lark

The cost of this itinerary is **\$3690** per person, double occupancy (single supplement: \$350). This includes the following:

- Airfare:** Round trip on Olympic/Delta from Boston to Athens, via JFK. Round trip Olympic Air from Athens to Lesbos. All customs fees and airport taxes included
- Hotels:** 9 nights accommodation in first class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included
- Coaching:** Air conditioned private motorcoach throughout.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily. 5 table d'hote dinners
- Guides:** NH Audubon's Eric Masterson as tour leader. Bi-lingual local guide for the duration of the tour
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance inc. cancellation coverage

The cost of the tour "land only" (airfare Boston-Athens not included) is **\$2950**

Registration Form

1. Passenger Details:

Passenger Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____

Work Telephone: (____) _____

Passport Number: _____

Place of Issue: _____

Date(s) of Birth: _____/_____/_____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Health Information: _____

2. Trip Details:

Itinerary Name: **Birding in Greece**

Departure Date: **April 22nd, 2004**

Departure Airport or City: **Boston**

Over >

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Please type or print.
- 2. Make checks payable to Discover Europe, Ltd.
- 3. Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy before signing.
- 4. Complete both sides of the form above.
- 5. Detach the form above and return it to Discover Europe, P. O. Box 435, Dublin, NH 03444 with your registration payment of \$500 per person. Keep this section for your records.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Passenger Details:

- i). Name(s). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport.
- ii). Address. If you have a different summer address, please give the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.
- iii). Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.
- iv). Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you require any special meals both for the hotels and the airlines.
- v). Health Information. It is very valuable for us to know ahead of time if you require any special assistance. Discover Europe tours are always paced for comfort, but inevitably there is also a certain amount of walking involved.

2. Trip Details:

This section should be largely completed by Discover Europe. Please make any necessary changes.

3. Emergency Contact:

If you are an American citizen and Discover Europe is arranging your air transportation, we are required to provide the airline with an emergency contact. It has also proved very useful in the past for us to have this information.

4. Flight Information:

If you are arranging your own flights to join the tour, it is essential that Discover Europe has your complete flight information. Please make sure you give us the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked.

5. Rooming Requirements:

Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested.

- i). If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
- ii). A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.

3. Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____

Work Telephone: (_____) _____

4. Flight Information (if self-arranged):

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- 1. Space on this tour is limited. Your deposit will be returned if your registration cannot be accepted for any reason.
- 2. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
- 3. Registration and payment waive and release NH Audubon, Discover Europe, Ltd., their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person employed by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and, in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any airline or other firm, agency, company or individual.
- 4. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

- 1. A deposit of \$500 must accompany the completed form.
- 2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 60 days prior to trip departure.

REFUND POLICY:

- 1. Participants who withdraw more than 60 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$100 cancellation penalty.
- 2. Participants who withdraw less than 60 days and more than 30 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$500 cancellation penalty.
- 3. Participants who withdraw less than 30 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$1,000 cancellation penalty.
- 4. Comprehensive travel insurance, including cancellation coverage, is included in your tour package. Cancellation for legitimate covered reasons will result in a complete refund of all monies paid to Discover Europe, Ltd.
- 5. All cancellation requests must be received in writing.
- 6. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.

INCLUSIONS:

- 1. All inclusions on a particular Discover Europe tour are listed on the day-by-day itinerary.
- 2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.

5. Rooming Requirements:

- I will be sharing with: _____
- We would like a double ___ twin ___ bedded room
- I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)

6. Signatures:

I have read and agree to the attached Terms & Conditions:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____