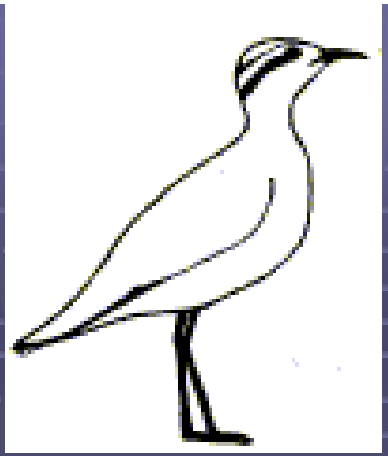


A Checklist of the Birds of Greece

The Hellenic Rarities Committee

http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/en/index.php

Dretakis Michalis[1], Nikos Probonas[2], Kostas Papaconstantinou[2], Theodoros Kominos[2] and George Handrinos[3]

1 ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ ΦΥΣΙΚΗΣ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

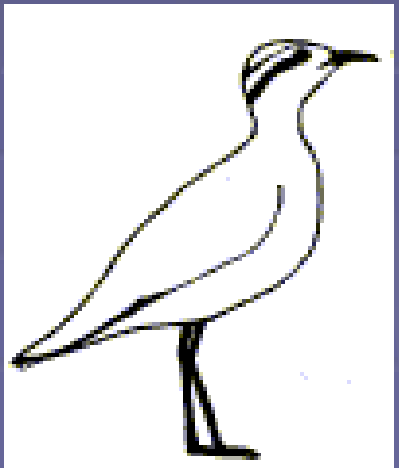
2 Ορνιθολογική
HELLENIC ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

3 Hellenic Bird Ringing Center

Hellenic Rarities Committee

- Establishment in 2004, 5 members
- With the collaboration of HOS - HBRC
- Records that have been submitted: **771**
- Accepted Records: **677**
- Not Accepted Records: **94**

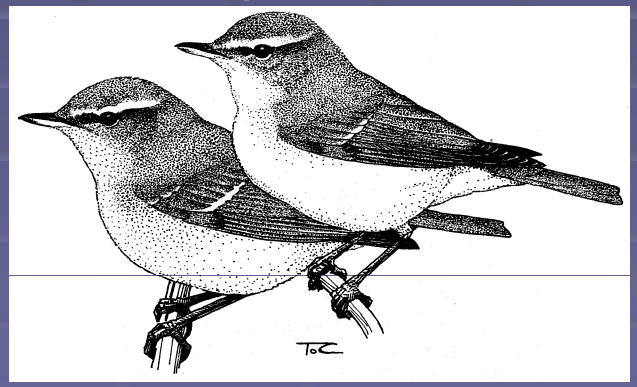
Ορνιθολογική
HELLENIC ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Hellenic Bird Ringing Center

Previous Checklists

- First Checklists: von Műhle (1844), Reiser (1905)
- "*Catalogus Faunae Graeciae*" (1969-1973)
- "*Red Data Book*" (1992)
- "*The Birds of Greece*" (1997)= 422 species
- Since 2004, HRC Unofficial List (in HOS' and HRC's web- sites)



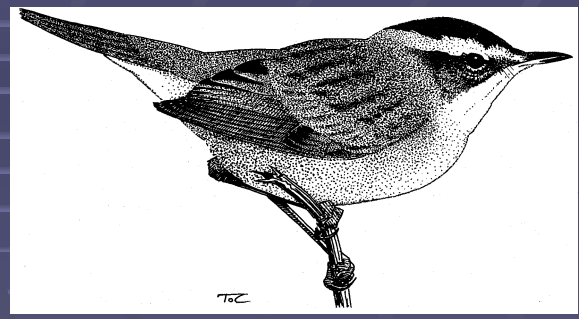
More species today:

a) records that have been accepted

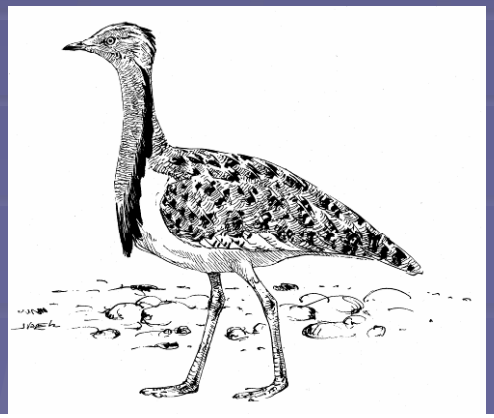
b) splits / taxonomic changes

Presentation of the current Greek List

Five Species Categories

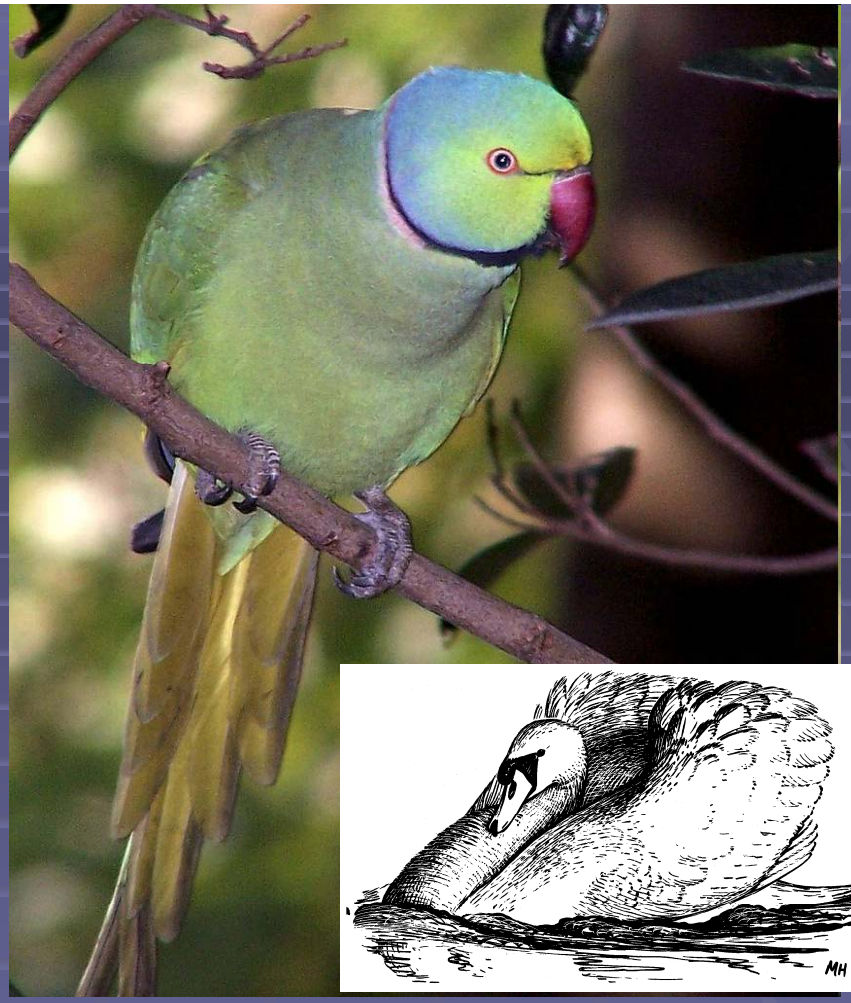


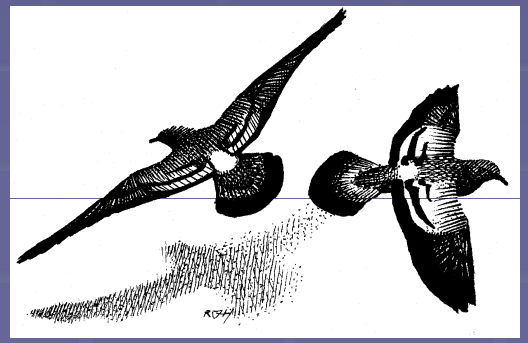
- **A**: Species that were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950
- **B**: Species that were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1 January 1800 and 31 December 1949, but not ever since.



- C: Species that, although introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations (6 subcategories - BOU).

