

Protecting and restoring biodiversity soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures

Thematic cycle 3 «Game Biology»





Game Biology

Mammals



European rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)

It is superficially similar to the hare but it is smaller. It has a length of 35-40 cm and weights 1,3-2,2 kg. It has an oval to spherical head, upright ears which are smaller than the length of the head. The hind legs are bigger than the front legs and the tail is very short. The fur is short and thick, grayish brown on the upper surface of the body and lighter coloured on the sides with a whitish belly. In Greece it is found on some islands in the Aegean Sea.



European hare (Lepus europaeus)

It has a length of 55-60 cm and weights 3-6 kg. It has an elongated body, big oval head, perched up ears which are longer than the length of the head. The hind feet are longer than the front feet and the tail is very short. The fur is grizzled yellow-brown with black bristles on the back and on the sides and whitish on the underside. The ear tips are black. It is found throughout Greece except of some islands.



Wild boar (Sus scrofa)

It looks similar to the domestic pig but has longer legs and dense bristly coat. It has a body length of 110-180 cm and weights 100-200 kg. It has a bulky, massively built body and an elongated head which ends up in a snout. On the upper part and in the middle of the snout a slight bend is formed, which increases with the age of the animal. It has big and upright ears and short and strong legs. The tail is of medium size, ends up in a tuft of long hair and is usually straight and not twisted. The colour of the coat is grayblack during winter and gray in summer. Males have protruding tusks. The young have during the first 2-3 months of life prominent longitudinal stripes of brown and cream.

In Greece they are found in forested areas on the mainland as well as in Peloponnese and on the islands of Samos and Lesvos.



Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes)

Body length of 60-95 cm, length of tail 35-40 cm and weight 7-10 kg. It has a long body, long and sharp-pointed snout, upright triangular ears, short and thin legs and a long bushy tail. The fur is soft and thick. The upper surface of the body has a yellowish-red to reddish-brown colour and the lower surface is grayish-white, while the back of the ears, the paws and the frontal part of the legs are black. The tip of the tail is white and the snout black. In Greece it is present on the mainland and on the islands except of Crete.



Beech marten (Martes foina)

It has a body length of 40-48 cm, tail length of 23-25 cm and weights 1,3-2,3 kg. It has an elongated body, short legs, angular head, short angular ears and an elongated throat. The tail is long and bushy. The colour of the fur is light brown while the underfur is grayish-white. The colour tone of the head is lighter. Main diagnostic feature is the

white throat patch which has two projections extending backwards to the base of the forelegs and upward on the legs. In Greece it is present both on the mainland and on the islands.

BirdsColumbiformes



Small dove with black and white patch on either side of the neck, (juvenile with no neck patches), spots on the wings, black and white tail. It is a migratory species, arrives in Greece in April, reproduces and leaves for warmer countries in September for wintering. They are found in pairs or small flocks. (Length: 27 cm, weight: 120-200 gr).



Common wood pigeon (Columba palumpus)

It is a very large pigeon with a prominent white stripe on the wings which can be seen from a distance. It has also a white patch on either side of the neck, which is surrounded by an iridescent metallic green. The under parts of the wings are dark. It nests on trees and seldom on rocks. In Greece it is mainly found during winter. (Length: 41 cm, weight: 450-600 gr).



Rock dove (Columba livia)

It looks similar to the domestic dove but has a smaller beak and thinner body, without white or brindled plumage. It has two black stripes on the wings which can be seen from a distance, while the under part of the wings and the base of the tail are white. It is usually found in small flocks. It is a resident bird. (Length: 33 cm, weight: 230-380 gr).

Galliformes



European quail (Coturnix)

It has a 18 cm bill which is slightly curved and long and tapered wings. Short throat, legs and tail. The plumage is grayish with buff and brown streaks. The upper part of the head is dark brown with a buff thin elongated streak. A similar streak is starting from the base of the bill, passes over the eye and extends backwards to the base of the neck. Brownish belly. Females have breast spotted. It is perfectly camouflaged. It is the only migratory gallinaceous bird, although many stay all year round. During migration it is found in flocks, while the rest of the time it is seen in pairs or alone. (Weight: 70-150 gr).



Rock partridge (Alectoris graeca)

It has a rounded shape. It is distinguished by black breast-band which extends to the base of the bill and by 14 black white alternating stripes on the flanks. The beak and legs are red. It takes flight loudly. It lives in family flocks of 8-20 individuals. Its voice is a melodious cackling. It is a sedentary species. (Length: 33 cm, weight: 430-800 gr).



Chucar partridge (Alectoris chukar)

It has fewer and larger flank bars (10) and grey speckling on throat above breast –band. It has a brown stripe behind the eye and does not have black at the base of the bill. Its natural range in Greece extends from Nestos River to the East as well as in many islands. The above mentioned features distinguish it from the Rock partridge. Its call is reminding of a barnyard fowl. It is a sedentary species. (Length: 33 cm, weight: 460-600 gr).



Pheasant (Phasianus sp.)

The male cannot be confused with any other bird. It is brightly coloured, with a variety of tones of the basic colours. The female is smaller, grayish, looks similar to the partridge but differs because of its long tail. It takes flight with a characteristic cackling. It is migratory. (Length: 56-63 cm, weight: 720-1.800 gr).

Chiclids



Song thrush (Turdus philomelos)

Looks similar to the Mistle thrush, but it is smaller and more single coloured. The under part of the wings is yellowish. It is the most common thrush species in Greece. It is migratory, breeds in N.Europe and arrives in Greece in autumn for wintering. (Length: 23 cm, weight: 60-75 gr).



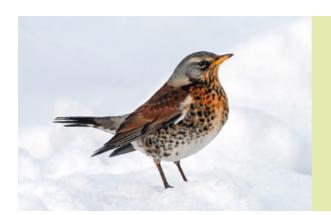
Mistle thrush (Turdus viscivorus)

A large thrush with large spots on the breast and belly. It has a very characteristic flight, wings being closed at regular intervals but without producing a marked undulation. It is found in small flocks or alone. The underside of the wings is off white. It is a migratory species, breeds in Northern Europe and comes to Greece in autumn in order to overwinter. Some individuals remain in the high mountains of Greece during summer where they breed. (Length: 27 cm, weight: 100-167 gr).



Redwing (Turdus iliacus)

It is the smallest thrush. Its basic features are the reddish-chestnut flanks and underwings, the creamy-white eyestripe and generally its darker colour compared to other thrushes. It is found in small or big flocks, usually in open areas, especially during bitter winters. It is a migratory species, breeds in Northern Europe and comes to Greece in autumn in order to overwinter. (Length: 21 cm, weight: 45-80 gr).



Fieldfare (Turdus pilaris)

A large thrush with a grey head, brownish back and black tail. During flight it resembles Mistle thrush. It is usually found in small flocks. It tweets while flying. It is a migratory species, breeds in Northern Europe and comes to Greece in autumn in order to overwinter. (Length: 25 cm, weight: 75-130 gr).



Common blackbird (Turdus merula)

The male is black with a yellow beak, while the female and the juveniles are generally brown with a lighter coloured chest. It tweets beautifully while sitting on a branch, rock or building. Epidemic species, part of the northern populations migrate south to Greece to spend the Winter (Length: 25 cm).

Charadriiformes



Eurasian woodcock (Scolopax rusticola)

It is a terrestrial bird. It lives near forest vegetation. It has rounded wings and a cryptic colouring. Its main features are the long bill and big eyes which are set far back on its head. The bird is flying fast and twistingly. It is a migratory species, breeds in Central and Northern Europe and comes to Greece in autumn to overwinter. It is a rather solitary bird, flies in dusk to the lowlands where it feeds mainly with worms and returns in forested areas at dawn. (Length: 34 cm, weight: 230-400 gr).



Common snipe (Gallinago gallinago)

Like a small woodcock but in a totally different habitat (wetland). It flies fast with continuous direction alternations. It has a very long bill, white belly, stripes on top and tail with white tips. It is usually found in small groups. It takes off by uttering a short note. (Length: 27 cm, weight: 80-140 gr).



Northern lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)

It is difficult to confuse it with other species. It has a distinctive metallic colour, a crest and broad rounded wings. It is usually found in large flocks, especially during winter season. Usually found near wetlands. (Length: 30 cm).

Anseriformes



Eurasian wigeon (Anas penelope)

The male has a yellowish-brown head, pinkish-red breast and white belly tipped with black. The female looks like the mallards female but it is smaller with whitish-gray undersides. (Length: 46 cm).



Eurasian teal (Anas crecca)

It is the smallest wild duck. Drake has chestnut head with distinctive broad-bordered green stripe, green speculum and a yellow patch behind tail coverts. The female looks like diminutive duck mallard, but has green black framed speculum. It often flies in large, dense flocks and rarely in V shaped flocks. (Length: 35 cm).



Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)

The male has a glossy green head, yellow beak, dark brown chest and whitish-gray undersides. The female is yellowish-brown without other distinctive colours. (Length: 58 cm).



Northern pintail (Anas acuta)

The male has a brownish head and a thin tail which stands out easily. The female has a longer shape and thinner tail than other wild duck females. (Length: 56 cm).



Garganey (Anas querquedula)

It is a small wild duck which is slightly bigger than the Eurasian teal. Drake can be told from all other waterfowl by conspicuous white stripe over eye, while the hen has a white throat. In both genders the blue-grey forewing is distinctive. The speculum is green. (Length: 38 cm).



Northern shoveler (Anas clypeata)

Both sexes are recognizable by heavy shovel-shaped bill. Drake has chestnut flanks. The green speculum distinguishes the female from the mallard's female. (Length: 51 cm).



Common pochard (Aythia ferina)

The glossy reddish head and black-grey body stand out in the males. The females are grayish-brown on the upper side, brownish on the underside, with a whitish bill-band. (Length: 46 cm).



Tufted duck (Aythia fuligula)

Drooping black crest and black upperparts are characteristic of the drake. The female has a very small crest, white band at base of bill and whitish under-tail coverts. (Length: 43 cm).



Greater White-fronted goose (Anser albifrons)

The upper part of the body is grey, while the chest has a lighter colour. The underside of the tail and the back of the belly are white. It has a broad white band above the base of the reddish bill. It has heavily barred under-parts and orange legs. It is a migratory bird and arrives in Greece for wintering. (Length: 55-75 cm).

Gruiformes



Eurasian coot (Fulica atra)

Dark grey-black bird with a conspicuous white forehead and bill. Unusual distinctive legs. Juveniles have a lighter grey-brown colour without a white forehead. Descents after running on the water like the diving ducks. (Length: 38 cm).



Common moorhen (Gallinula chloropus)

Dark-coloured wader species with white line along flank, upright tail and green legs with red garter. Juveniles are more olive-brown and differ from young coots in their white under tail coverts and their whitish tail. (Length: 33 cm).

Corvidae



Eurasian magpie (Pica pica)

Long tail up to 25 cm. The plumage on the head, breast, back and wings is black with a purple, blue and green gloss and a white patch in the outer wing. The belly is white. Primaries are white, while secondaries, coverts and tail are black with a metallic green, blue, purple gloss. It is a sedentary species. It is found throughout Greece. (Length: 21 cm).



Eurasian jackdaw (Corvus monedula)

The general colouring of the plumage is black with the exception of the neck and ear coverts, which are grey. (Length: 31 cm).



Carrion crone (Corvus corone)

The general colouring of the plumage is black with the exception of the neck, the back and the undersides which are grey. The bill is grey-black. (Length: 35-40 cm)



European starling (Sturnus vulgaris)

The plumage is in spring and summer black and glossy while during winter there are numerous white dots appearing. The long and sharp beak is in winter black while in spring yellow. (Length: 20 cm).



Eurasian skylark (Alauda arvensis)

It has a cryptic colouring, small crest and white upper tail coverts. It runs easily on the ground and brakes thanks to its long back claw. It flies very high, descends almost vertically by delivering a distinctive warbling song. During winter it is found in large flocks. (Length: 18 cm).







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The Project Partners are:

- The Hunting Federation of Macedonia Thrace
- The Hunting Association of K. Neurokopi "ARTEMIS"
- The municipality of K. Neurokopi
- The Association "EURORADAR" of Bulgaria
- Association of Hunters and Fishermen "Sokol" of Bulgaria



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