



HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2010

The following evaluations concern reports sent to the Committee for 2010. 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.
ANIMA	Hellenic Wildlife Care (Athina).
BoG	The Birds of Greece (Handrinos & Akriotis, 1997).
HRC	Hellenic Rarities Committee.
HBRC	Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre.
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:

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Thessaloniki, Gallikos, 1 adult female, 3/11-5/12/2010, photos, (O.Tzimoulis, K.Stafylidis, D.Vavylis, A.Bounas, E.Bourdakis, E.Karta, E.Tserkezidou, S.Vasileiadis, G.Papagiannis, G.Yfantis, N.Probonas, C.Vlachos, G.Beriatos, P.Petrou, I.Tsougrakis, S.Karabataki, S.Kalpakis, E.Papadraga, T.Kourouzidis, A.Mobaitzis, Z.Tzikas, T.Kominos, A.Galanaki, P.Doubalakidis, N.Petrou, A.Vidalis, M.Panagiotopoulou, E.Stavrakas, I.Vasileiadis).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Thessaloniki, Volvi, 1 adult male, 27/12/2009-15/1/2010, photos, (H.Tsilianidis, S.Vasileiadis, D.Vavylis, A.Bounas, O.Tzimoulis, G.Spyridakis, E.Karta, T.Kourouzidis, E.Papadraga, A.Tsilianidis).

Pieria, Kitros, 1 adult female, 17/1/2010, photo, (I.Tsougrakis, P.Doubalakis, S.Karabataki, N.Probonas, N.Tsiopelas, G.Beriatos, S.Vasileiadis, T.Gaitanakis, H.Apostolidis).

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 adult, 18/12/2010, photo, (O.Tzimoulis).

European Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Sifnos, sea area NE of Sifnos, 1 adult, 22/4/2010, (V.Saravia Mullin, A.Evangelidis, K.Papaconstantinou, D.Portolou).

Leipsoi, sea area W of Leipsoi, 1 adult, 11/5/2010, (V.Saravia Mullin, A.Evangelidis, K.Papaconstantinou, D.Portolou).

Fournoi, sea area S of Fournoi, 1 adult, 17/6/2010, (V.Saravia Mullin, A.Evangelidis, K.Papaconstantinou, D.Portolou).

The Committee is aware of many more observations in central and southern Aegean. However, there has been no publication or total indexing and submission to the Committee. For the time being, the Committee acknowledges only the records listed in BoG and those records submitted and accepted by the Committee as published in these reports, and waits for the others to be submitted.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Ileia, Kaiafas, 3 adults, 14/1/1998, (A.Bonetti).

Lasithi, Koufonisia, 3 first winter, 15/1/1999, (S.Xirouchakis).

Thesprotia, sea area S of Igoumenitsa, 1 first winter, 20/2/2010, photo, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

Hania, Kastelli, 1 first winter, 25/11/2010, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

There are also other records not submitted to the Committee.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rodopi, Ismarida, 1 first winter, 25/1/2010, photos, (M.Panagiotopoulou).

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult female, 26/1/2010, photos, (I.Fakriadis).

Voiotia, Skourta, 1 first winter, 29/1/2010, found shot, photos, (HWH).

Evros, Apalos, 1 adult female, 8/2/2010, (G.Katsadorakis).

Evros, Thymaria, 2 first winter, 21/2/2010, photos, (C.Vlachos, M.Moschovis, G.Alexandris, T.Kourouzidis, N.Fokas, P.Petrou, E.Stets, E.Simitzi, A.Chazarakis, P.Andriopoulos, A.Bounas, H.Tsilianidis, O.Tzimoulis).

There are also other records not submitted to the Committee.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 immature, 5/2/2010, photos, (P.Ioannidis, I.Fakriadis).

Hania, Kalyviani, 1 second year, 1+2/5/2010, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

There are 33 previous records of the species in Greece.

