



HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2017

The following evaluations concern reports sent to the Committee for 2017. 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, 2015).

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:

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus*

- Rodopi, Ismarida, 1 adult, 2/2/2017, (D.Vangeluwe, S.Kazantzidis).

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

- Argolida, Nea Kios, 1 first winter, 10-25/11/2016, photos, (S.Tsilibi, P.Leontidis, K.Papaconstantinou, N.Kardakari, M.Ladonikola, N.Probonas, G.Beriatos, A.Stoubas, E.Roukounakis, T.Gaitanakis, N.Tsiopelas, L.Zachari, E.Rantos, V.Chatzara, A.Tsaknakis, D.Zachos, A.Tsafonis, A.Marinis, N.Kachrimanis, K.Kachrimanis, D.Boteva, A.Boteva, P.Petrou, V.Antoniou, V.Kalomoiri).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 adult female, 5-17/12/2016, photos, (C.Vlachos, L.Zachari, K.Pougadaki, O.Tzimoulis, K.Stafylidis, M.Vamvakas, S.Vakirtzis, A.Tsilianidis, A.Tsaknakis, D.Zachos, M.Kotsakis, P.Petrou, G.Alexandris, P.Kampakis, T.Nikolopoulos, G.Goutakolis, D.Kaliakoudas, G.Kostikidis, K.Samaras, C.Koupareloudi, D.Katsaounis, V.Kalyva, P.Nakou, T.Bakas, K.Bestas, L.Paraskevopoulos).
- Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 adult female, 1-3/1/2017, photos, (K.Samaras).
- Thessaloniki, Volvi, 1 first winter, 18/1/2017, photo, (D.Vavylis, A.Bounas).
- Arta, Rodia, 1 adult male, 26+27/1/2017, photos, (N.Boukas, A.Galani).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

- Thessaloniki, Gallikos Delta, 3 first winter males, 4-18/12/2016, photos, (A.Tsilianidis, A.Tsaknakis, D.Zachos, O.Tzimoulis, M.Kotsakis, P.Petrou, G.Alexandris, P.Kampakis, T.Nikolopoulos, G.Goutakolis, D.Kaliakoudas, M.Vamvakas, G.Kostikidis, K.Samaras, C.Koupareloudi, D.Katsaounis, V.Kalyva, P.Mantzouratou, D.Karakolis, S.Kalloutsi, L.Paraskevopoulos, G.Beriatos, T.Gaiatanakis, N.Fokas).
- Attiki, Vourkari, 4 females, 11-29/12/2016, photos, (E.Rantos, V.Chatзара, E.Bourdakis, C.Vlachos, A.Stoubas, N.Tsiopelas, D.Baumane).
- Imathia, Agia Varvara, 1 first winter male, 20/12/2016, photo, (K.Samaras).
- Florina, Megali Prespa, 6 individuals, 14-28/1/2017, (A.Kastritis, E.Koutseri, A.Logothesi, C.Ninou, M.Malakou, C.Nikolaou, V.Saravia Mullin).
- Thessaloniki, Kalohori, 1 first winter male, 19/1/2017, photo, (A.Bounas, D.Vavylis).
- Kozani, Polyfyto, 14 individuals, 22/1/2017, photos, (D.Bousbouras).
- Thessaloniki, Volvi, 1 first winter male and 2 females, 22/1/2017, photo, (I.Tsougrakis, P.Doubalakidis, E.Karta, A.Demertzi, G.Yfantis).
- Thessaloniki, Kalamaria, 7 individuals, 22/2/2017, photos, (H.Tsilianidis).

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 adult, 6/1/2016, photos, (H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis).
- Thessaloniki, Gallikos Delta, 4 individuals, 23-31/1/2016, photos, (A.Tsilianidis, H.Tsilianidis).
- Thessaloniki, Gallikos Delta, 1 adult, 14/3/2016, photo, (P.Petrou, N.Sioziou).
- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 6 adults, 3-5/12/2016, photos, (O.Tzimoulis, T.Nikolopoulos, N.Probonas, A.Tsaknakis, P.Petrou, C.Vlachos).
- Xanthi, Porto Lagos, 1 adult, 14/1/2017, (A.Bounas, D.Vavylis, D.Kokkinidis).
- Thessaloniki, Kalamaria, 1 adult, 22/2/2017, photos, (H.Tsilianidis).
- Xanthi, Porto Lagos, 8 individuals, 27/12/2017, photos, (A.Tsafonis, A.Tsafonis, P.Varsou, D.Kokkinidis, Z.Foundoulakou, I.Gasteratos, G.Papagiannis).
- Xanthi, Vistonida, 1 individual, 27/12/2017, (A.Tsafonis, A.Tsafonis, P.Varsou, D.Kokkinidis, Z.Foundoulakou, I.Gasteratos, G.Papagiannis).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

- Lasithi, Trypitos, 1 first winter, 20/12/2012, (N.Marakis).