- C1 Naturalized introduced species: species that have occurred only as a result of introduction *(Psittacula krameri)*
- C2 Naturalized established species: species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state *(Cygnus olor)*
- C4 Naturalized feral species: domesticated species with populations established in the wild (*Columba livia*)



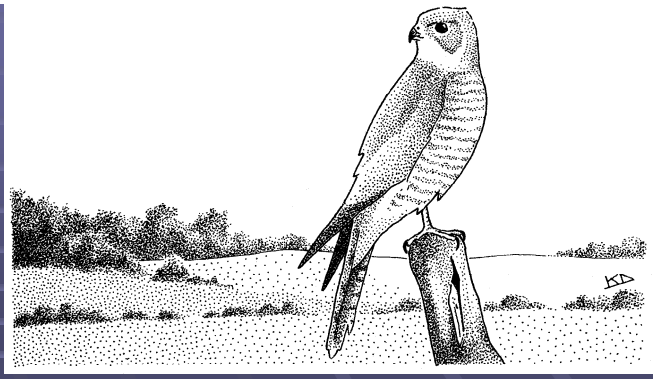


- **D** Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. Species in Category D only are not included in the Greek List. (*Gyps rueppelli*)

- **E** Species that have been recorded as introductions, human-assisted transporters or escapes from captivity and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species in Category E are not included in the Greek List. (*Cygnus atratus*)

- A few species have been placed in more than one category (e.g. A-C1).

Status codes



RB: Resident Breeder

MB: Migrant Breeder

OB: Occasional Breeder (one or more successful breeding attempts since 1 January 1950).

FB: Former Breeder (no breeding attempt is known since 31 December 1949)

Ext: Exctinct (Former Resident with no record since 31 December 1949)

NB: Naturalized Breeder

WV: Winter Visitor

PM: Passage Migrant

V: Vagrant (11-50 records)

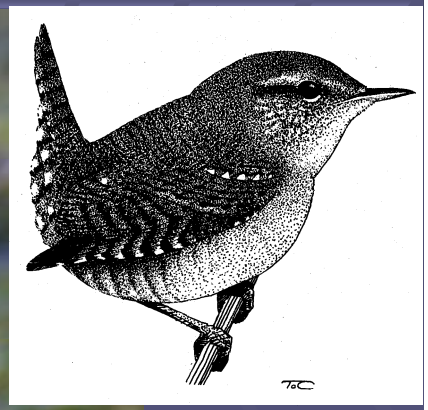
Acc: Accidental (1-10 records)

V and Acc : descriptions are required

(denoted by † within the systematic list)

The problem of subspecies

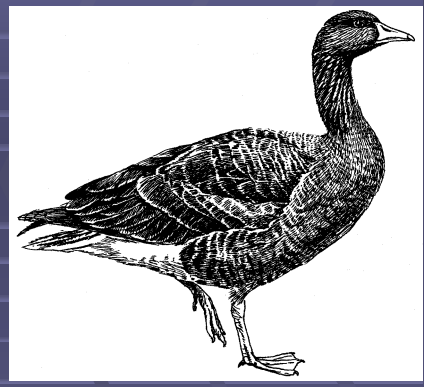
- Lack of validity in many cases
- Not enough studies in Greece
- Recent publications – more taxa