Saker *Falco cherrug*

Kastoria, Argos Orestiko, 1 adult, 25/11/2009, (E.Bourdakis).
Attiki, Spata, 1 juvenile, 28/8/2010, photos, (N.Fokas).

Corn Crane *Crex crex*

Lesvos, Faneromeni, 1 adult, 8/5/2005, photo, (D.Walbridge, R.Wilkins).
Attiki, Halandri, 1 first year, 9/10/2010, found wounded, photo, (ANIMA).
Evros, Kirki, 1 individual, 13/10/2010, found shot, photo, (A.Anastasiadis).
Evros, Apalos, 2 individuals, 15/10/2010, found shot, (A.Anastasiadis).
Evros, Apalos, 2 individuals, 16/10/2010, found shot, (A.Anastasiadis).
Evros, Aetohori, 1 individual, 16/10/2010, found shot, (A.Anastasiadis).

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

Fthiotida, Lianokladi, 1 individual, 19/12/1998, found shot, (A.Christopoulos).

Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*

Attiki, Spata, 1 adult female, 30/3/2010, found dead, photos, (I.Vlatsiotis, A.Anagnostopoulos, D.Dabakis, N.Fokas).

There are 4 previous records of the species in Greece.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Messinia, Pylos, 1 individual, 9/9/2008, (D.Bousbouras).
Lesvos, Vatera, 1 adult, 10/9/2008, photo, (B.van Perlo).
Gavdos, Ampelos, 1 individual, 10/3/2010, photos, (A.Kaltsis).
Attiki, Spata, 2 adults, 7-10/9/2010, photos, (I.Vlatsiotis, N.Fokas).
Andros, Profitis Ilias, 1 adult, 17/9/2010, photo, (J.F.Graf, G.Buescher).
Lesvos, Achladeri, 1 adult, 18/9/2010, (E.Crabtree, J.Crabtree, D.Boyd, A.Bell).
Attiki, Spata, 2 first year, 19/10/2010, photos, (N.Fokas).
Attiki, Spata, 1 first winter, 12/12/2010, photo, (N.Fokas).

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*

Lesvos, Mesa, 1 adult, 7/5/2001, (J.A.Hazell, K.L.Hazell).

There are 11 previous records of the species in Greece.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult, 29/4/2010, photo, (W.Bowell, G.Catley, K.DuRose).
Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 5 adults, 12-16/5/2010, photos, (D.Vavylis, A.Bounas, C.Vlachos, H.Tsilianidis).
Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 3 adults, 24/5/2010, (G.Yfantis, K.Oikonomidis).
Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult, 23+25/7/2010, photos, (G.Brodie).
Naxos, Alyki, 1 adult, 17/8/2010, photo, (N.Probonas).
Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 adult, 26-31/8/2010, photo, (O.Tzimoulis).

Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 adult, 31/8-11/9/2010, photo, (O.Tzimoulis, S.Vasileiadis, D.Vavylis, A.Bounas, H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis, E.Bourdakis, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis, N.Probonas, C.Vlachos, T.Kominos).
Aitoloakarnania, Alykes Mesologiou, 4 individuals, 5/9/2010, photos, (G.Chatziaggelidis).
Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 5 individuals, 18/9/2010, photo, (O.Tzimoulis).
Lesvos, Sigri, 1 adult, 27/9/2010, photos, (D.Wallbank, C.Wallbank).
Aitoloakarnania, Alykes Mesologiou, 1 adult, 30/9/2010, photo, (K.Giannakouris, V.Giannakouris).

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 adult, 31/8-13/9/2010, photos (O.Tzimoulis, S.Vasileiadis, T.Kourouzidis, D.Vavylis, A.Bounas, H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis, E.Bourdakis, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis, N.Probonas, I.Tsougrakis, S.Karabataki, C.Vlachos, M. Moschovis, P.Doubalakidis, A.Giannopoulou, K.Stafylidis, G.Spyridakis, G.Yfantis, E.Karta, T.Kominos, P.Petrou, N.Sioziou, E.Papadraga, E.Katrana).
Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult, 31/10-3/11/2010, photos, (T.Robinson, W.Kappes, E.Kappes).

