



HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2013

The following evaluations concern reports sent to the Committee for 2013. 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, 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:

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Thessaloniki, Volvi, 1 first winter male and 3 individuals, 12/1/2013, (I.Tsougrakis, P.Doubalakidis).

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Fthiotida, Sperheios Delta, 2 adults, 12/1/2013, (E.Bourdakis).

Thessaloniki, Gallikos Delta, 1 adult, 20/1/2013, photo, (O.Tzimoulis, S.Georgeli, S.Vasileiadis).

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Lesvos, sea area N of Neapoli, 1 adult, 26/4/2007, (C.Vlachos).

Psara, sea area NW of Psara, 1 adult, 17/5/2009, (J.Fric, S.Zakkak, A.Karamanlidis, M.Psaradelli).

Skyros, sea area SW of Skyros, 3 adults, 17/5/2009, (J.Fric, S.Zakkak, A.Karamanlidis, M.Psaradelli).

Lesvos, sea area W of Sigri, 1 individual, 3/7/2009, (S.Zakkak, M.Panagiotopoulou).

Ileia, sea area SW of Kyllini, 2 individuals, 21/8/2009, (A.López).

Ikaria, sea area between Ikaria and Thymainaki, 1 adult, 9/4/2011, (J.Fric, K.Gaganis, V.Saravia Mullin).

Paros, sea area NE of Paros, 26 individuals, 26/7/2012, (A.Evangelidis, J.Fric, K.Papaconstantinou, M.Tzali).

Thasos, sea area 3 mi E of Potamia, 1 adult, 15/7/2013, found exhausted, photos, (A.Christidis, E.Christoforou).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Lesvos, sea area 2 km NW of Petra, 1 adult, 6/5/2012, (R.de Lange).

Kerkyra, Korissia, 1 first winter, 13/1/2013, photos, (I.Gasteratos, K.Apergis).

Kerkyra, Lefkimmi, 1 first winter, 27/1/2013, photos, (I.Gasteratos, K.Apergis).

Rodopi, sea area S of Xirolimni, 1 first winter, 29/11/2013, found wounded, photos, (A.Michailidou, S.Kazantzidis, V.Terzis, E.Patetsini).

The Committee is aware of, and awaits the submission of, several other observations. The Lesvos record is the 1st record for the island.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rodopi, Ismarida, 1 first winter, 17/1/2013, photos, (E.Michailidis, M.Panagiotopoulou, H.Jerrentrup, A.Michailidou, V.Terzis).

There are also other records not submitted to the Committee.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

Antikythira, Lydi, 1 immature, 21/9/2013, (A.Evangelidis, G.F.Flaviu).

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

Corn Crake *Crex crex*

Fthiotida, Sperheios Delta, 3 adults, 24/4/2009, (A.Christopoulos).

Xanthi, Petrohori, 1 adult, 28/4/2010, found dead, photo, (A.Michailidou).

Lesvos, Faneromeni, 1 adult, 30/4/2013, found dead, photo, (E.Roy).

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*

Hania, Moronis, 1 adult, 26/12/2013, photos, (A.Zisimopoulou Roukounaki, A.Roukounakis).

This is the 2nd observation in Greece, 17 years after the last one (Paros, 1996).

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

Thessaloniki, Koroneia, 6 individuals, 2-22/1/2013, photos, (E.Karta, M.Panagiotopoulou, L.Sidiropoulos, P.Azmanis, E.Bourdakis, I.Tsougrakis, E.Tserkezidou).

Evros, Evros Delta, 45 individuals, 29/1/2013, (I.Fakriadis, P.Ioannidis).

Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult female, 8/12/2013, photos, (K.Panagiotidis).

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

Attiki, Spata, 1 adult, 14-17/3/2013, photo, (N.Fokas, I.Vlatsiotis, K.Gaganis).

Halki, Traheia, 1 pair and 2 juveniles, 17/5/2013, (J.Hölzinger).

Before these records, there were a total of 9 observations of the species in Greece.

The record from Halki is the first confirmed breeding record of this species in Greece.

Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*

Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult male, 11+13/5/2013, sketch, (D.Walbridge, M.Walbridge, D.Holden, A.Holden).

This is the 6th observation of this species in Greece and the 2nd in Lesvos.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*

Rodos, Rodos, 1 adult, 14/1/2010, photo, (E.Stavrakas).

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis meena*

Serres, Kerkini, 1 adult, 15/11/2013, photos, (A.Tsafonis, A.Tsafonis).

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Hania, Moronis, 1 adult, 27/12/2013, photos, (N.Samatirakis, V.Pitropakis).

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

Lasithi, Kato Zakros, 3 adults, 19-22/4/1999, photo, (B.Baijot).

Lasithi, Kato Zakros, 1 adult, 27/4/1999, (B.Baijot).

