



HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

The following evaluations concern reports sent to the Committee for 2019. Also included are previous years' records of birds (or groups of birds) not included in G.Handrinos & T.Akriotis "The Birds of Greece" (Helm, 1997) or the previous annual reports of the HRC.

The taxonomic order followed is compliant to the latest revision of the Association of European Records and Rarities Committees (AERC-TAC, 2015).

The details given for each record are analyzed with the following order:

1. Prefecture or island.
2. City, village or location.
3. Number, sex, age and subspecies (if identified).
4. Date/s of observation.
5. Bird's condition (dead, exhausted or wounded, ringed).
6. Additional information-facts (photographs, sample, acoustic or visual media, other).
7. Name/s of observers with the order given in the form.

Abbreviations:

AERC	Association of European Records and Rarities Committees.
BoG	The Birds of Greece (Handrinos & Akriotis, 1997).
HRC	Hellenic Rarities Committee.
HBRC	Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre.

I. Observations of rare species approved by the Committee

Where necessary, there is a small descriptive text. The chronological appearance of the species in Greece may change in the future if older observations arise and become accepted:

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

- Pieria, Nea Agathoupoli, 1 adult female, 26-29/12/2019, photos, (H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis, A.Tsafonis, Z.Antonopoulos).

Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

- Arta, Logarou, 1 individual, 13/1/2019, (N.Probonas, A.Evangelidis).
- Arta, Logarou, 1 adult female, 30/11/2019, photos, (A.Vouros, P.Andriopoulos, A.Pantazi, E.Baliousis, D.Portolou, D.Christidi, E.Ntolka, I.Karabas, L.Zachari, M.Trivourea, N.Hotzar).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

- Arta, Logarou, 6 individuals, 13/1/2019, (N.Probonas, A.Evangelidis, N.Tsiopoulos, D.Portolou).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinis griseus*

- Kavala, sea area between Kavala and Thasos, 1 individual, 31/5/2019, photos, (Z.Antonopoulos).

This is the 1st observation of this species in Greece.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

- Hania, Kladissos, 1 first winter, 15/11-19/12/2019, photos, (F.Samaritakis, N.Samaritakis, A.Kouroupaki, P.Perantonakis, E.Papadomanolakis, G.Papadomanolakis, M.Papadomanolakis, V.Pitropakis, A.Kasvikis, M.Dretakis, A.Petritaj, E.Roukounakis, G.Prasianakis, E.Vatzolas, A.Sakoulis, N.Cheiladakis, C.Turvey, S.Turvey, V.Walker, P.Paleloni, N.Probonas, T.Gaitanakis, G.Beriatos, C.Kotselis, A.Tsafonis, S.Kollaros, K.Fratzeskos, I.Banakakis, A.Tsaknakis, P.Petrou, E.Stavrakas, Z.Antonopoulos, O.Tzimoulis, C.Vlachos, M.Kotsakis, D.Zachos, A.Soulis).

This is the 1st observation of this species in Greece.

Honey Buzzard Hybrid *Pernis ptilorhynchus x Pernis apivorus*

- Lesvos, Alyfanta, 1 adult male, 2/5/2018, photos, (S.Zannetos, I.Zevgolis).

This individual, despite being initially identified as an adult male Oriental Honey Buzzard, further research and experts' opinion suggested it was a hybrid with European Honey Buzzard, or, at least this is a strong possibility. Given that similar individuals have been repeatedly seen in Caucasus area and Middle East, the Committee decides to accept this bird as a hybrid, without ruling-out the possibility to alter this opinion in case future genetic research provides new information for these birds (which may constitute a distinct population).

Corn Crane *Crex crex*

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult, 1/5/2019, ringed, photo, (HBRC).
- Lesvos, Tsiknias, 1 adult, 3/5/2019, photo, (J.Schwiebbe, R.Vesters).

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

- Evros, Evros Delta, 1 individual, 26/12/2019, photo, (D.Kokkinidis, I.Gasteratos, Z.Fondoulakou).

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*

- Attiki, Shiniyas, 1 adult, 20/4/1996, (V.Vasileiadis).
- Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult, 30/7/2019, photos, (G.Iliadis).

