



## HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2021

The following evaluations concern reports sent to the Committee for 2021. 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, 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:

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#### **Common Eider *Somateria mollissima***

- Attiki, Mati, 1 adult female, 24/9/2021, (T.Linardatos).
- Arta, Tsoukalio, 1 adult male, 28-30/10/2021, photos, (M.Kotsakis, I.Gasteratos, I.Ziakkas, S.Kassavetis, G.Loupas, A.Tsaknakis, Z.Fondoulakou).

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#### **Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra***

- Argolida, Nea Kios, 1 individual, 30/1/2021, photos, (L.Cornacchia).
- Arta, Salaora, 1 adult male, 26/12/2021, (K.Papaconstantinou, N.Kardakari, M.Papaconstantinou).

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**European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus***

- Attiki, sea area between Aigina and Lagoures, 1 individual, 18/8/2021, photo, (A.Tsafonis).

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**Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis schistacea***

- Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 adult, 25/4/2021, photos, (K.Samaras).

*This is the 6<sup>th</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

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**Corn Crake *Crex crex***

- Hania, Agia Triada, 1 adult, 19/4/2021, (N.Samaritakis, F.Samaritakis, P.Perantonakis).

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**Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax***

- Rodopi, Xirolimni, 1 adult, 27/12/2021, photos, (I.Banakakis, E.Vatzolas, P.Mantzouratou, D.Karakolis, D.Koutsaftis, M.Koutsaftis).

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**Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus***

- Irakleio, Armanogeia, 1 adult, 9/4/2021, photos, (A.Kasvikis, P.Baladimas, N.Samaritakis).

*Prior to this record, there were a total of 3 observations of the species in Greece.*

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**Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis***

- Evoia, Nea Lampsakos, 1 adult, 22/7/2021, photos, (P.Latsoudis, C.Vlachos, T.Gaitanakis, I.Karabas, D.Koutsaftis, C.Kotselis, N.Probonas, E.Stavrakas, S.Tsakogianni, A.Tsafonis, K.Fratzeskos).

*This is the 5<sup>th</sup> record of this species in Greece, 20 years after the last (Lesvos, 2001).*

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**Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis***

- Naxos, Alyki, 2 adults, 14/3/2021, photos, (I.Banakakis, K.Fratzeskos).

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**Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis***

- Lesvos, Loutra, 1 pair and 2 chicks, 30/9/2021, photos, (V.Karameta Triboulot, E.Galinou).

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**Ural Owl *Strix uralensis***

- Serres, Lailias, 1 adult, 22/12/2021, photos, (I.Gasteratos, Z.Fondoulakou).

*This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

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**Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens***

- Rodopi, Ptelea, 4 adults, 24-31/12/2021, photos, (C.Kotselis, I.Banakakis, A.Tsafonis, E.Vatzolas, G.Beriatos, I.Gasteratos, Z.Fondoulakou, Z.Antonopoulos, E.Stavrakas, P.Mantzouratou, D.Karakolis, D.Koutsaftis, M.Koutsaftis).

*Prior to this record, there were a total of 7 observations of the species in Greece.*

**Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus***

- Attiki, Penteli, 1 female, 30/3/2021, photos, (C.Maroulis).

*This is the 1<sup>st</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

**Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus***

- Thessaloniki, Koroneia, 1 first year male, 7-9/10/2021, photos, (S.Stavrou, K.Pougadaki, O.Tzimoulis, P.Mantzouratou, D.Karakolis, M.Koutsaftis, M.Vamvakas, S.Karypidis, E.Vatzolas, Z.Antonopoulos, E.Karta, A.Tsilianidis).
- Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 1 first winter male, 7/11/2021, photo, (S.Gouvras).

*Prior to these records, there were a total of 7 observations of the species in Greece.*

**Hooded Wheatear *Oenanthe monacha***

- Lesvos, Ipsilou, 1 second year male, 17/4/2021, photos, (E.Galinou).
- Antikythira, Aspro Nero, 1 second year female, 27+29/4/2021, photos, (A.Vouros, C.Barboutis, L.Escoutay).

*Prior to these records, there was only one observation of the species in Greece.*

**Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana***

- Thessaloniki, Anthemountas, 1 adult, 19-21/4/2021, photos, (E.Vatsolas, A.Tsilianidis, H.Tsilianidis, Z.Antonopoulos, C.Vlachos, E.Rantos, D.Koutsaftis, T.Gaitanakis, G.Beriatos, S.Vakirtzis, M.Vamvakas).

*This is the 1<sup>st</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

**Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides***

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 juvenile, 30/8/2021, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

*This is the 1<sup>st</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

**Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus***

- Attiki, Kallithea, 1 individual, 21/11/2020-8/3/2021, tape recording, (T.Linar-datos, D.Koutsaftis, A.Christopoulos).
- Argolida, Myloi, 1 individual, 30/1-5/2/2021, photos, (L.Cornacchia, S.Tsilibi).
- Aitoloakarnania, Mesologgi, 1 individual, 21/2/2021, photo, (L.Cornacchia).
- Korinthia, Agioi Theodoroi, 1 individual, 25/2/2021, (L.Zachari).
- Thessaloniki, Vertiskos, 1 individual, 23/10/2021, photos, (P.Mantzouratou, D.Karakolis).
- Aitoloakarnania, Stratos, 1 individual, 14/11/2021, tape recording, (C.Christo-doulou).

