



HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2008

The following evaluations concern reports sent to the Committee for 2008. 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 last revision of the Association of European Records and Rarities Committees (AERC-TAC, 2003b).

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.
HWH Hellenic Wildlife Hospital (Aigina).

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:

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

Florina, Megali Prespa, 2 adults, 12/1-18/2/2008, photos, (A.Logothesi, E.Koutseri, I.Kazoglou, L.Nikolaou, F.Doleson, L.Tsikos, P.Nalpantidou, V.Nitsopoulou, K.Torkopoulou).

Evros, Evros Delta, 27 individuals, 17/1/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni, I.Fakriadis).

Imathia, Agia Varvara, 1 adult, 26/1/2008, photo, (T.Kourouzidis).

Evros, Evros Delta, 5 individuals, 15/2/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni, I.Fakriadis).

Evros, Evros Delta, 750 individuals, 22/2/2008, photo, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni, I.Fakriadis).
Evros, Evros Delta, 178 individuals, 26/2/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni, I.Fakriadis).
Evros, Evros Delta, 204 individuals, 6/3/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni, I.Fakriadis).
Thessaloniki, Apollonia, 3 adults, 29+30/10/2008, photo, (E.Karta, E.Tserkezidou).
Serres, Kerkini, 2 adults and 1 immature, 9/11/2008, photo, (L.Brikiatis).
Xanthi, Vistonida, 8 adults, 21/11/2008, photos, (E.Stets).
Evros, Evros Delta, 139 individuals, 10/12/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni, I.Fakriadis).
Evros, Evros Delta, 20 individuals, 16/12/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni, I.Fakriadis).
Evros, Evros Delta, 131 individuals, 22/12/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni, I.Fakriadis).

There are 23 previous records of the species in Greece.

The count of 750 birds in Evros is the highest for this species in Greece.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Xanthi, Nestos Delta, 1 adult, 7/1/2002, found dead, photo, (HWH).
Ftiotida, Hiliomili, 2 individuals, 28/1/2006, (E.Bourdakis).
Evros, Evros Delta, 2 adults, 29/11-3/12/2007, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni).
Limnos, Alyki, 2 individuals, 17/1/2008, (E.Kakalis, A.Papanasos).
Evros, Evros Delta, 110 individuals, 17+18/1/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni).
Evros, Evros Delta, 6 individuals, 15/2/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni).
Evros, Evros Delta, 9 individuals, 28/2/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni).
Evros, Evros Delta, 1 individual, 12/3/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni).
Evros, Evros Delta, 1 individual, 28/12/2008, (P.Ioannidis, E.Makrygianni).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Rodopi, Vistonida, 6 individuals, 27/12/2007, photos, (T.Gaitanakis).
Arta, Rodia, 1 adult female, 10/1/2008, (U.Mellone, R.Romero).
Rodopi, Vistonida, 9 adult males and 3 adult females, 14/2/2008, photo, (S.Mills, H.Koll).
Florina, Megali Prespa, 1 adult female, 27/10/2008, photos, (P.Andriopoulos).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Rodopi, Vistonida, 2 adult females, 23/2/2007, photos, (S.Mills, H.Koll).
Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 2 adult males, 12/1/2008, (M.Panagiotopoulou, T.Kourouzidis).

There are 18 previous records of the species in Greece.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Arta, Logarou, 3 first winter, 12/1/2008, photos, (N.Probonas, T.Gaitanakis, G.Beriatos, T.Kominos, A.Galanaki).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Thesprotia, Drepano, 1 adult female, 10+11/1/2008, photos, (N.Tsiopelas, N.Probonas, T.Gaitanakis, G.Beriatos, U.Mellone, R.Romero).
Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 1 adult female, 25/12/2008, photos, (A.Samaras, D.Samaras, T.Gaitanakis).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Hania, Kissamos, 1 adult female, 12/12/2008, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes bonasia*