Before these records, there were a total of 15 observations of the species in Greece.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 first year, 2-11/10/2019, photos, (K.Stafylidis, O.Tzimoulis, Z.Antonopoulos, D.Karakolis, A.Tsilianidis, P.Mantzouratou, S.Vakirtzis, G.Spyridakis, D.Vavylis, S.Vavylis, A.Vavylis, N.Probonas, A.Tsafonis, A.Tsaknakis, D.Zachos, M.Vamvakas, P.Kampakis, T.Giannakis, E.Stavrakas, E.Vatzolas, K.Samaras, K.Kapourgas, K.Pougadaki, D.Kokkinidis, D.Botev, S.Kollaros, S.Skareas, D.Kotsaftis, L.Paraskevopoulos, T.Kourouzidis, E.Karta, C.Bairaktaris, P.Doubalakidis, G.Beriatos, I.Beriatou, L.Zachari, T.Gaitanakis, T.Nikolopoulos, I.Tsougrakis, C.Vlachos, E.Navarette, L.Sidiropoulos, S.Kalpakis, S.Chalastros).

This is the 3rd observation of this species in Greece.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*

- Hania, Souda, 1 third winter, 12/2/2017, photo, (N.Samaritakis).
- Hania, Kalyves, 1 first year, 24/10/2017, photo, (N.Samaritakis).
- Hania, Souda, 1 first winter, 30/12/2017, photo, (N.Samaritakis).
- Hania, Souda, 1 third winter, 1/1/2019, photo, (N.Samaritakis).
- Hania, Kalyves, 1 adult, 16/10/2019, photos, (N.Samaritakis).

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*

- Lesvos, Meladia, 1 adult female, 25/4/2019, photos, (H.Vaughan, A.Vaughan).
- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 adult female, 26/4/2019, (H.Vaughan, A.Vaughan).
- Samos, Psili Ammos, 1 first year female, 22-24/10/2019, photos, (J.Stumpel).

Before these records, there were a total of 4 observations of the species in Greece.

Western Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia inornata*

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult male, 21/5/2019, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

This is the 1st record of the species in Greece.

Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 first year, 27/9/2019, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

This is the 2nd observation of this species in Greece, 21 years after the last one (Antikythira, 1998).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

- Attiki, Pikrodafni, 1 individual, 11+12/10/2019, photos and tape recording, (A.Vouros, T.Linardatos).

Before this record, there were a total of 28 observations of the species in Greece.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

- Attiki, Loutros, 1 juvenile, 6/7/2019, sketch, (N.Probonas, W.Eisele).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult female, 18/5/2019, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

- Xanthi, Nestos Delta, 1 adult male, 23/12/2019, photo, (I.Gasteratos, Z.Foundoulakou).

Before this record, there were a total of 9 observations of the species in Greece.

II. Records accepted by the Committee, in Category A, but not referring to rare species

The following observations were accepted; nevertheless the recorded species are not included in the List of the Rare Birds of Greece. In every record there is an explanatory text:

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

- Evros, Evros Delta, 5.720 individuals, 8/1/2019, (P.Ioannidis, G.Iliadis).

This count is the highest for this species in Greece.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

- Argolida, Thermisia, 1 adult female, 17/1/1998, (R.Tsiakiris, K.Misiakos, N.Probonas).

This is one of the very few winter records of the species in Greece.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

- Attiki, Loutros, 1 pair with 6 ducklings, 20/6-6/7/2019, photo, (D.Rupp, E.Stavrakas, N.Probonas, W.Eisele).

This record now proves that the species occasionally breeds in the above area.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

- Attiki, Loutros, 1 pair with 3 ducklings, 12/6/2011, (A.Kastritis, N.Probonas).
- Attiki, Loutros, 1 pair with 4 ducklings, 30/6+6/7/2019, (N.Probonas, H.Mathewson, W.Eisele).

These records now prove that the species occasionally breeds in the above area.

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

- Arta, Logarou, 3 adults, 13/1/2019, (N.Probonas, A.Evangelidis).
- Argolida, Timenio, 1 adult, 28-31/1/2019, photos, (A.Iliadis, S.Tsilibi, D.Fassou, E.Bougiotis).
- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 adult, 15/4/2019, photos, (K.Mullarney, S.P.Dudley, P.Manning).
- Pieria, Kitros, 1 adult, 27/12/2019, photos, (A.Tsafonis).

This species was recently removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 2 immatures, 11/5/2016, photos, (E.Clipson, R.Clipson, L.Jarvest, S.Brumby).
- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 4 immatures, 28/5/2019, photos, (J.Dadds).

This species has an irregular occurrence in Lesvos.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

- Lesvos, Faneromeni, 1 adult, 6/5/2016, photos, (M.Sveikutis, T.Sveikutis).

