Birding in Greece

Greek bird list · 43 species

SPECIES	STATUS	BEST TIME	WHERE	RARITY CODE	RECORDS	COMMENTS
Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus*	Resident	All year	Parnassos, Crete	2	-	-
Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii*	Resident	All year	Aegean islands	2	-	-
Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*	Resident	All year	Crete	3	-	-
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*	Summer visitor	April to September	Dadia, Lake Kerkini	2	-	-
Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*	Summer visitor	Late April to July	Lesvos, Thessaly, Peloponnese, Attica	1	-	-
Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*	Summer visitor	April to July	Lesvos	2	-	-
Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*	Resident	All year	Dadia Forest	3	-	-
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*	Summer visitor	April to August	Axios Delta, Evros Delta, Messolonghi	2	-	-
Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*	Resident	All year; best January to March	Lake Kerkini, Messolonghi, Amvrakikos	2	-	-
Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*	Vagrant	-	-	4	-	-
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*	Summer visitor	April to August	Widespread	1	-	-
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*	Summer visitor	April to August	Lesvos, mountain forests	2	-	-
Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*	Summer visitor	April to August	Meteora, Thrace	3	-	-
Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae*	Summer visitor	Late April to October	Crete, Southern Aegean Islands	2	-	-
European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*	Summer visitor	April to September	Widespread	1	-	-

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European Roller *Coracias garrulus*	Summer visitor	May to August	Evros, Axios Delta, Lesvos	2	-	-
Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*	Summer visitor, Passage migrant	April to September	Lake Kerkini, Evros Delta	2	-	-
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*	Passage migrant	Late summer and autumn	Western Greece	3	-	-
Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga*	Winter visitor	November to March	Lake Kerkini, Evros Delta	3	-	-
Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*	Resident	All year	Crete, western mainland	2	-	-
Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*	Summer visitor	April to July	Lesvos	2	-	-
Krüper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*	Resident	All year; easiest April and May	Lesvos	2	-	-
Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*	Resident	All year	Thessaly	3	-	-
Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*	Summer visitor	April to September	Thessaly, Central Macedonia	1	-	-
Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*	Winter visitor	December to February	Lake Kerkini, Evros Delta	3	-	-
Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*	Summer visitor	April to August	Lesvos, northern Greece	2	-	-
Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum*	Summer visitor	May to August	Lesvos, Peloponnese	2	-	-
Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*	Passage migrant	March to April, September to October	Lesvos, Thessaly	3	-	-
Pygmy Cormorant *Microcarbo pygmaeus*	Resident	All year	Lake Kerkini, Evros Delta, Messolonghi	1	-	-
Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*	Winter visitor	December to February	Evros Delta	3	-	-
Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*	Passage migrant	Late April and May	Lesvos, Axios Delta, Evros Delta	2	-	-
Rock Partridge *Alectoris graeca*	Resident	All year	Mountains, e.g. Parnassos	2	-	-
Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*	Summer visitor	Late May to June	Central Macedonia	3	-	Numbers vary a lot from year to year.

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Rüppell's Warbler *Curruca ruppelli*	Summer visitor	April to June	Lesvos, Crete	2	-	-
Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala*	Resident	All year	Widespread	1	-	-
Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*	Summer visitor, Passage migrant	April to June	Northern forests	2	-	-
Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*	Resident	All year	Messolonghi, Axios Delta	2	-	-
Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*	Vagrant	-	-	5	-	-
Sombre Tit *Poecile lugubris*	Resident	All year	Lesvos, mainland hills	2	-	-
Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*	Summer visitor	April to August	Axios Delta, Evros Delta	3	-	-
Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*	Resident, Winter visitor	November to March	Mountains; lower cliffs and ruins in winter	3	-	-
Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer*	Resident	All year	Lesvos, rocky hills on the mainland	1	-	-
White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*	Resident	March to June	Mount Kerkini and northern forests	3	-	-

Our Rarity Codes

Code 1: Common species. Resident species and/or migratory and winter visitors, widespread and frequently present throughout most of mainland and island Greece (including common seabirds).

Code 2: Uncommon species. Visitors and/or resident species found in Greece consistently in small numbers and/or regularly occurring only regionally (e.g., only in Northern Greece). Note that some species in this category may be harder to observe (due to their habits or distribution) than some in Category 3.

Code 3: Scarce species. Annual visitors with only a few records in Greece each year or resident species with an extremely restricted range (e.g. Capercaillie, Bearded Vulture, Pheasant). This includes established winter visitors with small or very local populations (e.g. Lesser White-fronted Goose, White-headed Duck), as well as species that were until recently included in the Committee's "Rare Birds List" (e.g., Velvet Scoter, Steppe Eagle).

Code 4: Rare species. Species that occur irregularly and not annually in Greece, with at least 5 documented records during the last 30 years, showing an established but irregular pattern of occurrence. This category includes occasional (but not annual) winter visitors (e.g. Common Eider, Pallas's Gull), as well as rare species that only very recently established a known wintering site (e.g., Finsch's Wheatear, Pine Bunting). The only exception concerns migratory vagrants with fewer than 5 recent records in Greece but which show a clear and recurring pattern of occurrence in Europe and the Balkans (e.g. Olive-backed Pipit).

Code 5: Accidental species. Species with fewer than 5 documented records in Greece during the last 30 years, with no established pattern of occurrence in Greece or neighboring regions.

Code 6: Extinct species. Species listed in Greece's checklist, but which have either become extinct (Slender-billed Curlew) or, due to their distribution, are unlikely to be observed again in the country (Black Francolin). This includes introduced species that once maintained viable populations but are now observed only as escapees (Red-legged Partridge).