

# BirdWING Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 6 Spring 2010

In this issue news from:

- Porto Lagos/Nestos/Ismarida
- Wetland Kerkini
- Prespa Lakes
- The Evros Delta
- Agras/Vrytta/Nisi Wetlands



## The BirdWING Newsletter

...brings you regular news about birds and issues affecting them in Northern Greece. The newsletter is published in English and Greek and is distributed via email. Visitors' Centres print copies to be given to visitors.

## Happy Birthday Birdwing!



It's two years since we first decided to set up Birdwing and created our website [www.birdwing.eu](http://www.birdwing.eu). We have over 400 members already and have raised several thousand euros for bird conservation in Greece.

The aims of Birdwing are:

- to raise awareness of issues affecting birds in Northern Greece
- to raise money for direct habitat improvement to help birds whose habitats are at risk
- to build a membership with a collective voice on conservation issues

## This issue

The **Birdwing Wildbird Photo Competition** was a great success, raising several hundred euros to help birds in Greece. The winning photo was exceptional and **Konstantinos Stafylidis** was a worthy winner. See the winning shots on pages 5 and 6. The National Herald – an American Greek newspaper – ran an article about Birdwing and the competition.

We also have a report from the **Agras-Vrytta-Nisi Wetlands**, one of the new locations to be included in the next edition of Birdwatching in Northern Greece (see page 3). Some of our members have been volunteers at the wetland and Birdwing welcomes the new links with the staff and volunteers at these sites.

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## Evros Delta flooded!

After the unprecedented rainfall and snow-melt this winter the Evros Delta and surrounding areas became severely flooded. Channels were dug across the area to help water escape more quickly. The eastern area, the military side, has been closed for safety reasons and has been flooded for many weeks now.



Go to [www.birdwing.eu](http://www.birdwing.eu) for more details or contact the Centre at [info@evros-delta.gr](mailto:info@evros-delta.gr)



## Birdwing tern rafts

Work is beginning on building tern rafts at Lake Kerkini, funded by Birdwing through your donations, the sales of Birdwing books and entry fees for the photo competition. We are grateful to Theodoros Naziridis for coordinating this work. The pelicans have taken to the newly repaired pelican platforms on the Lake.



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## Bird news round-up

Despite the lack of access during the floods there have been some interesting sightings on the Evros Delta so far this year. In January a Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) and a Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*) were amongst the 54 Common Buzzards (*Buteo buteo*) counted on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A total of 22 Spotted Eagles (*Aquila clanga*) joined a visiting Golden (*Aquila chrysaetos*), three Imperials (*Aquila heliaca*), and five White-tails (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) during the month, which also saw the arrival of 440 Red-breasted (*Branta ruficollis*) and 22 Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser erythropus*).

A photo of the Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*) taken by **Pavlos Andriopoulos** at the Evros in February.



In February 166 Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) were present on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 9000 White-fronts were counted on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) numbers rose to a record 2250 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and, representing the raptors, a Saker (*Falco cherrug*) appeared on the 21<sup>st</sup> and a Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

March brought 750 Little Gulls (*Larus minutus*) and an early Lesser-spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

At Lake Kerkini spring was well underway by the middle of the month. House and Crag Martins (*Delichon urbica* and *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) arrived on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the few overwintering Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) were joined by a major influx on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The first Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) was seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> with Squaccos (*Ardeola ralloides*) and Little Egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) following on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The first Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) was seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The first Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) drifted over on the 21<sup>st</sup> and a Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) was visible on the 30<sup>th</sup>.



## Evros Delta projects

The Evros Delta Management Body is participating in a project about the monitoring of Avian Influenza and its impact on the immune system of birds. Other institutes from Germany, Belgium, Poland, France, England and Greece are also participating.

The actions of the project include:

- the study of the diffusion of Avian Influenza in the environment, by sampling various bird species
- the study of the survival of the Avian Influenza virus in different ecosystems
- the determination of possible transport velocity of HPAI from infected birds

The two other participants from Greece are the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Forest Research Institute.