This species was removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

- Argolida, Nea Kios, 2 individuals, 18/1/2003, (N.Probonas, K.Doukas).
- Argolida, Nea Kios, 1 individual, 14/1/2006, (N.Probonas, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis).

There are few winter records of the species in Greece.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 third year, 4/10/2017, photos, (J.Bezemer).

This species has an irregular occurrence in Lesvos.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

- Lesvos, Perasma, 2 adults, 8/5/2019, photos, (E.Morton, J.Morton, I.Morton).
- Lesvos, Antissa, 4 individuals, 7/5/2016, photos, (D.Knoops, D.Eijkemans).

This species has an irregular occurrence in Lesvos.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

- Lesvos, Perasma, 1 adult, 11/5/2019, photo, (F.Bexter).

This species has an irregular occurrence in Lesvos.

Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata*

- Lesvos, Perasma, 1 adult, 8/5/2019, photo, (F.Bexter).

This species has an irregular occurrence in Lesvos.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

- Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 immature, 11/5/2016, sketches, (E.Clipson, R.Clipson, L.Jarvest).
- Lesvos, Perasma, 1 immature, 9/5/2019, (S.Pogson, C.Orders, A.Orders).

This species has an irregular occurrence in Lesvos.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 individual, 11/1/2017, (D.Vavylis, A.Bounas).

This is one of the very few winter records of the species in Greece.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

- Kerkyra, Agios Spyridonas, 1 adult, 26/5/2018, σκίτσο, (G.Metcalf, J.Metcalf).
- Irakleio, Gouves, 1 adult, 27/5/2019, photos, (C.Parnell, A.Parnell).

This is a species with an irregular occurrence in Greece during migration.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

- Irakleio, Anissaras, 2 adults, 22/9-3/10/2018, photos, (P.Schubert).

This species was removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 first year, 29/9/2019, photo, (P.Wilkins).

This species was removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

- Evros, Evros Delta, 237 individuals, 15/1/2019, (P.Ioannidis).
- Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 1 first year, 13/9/2019, photo, (S.Gouvas).

This species was recently removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece, but the count of 237 birds in Evros is the highest for this species in Greece.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 juvenile, 29/8/2017, photo, (P.Wilkins).

This species has an irregular occurrence in Lesvos.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

- Ileia, Kotyhi, 1 adult, 7/4/2019, photo, (D.Doganos).

This species was removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

- Aitoloakarnania, Aitoliko, 1 adult, 20/12/2017, photo, (K.Giannakouris, V.Giannakouris).
- Aitoloakarnania, Aitoliko, 1 adult, 6-8/1/2019, photo, (K.Giannakouris, V.Giannakouris).

There are few winter records of the species in Greece.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

- Lesvos, Lapsarna, 1 individual, 29/4/2018, photos, (M.J.Gibson, E.Puzzar).

This species has an irregular occurrence in Lesvos.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

- Thessaloniki, Asprovalta, 1 second year, 30/6/2019, photos, (H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis).

This is a species with an irregular occurrence in Greece.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*

- Lesvos, Faneromeni, 1 adult, 22/5/2018, photos, (M.Smith).

This species has an irregular occurrence in Lesvos.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

- Serres, Kerkini, 3 individuals, 14/11/2015, (N.Probonas, A.Kastritis).
- Attiki, Shiniias, 1 first winter, 16/1/2016, photo, (M.Kotsakis, H.Alivizatos, A.Kaltsidou, M.Trivourea, M.E.Sourtzi, M.Kalesi, O.Papiggioti).

There are few winter records of the species in Greece.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

- Kerkyra, Korissia, 1 adult male, 19/5/2019, photos, (I.Gasteratos, A.Dunn).

This is the 1st observation of the species in Kerkyra.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

- Naxos, Alyki, 1 individual, 1/1/2018, photo, (A.Salteri).

There are few winter records of the species in Greece.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

- Aitolokarnania, Aitoliko, 1 adult female, 6-8/1/2019, photo, (V.Giannakouris, K.Giannakouris).
- Lesvos, Skamioudi, 1 adult male *M.f.beema*, 27/4/2019, photo, (M. Sveikutis, M.Cassidy).

The record in Aitoliko consists one of the very few winter records of this species in Greece.

According to BoG, this subspecies recorded in Lesvos is relatively rarely observed in Greece.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*

- Lesvos, Ipsilou, 1 adult, 13/11/2017, photo, (V.Duncombe, M.Thomas).

