



## HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2012

The following evaluations concern reports sent to the Committee for 2012. 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, 2011b).

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, 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*

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult male, 17/10/2012, photo, (D.Kokkinidis, E.Stets, P.Mantzouratou, D.Koutsaftis, M.Koutsaftis).

---

#### **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Serres, Kerkini, 1 adult male, 8/1/2011, (K.Papadopoulos).

---

#### **Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 individual, 14/1/2011, (O.Tzimoulis).

Xanthi, Porto Lagos, 1 adult, 2/12/2011, (E.Stavrakas).  
Thessaloniki, Volvi, 4 adults, 15/1/2012, (E.Karta, P.Kourakli).  
Thessaloniki, Volvi, 1 adult, 5/12/2012, photos, (E.Karta, E.Tserkezidou).

---

**European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus***

Astypalaia, Kaminakia, 1 adult, 8/4/1998, found dead, (R.Tsiakiris).  
Symi, sea area 10 mi W of Symi, 1 individual, 2/9/2005, (P.Latsoudis, E.Bourdakis, K.Papaconstantinou).  
Lesvos, sea area S of Gera, 1 adult, 30/4/2010, (A.Christopoulos).  
Lesvos, sea area SE of Lesvos, 7 individuals, 28/6/2010, (C.G.Villalba).  
Magnisia, sea area SE of Skantzoura, 1 individual, 20/7/2010, (K.Gaganis, M.Panagiotopoulou, J.Leconte).  
Lesvos, sea area S of Vatera, 2 individuals, 22/7/2010, (K.Gaganis, M.Panagiotopoulou, J.Leconte).  
Evoia, sea area N of Prasouda, 1 individual, 23/7/2010, (A.Dimalexis).  
Evoia, sea area NE of Kymi, 1 adult, 29/5/2011, (K.Gaganis, E.Ganiatsou).  
Magnisia, sea area SW of Skantzoura, 1 adult, 29/5/2011, (K.Gaganis, E.Ganiatsou).  
Limnos, sea area SW of Tigani, 1 adult, 1/6/2011, (K.Gaganis, E.Ganiatsou).  
Lesvos, sea area 22 nm SW of Sigri, 1 individual, 23/7/2011, (K.Gaganis, V.Trigou).  
Limnos, sea area NW of Mourtzeflos, 1 individual, 27/7/2011, (K.Gaganis, V.Trigou).  
Anafi, sea area 10 mi E of Anafi, 1 adult, 18/5/2012, (E.Kaniastas).  
Evoia, sea area N of Prasouda, 2 individuals, 22/6/2012, (N.Probonas).

*There are also other records not submitted to the Committee.*

---

**Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus***

Kerkyra, Lefkimmi, 1 second winter, 27/12/2011, photos, (I.Gasteratos, K.Apergis).  
Attiki, Sounio, 1 third winter, 27/1-5/2/2012, photo, (C.Vlachos, E.Skordos).  
Arkadia, Paralio Astros, 3 second year, 23/5/2012, photos, (P.Leontidis).  
Ahaia, sea area N of Patra, 2 second year, 18/6/2012, (K.Papaconstantinou).

**Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca***

Aitoloakarnania, Valti, 1 adult, 3-12/6/2012, photos, (N.Boukas, T.Kominos, K.Papaconstantinou, N.Kardakari, K.Lianos, A.Boukas, C.Vlachos, N.Tsiopelas, N.Paterekas, P.Petrou, N.Probonas, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis, N.Noulas, P.Mantzouratou, I.Rousopoulos, D.Koutsaftis, M.Koutsaftis, I.Kasvikis, N.Palaios, I.Gasteratos).

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

**Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus***

Evros, Evros Delta, 2 individuals, 9-13/2/2012, (B.Voslamber, G.Troost, I.Fakriadis, G.Voulgaridis).  
Pieria, Kitros, 3 first winter, 23/2/2012, photos, (V.Giannakouris, K.Giannakouris).  
Evros, Evros Delta, 1 first winter, 25/2/2012, photos, (I.Fakriadis).  
Halkidiki, Agios Mamas, 1 first winter, 26/2/2012, photos, (L.Katerinopoulos, A.Kaltsis, K.Ntemiri).  
Rodopi, Ismarida, 1 first winter, 6/3/2012, photo, (D.Kokkinidis).  
Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult male, 25/12/2012, photo, (K.Panagiotidis).

*There are also other records not submitted to the Committee.*

---

**Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis***

Irakleio, Armanogeia, 1 first winter, 4/10/2012, photos, (M.Dretakis, A.Cain, K.Draisin, T.Cameron).

