



## HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2018

The following evaluations concern reports sent to the Committee for 2018. 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:

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

- Thessaloniki, Axios Delta, 3 adult females, 19/3/2017, photos, (P.Kampakis, A.Tsilianidis).
- Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 adult female, 25/11/2017, photos, (K.Samaras).
- Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult female, 10/1/2018, photos, (G.Iliadis).

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#### **Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca***

- Kavala, Agiasma, 1 individual, 23/1/2011, (G.Yfantis, S.Zakkak, S.Donth, M.Chatzikyrkas).

- Thessaloniki, Volvi, 2 individuals, 18/1/2014, (E.Karta, M.Panagiotopoulou, L.Sidiropoulos, E.Navarrete, E.Parcharidou, G.Voskidis, I.Tsougrakis, S.Liouza, E.Kazila, P.Doubalakidis, S.Kalpakis, P.Karagianni, E.Kopasaki).
- Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 adult female, 26/12/2017-7/1/2018, photos, (K.Samaras).

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**Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

- Kilkis, Doirani, 5 individuals, 10/1/2012, (T.Naziridis, K.Papadopoulos, S.Mountzelos).
- Arta, Rodia, 3 individuals, 14/1/2012, (T.Kominos, A.Galanaki, N.Boukas, E.Boukas, R.Tsiakiris, K.Stara).
- Thessaloniki, Volvi, 2 individuals, 18/1/2014, (E.Karta, M.Panagiotopoulou, L.Sidiropoulos, E.Navarrete, E.Parcharidou, G.Voskidis, I.Tsougrakis, S.Liouza, E.Kazila, P.Doubalakidis, S.Kalpakis, P.Karagianni, E.Kopasaki).
- Aitoloakarnania, Mesologi, 1 individual, 19/1/2014, (F.Pergantis, N.Noulas).
- Arta, Koftra, 1 adult, 14/1/2017, (N.Probonas, L.Katerinopoulos, D.Portolou).
- Arta, Koronisia, 1 adult, 13/1/2018, photo, (P.Andriopoulos, A.Natsakakos, E.Kalyvas).

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**European Storm-Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

- Lasithi, sea area S of Pseira, 1 individual, 16/10/2016, (M.Dretakis, N.Dretaki, K.Dretaki).
- Limnos, sea area S of Limnos, 1 adult, 18/8/2017, found exhausted, photos, (I.Karamanlis, D.Foustanas, A.Christidis).
- Naxos, Mikri Vigla, 1 first year, 16/9/2017, found wounded, photos, (I.Orfanos).

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**Barbary Falcon** *Falco pelegrinoides*

- Hania, Nipogeia, 1 adult, 8/1/2018, photos, (F.Samaritakis).

*This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> observation of this species in Greece, 31 years after the last (Porto Lagos, 1987).*

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**Corn Crane** *Crex crex*

- Naxos, Agios Prokopios, 1 first year, 23/10/2018, found exhausted, photo, (I.Orfanos).

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**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

- Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult, 7-9/9/2018, photos, (R.Clarke).

*This is the 7<sup>th</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

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

- Lesvos, Skala Kallonis, 1 adult, 18-20/4/2018, photos, (K.Mullarney).

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

- Irakleio, Armanogeia, 1 first winter, 20/12/2017-17/3/2018, photos, (M.Dretakis, L.M.Ventoura, E.Roukounakis).
  - Irakleio, Limani, 1 adult, 9/2-1/3/2018, photos, (M.Dretakis, N.Samaritakis, A.Kouroupaki).
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- Serres, Kerkini, 1 adult, 12-25/2/2018, photo, (S.Gigov, P.Sharp, M.Nash).
- Irakleio, Limani, 1 first winter, 18/2-9/3/2018, photos, (N.Samaritakis, A.Kouroupaki, M.Dretakis).

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**Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus***

- Irakleio, Limani, 1 adult, 26/1/2011, photo, (M.Dretakis).
- Irakleio, Limani, 8 individuals, 20/1/2012, (M.Dretakis).
- Irakleio, Limani, 5 individuals, 12/1/2013, (M.Dretakis).
- Irakleio, Limani, 6 individuals, 24/1/2014, (M.Dretakis).
- Irakleio, Limani, 9 individuals, 10/1/2015, (M.Dretakis).
- Irakleio, Bramiana, 1 adult, 10/1/2015, (M.Dretakis, E.Roukounakis).
- Hania, Souda, 1 individual, 24/1/2015, (N.Samaritakis).