Pieria, Olympos, 1 individual, 24/8/1997, (M.Gletsos, F.Kokkonis).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Halkidiki, Agios Nikolaos, 1 adult, 21/1/1993, found shot, (HWH).
Lasithi, Elounta, 1 adult, 12/12/1997, (M.Dretakis).
Serres, Kerkini, 1 adult, 6-10/5/2008, photos, (M.Newsome, P.Willoughby).
Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 2 first winter, 1-9/12/2008, photos, (K.Stafylidis, D.Vavylis, A.Bounas, H.Tsilianidis, O.Tzimoulis, E.Tsikopoulou, A.Samaras, P.Doubalakis, S.Vasileiadis).

European Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Hania, sea area between Paliohora and Gaydopoula, 1 individual, 30/7/1996, (M.Dretakis).
Leipsoi, Megalo Kalapodi, 1 individual, 19/9/1997, found dead, (D.Ristow, K.Papaconstantinou, D.Portolou, M.Kalouli).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Ahaia, Lampiri, 1 adult, 19/11/1997, (K.Papaconstantinou).
Rodopi, Ptelea, 1 adult, 9/5/2004, (J.Laber).
Pieria, Makrygialos, 3 second year, 5/5/2008, photos, (A.Christidis).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Argolida, Nea Kios, 1 adult, 17/11/1999, found shot, (HWH).
Zakynthos, Zakynthos, 1 adult, 16/12/1999, found shot, (HWH).
Irakleio, Irakleio, 1 adult, 17/12/1999, found shot, (HWH).
Limnos, Tsimandria, 1 adult, 18/1/2008, (E.Kakalis, F.Vlatta-Lamprinou).
Thesprotia, Kalamas Delta, 30 individuals, 24/3/2008, photo, (P.Petrou, N.Sioziou).
Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 adult, 20/4/2008, photos, (T.Kourouzidis, A.Hardenbol).
Thessaloniki, Gallikos, 2 adults, 21/4/2008, photo, (O.Tzimoulis, S.Vasileiadis).
Lesvos, Tsiknias, 1 adult, 25/4/2008, photo, (S.P.Dudley, M.Denman, P.Birkett, J.Davis, R.Stamp, C.Handley, C.Lowersidge, R.Lowersidge, A.Erdman, D.Erdman).
Aitolokarnania, Aheloos Delta, 4 adults, 9/5/2008, photo, (K.Giannakouris, V.Giannakouris).
Lesvos, Skala Eresou, 1 adult, 16/5/2008, (R.Ulph).
Thesprotia, Kalamas Delta, 40 individuals, 30/8/2008, photo, (P.Petrou).
Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 1 adult, 9/12/2008, photo, (K.Stafylidis).
Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult, 14/12/2008, photos, (T.Robinson, S.Robinson).
Hania, Gerani, 3 adults, 19+20/12/2008, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis schistacea*

Arta, Koftra, 1 first year, 1-11/10/2008, photos, (V.Gousias, D.Fajka, P.Fehervari, E.Horvath, P.Palatitz, A.Pogonyi, S.Solt, C.Vlachos, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis).

This is the 5th observation of this species in Greece, 16 years after the last (Paxoi, 1992).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Hania, Agia, 1 first winter, 5/11/2008, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey, N.Samaritakis).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Hania, Maleme, 8 individuals, 1/9/2008, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey, B.MacEvoy, A.Bell, L.Hayes, C.Barnes, T.Newton, P.Newton).

Hania, Tavronitis, 5 individuals, 1/9/2008, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey, B.MacEvoy, A.Bell, L.Hayes, C.Barnes).

Hania, Kolybari, 5 individuals, 1/9/2008, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey, B.MacEvoy, A.Bell, L.Hayes, C.Barnes).

Hania, Maleme, 22 individuals, 2/9/2008, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey, B.MacEvoy, A.Bell, L.Hayes, C.Barnes).

