“Bird species new to the Greek Avifauna”

Handrinos, G., N. Probonas, C. Papaconstantinou, T. Kominos & M. Dretakis

HELENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 3994, GR 102 10, Athens, e-mails: birds@ornithologiki.gr & hellenicbirds@yahoo.gr
Abstract
Handrinos, G., N. Probonas, C. Papaconstantinou, T. Kominos & M. Dretakis
Hellenic Ornithological Society, Hellenic Rarities Committee

Since the creation of the last official list of the Greek Avifauna (Handrinos & Akriotis, 1997) our knowledge on Greek birds has been much improved. Several records and claims of records of new or rare birds for the Greek Avifauna exist for the last 10 years. The necessity of a Hellenic Rarities Committee was obvious and the decision to make one took place in December 2004. Members of both the Hellenic Ornithological Society and the Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre contributed. The Committee has already compiled the “2005 year report” in which 14 new species have been added to the Greek checklist, making a total of 436 bird species. New species are mainly vagrants from Asia, Africa and America, but also breeders from adjacent countries that were very likely to be found in Greece.

The Committee has also accepted a number of records that alter the status of several bird species, from accidental to uncommon vagrants, or even regular migrants and wintering bird species in Greece.
INTRODUCTION

Since the creation of the last official list of the Greek Avifauna (Handrinos & Akriotis, 1997) our knowledge on Greek birds has been much improved. Several records and claims of records of new or rare birds for the Greek Avifauna exist for the last 10 years.

The necessity of a Hellenic Rarities Committee was obvious and the decision to make one took place in December 2004. Members of both the Hellenic Ornithological Society and the Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre contributed.

The HRC has five permanent members who works independently having scientific and technical support from certain people.
Methodology of the Committee work

According to the standards of the European Rarities Committee the HRC made specific forms to be completed in any case of a bird rarity.

Records to be submit include:

1. Records of species that are accidental or rear vagrants in Greece, that meaning they have less than 50 records in Greece
2. Records of species belonging to the Greek list but are probably rare or local and the record is far from their main known distribution area, or their distribution is unknown
3. Records of certain species that appears in noticeable numbers
4. Records of Globally threatened-endangered species, regardless of their Status in present Greek Checklist.
# ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗΣ ΟΡΝΙΘΟΛΟΓΙΚΩΝ ΠΑΡΑΤΗΡΗΣΕΩΝ

**ΕΝΤΥΠΟ ΚΑΤΑΓΡΑΦΗΣ**

Παρακαλούμε συμπληρώστε το παρόν έντυπο μαζί με άλλες χρήσιμες πληροφορίες (φωτογραφίες, σκίτσα, ήχοι, κ.λπ.) και στείλτε το ταχυδρομικά στην Ελληνική Ορνιθολογική Εταιρεία.

