

Bunting *Emberiza cineracea* is present.

Mammals of Lesvos

Lesvos has a great biodiversity of mammal species. For two of them Lesvos is the western edge of their distribution. These are the Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus* and the Thomas's White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura lasia*. For both of them Lesvos is the only place in Greece, and Europe where they can be found.

Six bat species that belong to the Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC are found on the island. These are: the Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, the Greater Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, the Blasius's Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus blasii*, the Lesser Mouse-eared Bat *Myotis blythii*, the Greater Mouse-eared Bat *Myotis myotis*, and the Schreiber's Bat *Miniopterus schreibersii*.

Fauna Highlights of Lesvos

Kruper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*

This species is not found in any other place in Greece except Lesvos. It prefers the forests of the East Mediterranean pine *Pinus brutia*. During summer, the Kruper's Nuthatch needs permanent surface water, because it doesn't move in large distances for this reason. Generally permanent surface water is rare in Mediterranean habitats. The total population of the species in Lesvos is about 50-100 pairs. It feeds mainly on pine nuts. In the Red Data Book of threatened Vertebrates of Greece it is considered a rare species.

Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*

In Greece the largest population of this species is found in western Lesvos. It is estimated that 100 - 250 pairs are found on the island. Some pairs are nesting on Chios and Skyros islands. The species is not well studied; in Lesvos it is nesting in dry and stony areas with garrigue vegetation. It feeds on insects and prefers Orthoptera (grasshoppers and crickets). The species is protected by the Greek and European legislation. According to the Red Data Book of threatened Vertebrates of Greece is a rare species.

Thomas's White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura lasia*

The species is not found in any other place in Europe except Lesvos. It lives in areas with shrubs and bushes. There are no more data on its biology. It is a species that lives in Asia Minor and Lebanon. In the Red Data Book of threatened Vertebrates of Greece it is considered a rare species.

Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus*

This species is not found in any other place in Europe except Lesvos, this island being the westernmost point of its distribution. It is found in coniferous and deciduous forests (oak and chestnut trees), olive groves, almond trees, etc. It is a social animal and lives in groups. It gives birth twice a year, during spring and autumn, from one to seven newborns each time. It doesn't hibernate. It feeds mainly on olives, chestnuts, almonds, nuts and oak-apples but also on buds and leaves of certain plants. In the Red Data Book of threatened Vertebrates of Greece it is considered a vulnerable species. It is also protected by the Greek legislation.

Literature

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