Hania, Kalyviani, 94 individuals, 3/9/2008, photos, (C.Turvey).

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Rodopi, Ptelea, 6500 individuals, 30/6/2008, (V.Terzis).

Rodopi, Alyki, 5200 individuals, 30/6/2008, (V.Terzis).

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Voiotia, Oinofyta, 1 adult, 9/4/2005, (M.Moschovis).

Aitolokarnania, Kohlias, 1 immature, 24/3/2008, photo, (C.Vlachos).

There are 6 previous records of the species in Greece.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Irakleio, Asterousia, 1 immature, 3/7/2003, (G.Andreou).

Irakleio, Giouhtas, 1 immature, 19/6/2005, (G.Andreou).

Eurasian Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Rethymno, Fourfouras, 1 immature, 30/10/2003, (G.Andreou).

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Evros, Dadia, 1 second year, 4/5/2006, photo, (P.Babakas, S.Ruiter).

Lesvos, Petra, 1 immature, 26/4/2008, (S.P.Dudley, M.Denman, P.Birkett, J.Davis, R.Stamp, C.Handley, C.Lowersidge, R.Lowersidge, A.Erdman, D.Erdman).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Kerkyra, Antinioti, 1 immature, 11/1/2008, photos, (I.Gasteratos, K.Papaconstantinou, E.Christoforatu).

Kerkyra, Halikiopoulou, 1 adult, 26/9-30/11/2008, photos, (I.Gasteratos, K.Apergis).

Corn Crane *Crex crex*

Leipsoi, Megalo Kalapodi, 1 individual, 19/9/1997, found dead, (D.Ristow, K.Papaconstantinou, D.Portolou, M.Kalouli).
Leipsoi, Megalo Kalapodi, 1 individual, 20/9/1997, found dead, (D.Ristow, K.Papaconstantinou, D.Portolou, M.Kalouli).
Halkidiki, Nea Irakleia, 1 adult, 6/11/2000, found shot, (HWH).
Kastoria, Xiropotamos, 1 first year, 26/9/2008, photo, (A.Vasileiou).
Lesvos, Akrotiri, 2 first year, 28/9/2008, found dead and shot, photos, (M.Kapiotas, J.Peeters-Lenglet, I.Peeters-Lenglet).

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

Kavala, Nestos Delta, 1 individual, 4/1/2004, (A.Christidis, K.Athianas, E.Tsentemeidis).

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

Irakleio, Gouves, 1 adult, 30/3/2008, (R.Schwab, E.Fountoulakis).

This is the 8th observation of this species in Greece.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 1 adult male, 3/4/1997, (F.Pergantis).
Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 1 individual, 15/9/1997, (F.Pergantis).
Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 1 individual, 24/8/1998, (F.Pergantis).
Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 3 adults *C.l.columbinus*, 1/12/2007 and 13/1/2008, photo, (N.Probonas, G.Beriatos, E.Stavrakas, N.Tsiopelas, T.Gaitanakis, T.Kominos, A.Galanaki, R.Tsiakiris, K.Stara, C.Vlachos).
Hania, Viglia, 1 adult male *C.l.columbinus*, 4/1/2008 and 3-5/3/2008, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).
Naxos, Alyki, 1 first winter, 29/2+1/3/2008, photos, (I.Gavalas).
Naxos, Glyfada, 1 adult *C.l.columbinus*, 17+19/8/2008, photos, (N.Probonas).
Kos, Tigaki, 1 adult, 7+12/9 and 5/10/2008, photos, (S.Amer, L.Amer).
Hania, Elafonisi, 1 adult, 12/9/2008, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).
Hania, Viglia, 1 adult *C.l.columbinus*, 2/11-11/12/2008, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey, N.Samaritakis).

There are 37 previous records of the species in Greece.