The work is being carried out in Evros Delta and the surrounding area. In the context of the project, the Evros Delta Management Body has undertaken the trapping of ducks, the study of wintering swans, the tagging of swans with neck collars and satellite transmitters, among other actions. With the completion of the project, answers to matters relevant to the diffusion of the virus to wild birds and humans are expected to be given.

So far, in Evros Delta, more than 540 ducks and 38 swans have been trapped. Satellite transmitters were put on 6 swans. Results show movements between Evros Delta and Russia for ducks and Romania and Ukraine for swans.

For more information contact the Evros Delta Management Body, tel.: +30 25510 61000.

Eleni Makrigianni



photo by Yannis Fakriadis



## Focus on Agras

### A great area that birds and humans share

The **Agras-Vrytta-Nisi Wetlands** are located in Pella, 6km north-west of the city of Edessa, and covers an area of approximately 600 hectares. Formed along the banks of the river Edessa, the area is primarily marshland and took its current form in 1950 after intervention by the PPC to meet the needs of Agras Hydroelectric Station.

The old marsh created favourable conditions for the evolution of a very valuable habitat with high biodiversity value, particularly for birdlife. So far, more than 140 bird species have been recorded, including grebes, herons and several species of duck, most notably the rare Ferruginous Duck. These birds have become accustomed to humans and are easy to see.

Members and associates of the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS) have worked at the wetland for 15 years, prompting authorities to take action to safeguard it, particularly the Municipality of Edessa.

During the last two years, the Ornithological Society and the Municipality, with the support of volunteers from around the world (through the European Volunteer Service), have implemented an integrated sustainable management programme. The actions include protecting,

managing and promoting the wetland, scientific monitoring of birds, plants and their habitats, ecosystem management, construction and maintenance of outdoor facilities and environmental awareness. The latter is both directly related to the operation of the Information Centre, or indirectly through all the major and minor events that it organises.



You can learn more about everyday life in the wetland through our blog

<http://blogs.ornithologiki.gr/agras>

For information about the activities you can do phone 6956297398 and email:

[eskouli@ornithologiki.gr](mailto:eskouli@ornithologiki.gr)

Irene Scully - Local Manager Ornithological  
Peri Kourakli - Head of Northern Greece



## Can you help?

Birdwing is hoping to produce packs of playing cards showing photo of birds of Greece with Greek, Latin and English names. The cards are designed to help Greek children and young people to learn the names of birds and to encourage their interest in spotting them and also to raise money for birds and their habitats.



1. Have you taken a photo of a rare or common bird of Greece in a typical pose and where the bird is not masked by anything in the foreground? (We can remove backgrounds). Would you be happy for us to use your photo for this purpose?

2. Do you have links with any places where packs of cards might be put on sale for the public? If you think this may be possible please let us know (without commitment at this stage). We would like to be sure that there would be sufficient outlets to sell before committing to print.

3. If you would like to contribute directly towards the publication of these cards or provide sponsorship in any way please let us know or donate through our 'Donate' button on [www.birdwing.eu](http://www.birdwing.eu) giving 'playing cards' as your reference.

*Let us know your thoughts on this or any other ideas you may have for raising awareness of birds or funds to protect their habitats. We would love to hear from you! Many thanks!*

Hilary Koll and Steve Mills [info@birdwing.eu](mailto:info@birdwing.eu)

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on February 2 as a reminder of this day in 1971 when 100 countries worldwide signed the Treaty of Wetlands, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. Today, the number of countries that have signed the treaty has increased to 158, and the protected sites themselves are now generally known as Ramsar sites. On this day around the world events take place to raise awareness of the importance of wetland areas.

The World Wetlands Day this year was entitled "Caring for Wetlands: a response to climate change."

Wetlands contribute to the balance of the ecosystem and improve the negative impacts of climate change, because they filter and purify water, protect the banks of rivers from erosion and flooding, help to improve the climate and "trap" large quantities of greenhouse gases, not to mention their value for wildlife. Despite these important benefits that wetlands provide, mismanagement has led to a 60% reduction in wetland areas throughout the world.

In this context the Management Body of the Nestos Delta, Vistonidas and Ismarida, in collaboration with the Prefecture of Drama, Kavala and Xanthi held events in the Porto-Lagos, Keramoti and Kavala areas.



The varied events included environmental education in schools, a program to update the Lake Vistonidas and Nestos Delta Visitor Centres with new documentaries for screening to school groups, birdwatching in the wetlands, environmental games and a distribution of educational materials.

To finish off there was also the unscheduled rescue of an injured swan.



Vasilis Terzis - [fdnesism@otenet.gr](mailto:fdnesism@otenet.gr)

Gordon Ramel is pleased to announce his new online shop dedicated to environmental conservation, particularly Wetland Kerkini, and social awareness. The shop is only just starting up, so please be a returning visitor as new products will be added regularly.

Each Lake Kerkini product sale will raise \$1.00 for **Birdwing's** conservation projects.

Postcards and t-shirts available now - more to come soon.

Each sale of the poetry book will also raise \$1.00 for Greenpeace. Other promotions will be made as the product range grows.

Gordon's **TTMshop** can be found at:

[www.cafepress.com/TTMshop](http://www.cafepress.com/TTMshop)



Gordon also has 20 copies of his newly-released poetry book that have too many small formatting errors and typos to be sold at full price. If you would like a cheap copy of what may turn out to be a valuable book please make a donation to **Birdwing.eu** including £2.00 to cover P&P and the books will be posted out to the first 20 investors.

[Donate](#)

### Birdsong

I have visited the language of the birds  
and listened to the tenor of their words,  
and wondered at their wisdom and their wit;  
I stored within my heart the gist of it  
to swell my thoughts on soulless city days,  
for in my mind it is a song of praise

*Gordon Ramel*





## Birdwing Wildbird Photo Competition Winning Entry!

Congratulations to **Konstantinos Stafylidis** who beat off stiff competition from many quality entries with this fantastic photo of a Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) taken in Alykes Kitrous (Near Korinos) in Northern Greece during April last year.



Konstantinos (32) is the unanimous winner of the competition, with the judges particularly commenting on the sharpness of the subject and composition of the picture as a whole.

The Runner up is Austrian **Peter Giay** (71) for his excellent photo of a Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) shown opposite on page 6. Peter photographed the feeding Kingfisher at Lake Kerkini last year, when he spent both spring and autumn in Northern Greece photographing migrating birds.

There were many other quality entries, some of which can be seen on our website at [www.birdwing.eu](http://www.birdwing.eu).

These included:

**Michalis Kotsakis's** shot of a Kestrel and Hooded Crow, **Roy Clarke's** Temmincks Stint, **Mel Greenhalgh's** Squacco Heron, **Roger Butt's** Long-legged Buzzard, **Doug McCutcheon's** Little Owl, **Gordon Ramel's** Lapwing and **Johannes Laber's** Little Owl.

## New York, New York...!

The news of the competition attracted the attention of **New York's National Herald** newspaper, who are running an extended article about Birdwing and the competition winners!

Keep an eye out for the article at: [www.thenationalherald.com](http://www.thenationalherald.com) or go to our website for the full article on our 'Downloads' page at [www.birdwing.eu](http://www.birdwing.eu)

Thank you to all who entered and for all donations to Birdwing. Money raised from this competition will be used to build Tern rafts at Lake Kerkini. We hope that many more will be able to enter next year's competition so when you're next out birdwatching in Greece don't forget your camera!

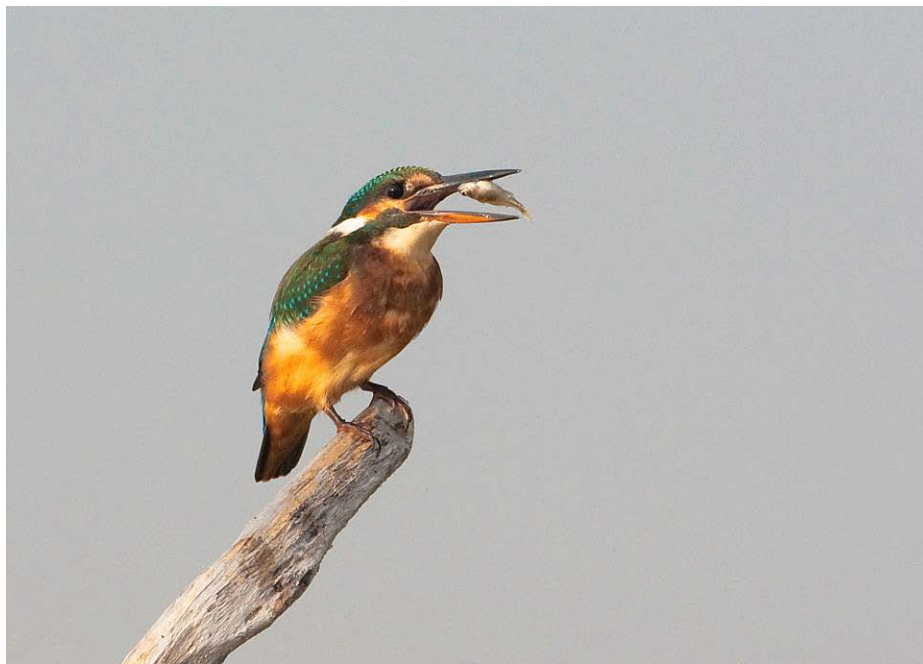




## Spotlight on ... Kingfishers

The Kingfisher is one of the jewels among Greek birds. The Austrian name of 'flying diamond' fits it perfectly. A piercing whistle, a flash of blue and it's gone, darting down the river. At this time of year they are busy nesting in holes in riverbanks, often digging a burrow up to a metre long, with a wider chamber at the end to accommodate the six or seven eggs. These take around three weeks to hatch and then the chicks stay in the burrow for a further month.

**Peter Giay's** Runner-up photo



Such is the dangerous life of the Kingfisher that, not only do they lay plenty of eggs in one go, but they often have several broods in a year. Sometimes these even overlap, with the male continuing to feed the last brood that has left the nest while the female is busy incubating the next lot. Learning to fish takes time and the young need extra help from Dad for two weeks or so before they can do it well enough themselves.

The need to have so many youngsters comes down to their specialised way of getting food, because it's dangerous. Perching or hovering above the water they spot a fish, up to a metre below the surface, and plunge down head first, entering the water like a dart. They use their wings underwater for extra power but everything, like the intended depth and direction of the dive, is decided before entering the water, because, on entry, the Kingfisher is blind.

Membranes close over its eyes to protect them. Having calculated everything in advance, even allowing for refraction, where things underwater aren't quite where they seem to be, they open their beaks and, powering through the water, wait to hit something, preferably a small fish, whereupon the beak snaps shut. With a shower of water the bird hurls itself upwards and lands, beating the fish on the perch to subdue it before positioning it to swallow head first, as perfectly demonstrated in Peter Giay's runners-up photo shown here. This is dangerous stuff.

Other factors that can cause high mortality amongst Kingfishers are pollution, which kills their food, and the weather. It's difficult to go fishing when prolonged heavy rain turns the clear river into a muddy torrent and raindrops change the still surface of pools into a bouncing mass. The other big killer is ice, and, although in Greece a big freeze doesn't come along that often, it just takes a few days of ice cover to cause deaths. Kingfisher mortality in Northern Europe, in the very cold and ice-bound winter just gone, will have been very high.

*Steve Mills*

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## Last issue's quiz!

Bird A was a Whitethroat  
(*Sylvia communis*).

Bird B was a Horned Lark/  
Shore Lark  
(*Eremophila alpestris*).

The second photo was  
taken on Mount Pangeio  
near Eleftheroupoli,  
Thrace in October.

Well done to  
**Stefan Wegleitner** and  
**Stavros Kalpakis**  
for their correct entries!



See page 7 for this issue's quiz!



## This issue's quiz!

Can you identify Bird A or Bird B or both?  
Email your entries to [quiz@birdwing.eu](mailto:quiz@birdwing.eu)

Bird A



Bird B



### WWF.gr reports on the Red Book

A large percentage of vertebrates in Greece and more than half of invertebrate species for which there is sufficient scientific data, are **under threat**. The 'Red Book of Endangered Species' in Greece, has been recently updated by the environmental groups **Greek Zoological Society, Greek Ornithological Society, Greek Herpetological Society, Speleological Research Institute** and **WWF Greece**.

The Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a dynamic database that includes the species most at risk of extinction in the wild. Regularly updated and centrally analysed, statistical data is published every 4-5 years. The Greek Red Book, (updated after 17 years) includes data for vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) and for the first time in Greece, marine and terrestrial invertebrate species (anthozoa, land snails, spiders, isopods, lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Odonata, etc.).

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The key points:

- 422 species of vertebrates and 591 species of invertebrates were assessed, based on internationally accepted criteria of the IUCN.
- Overall, 15% (171 species) of species of **vertebrates** of Greece fall into risk categories (Critically Endangered, Endangered and vulnerable) - likely to disappear in the short or long term.
- In **invertebrates**, 50.2% of species assessed (297 species) were included in risk categories.
- The core threat to all species is the loss and degradation of habitats. For species with restricted distribution even local changes can be fatal.
- Concerning the necessary conservation measures, those involved in gathering data for the Red Book strongly argue the need for law enforcement and the development of management plans.

Ms. Panagiota Maragos, project coordinator (WWF Greece), states: "The Red Book is not just a list, but also a rich source of data on threatened species, ecology, their threats, and information on conservation measures if implemented could prevent or even mitigate the risk of further reduction of their populations or their disappearance. The Red Book is a tool that must now be used to protect selected priorities, to plan and, crucially, to implement the necessary actions".

The data for the species evaluated for the Red Book will soon be available in the database on the website of the Greek Zoological Society [www.zoologiki.gr](http://www.zoologiki.gr)

or visit the IUCN site at [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)



For further information:

Panagiota Maragos, Coordinator Department of Scientific Documentation and Support, WWF Greece, Program Coordinator, WWF Greece: 210 3314 893, [p.maragou@wwf.gr](mailto:p.maragou@wwf.gr)

Anastasios Legakis, Zoological Museum, Univ. Athens, Programme Coordinator, Greek Zoological Society 210 7272 372, [alegakis@biol.uoa.gr](mailto:alegakis@biol.uoa.gr)

## Bee aware!

Spring is a fascinating time of year here in northern Greece, apart from the wonderful increase in bird species, and the joy of watching birds slowly polish themselves into their breeding costumes, there are new flowers opening every day, and insects of course. Butterflies like the Camberwell Beauty, Large Tortoiseshell, Comma, Peacock and Brimstone, which have overwintered as adults, start emerging from their hideaways and grace us with their beauty from as early as late February. However another group of insects is far more active in early spring, by mid-March, and increasingly on into April the countryside is awash with solitary bees.

Most people think of bees as Honey Bees, *Apis mellifera*, the semi-domestic and commercially farmed producer of honey and occasionally add Bumble Bees to their list. However there are hundreds of other species of bee in Europe and in Greece. Solitary Bee is a common name for a group of genera of bees most of which live solitarily. By solitarily we mean that a single female, after she emerges from her pupae and is mated by a male, provisions and lays eggs in a small selection of individually constructed cells in a small nest all by herself. One bee working on her own, in comparison with the 20 to 30 thousand that work together in a Honey Bee hive.



*Colletes similis*

In Europe, as in many other parts of the world, Solitary Bees are, and have been for many years, suffering from the activities of mankind, not only habitat destruction and pesticides but also because the huge number of Honey Bees being farmed all over Europe use up the majority of the nectar and pollen available to them. It may seem strange but CCD (Colony Collapse Syndrome) which has the bee industry so worried may actually be being good for the environment in that it may take some of the pressure off foraging Solitary Bees and allow their numbers to increase.

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There are over 2000 species of Solitary Bees in Europe, more than 1/3 of these, 660 species, are known from Greece. Ecologically Greece is known as a biodiversity hot spot for Solitary Bees. Solitary Bees are extremely important to the environment, pollinating a huge number of plant species. They range in size from the often seen, but not recognised *Xylocopa* species such as *X. violaceus* shown here...

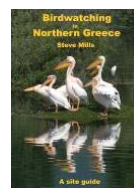


to species of *Halictus* that are little more than 3 mm long.

Solitary Bees are not only hard working, but fascinating and often beautiful. If the birding gets boring this spring, and you have seen all the butterflies in the area why not take a few moments out to observe them at their work.



To read more about these fascinating creatures visit [www.earthlife.net/insects/six.html](http://www.earthlife.net/insects/six.html)  
Gordon Ramel



## Birdwatching in Northern Greece new edition request

We are working on the second edition of the book Birdwatching in Northern Greece, as our copies of the first edition are rapidly declining in number! We will be including new sites from North -western Greece so please let us know if you have reports or sightings from other locations that you think we could include.

Please note that **all proceeds** from all editions of the book are given directly to bird conservation projects in Greece. Remaining copies of the book can be ordered online from [www.birdwing.eu](http://www.birdwing.eu)

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## Prespa News

Every year in January, the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) carries out the midwinter counts on behalf of the Hellenic Ornithological Society in the Greek part of Prespa. In 2010, for the first time, counts of wintering waterbirds were carried out jointly in all three countries of the Prespa basin: Greece, Albania and the FYR of Macedonia.

The counts were the result of coordination between the SPP in Greece, Protection and Preservation of the Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA) and the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES) in the FYR of Macedonia. Additionally, independent volunteers and other organizations participated in the counts, such as the Institute of Veterinary Service in Albania and colleagues from the Galicica National Park and the Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna in the FYR of Macedonia.

This joint effort was the first of its kind in the Prespa area. It is considered to be the first of a series of pilot monitoring activities due to take place in all three parts of Prespa during 2010, for the pilot field testing of environmental monitoring indicators. These pilot monitoring activities are all part of the project for the development of a Transboundary Monitoring System (TMS) for the Prespa Park area, which is being funded and implemented by SPP since 2007. The TMS project would not have been possible without the invaluable contribution of both international experts, and local experts, scientists and environmentalists from the three countries sharing the Prespa lakes.

In total 36278 birds were counted of which the most numerous in both Lakes Micro and Macro Prespa were Coot (*Fulica atra*) (58%). A previously numerous species in other counts, Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), was present in relatively small numbers (3575) covering only about 10% of the total counts. Although on the days of the counts weather conditions were not ideal and snow greatly impaired visibility, in general the weather until early January had been relatively warm and the low numbers of grebes could be attributed to these conditions.

Cormorants and Pygmy Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo* and *pygmeus*) were observed during the counts (1027 and 1112 respectively), rendering Prespa an important European wintering ground for Pygmy Cormorants once again.

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As expected three species of herons were observed: Great White Egret (*Egretta alba*) (68), Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) (30) and only two individuals of the cryptic Bittern (*Boraurus stellaris*).

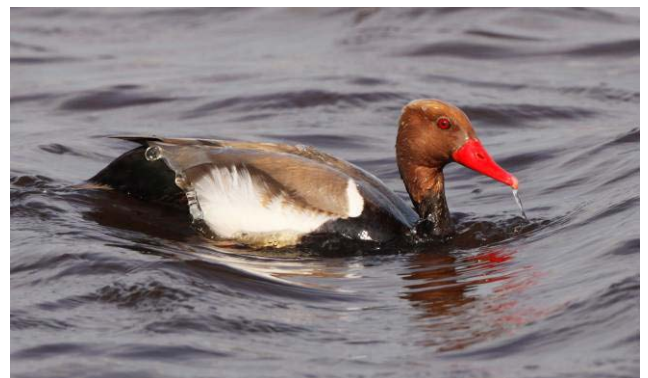
Eleven species of duck were recorded:

- Shellduck (*Tadorna tadorna*),
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*),
- Pintail (*A. acuta*),
- Gadwall (*A. strepera*),
- Shoveler (*A. clypeata*),
- Wigeon (*A. Penelope*),
- Teal (*A. crecca*),
- Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*),
- Pochard (*Aythya ferina*),
- Tufted Duck (*A. fuligula*) and
- Golden Eye (*Bucephala clangula*)

Ducks accounted for 14% of the counts. The most numerous were Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) (1569), Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) (1345) and the Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) (1039).

Despite reduced visibility, several important observations for the area were noted, such as the presence of Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*) in the FYR of Macedonia, a species that has been observed as accidental in the past and the presence of Smew (*Mergellus albellus*) (50 individuals) in Greece, a species that has been regularly observed in Lake Micro Prespa since 2006.

Another important observation is the high number of Red-crested Pochards (*Netta rufina*) in Lake Macro Prespa, totaling 87 individuals in Albania and the FYR of Macedonia.



Lastly, it should be mentioned that for the first time a total count of Goosanders (*Mergus merganser*) in all three parts of the Prespa lakes was achieved (54 individuals in all three countries), which is important, because in Prespa an isolated, relict population of resident breeding Goosanders is found.

M. Gletsos – [m.gletsos@wwf.gr](mailto:m.gletsos@wwf.gr)

# Request for information

*Do you have any news for our next issue?*

Let us know about birds in your part of Northern Greece. Whether you are working at a Centre, on holiday or whether you have a story, photos or some sightings to share, please let us know and we shall try to include it in our next issue.

Also we're keen to hear ideas for ways in which you think Birdwing can help birds in Greece. Please let us know your thoughts!

Email: [info@birdwing.eu](mailto:info@birdwing.eu)

## Birdwatching in Northern Greece this spring?

Whether a regular visitor, a resident, volunteer or a first-time holiday-maker we'd love to hear about your birdwatching highlights in Northern Greece. Do let us know. Send your news to [info@birdwing.eu](mailto:info@birdwing.eu)

Also keep looking at the website at [www.birdwing.eu](http://www.birdwing.eu) for details of recent sightings and news.



## Our busiest time ...

At this time of year we receive many emails with requests and queries prior to spring birdwatching trips to Greece. We have lots of information available on our website so please look there first. We'd like to apologise for delays in getting back to you all personally – Birdwing is something that we have to fit around our real jobs and we're not always able to respond immediately!

*Steve and Hilary*

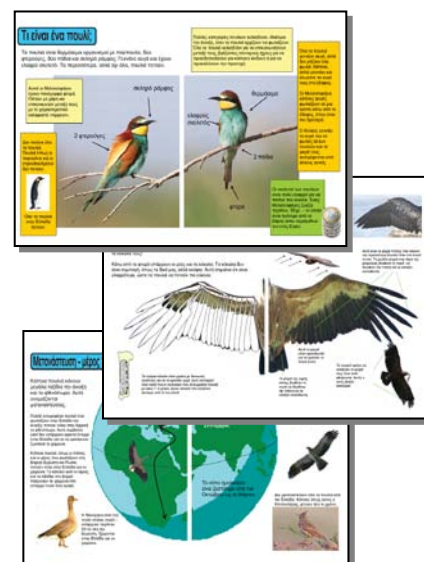
## Need a present for a Greek young person or child?

Ο παιδικός οδηγός για τα πουλιά της Ελλάδας (The Children's Guide to Birds of Greece) has been published and is selling well. The book, in Greek, is being used to help children understand more about birds and habitats. All funds go towards helping birds in Greece.

A perfect gift for a name-day or birthday and of interest to people of all ages – this book is packed with information about migration, beaks, feet, wings and feathers, habitats, food, birdsong and many other aspects of birds' lives. There is also a section containing fact-files about the most important and interesting Greek birds, including White Storks, Black Vultures, Flamingos, etc.



Go to [www.birdwing.eu](http://www.birdwing.eu) and order your copy now!



## And finally thanks ...

As always we would like to thank all those who helped us to produce this newsletter. Thanks to **Marianna Vlassi** from Prespa, **Eleni Makrigianni** from the Evros Delta, **Vasilis Terzis** from the Porto Lagos/Nestos/Ismarida Centre, staff from **WWF Greece**, **Peri Kourakli** from the **HOS**, **Gordon Ramel**, **Theodoros Naziridis**, **Angeliki Dimaki** and all the staff members at the Information Centres across Northern Greece who have provided us with information and helped us with translation. Thanks to all of you for your interest and support for what we are doing and to anyone else we have failed to mention.