- Lakonia, Tainaro, 1 adult, 31/3/2015, photo, (T.Collins).
- Lakonia, Tainaro, 1 second year, 5/4/2015, photo, (T.Collins).
- Kerkyra, Korissia, 1 first winter, 15/1/2017, photos, (K.Apergis, I.Gasteratos, Z.Findoulakou).
- Kerkyra, Korissia, 3 adults, 31/1/2017, photos, (I.Gasteratos, Z.Findoulakou).
- Kerkyra, Korissia, 1 adult, 8/2/2017, photo, (I.Gasteratos).
- Kerkyra, Korissia, 5 adults και 1 first winter, 11/2/2017, (K.Apergis).
- Kerkyra, Korissia, 1 adult και 1 first winter, 14/2/2017, photo, (K.Apergis, I.Gasteratos, Z.Findoulakou).
- Kerkyra, Korissia, 1 adult, 21/2/2017, photo, (I.Gasteratos).
- Kerkyra, Megas Horos, 1 first winter, 21/2/2017, photo, (I.Gasteratos).
- Kerkyra, Arkoudilas, 1 first winter, 21/2/2017, photo, (I.Gasteratos).
- Kerkyra, Korissia, 1 first winter, 24-28/2/2017, photo, (I.Gasteratos, L.Alexaki, Z.Findoulakou, D.Kokkinidis, T.Theofanopoulos).
- Kerkyra, Korissia, 1 second year, 6/3/2017, photo, (I.Gasteratos).

The count of 6 individuals is the highest for this species in Greece.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

- Hania, Gramvousa, 1 immature and 1 second year, 18/4/2017, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey, R.MacDonald).
- Hania, Gramvousa, 1 second year, 20/4/2017, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).
- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 second year, 23/4/2017, photos, (K.Bairaktaridou, E.Navarrete, S.Vasileiadis).
- Hania, Kalyviani, 1 second year, 12/5/2017, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey).
- Irakleio, Kamares, 1 immature, 16/6/2017, photos, (J.Dockx).
- Hania, Omalos, 1 immature, 25/7/2017, photos, (P.Hytönen).

Corn Crane *Crex crex*

- Samos, Mesokampos, 1 individual, 22/1/2016, found dead, photos, (D.Woodfin Jones, K.Maridaki).

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*

- Thessaloniki, Kolchiko, 1 adult, 14/12/2017, found wounded, photos, (S.Pantelidis, E.Karta).

This is the 3rd observation for the species in Greece.

Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*

- Irakleio, Tympaki, 1 adult, 17/4/2017, photo, (P.Perantonakis, V.Pitropakis).

This is the 7th observation for the species in Greece.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

- Rodopi, Ismarida, 9 individuals, 12/1-6/2/2016, photos, (D.Kokkinidis, E.Stavrakas, E.Bourdakis).
- Rodopi, Elos, 2 females, 18/1/2016, photos, (D.Kokkinidis).
- Serres, Kerkini, 1 female, 10/12/2016, photo and videotape, (P.Lampila,

P.Tolvanen, I.Tsougrakis).

- Attiki, Spata, 2 females, 19/12/2016, photos, (T.Gaitanakis, I.Vlatsiotis, K.Gaganis, M.Moira, N.Fokas).
- Argolida, Nafplio, 1 female, 9/1/2017, photo, (A.Komninos, M.Bistolaki).
- Irakleio, Geropotamos, 1 adult male, 15/1/2017, photos, (M.Dretakis, M.Solanou, E.Roukounakis, I.Kontogeorgos).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 1 adult, 18/12/2016-6/1/2017, photos, (H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis, O.Tzimoulis, T.Nikolopoulos, G.Goutakolis, D.Karakolis, A.Salmas, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis, N.Fokas, G.Papagiannis, M.Vamvakas, L.Paraskevopoulos, M.Ladonikola, A.Paliouras, S.Tsilibi, S.Vakirtzis, V.Kalyva, D.Zachos, A.Tsaknakis, N.Probonas).

This is the 6th observation for the species in Greece.

Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*

- Attiki, Spata, 1 adult, 1-3/4/2017, photos, (I.Vlatsiotis).