The Committee is aware of, and awaits the submission of, several other observations.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 1 individual, 2/9/1997, (F.Pergantis).
Rodopi, Porto Lagos, 3 adults, 17/8/2001, (J.Laber).
Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 first year, 11+12/9/2006, photo, (T.Robinson).
Arta, Tzoumerka, 1 first year, 14/9/2007, (I.Rousopoulos).
Attiki, Spata, 1 adult, 3/10/2008, found dead, photos, (A.Anagnostopoulos, I.Vlatsiotis).
Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 first year, 3-8/10/2008, photos, (K.Stafylidis, T.Kourouzidis, D.Vavylis, A.Bounas, H.Tsilianidis, O.Tzimoulis, C.Vlachos, M.Panagiotopoulou).

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Pieria, Kitros, 990 individuals, 13/2/2008, photo, (T.Kourouzidis, M.Panagiotopoulou).

Hania, Kissamos, 7 individuals, 8/12/2008, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Aitoloakarnania, Tholi, 2 adults, 30/4+7/5/1996, (F.Pergantis).

Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 5 individuals, 7/9/1997, (F.Pergantis).

Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 7 individuals, 15/9/1997, (F.Pergantis).

Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 2 individuals, 23/9/1997, (F.Pergantis).

Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 4 individuals, 24/8/1998, (F.Pergantis).

Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 1 individual, 30/12/1998, (F.Pergantis).

Xanthi, Porto Lagos, 1 juvenile, 18/8/2001, (J.Laber).

Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult, 23/4/2005, (S.P.Dudley, D.MacDonald).

Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult, 3/9/2007, photos, (T.Robinson).

Xanthi, Porto Lagos, 66 individuals, 28/12/2007, (T.Gaitanakis).

Aitoloakarnania, Evinos, 39 individuals, 12/1/2008, (U.Mellone, R.Romero).

Messinia, Divari, 1 first year, 6/10/2008, photo, (A.Bonetti).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 first year, 11+12/9/2008, photos, (O.Tzimoulis, K.Stafylidis, A.Bounas, D.Vavylis, H.Tsilianidis, T.Kourouzidis).

Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 first year, 20/9/2008, photos, (T.Robinson, J.Bowers, S.P.Dudley, M.Newell).

These are the 3rd and 4th observations of this species in Greece.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

Leipsoi, Megalo Kalapodi, 1 individual, 21/9/1997, found dead, (D.Ristow, K.Papaconstantinou, D.Portolou, M.Kalouli).

Evoia, Mikro Livari, 1 adult, 11/5/2008, photo, (A.Simitzi, A.Chazarakis).

Dowitcher sp. *Limnodromus species*

Arta, Koftra, 1 adult, 12/1/2008, (K.Papaconstantinou).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Hania, Kastelli, 350 individuals, 28/7/2008, photos, (R.MacEvoy, C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 adult, 10/5/2003, videotape, (S.Pogson).

Xanthi, Veloni, 1 adult, 10/5/2004, photo, (J.Laber).

Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 7 adults, 13+15/5/2008, photos, (A.Samaras, E.Tsikopoulou, A.Bounas, H.Tsilianidis, O.Tzimoulis).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Kerkyra, Halikiopoulou, 2 individuals, 30/11/2008, photos, (I.Gasteratos).

Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

Rethymno, Paralia Rethymnou, 1 adult, 19/3/1995, photo, (M.Dretakis).

There are 17 previous records of the species in Greece.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*

Kalymnos, Limani, 1 adult, 26/11/2008, photos, (A.Christidis).

There are 8 previous records of the species in Greece.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Imathia and Thessaloniki, area of Axios/Loudias/Aliakmonas delta complex, 650 individuals, 9/5/2008, photos, (T.Kourouzidis).

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

Serres, Kerkini, 1 adult and 1 first winter, 26/12/2008, photos, (A.Beriatos, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis).

There are 8 previous records of the species in Greece.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Hania, Loutro, 1 adult, 19+26/1/2008, photos, (A.Sakoulis, I.Glabedakis).