Lasithi, Lapathos, 1 immature, 18/11/2012, photos, (V.Pitropakis).

*There are 38 previous records of the species in Greece.*

---

**Corn Crane *Crex crex***

Lesvos, Kremasti, 1 adult, 29/4/2007, photo, (M.Cassidy, J.Cassidy).

Xanthi, Vafeika, 1 juvenile, 3/8/2012, found dead, photos, (A.Michailidou, D.Michailidou, V.Terzis).

Rodopi, Proskynites, 1 first year, 24/9/2012, found wounded, photo, (D.Kokkinidis).

---

**Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax***

Evros, Evros Delta, 2 individuals, 22/11-1/12/2011, (P.Ioannidis, E.Stavrakas).

Serres, Kerkini, 1 adult male and 1 adult female, 7/12/2011-19/1/2012, photos, (T.Naziridis, K.Papadopoulos).

Xanthi, Porto Lagos, 1 adult female, 4/1/2012, photos, (S.Skareas).

Evros, Evros Delta, 21 individuals, 21+22/1/2012, photos, (I.Fakriadis, G.Katsadorakis).

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 individual, 7/12/2012, (A.Anastasiadis).

Evros, Evros Delta, 10 individuals, 10/12/2012, (A.Anastasiadis).

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult female, 13/12/2012, photo, (G.Voulgaridis).

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult female, 18/12/2012, photo, (G.Voulgaridis, K.Panagiotidis).

*The bird from Evros Delta on 13/12/2012 was illegally shot and handed over to the Evros Delta Management Agency.*

---

**Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni***

Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult, 7/5/2006, photos, (M.Sveikutis, T.Sveikutis).

*There are also other records not submitted to the Committee.*

---

**Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos***

Attiki, Loutsa, 1 first year, 14-21/9/2012, photos, (E.Stavrakas, T.Gaitanakis, G.Beriatos, N.Tsiopelas, T.Kominos, A.Galanaki, E.Bourdakis, N.Probonas, N.Petrou, P.Petrou, C.Vlachos, I.Vlatsiotis, C.Zografou, N.Fokas, K.Gaganis, G.Alexandris, P.Andriopoulos, M.Moschovis, G.Papagiannis, G.Georgiou, P.Latsoudis, V.Trigou, S.Skareas).

Naxos, Agios Prokopios, 29/9/2012, 1 first year, photos, (I.Gavalas).

Kos, Tigaki, 1 first year, 2-10/10/2012, (C.Linfoot, P.Barratt, A.Barratt).

Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 first year, 4/10/2012, photos, (C.Vlachos, P.Perantonakis, E.Papadomanolakis).

*Before these records, there were a total of 5 observations of the species in Greece.*

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis***

Attiki, Spata, 1 first year, 1-4/9/2012, photos, (I.Vlatsiotis, N.Fokas, K.Gaganis, N.Probonas, G.Beriatos, G.Papagiannis, I.Papagiannis, S.Skareas, C.Vlachos, T.Kominos, A.Galanaki, P.Petrou, E.Stavrakas, T.Gaitanakis, P.Andriopoulos, A.Kaltsis, N.Tsiopelas, I.Beriatou).

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

**Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus***

Kavala, Erateino and Agiasma, 1 adult, 9/12/2012, photo, (I.Kotzapanagiotis).

*Before this record, there were a total of 24 observations of the species in Greece.*

---

**Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus***

Lesvos, Kalloni, 2 adults, 23/10/2001, (H.Buckx, L.Buckx).

*This is the 1<sup>st</sup> observation of this species in Lesvos and the 13<sup>th</sup> in Greece.*

---

**Greater Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus***

Serres, Kerkini, 1 adult, 8/1/2012, photos, (P.Petrou, K.Papadopoulos, S.Mountzelos).

---

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

Hania, Plakias, 1 adult, 18/4/2012, photos, (P.Precey, I.Christofidis, D.Enecott).

Lesvos, Faneromeni, 1 adult male, 22/4/2012, photo, (R.Chittenden, A.Piper, G.Piper).

Samos, Potokaki, 1 adult male, 9/5/2012, photo, (E.Mackrill).

Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult male, 12/5/2012, photo, (S.P.Dudley, E.Dudley, P.Manning, V.Manning, A.Vuijk).

Antikythira, Aleviziana, 1 adult, 21/5/2012, photos, (C.Barboutis, J.Delanoy, J.Conde, M.Vega).

*Before these records, there were a total of 39 observations of the species in Greece.*

---

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

Naxos, Alyki, 1 adult, 1/5/2002, (I.Gavalas).