This is the 6th observation of this species in Greece, 10 years after the last (Kerkini, 2007).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

- Lesvos, Alykoudi, 1 second year, 11-24/5/2017, photos, (M.Sveikutis, T.Sveikutis, M.Smith).
- Naxos, Agios Prokopios, 1 first year, 17-21/9/2017, photos, (A.Salteri, I.Banakakis, K.Fratzeskos, E.Vasila).
- Attiki, Vourkari, 1 first year, 2-9/10/2017, photos, (I.Chatziathanasiou, K.Koumroglou, E.Janglais, A.Tsaknakis, A.Stoubas, D.Zachos, S.Kollaros, P.Petrou, L.Zachari, I.Krevatopoulos, N.Probonas, G.Beriatos, D.Koutsaftis, M.Kotsakis, K.Papaconstantinou, E.Rantos, N.Kardakari, S.Tsilibi, A.Marinis, N.Fokas, C.Vlachos, M.Abatzoglou).

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

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 adult, 4/5/2009, (V.Stork, T.Stork).

Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

- Irakleio, Limani, 1 second winter, 12/12/2015-31/1/2016, photos, (M.Dretakis).
- Irakleio, Limani, 1 first winter, 17/11/2016, photos, (M.Dretakis).
- Irakleio, Limani and Giofyros, 1 adult, 28/12/2016-6/3/2017, photos, (E.Stavrakas, M.Dretakis).
- Hania, Moronis, 1 first winter, 11-17/2/2017, photos, (N.Samaritakis, E.Stavrakas).

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*

- Evoia, Halkida, 1 adult, 11/12/2016, photos, (N.Probonas).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

- Lakonia, Tainaro, 1 adult, 31/3+1/4/2015, photos, (T.Collins).
- Lakonia, Tainaro, 1 adult, 3+4/4/2015, photos, (T.Collins).
- Lakonia, Tainaro, 1 adult, 6/4/2015, photo, (T.Collins).
- Attiki, Spata, 1 adult, 10+11/1/2017, photos, (I.Vlatsiotis, N.Fokas, M.Moira).
- Attiki, Spata, 1 first winter, 20/1/2017, photos, (I.Vlatsiotis, N.Fokas, M.Moira).

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*

- Irakleio, Omalos Viannou, 1 first year, 30/9/2014, photos, (M.Dretakis, E.Roukounakis).

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

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

- Antikythira, Potamos, 1 individual, 1+2/10/2016, photos, (H.Andersson, N.Tsiopelas, B.A.Koukopoulos, E.Navarrete, K.Tsiasioti, A.Galani).
- Irakleia, Agios Georgios, 1 individual, 8/10/2016, (M.Persson).
- Attiki, Ymittos, 2 individuals, 15+16/10/2016, photos, (S.Skareas, P.Meehan, A.Howe, A.Tsafonis, N.Probonas, M.Kotsakis, D.Zachos, S.Tsafonis, C.Vlachos).
- Attiki, Brexiza, 1 first year male, 16/10/2016, ringed, photos, (HBRC).
- Fthiotida, Lianokladi, 2 individuals, 29/10-24/12/2016, photo, (A.Christopoulos, T.Theofanopoulos, D.Kokkinidis).
- Aitoloakarnania, Menidi, 1 individual, 29/10/2016, photos, (S.Kollaros, E.Stavrakas, T.Gaitanakis, P.Kapidis, A.Koutavaki).
- Hios, Livadia, 1 individual, 17+18/10/2017, photos, (S.Tazoglou).
- Thessaloniki, Vasilika, 1 adult, 22/10/2017, ringed, photo, (HBRC).

Before these records, there were 18 observations of the species in Greece.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult, 19/4/2017, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

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

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus isabellinus*

- Hania, Tersanas, 1 adult female, 6/3-5/4/2017, photos, (N.Samaritakis, A.Kouropaki, M.Dretakis).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 first year, 14/9/2016, ringed, photos, (HBRC).
- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult female, 15/9/2017, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

- Thessaloniki, Petreto, 1 adult male, 6-8/1/2017, photos, (N.Probonas, A.Tsakanakis, L.Paraskevopoulos, M.Vamvakas, C.Koupareloudi).

Before these records, there were 5 observations of the species 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:

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

- Evros, Evros Delta, 4800 individuals, 4/2/2017, photos, (D.Vangeluwe, N.Probonas, K.Papaconstantinou).

This count is the highest for this species in Greece.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

- Attiki, Shinias, 20 individuals, 31/12/2016, photos, (M.Kotsakis).