Τ.Θ. 3994, 10210, Αθήνα ή ηλεκτρονικά στα bird@ornithologiki.gr ή hellenicbirds@yahoo.gr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Είδος (τυπολόγος):</th>
<th>Όνομα παρατηρητή:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ηλικία, φύλο, πτέρωμα:</td>
<td>Άλλοι παρατηρητές:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Αριθμός πουλιών:</td>
<td>Πους ο βρήκε (είδος) πρώτος το πουλί;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Τοποθεσία (Νομός, Επαρχία, Δήμος, Περιοχή, Θέση):</td>
<td>Τύπος βιοτόπου</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ημερομηνία(ες) παρατήρησης:</td>
<td>Τόπος βιοτόπου (Γενικά στοιχεία):</td>
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<td>Όρα παρατήρησης:</td>
<td>Μέσα που χρησιμοποιήθηκαν (καίλα, τηλεσκόπιο, κ.λπ.) και τεχνικά στοιχεία τους:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Διάρκεια παρατήρησης:</td>
<td>Πρόσθετες πληροφορίες-στοιχεία :</td>
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<td>Η παρατήρηση έγινε:</td>
<td>Πρόσθετες πληροφορίες-στοιχεία</td>
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<td>Στη θέση</td>
<td>Βρέθηκε νεκρό</td>
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<td>Διπλοκάλυψη</td>
<td>Αριθ. διπλοκαλύψης</td>
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<tr>
<td>Καυτός και συνθήκες (συννεφία, αέρας κ.λ.π.):</td>
<td>Αν η παρατήρηση σας έχει ήδη δημοσιευθεί, δηλώστε που και πότε:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Χρησιμοποιήστε την επόμενη σελίδα για να δώσετε λεπτομερείς εξήγησης στα σημεία και στις ερωτήσεις:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Περιστάσεις παρατήρησης, απόσταση από το πουλί, άλλα παρόντα σε πρώτο πλάνο.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Περιγραφή του πουλιού σύμφωνα με τις σημειώσεις που λαμβάνονταν επί τόπου και σκίτσο.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Ως περίπτωση συλλήψεων ή νεκρών πουλιών, παρακαλούμε εντοπίσετε μετρήσεις μιμομετρητικών στοιχείων, ενδείξεις αλλαγής πτερώματος (moult) κ.λ.π.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>4. Άλλα είδη που θα μπορούσαν να μοιάζουν με το πουλί και γιατί νομίζετε ότι μπορεί να οποιαδήποτε σύγχυση να αποκλείετε.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Είναι εξαιρετικά συμφωνητικά με αυτό το είδος από προηγούμενες παρατήρησεις;</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Που εγγράφηκε αναγνώριση συμβολοθηκήθηκε κατά τη διάρκεια της παρατήρησης ή ιερότερα;</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Υπάρχει καμία οποιαδήποτε αμφιβολία σας ως προς το σωστό προσδιορισμό του είδους;</td>
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# HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE

**UNUSUAL RECORD REPORT FORM**

Please send the form together with any other useful records (photographs, sketches, sound-records, etc.) to the following address:

Hellenic Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 3994, GR 10210, Athens or send an e-mail to: birds@ornithologiki.gr, hellenicbirds@yahoo.gr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (subspecies):</th>
<th>Observer:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, plumage, sex:</td>
<td>Other observers:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of birds:</td>
<td>Who found the bird?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Place of observation (Area, Locality, Municipality):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of observation (first and following):</td>
<td>Form completed on:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>Type of binoculars/scopes used:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of observation:</td>
<td>Supporting evidence (please enclose evidence):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Observation:</td>
<td>Photographs, skin, ring code, etc.:</td>
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<tr>
<td>in the field</td>
<td>Where has the evidence been archived?</td>
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<tr>
<td>found dead</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>trapped</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>others</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather (clouds, wind etc.):</td>
<td>Quality of light (sight):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Habitat:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If this observation has already been published, please state where and when:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please use an extra page to give detailed explanations on the following points and questions:

1. Observation circumstances, other similar species present
2. Description of bird according to notes taken on the spot
3. Sketch
4. In case of captured or dead birds, please indicate measurements, moult etc.
5. Which other species could the bird be confused with, and why can any confusion be excluded?
6. Are you familiar with this species from earlier observations?
7. What literature did you consult during the observation, shortly afterwards and later on?
8. Is there still any doubt as to the correct identification?
Methodology

The HRC meets several times during the year to accept or not the submissions.

Submissions must have photographs or video or a good drawing from the bird or at least a fine and analytical description.

Species that accepted go to the certain European categories of the list for example Category A are birds that accepted as genuine record, D are records that the HRC considered as escapes from captivity.
Main Results

The Committee compiled the “2005 year report” in which 14 new species have been added to the Greek checklist, making the new total of 436 bird species. New species are mainly vagrants from Asia, Africa and America, but also breeders from adjacent countries that were very likely to be found in Greece.

From 186 submissions, 153 accepted to Category A, 5 accepted to Category D and while 28 were not accepted to Category A.