Irakleia, Panagia, 1 first year, 21/9/2002, (I.Gavalas).

Irakleia, Papas, 1 adult, 14/9/2003, (I.Gavalas).

Naxos, Agios Prokopios, 1 adult, 30/4/2004, (I.Gavalas).

Naxos, Alyki and Agios Prokopios, 1 first year, 22/9/2004, (I.Gavalas).

Hania, Omalos, 1 first year, 3/10/2010, photos, (N.Samaritakis).

Attiki, Spata, 1 first year, 14+15/9/2012, photos, (N.Fokas, I.Vlatsiotis).

Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 individual, 6/10/2012, (R.Thorpe).

*There are also other records not submitted to the Committee.*

---

**Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica***

Lesvos, Vergias, 1 individual, 24/10/2001, (H.Buckx).

Attiki, Shinias, 1 individual, 15/3/2012, photo, (C.Vlachos).

Antikythira, Aleviziana, 1 adult female, 26/3/2012, ringed, photo, (HBRC).

---

---

**White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis*

Lesvos, Eftalou, 1 adult male, 9/5/2012, photo, (C.Stephens, C.Stephens).

---

**Finsch's Wheatear** *Oenanthe finschii*

Lesvos, Potamia, 1 adult male, 15-20/5/1998, sketch, (D.Walbridge, R.Lambert, S.Lambert, M.Walbridge, P.Kent).

*Before this record, there were a total of 4 observations of the species in Greece.*

---

**Hooded Wheatear** *Oenanthe monacha*

Kavala, Keramoti, 1 adult female, 20/5/2012, photos, (H.Bekel, H.Köhler, D.Wegener, H.Kobialka, H.Plöhr, B.von Höveling).

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

---

**Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola*

Lesvos, Tsiknias, 1 adult, 24/4/2012, sketch, (S.Wytema).

*This is the 1<sup>st</sup> observation of this species in Lesvos and the 5<sup>th</sup> in Greece.*

---

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*

Antikythira, Aleviziana, 1 adult, 22/4/2012, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

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

---

**Spectacled Warbler** *Sylvia conspicillata*

Lesvos, Kontisia, 1 adult male, 19/4/2011, (P.Manning, V.Manning).

*There are also other records not submitted to the Committee.*

---

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

Kos, Dikaiois, 1 individual, 7/10/2012, (C.Linfoot).

Lasithi, Roussa Ekklisia, 1 adult, 30/10/2012, photos, (N.Marakis).

*Before these records, there were a total of 10 observations of the species in Greece.*

---

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Irakleio, Malia, 1 individual, 15/11/2012, ringed, photos, (M.Noidou, D.De Mesel).

*This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> observation of this species in Greece, 34 years after the last one (Hania, 1978).*

---

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Lesvos, Faneromeni, 1 adult male, 7/5/2000, sketch, (P.Parsons, M.Hnatiuk, D.Lewis, N.Tovey).

Antikythira, Aleviziana, 1 first year, 30/9/2010, ringed, photos, (G.Cumbo).

---

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*

Serres, Kerkini, 1 adult male, 26/11/2012, photos, (K.Papadopoulos, S.Mountzelos).

*Before this record, there were a total of 4 observations of the species in Greece.*

---

**Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*

Lesvos, Sigri, 1 first year, 16/9/2012, sketch, (S.Wytema).

*This is the 1<sup>st</sup> observation of this species in Lesvos and the 5<sup>th</sup> 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. In every record there is an explanatory text:

---

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Aitoloakarnania, Tournida, 1 adult male, 23/6/2010, photos, (T.Stalling, D.Stalling).

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

---

**Eurasian Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

Attiki, Spata, 8 individuals, 11/4/2012, photos, (N.Fokas).

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

---

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult and 3 nestlings, 25/5/2010, photos, (K.Panagiotidis).

*This species breeds in Evros Delta.*

---

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 1 adult, 1/10/2010, photo, (V.Giannakouris, K.Giannakouris).

Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 1 adult, 14/9/2011, photo, (V.Giannakouris, K.Giannakouris).

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

---

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 individual, 31/10+2/11/2012, photos, (W.Kappes, E.Kappes).

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

---

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*

Attiki, Stamata, 1 pair, 1/4/2007, photo, (K.Giannakouris, V.Giannakouris).

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

---

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Kilkis, Pikrolimni, 3 individuals, 17/1/2012, photos, (B.Tsivintzeli, Z.Fondoulakou).

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

---

**Boreal Owl** *Aegolius funereus*

Pieria, Olympos, 1 juvenile, 28/6/2002, photos, (N.Nezis, D.Pourliotis).