*Prior to these records, there were a total of 31 observations of the species in Greece.*

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**Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus***

- Hania, Tavronitis, 1 adult male, 29/4/2021, photos, (N.Samaritakis).

*This is the 13<sup>rd</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

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**Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus***

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 second year male, 25/5/2021, ringed, photo, (HBRC).
- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 first year, 14/9/2021, ringed, photos, (HBRC).
- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 first year, 14/9/2021, ringed, photos, (HBRC).
- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult male, 25+27/9/2021, photo and tape recording, (A.Vouros, I.Banakakis, A.Tsafonis, G.Kouthouridis).

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**Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos***

- Attiki, Agios Stefanos, 1 adult male και 1 individual, 21/2/2021, photos, (G.Chartalos, Z.Paouri).

*This is the 13<sup>rd</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

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**Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica***

- Symi, Symi, 1 first year, 19/10/2021, photos, (T.Luijendijk).

*This is the 6<sup>th</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

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## **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:

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**Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea***

- Argolida, Nea Kios, 1 adult female, 24/8/2021, photo, (S.Tsilibi).

*This is the 1<sup>st</sup> observation of the species in the area.*

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**Great Egret *Egretta alba modesta***

- Aitoloakarnania, Dioni, 1 adult, 30/10/2021, photo, (P.Malliaras).

*After examining all the available facts at its disposal, the committee concluded that the individual at Dioni belongs to the specific subspecies.*

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**Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus***

- Evros, Evros Delta, 125 individuals, 6/5/2021, photos, (G.Iliadis).

*This count is the highest for this species in Greece.*

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**Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii***

- Aitolokarnania, Kleisova, 1 adult male, 16/4/1979, (F.Oatman).
- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 juvenile, 14/7/2021, photos, (K.Samaras).

*The record in Kleisova is the 6<sup>th</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

*The record in Axios Delta is the 1<sup>st</sup> observation of the species in the area.*

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**Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus***

- Irakleio, Malia, 1 adult, 4+5/4/2021, photos, (A.Foss, A.Kasvikis, M.Dretakis, N.Samaritakis).

*This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> observation of this species in Crete.*

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**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

- Hania, Tavronitis, 900 individuals, 15/7/2021, photo, (N.Samaritakis).

*This is an impressive gathering of the species for Greece.*

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**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus***

- Messinia, Gialova, 1 adult male, 25/4/2021, photo, (L.Cornacchia).

*This species has been removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece.*

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**Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus***

- Drama, Elatia, 1 adult female, 12/4/2021, photos, (C.Ninou, S.Zannetos, Y.Seminario, R.Sainz, C.Gutierrez).
- Drama, Elatia, 1 adult male, 29/10/2021, photos and videotape, (A.Tsafonis, I.Banakakis, G.Kouthouridis, K.Fratzeskos, C.Christodoulou).

*The species has a limited distribution in Greece.*

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**Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi***

- Messinia, Romanos, 4 individuals, 13+14/11/2021, photos, (L.Cornacchia).

*This species has been removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece.*

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**Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva***

- Messinia, Gialova, 1 adult female, 21/11/2021, photo, (L.Cornacchia).

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

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**Common Magpie *Pica pica***

- Hania, Hania, 1 adult, 31/10/2021, photo, (A.Champas).

*This species is rare in Crete.*

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**Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

- Attiki, Nea Peramos, 1 adult female, 17/5/2021, photos, (E.Vavoudis).

*This species is rare in Attiki.*

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### **III. Rare species observations accepted by the Committee but included in Category E**

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

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#### **Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides***

- Irakleio, Karteros, 2 individuals, 14/2/2006, photo, (M.Dretakis).
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### **IV. Rare species observations not accepted by the Committee**

The following observations were rejected by the Committee for not being supported with sufficient proof or details that would help in the correct identification of the species or were erroneously identified:

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#### **Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis***

- Thesprotia, Sagiada, 1 individual, 11/8/2021, photos.
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#### **Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis***

- Argolida, Timenio, 1 individual, 22/11/2021, photos.
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#### **Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti***

- Attiki, Sounio, 1 individual, 9/4/1979.
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#### **Marmora's Warbler *Sylvia sarda***

- Patmos, Skala, 1 adult, 23/8/1971.
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#### **Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis***

- Kastoria, Kastoria, 1 individual, 30/10/2021, photos.
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### **V. Total evaluation results**

In the year 2021, the Committee evaluated 54 registration forms.

Of them, 48 records were accepted to Category A and 1 record to Category E (90.75%), while 5 records were not accepted to Category A (9.25%).

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## VI. Acknowledgements

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## VII. 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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