*The count of 9 birds in Irakleio is the highest for this species in Greece.*

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

- Pieria, Kitros, 2 adults, 14/1/2018, photo, (I.Tsougrakis, P.Doubalakidis).

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**Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis***

- Irakleio, Mochos, 1 adult, 23/9/2018, (M.Dretakis).
- Lesvos, Panagiouda, 1 adult, 23/11/2018, photo, (A.Troyer).

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**Little Swift *Apus affinis***

- Rethymno, Myrthios, 1 individual, 26/9/2017, sketch, (U.Schürkamp).

*This is the 6<sup>th</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

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**Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis***

- Rodos, Kolympia, 1 adult female, 27/9/2018, (J.Vratny).

*This is the 7<sup>th</sup> observation of this species in Greece.*

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**Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens***

- Lakonia, Tainaro, 1 adult, 17/4/2018, photos, (T.Collins, J.Simms).

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

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**Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii***

- Pieria, Korinos, 1 first year, 9/10/2018, photos, (K.Stafylidis).

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

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**Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus***

- Antikythira, Skariana, 1 adult male, 29-31/03/2018, photos, (E.Kakalis, K.Bairaktaridou, R.Krasevec).

*This is the 4<sup>th</sup> observation of the species in Greece.*

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**Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti***

- Samos, Potokaki, 1 adult male, 10/11/2017, photos, (I.Santander, S.Ferreiro).

*Before this record, there were a total of 17 observations of the species in Greece.*

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

- Irakleio, Agakou Metochi, 1 individual, 27/10/2016-10/1/2017, photos, (M.Dretakis, N.Samaritakis, E.Roukounakis, V.Pitropakis, M.Chatziaki, K.Dretaki, N.Dretaki).
- Korinthia, Agioi Theodoroi, 1 individual, 17/11/2017, (L.Zachari).

*Before these records, there were a total of 26 observations of the species in Greece.*

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**Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli***

- Lakonia, Tainaro, 1 adult, 13/4/2018, ringed, photos, (T.Collins, J.Morgan, J.Simms).

*This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> observation for the species in Greece.*

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**Turkestan Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides***

- Evros, Evros Delta, 1 adult male, 10/5/2018, photos, (L.Sundh, A.Wilow-Sundh, L.Pettersson, H.Pettersson, A.Dahström, L.Dahström, E.Hogstad, J.Hogstad).

*The Committee classifies the Turkestan Shrike as a full species, separated from the Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*).*

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

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**Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus***

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult male, 7/5/2018, photo, (E.Linardaki).

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**Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus***

- Antikythira, Batoudiana, 1 adult female, 9/5/2018, ringed, photos, (HBRC).

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**Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis***

- Evros, Alexandroupoli, 1 adult male, 4/11/2017, photo, (S.Chalastras).
- Serres, Kerkini, 1 adult male, 7/12/2018, photos, (K.Papadopoulos).

*Before these records, there were a total of 11 observations of the species in Greece.*

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**Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos***

- Imathia, Kleidi, 3 adult males, 1 adult female and 1 first winter, 4/2-3/3/2018, photos, (M.Kotsakis, G.Alexandris, P.Petrou, O.Tzimoulis, K.Pougadaki, T.Nikolopoulos, Z.Antonopoulos, T.Giannakis, S.Vasileiadis, P.Mantzouratou, D.Karakolis, D.Kokkinidis, A.Tsafonis, A.Tsilianidis, H.Tsilianidis, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis, N.Fokas, T.Kourouzidis, C.Vlachos, E.Rantos, D.Zachos).
- Kastoria, Korisos, 1 adult female, 3/3/2018, photo, (C.Bairaktaris).
- Imathia, Kleidi, 1 adult male and 2 adult females, 24/12/2018, photos, (A.Tsafonis, H.Tsilianidis, A.Tsilianidis).

*Before these records, there were 6 observations of the species in Greece.*

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## **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:

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### **Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca***

- Hania, Almyros, 3300 individuals, 1/11/2017, videotape, (A.Hargrave, A.Hargrave).

