



HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2020

The following evaluations concern reports sent to the Committee for 2020. 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.
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature.

I. Observations of rare species approved by the Committee

Where necessary, an explanatory descriptive text follows. The chronological appearance of the species in Greece may change in the future if older observations arise and become accepted:

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

- Arta, Logarou, 1 adult male and 2 first winter, 11/1/2020, (N.Probonas, L.Katerinopoulos, A.Natsakakos, K.Papaconstantinou, N.Kardakari, K.Lianos, E.Lianos, K.Galanis, R.Grypari).
- Arta, Tsoukalio, 1 adult male, 24/10/2020, photos, (S.Kassavetis, G.Loupas).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

- Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 2 individuals, 2/1/2020, photo, (H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis).
- Pieria, Kitros, 1 adult female and 1 first winter, 2/1/2020, photos, (H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis).
- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 adult female, 3/1/2020, photos, (O.Tzimoulis, Z.Antonopoulos, E.Vatzolas, S.Vakirtzis, S.Karypidis).
- Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 5 individuals, 13/2-8/3/2020, photos, (A.Tsilianidis, A.Tsafonis, H.Tsilianidis).
- Thessaloniki, Anthemountas, 1 second year male, 20/3/2020, photos, (H.Tsilianidis).

Prior to these records, there were a total of 50 observations of the species in Greece.

Corn Crane *Crex crex*

- Serres, Kerkini, 1 individual, 24/9/2020, photos, (S.Lioliopoulou).
- Kavala, Nea Peramos, 1 first year, 22/10/2020, found wounded, photos, (A.Christidis).

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*

- Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult, 26/1/2020, photo, (C.Vlachos, D.Triantafyllidis).

Prior to this record, there were a total of 17 observations of the species in Greece.

Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*

- Attiki, Vourkari, 1 adult male, 12+13/5/2020, photos, (D.Chronopoulos, M.Papathanasiou, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis, E.Stavrakas).

This is the 9th observation of this species in Greece.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*

- Attiki, Spata, 1 first winter, 16-19/11/2020, photos, (N.Fokas, K.Gaganis).

This is the 2nd observation of this species in Greece, 8 years after the last (Spata 2012).

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

- Rodos, Paradeisi, 1 adult, 15/4/2020, photos, (N.Saragias).

This is the 12th observation of this species in Greece.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

- Thessaloniki, Volvi, 1 adult, 18/1/2020, photos, (E.Vatzolas, Z.Antonopoulos).

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis meena*

- Imathia, Kleidi, 1 first winter, 2/2-8/3/2020, photos, (A.Tsilianidis, H.Tsilianidis).

This is the 12th observation of this species in Greece.

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*

- Attiki, Skala Oropou, 1 adult, 25/10/2020, photos, (C.Kotselis, I.Panousakis).
- Naxos, Alyki, 1 adult, 17/11/2020, photos, (I.Banakakis, K.Fratzeskos, N.M.Probonas, S.Gratsias).

Prior to these records, there were a total of 5 observations of the species in Greece.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

- Thessaloniki, Seih Sou, 1 individual, 18/10/2020, photos, (S.Karypidis).
- Thessaloniki, Panorama, 1 individual, 6/11/2020, photos, (E.Vatzolas).

Prior to these records, there were a total of 29 observations of the species in Greece.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

- Attiki, Pikrodafni, 1 individual, 5/2-7/4/2020, photos and tape recording, (A.Vouros, G.Drosopoulos, T.Gaitanakis, N.Probonas, N.Tsiopelas, C.Vlachos, E.Stavrakas, P.Andriopoulos, T.Linardatos, S.Skareas, L.Zachari, E.Ntolka, D.Christidi, N.Hotzar, A.Tsaknakis, M.Kotsakis, C.Kotselis, A.Tsafonis, N.Fokas, I.Vlatsiotis, P.Petrou, D.Botev, D.Vouros, S.Kollaros, K.Papaconstantinou, M.Gaethlich, H.J.Oosterhuis, I.Banakakis, G.Georgiou, K.Fratzeskos, D.Zachos, G.Beriatos).