Hania, Hania, 1 individual, 12/2/2008, photo, (A.Sakoulis).

Ahaia, Aigio, 1 adult, 5/5/2008, (K.Papaconstantinou).

There are 8 previous records of the species in Greece.

Eurasian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum*

Drama, Elatia, 1 adult, 25/6/2008, (S.Xirouchakis).

There are 3 previous records of the species in Greece, all in the same area (Central Rodopi 1973, 1975, 1984).

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Lesvos, Skala Eresou, 1 adult, 27/4/2004, (S.P.Dudley).

There are 3 previous records of the species in Greece.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

Hania, Loutro, 1 adult, 27/5/2007, photos, (M.Back, R.Back).

Lesvos, Tsiknias, 1 adult, 14/4/2008, photos, (B.Baston, C.Day).

Lesvos, Meladia, 7 adults, 3/5/2008, (S.P.Dudley, E.F.Dudley, C.Jones).

There are 28 previous records of the species in Greece.

The Committee is aware of, and awaits the submission of, several other observations, especially from Lesvos (of at least eight individuals).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Hania, Kamisiana, 1 first year, 7/10/2008, photos, (A.Sakoulis).

The Committee is aware of, and awaits the submission of, several other observations.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 adult male, 5/5/2003, (C.Vlachos, Z.Rizou).
Lesvos, Almyropotamos, 1 adult male, 22/4/2004, photo, (S.P.Dudley, M.Newell).
Lesvos, Faneromeni, 1 adult male and 2 adult females, 24/4/2004, (S.P.Dudley, M.Newell).
Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult male, 25/4/2004, (S.P.Dudley, M.Newell).
Lesvos, Christou, 1 adult female, 27/4/2004, photo, (S.P.Dudley, M.Newell).
Lesvos, Skala Eresou, 1 adult male and 1 adult female, 27/4/2004, photo, (S.P.Dudley, M.Newell).
Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult male, 11/4/2005, ringed, (D.De Mesel, D.Vangeluwe, P.Vandenbulcke).
Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult female, 15/4/2005, ringed, (D.De Mesel, D.Vangeluwe, P.Vandenbulcke).
Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 adult male, 29/4/2005, (C.Vlachos, Z.Rizou).
Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult male, 23/4/2006, (S.P.Dudley, D.MacDonald).
Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult male, 2/5/2006, (C.Vlachos, Z.Rizou).
Lesvos, Kalantra, 1 adult male, 14/4/2008, photo, (E.Galinou, D.Coetzee).
Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult male, 14/4/2008, photos, (T.Robinson).
Kos, Kos, 1 adult female, 16+17/4/2008, photo, (S.Amer).
Lesvos, Almyropotamos, 1 adult male, 25-27/4/2008, photos, (T.Robinson).
Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult male and 1 adult female, 27/4/2008, photos, (T.Robinson).
Lesvos, Alykoudi, 1 adult male, 27+28/4/2008, photos, (T.Robinson).
Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult female, 28/4/2008, (S.P.Dudley, M.Denman).
Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 adult male, 29/4/2008, (S.P.Dudley, M.Denman).
Lesvos, Almyropotamos, 1 adult female, 2/5/2008, photos, (T.Robinson).
Lesvos, Skala Eresou, 1 adult female, 5/5/2008, (S.P.Dudley, E.F.Dudley).
Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult male, 7/5/2008, (S.P.Dudley, E.F.Dudley).
Kefallonia, Livadi, 1 adult male, 17/5/2008, (K.Bannister, S.Short).
Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult male, 27/5/2008, photos, (T.Robinson).