*This record indicates breeding of the species in this area.*

---

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

Attiki, Shinias, 1 adult female, 25-27/3/2012, photo, (P.Andriopoulos, F.Rehsteiner, S.Skareas, E.Stavrakas, T.Gaitanakis, G.Beriatos, I.Vlatsiotis).

*This species was recently removed from the List of the Rare Birds of 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 escapees and are not therefore included in the List of the Birds of Greece:

---

**Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 adult male, 9-11/1/2012, photos, (I.Sylitidis, C.Toskos, A.Vasileiou).

---

**White-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucotis*

Attiki, Agios Kosmas, 1 adult male, 13/3/1994, sketch, (N.Probonas, A.Spanos, G.Soranidis).

---

### **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:

---

**Steppe Buzzard** *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 adult, 21/12/2011, photos.

---

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

Irakleio, Vahos Viannou, 1 immature, 12/10/2012, photos.

---

**Saker Falcon** *Falco cherrug*  
Hania, Agia, 1 individual, 18/10/2012, photo.

---

**Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni*  
Pieria, Kitros, 1 juvenile, 17/7/2008, photo.

---

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus pamirensis*  
Ileia, Lehaina, 1 individual, 6/5/2012, photos.

---

**White-eyed Gull** *Larus leucophthalmus*  
Evros, Evros Delta, 3 adults, 16/6/2011, photos.

---

**Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*  
Kerkyra, Lefkimmi, 1 juvenile, 17/8/2012, photos.

---

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*  
Attiki, Oropos, 1 adult, 28/12/2011, photo.

---

**Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*  
Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult, 4/9/2004, photos.

---

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*  
Kefallonia, Skala, 1 adult, 9/8/2012.

---

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba baicalensis*  
Serres, Kerkini, 1 individual, 25/3/2011, photos.

---

**Finsch's Wheatear** *Oenanthe finschii*  
Lesvos, Olympos, 1 adult male, 27/3/2012.

---

**Menetries's Warbler** *Sylvia mystacea*  
Lesvos, Kavaki, 1 adult male, 12/4/2012, photos.

---

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
Argolida, Alea, 1 first winter, 26/12/2012, photos.

---

## **V. Total evaluation results**

In the year 2012, the Committee evaluated 110 registration forms. Of them, 94 records were accepted to Category A and 2 records added to Category E (87.25%), while 14 records were not accepted (12.75%) 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:

Per Alström

Steve P. Dudley

Jakob Fric

Stavros Kalpakis

Steven Wytéma

---

## **VII. References**

AERC TAC, 2003a: AERC TAC's Taxonomic Recommendations. Online version: <http://www.aerc.eu/tac.html>

AERC TAC, 2003b: AERC TAC Checklist of bird taxa occurring in Western Palearctic region, with distributional notes on subspecies - 15th Draft. Online version: <http://www.aerc.eu/tac.html>

AERC TAC, 2011a: AERC TAC's taxonomic recommendations: 2011 report. Online version: <http://www.aerc.eu/tac.html>

AERC TAC, 2011b: AERC list of Western Palearctic birds. December 2011 version. Online version: <http://www.aerc.eu/tac.html>

Hellenic Rarities Committee, 2006: Annual Report – 2005. Website: [http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual\\_reports.htm](http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual_reports.htm)

Hellenic Rarities Committee, 2007: Annual Report – 2006. Website: [http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual\\_reports.htm](http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual_reports.htm)

Hellenic Rarities Committee, 2008: Annual Report – 2007. Website: [http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual\\_reports.htm](http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual_reports.htm)

Hellenic Rarities Committee, 2009: Annual Report – 2008. Website: [http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual\\_reports.htm](http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual_reports.htm)

Hellenic Rarities Committee, 2010: Annual Report – 2009. Website: [http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual\\_reports.htm](http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual_reports.htm)

Hellenic Rarities Committee, 2011: Annual Report – 2010. Website: [http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual\\_reports.htm](http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual_reports.htm)

Hellenic Rarities Committee, 2012: Annual Report – 2011. Website: [http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual\\_reports.htm](http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual_reports.htm)

Handrinos, G., & Akriotis, T., 1997: The Birds of Greece. Helm, A & C Black, London.

Dudley, S.P. 2013. Lesvos Birds 2012. Lesvos Birding. Website:  
<http://lesvosbirding.com/bird-reports/lesvos-birds-2012/>

---

The following text, when used, is cited as follows:  
Hellenic Rarities Committee, 2013: Annual Report – 2012. Website:  
[http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual\\_reports.htm](http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/gr/eaop/annual_reports.htm)

**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.**