*These are impressive gatherings of the species for Greece.*

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### **Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus***

- Attiki, Skala Oropou, 1 adult, 14/1/2018, photos, (D.Botev, A.Boteva).

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

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### **Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

- Preveza, Filippiada, 400 individuals, 20/1/2013, (N.Boukas, K.Kontos, A.Martinis, A.Mantos, E.Filippou, C.Diamantis, E.Boukas).
- Preveza, Filippiada, 400 individuals, 23/1/2014, (N.Boukas, K.Kontos, A.Martinis, A.Mantos, E.Filippou, C.Diamantis, E.Boukas).

*These counts are the highest for this species in Greece.*

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

- Pella, Agras, 2 individuals, 17/1/2012, (E.Skouli, P.Souquet, A.Akçelik, E.Uzun).
- Kilkis, Pikrolimni, 1 individual, 17/1/2014, (T.Naziridis, K.Papadopoulos, S.Mountzelos, H.Jerrentrup).

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

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### **Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis***

- Lasithi, Ori Zakrou, 1 individual, 15/1/2013, (B.Baijot).
- Evros, Evros Delta, 1 first winter, 4/11/2018, photos, (K.István, P.Edgár, K.Arnold, M.Tamás).

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

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### **Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug***

- Fthiotida, Spercheios Delta, 1 individual, 12/1/2002, (A.Christopoulos, E.Bourdakis, A.Kastritis).

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

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**Peregrine *Falco peregrinus***

- Attiki, Aspropyrgos, 1 adult, 16/12/2018, photo, (G.Katsantonis).

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

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**Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus***

- Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 4 individuals, 15/1/2017, (N.Probonas).

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

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**Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus***

- Argolida, Nea Kios, 3 individuals, 17/1/1998, (N.Probonas, K.Misiakos, R.Tsiakiris).
- Attiki, Shiniias, 1 adult female, 23/12/2018, photo, (K.Giannakouris, V.Giannakouris).

*These records are two of the few winter records of the species in Greece.*

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**Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus spinosus***

- Evros, Evros Delta, 2 individuals, 7/11/2017, (A.Tsiratzidis).
- Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 1 adult, 22/4/2018, photos, (A.Panagiotopoulos, S.Gouvras, N.Noulas, G.Kotsiris).

*This species has an irregular occurrence in Greece.*

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**Red Knot *Calidris canutus***

- Evros, Evros Delta, 1 individual, 6/11/2018, photo, (K.István, P.Edgár, K.Arnold, M.Tamás).

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

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**Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus***

- Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 1 adult, 28/5/2017, photo, (V.Giannakouris, K.Giannakouris).
- Aitoloakarnania, Louros, 1 adult, 14/9/2017, photo, (V.Giannakouris).
- Aitoloakarnania, Plostaina, 1 adult, 20/12/2017, photo, (V.Giannakouris, K.Giannakouris).

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

*The record of 20/12/2017 consists one of the very few winter records of this species in Greece.*

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**Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii***

- Kastoria, Orestiada, 1 juvenile, 31/7/2017, photo, (C.Bairaktaris).

*This species is not rare for Greece but this presence in an inland lake is unusual.*

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**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*

- Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 1 pair, 7-12/5/2018, videotape, (N.Noulas, S.Gourvas).

*This species has an irregular occurrence in Greece.*

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**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

- Attiki, Parko Antonis Tritsis, 1 individual, 17/12/2005, (N.Probonas, G.Beriatos, T.Gaitanakis, N.Tsiopelas, C.Vlachos).
- Thessaloniki, Panepistimioupoli, 1 individual, 19/2/2008, photos, H.Tsilianidis).

*These records are two of the few winter records of the species in Greece.*

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

- Argolida, Nea Kios, 1 individual, 21/1/2018, (N.Probonas).
- Hania, Kavros, 1 adult, 11/2/2018, photos, (A.Hargrave).
- Pieria, Korinos, 1 adult, 9/10/2018, photo, (K.Stafylidis).

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

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**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica cyanedula*

- Kos, Tigaki, 1 adult male, 28/10/2018, photos, (N.Probonas).

*This species was recently removed from the List of the Rare Birds of Greece.  
This is the 1<sup>st</sup> observation of this species in Kos.*

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**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

- Lesvos, Tsiknias, 1 adult male, 8/9/2017, photos, (R.Purser, P.V.Wilkins).