There are 5 previous records of the species in Greece.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Halkidiki, Nikiti, 1 adult, 4/7/2009, (A.H.Kazantzidou, G.Kazantzidis, S.Kazantzidis, C.Athanasiou).

There are 3 previous records of the species in Greece.

Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 adult, 27-31/1/2010, photos, (C.Toskos, S.Kazantzidis, M.Panagiotopoulou, D.Vavylis, A.Vasileiou).

There are 22 previous records of the species in Greece.

Greater Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Pieria, Kitros, 1 adult, 17-24/1/2010, photos, (P.Doubalakidis, I.Tsougrakis, S.Karabataki, N.Probonas, N.Tsiopelas, G.Beriatos, S.Vasileiadis, T.Gaitanakis, H.Apostolidis, E.Stavrakas, H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis).

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

Lesvos, Kalloni and Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult, 6+7/5/2001, photos, (D.Walbridge, D.Nye).

There are 3 previous records of the species in Greece.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Samos, Drosia, 1 first year, 8/10/2009, photos, (R.Butts, J.Crawford).

There are 6 previous records of the species in Greece.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Hania, Kalamaki and Platanias, 1 adult female, 26/11/2009-17/3/2010, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey, A.Kaltsis, K.Koutsovoulou, N.Samaritakis, A.Kouroupaki, A.Hargrave, A.Sakoulis, C.Vlachos).

There are 4 previous records of the species in Greece.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

Lasithi, Chrysi, 1 adult male and 1 adult female, 18/4/2010, photos, (A.Kaltsis).
Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult, 19/5/2010, (D.Vieuxtemps, M.Mahy).

There are 34 previous records of the species in Greece.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult female, 26/3/2010, ringed, photos, (HBRC).
Attiki, Shinias, 1 individual, 27/3/2010, photos, (S.Skareas).
Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult male, 26/8/2010, ringed, photo, (I.Fakriadis, E.Makrygianni, J.Gordon).

Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*

Lesvos, Sigri, 1 adult male, 8/4/2010, photo, (P.Wiprächtiger, M.Lüthy, N.Probonas, A.Kastritis, V.Trigou, S.Zakkak, K.Gaganis, T.Kominos, A.Galanaki).

There are 2 previous records of the species in Greece.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Lesvos, Vergias, 1 adult, 29/3/2010, (J.P.Sibley, S.Sibley).
Irakleio, Gortys, 1 adult, 12/4/2010, (E.Meek, A.Meek).
Lesvos, Akraisi, 1 individual, 19/9/2010, (J.Bowers, S.Bowers).

There are 7 previous records of the species in Greece.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Samiopoula, Agia Pelagia, 1 first year, 28/9/2009, sketch, (A.Latham, D.Davenport).

There are 6 previous records of the species in Greece.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis pallidirostris*

Hania, Kastelli, 1 first winter, 24/11/2010, photos, (S.Turvey, C.Turvey).
Ileia, Kakovatos, 1 adult male, 15/12/2010, photos, (K.Poirazidis).

There are 3 previous records of the species in Greece.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Attiki, Parnitha, 1 adult female, 28/4/2003, (N.Probonas).

The Committee decided to re-examine – with the help of experts - all the earlier records of this species as there is a large possibility of confusion with House Finch

Carpodacus mexicanus, an escapee that has established breeding populations in Athens. Therefore, the Committee accepts only records with explicit details (and/or clear photos and sketches). The total number of accepted records will be announced in HRC website shortly.

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:

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

Evros, Evros Delta, 2250 άτομα, 20/2/2010, (D.Vangeluwe, I.Fakriadis).

The count of 2250 birds in Evros is the highest for this species in Greece.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Thessaloniki, Gallikos, 1 adult female, 2/1/2010, photos, (O.Tzimoulis).

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

Eurasian Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Hania, Kalyviani, 1 immature, 14/7/2007, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

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

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

Evros, Dadia, 1 immature, 25/4/2010, photos, (M.Kotsakis).