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

- Rodos, Vlyha, 1 adult, 16/10/2007, photos, (R.Pyefinch).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

- Lasithi, Bramiana, 1 adult male *L.s.magna*, 25/3/1997, (M.Dretakis).
Irakleio, Aposelemis, 1 adult female, 27/3/1999, (M.Dretakis).
Lasithi, Bramiana, 1 first winter male *L.s.cyanecula*, 17/11/2000-6/3/2001, (M.Dretakis).
Attiki, Shinias, 1 adult male *L.s.cyanecula*, 17/3/2007, photo, (P.Petrou).
Lesvos, Pithariou, 1 first year, 22/9/2007, (S.P.Dudley, E.F.Dudley).
Attiki, Nea Peramos, 1 individual, 4/10/2008, photo, (S.Vidali).
Hania, Agia, 1 first winter male *L.s.cyanecula*, 27+28/11 and 4/12/2008, photos, (C.Turvey, H.Lough, S.Turvey, P.Lough, A.Sakoulis).

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus variegata*

- Arta, Stroyli, 1 first winter male, 4+14/12/2006, ringed, photos, (M.Lóránt, N.Takács, A.Králl).
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Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

Hania, Viglia, 1 adult male, 4/3/2008, photo, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

There are 12 previous records of the species in Greece.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

Arta, Stroyli, 1 first winter, 29/11/2007, ringed, photos, (C.Vadász, P.Villányi, Á.Foki, B.Felföldy).

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 juvenile, 17/8/2008, ringed, photos, (D.De Mesel, I.Bollaert, L.Raes, S.De Mesel).

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 juvenile, 18/8/2008, ringed, photos, (D.De Mesel, I.Bollaert, L.Raes, S.De Mesel, E.Makrygianni).

According to BoG, there is only 1 previous record of this species in Greece, (Crete, 1969).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 first year, 17/10/2008, ringed, photo, (O.Slessor, A.Evangelidis, K.Thorpe, G.Lazoration, M.Labardi, M.Foley-Fisher).

Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 first year, 22/10/2008, ringed, photo, (O.Slessor, A.Evangelidis, K.Thorpe, M.Foley-Fisher).

There are 5 previous records of the species in Greece.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

Lakonia, Monemvasia, 1 adult, 31/3/2006, (M.D.Crewe, P.James).

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

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Attiki, Ymittos, 1 adult, 1/1/2008, (N.Probonas).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus phoenicuroides*

Attiki, Shinias, 1 adult female, 23-30/3/2008, photos, (M.Kotsakis, G.Papagiannis, N.Probonas, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis, C.Vlachos, E.Stavrakas, K.Vidinioti, A.Beriatos, I.Beriatou).

There are 4 previous records of the species in Greece.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

Irakleio, Malia, 1 adult, 11/1/2008, photos, (M.Dretakis).

Lesvos, Vatera, 1 first year *L.m.pallidirostris*, 21/9/2008, photos, (G.Sellors, C.Sellors).

There is only 1 previous record of the species in Greece (Peloponnisos, 2006).

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

Hania, Kamisiana, 1 first year, 7/10/2008, (A.Sakoulis).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Florina, Psarades, 1 adult male, 15/6/2008, (K.Standring).

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 juvenile, 30/8/2008, ringed, photos, (D.De Mesel, E.Vanhassel).

Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 first year, 7/10/2008, ringed, photo, (O.Slessor, G.Lazoration).

There are 33 previous records of the species in Greece.

II. 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 escapees and are not therefore included in the List of the Birds of Greece:

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Attiki, Vrillisia, 1 individual, February 2005, (A.Manta, M.Manta).

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Attiki, Patisia, 1 adult, 20/11/2005, photos, (A.Petta, A.Galanopoulos, V.Petta).

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Attiki, Halkoutsis, 6 adults, 21/4+10/5/2008, photos, (P.Latsoudis, C.Vlachos, T.Kominos).

III. 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:

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Imathia, Agia Varvara, 10 individuals, 2/11/2008, photos.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Aitoloakarnania, Louros, 1 immature, 22/3/2008, photo.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Kerkyra, Halikiopoulou, 1 immature, 18/2/2008, photo.

Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 individual, 27+30/3/2001.