Passer (domesticus) italiae case

Troglodytes troglodytes case

Examples of presentation of species

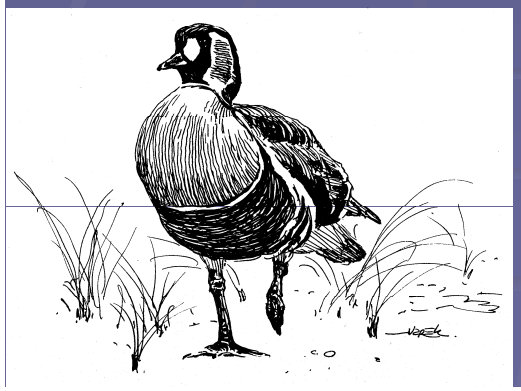


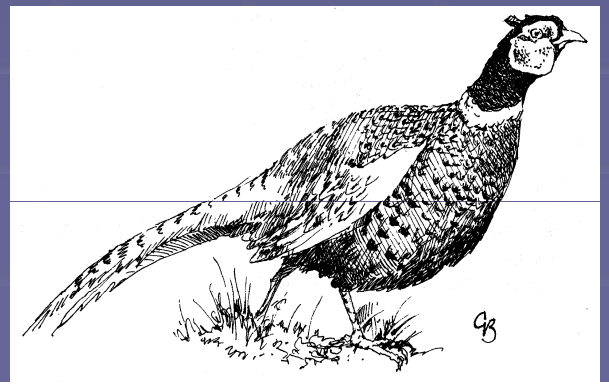
- *Anser anser* (Linnaeus) A
  Σταχτόχηνα Greylag Goose
  Subspecies in Greece: *anser* (Linnaeus) RB-WV-PM; *rubrirostris* (Swinhoe) WV

- *Anser caerulescens* (Linnaeus) † A
  Λευκόχηνα Snow Goose
  Subspecies in Greece: undetermined; Acc
  One record: one adult Delta Evrou, 31 December 2002 - 31 January 2003.

Ordering major groups

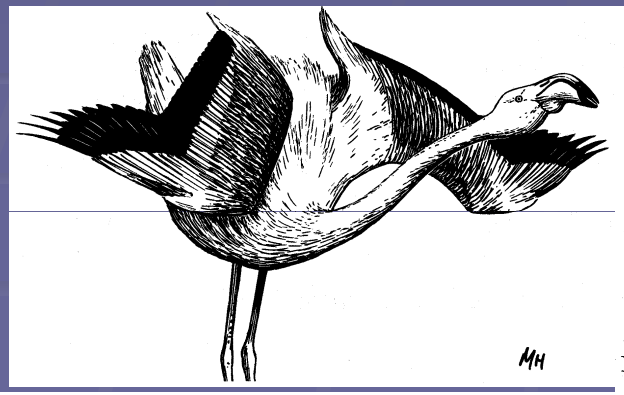
- **Greek birds belong to *Neognathae.***
- ***"The Birds of Greece"* and other previous publications have followed the taxonomy of Voous (1977), starting from *Gaviiformes***
- **Due to modern evolutionary studies *Neognathae* are split to *Galloanserae* (ordering first) and *Neoaves* (all remaining birds).**
- **The *Galloanserae* are composed of two 'sister' groups**
- ***Anseriformes* (waterfowl)**
- **and *Galliformes*.**





- Another major change is to list *Podicipediformes* between *Phoenicopteriformes* and *Accipitriformes*

- This, because modern studies show a relation of Flamingos and Grebe which consists a group known as "*Mirandoniformes*" (*Ibis* 149: 853–857).



Other examples of differences

Splits of Large Gulls

Larus cachinnans split to 3 species

Genus changes Major Example in Paridae family:

Parus caeruleus	*Cyanistes caeruleus*
Parus major	
Parus cristatus	*Lophophanes cristatus*
Parus ater	*Periparus ater*
Parus lugubris	*Poecile lugubris*
Parus montanus	*Poecile montana*
Parus palustris	*Poecile palustris*

Examples of differences

- *Lanius meridionalis case*

Conclusions

- No 422 increased up to 442 species (21 - 1)
- One species (*Calidris subminuta*) was removed from the list
- Subspecies are listed only if fully documented

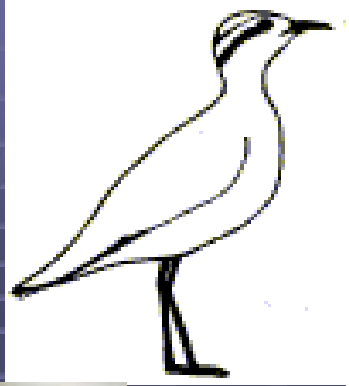
- Species Total
- Cat A: 436
- Cat B: 4
- Cat C: 2

(introduced bird species have increased, but only with a few years of established populations)

Further Studies?

- What is going on in Avian Systematic?
- How we will clarify the actual taxonomic status of the subspecies of birds occurring in Greece?
- Who is going to work about? Who cares?
- Do we really need a Bird Taxonomic Committee in Greece?

And now….

- This is just the start of more lists on the way
- Local lists – people's needs
- Please submit your Record Forms to the HRC! http://rarities.ornithologiki.gr/en/index.php
- Need for more studies in systematic

- This work never stop…
- Thank you