Lasithi, Kato Zakros, 3 adults, 20+21/4/2001, (B.Baijot).

Lasithi, Sfaka, 4 adults, 15/4/2006, (B.Baijot).

Lasithi, Sfaka, 1 adult, 24/3/2007, (B.Baijot).

Lasithi, Sfaka, 4 adults, 24/4/2007, (B.Baijot).

Lasithi, Sfaka, 1 adult, 13/4/2008, (B.Baijot).

Lasithi, Sfaka, 1 adult female, 17-19/5/2010, photo, (B.Baijot).

Lasithi, Sfaka, 7 adults, 13-16/3/2013, (B.Baijot).

Argolida, Timenio, 1 adult female, 22/3-1/4/2013, photos, (I.Stoyanova Radeva, A.Starfas, G.Starfas, P.Leontidis, E.Starfa, D.Foteinos, S.Tsilibi, N.Tsiopelas, V.Antoniou, V.Kalomoiri, N.Probonas, C.Vlachos, M.Kotsakis, G.Alexandris, P.Andriopoulos, G.Beriatos, E.Stavrakas, T.Gaitanakis, P.Petrou, M.Moschona, A.Tsafonis, S.Tsafonis, E.Varsou, A.Tsafonis, P.Mantzouratou, D.Koutsaftis, M.Koutsaftis, M.Moschovis, N.Kardakari, K.Papaconstantinou, M.Papaconstantinou, A.Theodoropoulou, S.Kalloutsi, A.Marinis).

Rodos, Kattavia, 2 adults, 29/3/2013, photo, (T.Kuppel).

Irakleio, Anapodaris, 1 adult male, 30/3/2013, photo, (V.Pitropakis).

Hania, Vlites, 1 adult male, 1/4/2013, photo, (P.Perantonakis).

Hania, Agios Pavlos, 1 adult male, 2/4/2013, sketch, (T.Hall, G.James).

Lasithi, Sfaka, 2 adults, 7/4/2013, (B.Baijot).
Hania, Trachilos, 1 adult female, 7/4/2013, photos, (C.Turvey, E.Turvey, A.Cross).
Gavdos, Christos, 2 adults, 13/4/2013, (T.Fransson, D.Chatzidakis).

Before these records, there were a total of 44 observations of the species in Greece.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 individual, 1+2/10/2013, (A.J.Swann).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Irakleio, Malia, 1 first year male *L.s.cyanecula*, 26/9/2011, ringed, photos, (D.De Mesel, M.Noidou).

Lesvos, Faneromeni, 1 adult female, 1/4/2013, photos, (E.Kappes, W.Kappes).

Thessaloniki, Volvi, 2 first year females, 29/9/2013, 1 first year female ringed, photos, (HBRC, A.Tsilianidis).

Irakleio, Malia, 1 first year male, 8/10/2013, ringed, photos, (D.De Mesel, M.Noidou).

White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis*

Lesvos, Ipsilou, 1 adult male, 9/5/2001, photo, (D.Ferguson).

Lesvos, Petrified Forest Park, 2 adult males and 1 adult female, 17/4-16/5/2013, photos, (F.Baldé, S.P.Dudley, K.Mullarney, P.Preston, N.Preston, D.Walbridge, C.Vlachos, P.Perantonakis, A.Tsaknakis, M.Vasilakakis, D.Dimitriou, P.Tsakmakis, P.Petrou, M.Kotsakis, G.Alexandris).

The Lesvos record is only the second confirmed breeding attempt on the island (and for Greece): food passing was observed between one of the males and the female (Dudley, 2013).

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*

Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult, 19/5/2013, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

This is the 2nd observation of this species in Greece.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

Strofades, Stamfani, 1 adult male, 15/4/1995, ringed, (HBRC).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Samos, Kerveli, 1 individual, 29/10/2013, photos, (A.Korakis).

Irakleio, Lentas, 1 individual, 31/10/2013, photos, (M.Schmidt).

Before these records, there were a total of 12 observations of the species in Greece.

Red-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus*

Samos, Palaiokastro, 1 adult male, 23/12/2013, (A.Korakis).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*

Pella, Voras, 1 first winter male, 2/2/2013, photos, (M.Kotsakis, G.Alexandris, C.Vlachos, O.Tzimoulis, E.Simitzi, A.Chazarakis, M.Moschona, E.Stets, C.Dimadis, T.Kourouzidis, A.Kantarellos, A.Vlachos).

Before this record, there were a total of 5 observations of the species in Greece.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

Fokida, Vardousia, 1 adult male, 10/11/2013, photos, (G.Alexandris, P.Petrou).

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:

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Thessaloniki, Koroneia, 2 adults, 5/1/2013, (P.Azmanis, M.Panagiotopoulou, L.Sidiropoulos).