This is the 2nd observation of this species in Greece, 22 years after the last (Lakonia, 1998).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

- Lakonia, Evrotas Delta, 1 adult male, 21/1/2020, photos, (A.V.Udrea).

This is the 12th observation of this species in Greece.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

- Imathia, Kleidi, 7 individuals, 26/12/2019-19/2/2020, photos, (H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis).
- Thessaloniki, Hortiatas, 1 adult male, 24/10/2020, photos, (T.Mamais).

Prior to these records, there were a total of 10 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. An explanatory text follows each record:

Duck Hybrid *Aythya ferina* x *Aythya nyroca*

- Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 adult male, 8/1/2020, photos, (A.Vasileiou).

This record represents one of the very few cases of waterfowl hybridization in Greece.

Western Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*

- Pella, Voras, 1 adult female, 2/9/2020, (E.Karta, S.Kyrgiannis).

This is the 1st record of this species for NW Greece, outside the known distribution.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

- Attiki, Schinias, 3 adults, 25/3-9/4/2018, photo, (V.Giannakouris, K.Giannakouris).

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

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

- Arta, Rodia, 1 first winter, 9/2/2020, photos, (G.Loupas, A.Pappas).
- Rodopi, Kompsatos, 1 second year, 9/5/2020, photos, (WWF Hellas).

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

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

- Attiki, Schinias, 1 adult, 9-13/4/2018, photo, (V.Giannakouris, K.Giannakouris).

This is one of the very few records of the species in the area.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

- Kos, Tigaki, 3 adults, 6/12/2020, photo, (A.I.Avrithis, P.Avrithis).

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

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

- Aitoloakarnania, Plostaina, 1 adult, 11/1-8/2/2020, photos, (V.Giannakouris, K.Giannakouris).

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

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 first year, 6/9/2020, photos, (E.Vatzolas).

This is a species with an irregular occurrence in Greece.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

- Thessaloniki, Koroneia, 1 first winter, 27/12/2020, photos, (E.Karta, S.Kyrgiannis).

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

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

- Hania, Kissamos, 1 first winter, 24/12/2020, photos, (I.Papadakis).

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

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

- Naxos, Potamides, 1 first year, 20+21/9/2020, photos, (G.Drosopoulos, I.Banakakis, K.Fratzeskos).

This is the 2nd observation of the species in Naxos.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica cyanedula*

- Argolida, Nea Kios, 1 adult male, 2-6/10/2020, photos, (S.Tsilibi, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis, C.Kotselis, S.Kollaros, D.Kotsaftis, E.Psaradellis, L.Zachari, A.Marinis, A.Komninos, A.Boteva Dobrin, D.Botev).

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

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

- Attiki, Moschato, 1 first winter, 13/12/2020, photos, (M.Kotsakis).

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

III. 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:

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

- Evoia, Limnionas, 1 adult, 19/12/2020, photos, (M.Argyrokastritis, T.Triantis).

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

- Attiki, Spata, 1 adult, 25/3/2012, photo, (N.Fokas).
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IV. 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:

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrax*

- Drama, Elateia, 1 male, 5/11/2020.

Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

- Antikythira, Lydi, 1 individual, 2/9/2020, photos.
-

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

- Karpathos, Diafani, 1 individual, 10/11/2020.
-

Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*

- Florina, Kelli, 1 individual, 14/3/2020, photos.
 - Irakleio, Aposelemis, 1 individual, 25/10/2020.
-

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

- Naxos, Alyki, 1 individual, 6/8/2020, photos.
-

Western Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia inornata*

- Kastoria, Ampelokipoi, 1 adult male, 27/4/2020, photos.
-

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

- Attiki, Vravra, 1 individual, 12/2/2020.
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V. Species removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece

The Committee has reviewed the species it considers and the following species, now with over 50 records, is to be removed from the HRC's List of the Rare Birds of Greece:

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

VI. Total evaluation results

In the year 2020, the Committee evaluated 47 registration forms.

Of them, 37 records were accepted to Category A and 2 records to Category E (83%), while 8 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:

Dirk Forsman

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Lars Svensson

VIII. References

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HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE

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