These are impressive gatherings of the species for Attiki.

Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes bonasia*

- Kastoria, Verno, 1 adult male, 26/4/2017, photo, (K.Samaras).

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

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

- Fthiotida, Sperheios Delta, 1 first winter, 15/12/2001, (A.Christopoulos).

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

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

- Magnisia, Karla, 1 adult male, 14/1/2017, photo, (A.Christopoulos, K.Vlachopoulos, S.Polymeros, G.Katsadorakis, M.Makri, N.Koutras).

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

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

- Evros, Loutra Traianoupolis, 1 adult male and 1 first winter, 6/2/2016, photos, (M.Kotsakis, G.Alexandris, P.Petrou, D.Kokkinidis).

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

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

- Andros, Batsi, 1 adult, 2/10/2016, found dead, photo, (J.F.Graf).

This is a species with an irregular occurrence in Cyclades.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

- Thessaloniki, Gallikos Delta, 5 individuals, 6/1/2016, photo, (H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis).
- Attiki, Shinias, 1 adult female, 31/1/2016, photo, (K.Giannakouris, V.Giannakouris).

There are few winter records of the species in Greece.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

- Evros, Evros Delta, 192 individuals, 4/2/2017, (N.Probonas, K.Papacontantinou, D.Vangeluwe).

This count is the highest for this species in Greece.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

- Attiki, Shinias, 1 individual, 16/1/2016, photo, (M.Kotsakis, H.Alivizatos, A.Kaltidou, M.Trivourea, M.E.Sourtzi, M.Kalesi, O.Papiggoti).

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

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

- Hania, Rodopou, 1 adult male, 18/11/2016, photos, (C.Turvey, S.Turvey, A.Foss).

This is a rarely seen subspecies in Greece.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult female, 27/3/2016, ringed, photo, (HBRC).
- Hania, Agia, 1 adult male *L.s.cyanedula*, 19-23/10/2016, photo, (P.Perantonakis, P.Daskalakis, N.Samaritakis).
- Hania, Agia, 1 adult male *L.s.cyanedula*, 23+24/10/2016, photo, (N.Samaritakis, P.Perantonakis).
- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult female, 6/4/2017, ringed, photo, (HBRC).
- Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 first year male, 24/9/2017, photos, (C.Toskos).

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

Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*

- Hania, Plakias, 1 adult male, 23/4/2017, photos, (C.Durbin, D.Collins).

The species is not rare in Crete during spring migration.

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

Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*

- Attiki, Vouliagmeni, 1 adult, 22+23/8/2016, photos, (G.Chatzipetrou, Z.Chatzipetrou).

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

- Rodos, Rodos, 1 adult, 21-25/6/2017, photo, (J.Vickholm, H.Vihertie).
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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:

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

- Attiki, Markopoulo, 1 individual, 24+25/4/2016, photos.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*

- Zakynthos, Tragaki, 3 individuals, 10/6/2017, photos.

Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

- Messinia, Koroni, 1 pair, 14-17/6/2017, photos.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 third year, 22/4/2014, photos.
- Argolida, Nea Kios, 1 individual, 4/10/2014, photos.
- Ahaia, Patra, 1 third winter, 28/11/2014, photos.
- Hania, Agia, 1 individual, 4/1/2015, photos.
- Thessaloniki, Gallikos Delta, 1 individual, 6/1/2015, photos.
- Lasithi, Agios Nikolaos, 1 third winter, 12/1/2015, photos.
- Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 individual, 4/12/2017, photos.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis meena*

- Hania, Agia Triada, 1 adult, 14/1/2017, photos.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

- Naxos, Alyki, 1 individual, 4/2/2017, photos.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*

- Ioannina, Pamvotida, 1 adult male, 16/3/2009, photos.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

- Alonissos, Patitiri, 1 individual, 21/9/2016, photos.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

- Kastoria, Germa, 1 female, 15/10/2016, photos.
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V. 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):

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

- Larisa, Kalamaki, 1 immature, 25/6/2009.

The Committee, based on new evidence, reviewed the submission report (HRC, 2009) and decided to reject the observation.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

- Xanthi, Maggana, 1 immature, 21/4/2002.

The Committee, based on new evidence, reviewed the submission report (HRC, 2011) and decided to reject the observation.

VI. 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:

Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>

VII. Total evaluation results

In the year 2017, the Committee evaluated 115 registration forms.

Of them, 98 records were accepted to Category A and 2 records for Category E (87.00%), while 15 records were not accepted (13%) to Category A.

VIII. Acknowledgements

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IX. References

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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**

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