This species was recently removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece, but this is one of the very few records of the species in central Macedonia.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Evros, Evros Delta, 110.395 individuals, 20/1/2013, (I.Fakriadis, P.Ioannidis, A.Athanasiadis, G.Katsadorakis, E.Makrygianni).

An impressive gathering of the species for Greece.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Andros, Palaioполи, 1 immature, 5/3/2012, photos, (C.Zografou).

This species nests in the neighboring islands of Naxos and Irakleia.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Ileia, Kotyhi, 3 individuals, 13/1/2013, photo, (N.Tsiopelas, P.Mantzouratou, M.Koutsaftis).

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

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Evros, Evros Delta, 844 individuals, 18/7/2013, (I.Fakriadis, P.Ioannidis).

An impressive gathering of the species for Greece.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Evros, Evros Delta, 1.069 individuals, 3/7/2013, (I.Fakriadis, P.Ioannidis).

An impressive gathering of the species for Greece.

Boreal Owl *Aegolius funereus*

Fthiotida, Oiti, 1 individual, 14+15/7/2010, (A.Christopoulos, G.Satasis).

Fthiotida, Oiti, 1 individual, 6/11/2013, (H.Alivizatos, I.Schogolev, S.Schogolev).

These records indicate presence of the species in the area.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

Attiki, Vravra, 1 second year male, 2/5/2013, photo, (E.Stavrakas).

Tinos, Vaketa, 1 second year male, 6/5/2013, photos, (J.Fagefors).

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

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Hania, Moronis, 1 adult, 21/11/2013, photos, (N.Samaritakis).

This is a rarely seen subspecies in Greece.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Attiki, Brexiza, 1 individual, 2/11/2013, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

This is a rarely seen subspecies in Greece.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Hania, Kormokopos, 3 individuals, 9/8/2013, photos, (A.Hargrave, A.Hargrave).

This is a species with an irregular occurrence 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:

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Attiki, Porto Rafti, 2 adults, 11/4/2010, photo, (M.Ladonikola).

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*

Fthiotida, Lianokladi, 1 adult male, 14+15/8/2013, photos, (A.Christopoulos).

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Attiki, Koumoundourou, 1 adult, 9/6/2009, (A.Christopoulos).

Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*

Limnos, Alyki, 1 adult, 20/1/2011, (E.Kakalis, A.Papanastasiou).

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Attiki, Ethnikos Kipos, 22 individuals, 25/11/2010, photos, (A.Christopoulos, A.Petrikis).

Attiki, Ethnikos Kipos, 9 individuals, 19/4/2011, (N.Probonas).

Attiki, Ethnikos Kipos, 5 individuals, 28/4/2013, photo, (M.Kallionaki).

Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis*

Kavala, Chrysoupoli, 1 individual, 4/5/2013, photos, (A.Wirth, J.A.Wirth).

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*

Attiki, Ethnikos Kipos, 1 adult male, 14/4/2011, (N.Probonas).

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:

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Thessaloniki, Volvi, 2 individuals, photos, 25/10/2013.

Thessaloniki, Volvi, 3 individuals, 5/11/2013.

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*

Rethymno, sea area N of Rethymno, 1 individual, October 1991.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 1 individual, 13/1/2013, photos.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

Kilkis, Artzan, 1 female, 21/2/2012.

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

Thessaloniki, Loudias Delta, 1 adult, 21/7/2013, photos.

Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

Kavala, Pontolivado, 1 individual, 15/10/2013, photo.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*

Hios, Limani, 1 second winter, 8/3/2011, photos.

Evoia, Halkida, 1 immature, 12/1/2013, photos.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Argolida, Palaia Epidavros, 1 pair, 21/9/2013, photos.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

Rodopi, Ptelea, 1 adult, 18/7/2013, photos.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Lesvos, Kalloni, 1 adult, 25/4/2013, photos.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Attiki, Shinias, 1 individual, 16/9/2013, photos.

Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*

Kavala, Gerontas, 1 adult female, 21/4/2013, photos.

Karpathos, Ahordaia, 1 adult male, 11/6/2013.

Menetries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*

Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 first year, ringed, photos.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 first year, 27/9/2013.

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:

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

VI. Total evaluation results

In the year 2013, the Committee evaluated 101 registration forms.

Of them, 75 records were accepted to Category A and 9 records added to Category E (83.15%), while 17 records were not accepted (16.85%) to Category A.

VII. Acknowledgements

The Committee acknowledges the following experts (listed alphabetically) for their assistance on identification issues and with help in producing this report:

Steve P. Dudley

Jakob Fric

Danae Portolou

Hadoram Shirihai

Lars Svensson

Noam Weiss

Steven Wytéma

VIII. References

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The following text, when used, is cited as follows:

Hellenic Rarities Committee, 2014: Annual Report – 2013. Website:
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.**