This is the 1st observation of the species in Lesvos.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

- Lesvos, Eressos, 1 adult female, 3/5/2016, (P.Aubrey).

This species is rare in Lesvos.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*

- Serres, Sidirokastro, 1 individual, 7/11/2018, (K.A.Dutton, S.Brook, N.Lunn, M.Henstack, N.Lunn, D.Grandal).

This is a species with an irregular occurrence in Greece.

Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

- Lesvos, Tsiknias, 1 adult male, 13/5/2016, sketches, (E.Clipson, R.Clipson, L.Jarvest).

This species is rare in Lesvos.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

- Attiki, Moschato, 1 first winter, 24/12/2018-12/2/2019, photos, (M.Kotsakis).

There are few winter records of the species in Greece.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor homeyeri*

- Kastoria, Kato Pteria, 1 adult, 17/10/2018-21/1/2019, photos, (K.Kapourgas).

The Committee after examining all the available facts at its disposal concluded that the individual at Kato Pteria belongs to the specific subspecies.

Common Magpie *Pica pica*

- Lesvos, Sigri, 1 adult, 9/9/2017, (A.Verstegen, D.Kars).

This species is rare in Lesvos.

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 first year, 12/9/2017, photo, (M.Roper, A.Bunning).

This is a species with an irregular occurrence in Greece.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*

- Thessaloniki, Neohorouda, 1 adult male, 21-25/4/2019, photo, (H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis, L.Paraskevopoulos).

This is a species with an irregular occurrence in north Greece.

III. Rare species observations accepted by the Committee but included in Category D

The following observations were accepted, but the recorded species are highly likely to be escapes and are not therefore included in the List of the Birds of Greece:

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 juvenile, 3-6/8/2019, photos, (J.G.van der Beek, S.Zannetos, G.Tzigiera, C.Sazeidis).

IV. Rare species observations accepted by the Committee but included in Category E

The following observations were accepted, but the recorded species are highly likely to be escapes and are not therefore included in the List of the Birds of Greece:

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*

- Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult, 19/12/2019, (S.Kazantzidis).

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*

- Attiki, Parko Antonis Tritsis, 1 adult, 14/11/2019, photos, (M.Houzouris).

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

- Rodos, Mandraki, 1 adult, 5-10/4/2019, photo, (T.Brooks, J.Guilherme, A.Rodrigues, M.Beal, M.Ford).

V. Rare species observations not accepted by the Committee

The following observations were rejected by the Committee for not having satisfactory facts and details that would help in the right identification of the species or they were erroneously identified:

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

- Ioannina, Rodotopi, 2 individuals, 12/12/2018, photos.

Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

- Lesvos, Kremasti, 1 individual, 19/5/2017, photos.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

- Halkidiki, Poseidi, 1 individual, 12/9/2019, photos.

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

- Lesvos, Faneromeni, 1 individual, 27/4/2018, photos.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*

- Hania, Souda, 1 second winter, 11/12/2016, photo.

- Hania, Souda, 1 first winter, 31/12/2016, photo.
- Hania, Souda, 1 second winter, 2/12/2017, photo.
- Hania, Agia, 1 first year, 15/10/2017, photo.
- Hania, Kalyves, 1 adult, 16/12/2017, photo.
- Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 second winter, 24-29/1/2019, photos.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

- Arta, Stroggyli, 1 individual, 24/8/2018, photo.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi*

- Hania, Omalos, 1 adult, 14/4/2019.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

- Lesvos, Kremasti, 2 individuals, 10+16/5/2017.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

- Lesvos, Antissa, 1 first year, 14/9/2017, photo.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

- Lesvos, Ipsilou, 1 individual, 30/4/2019, photos.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

- Hania, Moronis, 1 individual, 31/3/2019.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

- Kastoria, Kastoria, 2 individuals, 6/11/2018, photos.
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VI. Total evaluation results

In the year 2019, the Committee evaluated 100 registration forms.

Of them, 79 records were accepted to Category A, 1 record for Category D and 3 records for Category E (83%), while 17 records were not accepted to Category A (17%).

VII. Acknowledgements

The Committee acknowledges the following experts (listed alphabetically) for their assistance on identification issues and with help in producing this report:

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VIII. References

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HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman: George Handrinos

Secretary: Nikos Probonas

**Members: Kostas Papaconstantinou, Michalis Dretakis, Apostolis Christopoulos,
Nikos Samaritakis, Haralambos Alivizatos**

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