*The Committee after examining all the available facts at its disposal concluded that the individual at Lesvos belongs to the specific subspecies.*

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**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

- Kastoria, Malimadi, 10 individuals, 7/11/2018, photo, (K.Kapourgas).

*This species has an irregular occurrence in Greece.*

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**Bearded Reedling** *Panurus biarmicus*

- Hania, Kladissos, 13 individuals, 18-23/10/2018, photos, (M.Curan, N.Samaritakis, F.Samaritakis, V.Pitropakis, A.Sakoulis, P.Perantonakis, P.Abella, A.Hargrave).

*This species is rare in Crete.*

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**Rosy Starling** *Pastor roseus*

- Irakleio, Paranympfoi, 1 first year, 8/9/2017, photo, (N.Samaritakis).

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

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### **III. Rare species observations accepted by the Committee but included in Category D**

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:

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#### **Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus***

- Serres, Kerkini, 1 individual, 20/1/2014, (T.Naziridis, K.Papadopoulos, S.Mountzelos, M.Vougioukalou, E.Sideri, I.Mantila).
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### **IV. Rare species observations accepted by the Committee but included in Category D**

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:

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#### **Canada Goose *Branta canadensis***

- Ioannina, Pamvotida, 17 individuals, 22/1/2011, (R.Tsiakiris, K.Stara, N.Boukas, E.Papantoniou, K.Sakkas, E.Efstathiadou, E.Papadopoulou, E.Toli, E.Moustaka, R.Zacharopoulou, G.Zavliaris, D.Tsiakiri, A.Tsiakiri).
  - Ioannina, Pamvotida, 13 individuals, 13/1/2013, (R.Tsiakiris, A.Galani, E.Giosa, F.Anagnostopoulos, K.Moustakas, E.Papadopoulou, E.Moustaka, E.Toli, C.Felias, P.Nitas, K.Vlachopoulos, E.Boukas, N.Boukas).
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#### **Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita***

- Attiki, Spata, 1 adult, 6/5/2016, photos, (T.Linardatos, L.Mantouvalou, M.Linardatos).
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#### **Fischer's lovebird *Agapornis fischeri***

- Attiki, Halandri, 1 adult, 23/7/2017, (T.Linardatos, K.Linardatos).
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### **V. 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:

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#### **European Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus***

- Kavala, sea area between Kavala and Thasos, 20 individuals, 1/10/2017.
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#### **Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis***

- Serres, Kerkini, 1 individual, 1/5/2017, photos.
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**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

- Lesvos, Skala Polihnitou, 1 individual, 12/9/2012, photos.

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

- Lasithi, Elounta, 1 individual, 4/5/2017, photo.

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**Armenian Gull** *Larus armenicus*

- Aitoloakarnania, Kleisova, 1 adult, 30/5/2017, photos.

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**Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

- Serres, Kerkini, 3 individuals, 1/12/2018, photos.

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**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

- Aitoloakarnania, Aitoliko, 1 first winter, 11/12/2016, photo.

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**Turkestan Shrike** *Lanius phoenicuroides*

- Attiki, Vravra, 1 individual, 16/9/2017, photos.
- Paros, Naousa, 1 individual, 29/8/2018, photos.

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**House Crow** *Corvus splendens*

- Kerkyra, Kerkyra, 1 individual, 5/5/2016.

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**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

- Hydra, Vlychos, 5 individuals, 14/8/2016.

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**Rosy Starling** *Pastor roseus*

- Hania, Tavronitis, 1 first year, 7/10/2018, photo.

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**Red-headed Bunting** *Emberiza bruniceps*

- Lesvos, Sigri, 1 adult female, 7/5/2017, photos.
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## **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:

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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## **VII. Total evaluation results**

In the year 2018, the Committee evaluated 100 registration forms.

Of them, 82 records were accepted to Category A, 1 record for Category D and 4 records for Category E (87.00%), while 12 records were not accepted to Category A and 1 record for Category E (13%).

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## VIII. Acknowledgements

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

Dirk Forsman  
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Boris Nikolov  
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Lars Svensson  
Rik Winters

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**HELLENIC RARITIES COMMITTEE**

**Chairman: George Handrinos**

**Secretary: Nikos Probonas**

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

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Ringing Centre.**