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 individual, 30/11/2002.

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult, 8/5/2004.

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*

Limnos, Agios Haralampos, 2 individuals, early August 2002.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Trikala, Theopetra, 1 first year, 31/10/2008, photo.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus maura*

Thessaloniki, Seih Sou, 1 adult male, 29/3/2008, photos.

Sombre Tit *Parus lugubris*

Hania, Falasarna, 1 individual, 3/4/2007.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Attiki, Pefki, 1 individual, 5/9/2008, videotape.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

Kastoria, Asproklisia, 1 adult, 11/11/2007, photos.

Bunting sp. *Bunting species*

Lesvos, Petra, 1 individual, 4/7/2008, photo.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

Lesvos, Sigri, 1 female, 8/5/2008, videotape.

IV. Re-evaluation of rare species records

The following records have been re-evaluated by the Committee and based on new evidence and elements or facts or items (see individual records for outcome):

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

Evros, Evros Delta, 1630 individuals, 21+22/2/1963.

*This observation has been published in reports and papers, as well as in the BoG, as the highest ever count of the species in Greece. However, during the recent implementation of an international LIFE Project on the species, Scandinavian experts strongly questioned this record, due to the fact that this very high number is inconsistent with the then known population size of the species in Europe. The question was addressed to the HRC, which in collaboration with the author of the BoG, made a thorough and detailed search on the data files and existing literature. It was, therefore, discovered that: (a) the actual observers in their original report (Nisbet & Swift, 1963), do not mention any Lesser White-fronted Geese, but the 1630 individuals were, in fact, Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*), and (b) in a later paper (Hoffmann et al, 1964) these 1630 geese are again mistakenly reported as Lesser White-fronted and this was again cited in subsequent publications and the BoG. The HRC has therefore concluded that this record is no longer valid, because there is was no such observation and that all subsequent publications were based on the error in the 1964 report.*

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Lasithi, Paximada, 1 individual, 14/9/1979.

This record was originally published in the BoG, but recently the two observers asked the HRC to delete this observation due to their own strong doubts about the identification of this particular bird.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Lasithi, Vai, 1 individual in winter plumage, 28/3/1991.

*This observation was published in the BoG. Since, however, this is the first and only record of this Nearctic wader in Greece, the HRC recently asked the observer to submit photos to support the observation. Detailed examination of the photos has clearly shown that the bird is in fact a Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*). The species is therefore deleted from the List of the Birds of Greece.*

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Hania, Neo Horio Kydonias, 1 first year, 27/9/2000, (P.Smith).

*According to the most recent widely agreed phylogenetic research, the polytypic Greenish Warbler has been split in to two species: the polytypic Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) and the monotypic Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*). Thus, it was decided to reassess the two records previously accepted as Greenish Warbler (HRC, 2006).*

The Hania record will be reassessed in the near future, so for the time being, HRC prefers not to include Greenish Warbler in the List of the Birds of Greece. Therefore, Greenish Warbler is removed from the List of the Birds of Greece.

Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*

Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 first year *P.t.nitidus*, 18/9/1998, ringed, photo, (HBRC).

*According to the most recent widely agreed phylogenetic research, the polytypic Greenish Warbler has been split in to two species: the polytypic Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) and the monotypic Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*). Thus, it was decided to reassess the two records previously accepted as Greenish Warbler (HRC, 2006).*

Based on measurements and description, the Antikythira bird is identified and accepted as Green Warbler.

*Green Warbler is added to the List of the Birds of Greece after Rüppell's Warbler (*Sylvia rueppelli*) and before Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*).*

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 each with over 50 records, are to be removed from the HRC's List of the Rare Birds of Greece:

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>

VI. Total evaluation results

In the year 2008, the Committee evaluated 201 registration forms. Of them, 183 records were accepted to Category A, 3 records added to Category E (92.55%), while 15 records were not accepted (7.45%) to Category A.

VII. Acknowledgements

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