This is a species with an irregular presence in Greece.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Hania, Elafonisi, 1 individual, 16/1-18/2/2010, photo, (M.Dretakis, V.Kalogeraki).
Naxos, Agios Prokopios, 1 adult, 25/9/2010, photos, (I.Gavalas).

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

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Argolida, Nea Kios, 1 adult, 18/4/2010, photos, (P.Andriopoulos, G.Papastefanou, E.Avgeris).

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

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 762 individuals, 26/6/2010, photos, (G.Yfantis).

An impressive gathering of the species for Greece.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 6 individuals, 8/9/2010, photos, (T.Kourouzidis, E.Katrana, E.Papadraga).

An impressive gathering of the species for Greece.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Kavala, Palio, 1 first winter, 9/2/2010, photos, (A.Christidis).

This species has an irregular presence in Greece.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Halkidiki, Agios Mamas, 1289 individuals, 2/3/2010, (S.Kalpakis).

An impressive gathering of the species for Greece.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

Thessaloniki, Vasilika, 1 juvenile, 18/7/2010, found dead photos, (S.Kazantzidis).

This species has an irregular presence in Greece.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 3 individuals, 6/1/2009, photo, (T.Robinson).

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

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima/lutea*

Hania, Georgioupoli, 2 adults males, 29/9/2009, photos, (A.Vrielink).

The specific subspecies is very rarely observed in Greece.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

Samos, Karlovasi, 1 adult male κατ 1 adult female, 24/4/2010, photos, (B.Darvill).

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

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Hania, Sougia, 1 adult male, 24/1/2009, photos, (N.Samaritakis, A.Kouroupaki).

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

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Hania, Agia, 1 adult, 26/2/2010, photo, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).

This is one of the few records of the species in Crete.

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

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Hania, Platanias, 1 adult male και 1 adult female, 20+21/10/2010, photos, (H.Lough, P.Lough).

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Attiki, Loutsa, 2 immatures, 31/8/2009, photo, (P.Petrou).

Attiki, Shinias, 5 immatures, 2/1/2010, photos, (N.Fokas).

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:

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Arta, Tsoukalio, 1 adult, 2/5/2010, photos.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*

Magnisia, Karla, 1 immature, 3/4/2010, photos.

Magnisia, Karla, 1 adult, 3/4/2010, photo.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

Lesvos, Potamia, 1 adult, 1/1/2009.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Lesvos, Sigri, 1 individual, 11/9/2009.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Zakynthos, Agios Dimitrios, 1 individual, 5/10/2008.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata maura*

Lesvos, Vatera, 1 adult female, 15/11/2009, photo.

Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult male, 21/1/2010, photos.

Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult male, 28/2/2010, photos.

Attiki, Shinias, 1 adult male, 18/4/2010, photo.

Attiki, Vravra, 1 adult male, 2/5/2010, photos.

Attiki, Loutros, 1 adult male, 3/5/2010, photo.

Attiki, Shinias, 1 adult male, 6/5/2010, photo.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*
Irakleia, Panagia, 1 first year, 2/9/2010, photos.

Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis*
Larisa, Rizi, 1 first year female, 1/1/2009, photos.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*
Hania, Fragokastello, 1 pair, 19/4/2004.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*
Lesvos, Petra, 1 juvenile, 23/8/2010.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*
Limnos, Sardes, 1 adult male, 2/9/2010, photos.

V. Total evaluation results

In the year 2010, the Committee evaluated 109 registration forms. Of them, 88 records were accepted to Category A and 3 records added to Category E (83.50%), while 18 records were not accepted (16.50%) to Category A.

VI. 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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VII. References

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HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman: George Handrinos

Secretary: Nikos Probonas

Members: Kostas Papaconstantinou, Michalis Dretakis, Theodoros Kominos, Apostolis Christopoulos, Maria Dimaki

With the support of the Hellenic Ornithological Society and the Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre.