

## FLUCTUATIONS AND TRENDS OF WATERFOWL POPULATIONS WINTERING IN GREECE DURING THE PERIOD 1968-2006

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Midwinter Waterfowl Counts in Greece started in 1968, interrupted in 1974, resumed again in 1982 and since then have run continuously. The present study summarizes the results of the analysis of the midwinter populations of waterfowl (Anatidae) and the Coot *Fulica atra* from 19 wetlands, for the period 1968-2006. The most numerous species was Coot, followed by Teal *Anas crecca* and Wigeon *Anas penelope*. The numbers of seven species (Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*, Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Teal, Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*) show a clear increase, while two more (Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* and Smew *Mergellus albellus*) indicate a slightly increasing trend. Four species (Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Wigeon, Pintail *Anas acuta* and Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*) are clearly declining, while Coot also shows some evidence of decline. For seven species (White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Pochard *Aythya ferina* and Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*), numbers are fluctuating without a clear trend.