The Committee has also accepted several records of certain species with only accidental presence in the past (1-5 records).
The 14 new Greek birds

1. Allen’s Gallinule (*Porphyrula alleni*) One record:

   One adult, Paros, exhausted, 18 January 1996, (Hellenic Wildlife Hospital)

   Several winter records of this Afrotropical species exist in Europe the last 20 years

2. Kittlitz’s Plover (*Charadrius pecuarius*)


   Egyptian breeder

   4th record in Europe

   (there are also three additional records in Cyprus)

   Photo by C. Vlachos
3. White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*):
Two records: one, Keritis river mouth, Chania, Crete, 31 August 1994, (M.Dretakis) and two at Bramiana reservoir, Ierapetra, Crete, on 16 & 25 August 1997 (M.Dretakis)

American vagrant to Europe

4. Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)
One record: a juvenile, Bramiana reservoir, Ierapetra, Crete, on 29 September 2000, (M.Dretakis, C. Hull)

American vagrant or Siberian vagrant to Europe

Photo by M. Dretakis
5. Upland Sandpiper  
(*Bartramia longicauda*)

One record: a juvenile, Agia reservoir, Chania, Crete, on 23 November 2004, (A. Sakoulis)

Very rare American vagrant to Europe, first record in Balkans and easternmost ever record for this species

Photo by A. Sakoulis
6. Wilson’s Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)
Two records: an adult female, Vothonas saltmarsh-pond, Tersanas, Chania, Crete, on 1 & 2 May 1996, (B.Sparks) and another adult female, Lefkimmi, Corfu on 8 May 1997, (J.Martin, J.Martin) American vagrant to Europe

7. Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)
Two records: a juvenile, Evrotas, Lakonia, on 17 August 1996, (T. Kominos) and an adult, Ammourgelles reservoir, Crete on 13 June May 2002, (M. Dretakis, A. Dimalexis, N. Dimitrakopoulos)

A predictable vagrant to Greece

Photos by M. Dretakis
8. Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*)

A predictable migrant and winter visitor to Greece, several more records have submit to HRC in 2006

Photo by M. Dretakis

9. Black-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles orientalis*)

A north African species, predictable accidental visitor to Greece
10. Little Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)
One record: an adult, *M.o.orientalis*, Gennadi, Rhodes, (C. Vlachos)

First record of *M.o.orientalis* to Western Palearctic

The Indian subspecies, not a predictable accidental visitor to Greece and Europe!

Not an escape!

Photo by C. Vlachos
11. Lesser Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella rufescens*)

Four records: an adult, Koutsounari, Crete on 15 April 1995, (D.Rotel); two adults, Lakkoi, Crete, 8 October 1997 (J.Spooner, J.Spooner); an adult Afantou, Rhodes on 9 April 2003, (G.Olioso) and an adult, Kalloni, Lesvos on 1 May 2004, (S.Bot, J.Poelstra, R.Gordijn, M.Bunskoek, M.Gal, C.Nengerman)

A predictable migrant to Greece, breeding in Turkey, probably overlooked in the past.

Photo by S.Bot
12. Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*)
One record: one individual, Alatsolimni, Xerokampos, Crete on 17 & 29 December 2005 & 2 January 2006, (A. Vittery)

A predictable migrant and winter visitor to Greece, more records have submit to HRC in 2006

13. Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)
(or Green Wabler, *Phylloscopus nitidus*)

Two records:
One Neo Chorio Kydonias, Crete, 27 September 2000, (P. & S. Smith)

and a juvenile, *P. t. nitidus*, ringed at Antikithera, on 18 September 2002, (Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre)

Rare vagrant to several countries in Europe
14. Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Two records: one adult female, Imeros, Rhodope, 20 November 2004 (S. Bekir) and an adult male, Aggelochori, Thessaloniki, on 13 & 15 January 2005, (S. Vasileiadis, A. Benou)

A predictable rare winter visitor to Greece

Photo by S. Bekir

Photo by S. Vasileiadis
Conclusions / Actions to the near future

- The submitted and accepted records are important as they make more understandable the status of several species in Greece and they close a “strange” empty space on migration, wintering or vagrant route of several species (*Larus armenicus*, *Anthus petrosus*, etc.).
- Also the adding of new accidental visitors increase the importance of Greece for birding activities.
- The Committee has also accepted a number of records that alter the status of several bird species, from accidental to uncommon vagrants, or even regular migrants and wintering bird species in Greece.
- The HRC is working now to a new checklist of Greek Birds which also will include the split of species, according to the modern systematic concern.
Web-page information includes the present official checklist, forms, year reports, photo gallery


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Thank you

Photo by L. Logothetis