



Save the birds from the winter  
weather

“ Farm Business”

a handbook of birds that live freely in our countries and  
are endangered by weather conditions





In every country on Earth, there are birds that need human help in the winter due to weather conditions.

In this book, children and their teachers researched, collected information, and present to you some of the birds found in their countries during the winter.

If you encounter one of these birds, don't forget to offer it some seeds to eat...





The great garden tit (*Parus major*) and the blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) are sedentary birds that stay in our country. These colorful little wings are friendly and visit the garden daily if they find food. Feeders for pipits must contain: raw, unsalted and unroasted sunflower seeds, walnut kernels raw, unsalted and unroasted hazelnut kernels, sesame seeds, pumpkin, unsmoked and unsalted bacon and lard, especially in very frosty periods, soft fruit (for example leftover apples from the juicer), coarsely ground cornmeal.

Muşat Ioana , Grădinița Rotărăști ,  
România



These are our feeders. We used orange slices and pine cones brushed with lard and seeded.

Muşat Ioana , Grădinița Rotărăști ,  
România





19o Kindergarten of Marousi  
Teacher: Paraskevi Pegklidou



The **rock dove**, **rock pigeon**, or **common pigeon** is a member of the bird family Columbidae. In common usage, it is often simply referred to as the "pigeon", although this is the wild form of the bird. The pigeons most familiar to people are the domesticated form of the wild rock dove. In nature, the diet of pigeons is simple - with grains, seeds, small nuts and grasses.

Teacher: Paraskevi Pegklidou  
19o Kindergarten of Athens, Greece

Kindergarten „Castelul Fermecat “ Craiova,Romania  
Teacher Miliana Marcu

The dovering  
„*Gugustiuc*” in Romanian



The dovering (*Streptopelia decaocto* Frivaldszky, 1838) is a sedentary bird of the family Columbidae, order Columbiformes, resembling the feral pigeon. It has grayish-brown plumage on the back and belly, with a black stripe on the neck, is about 28 cm long, and is native to Asia Minor. They nest in trees.





## Gaița sau „Gaița albastră” sau Matiaș (Garrulus glandarius)



The jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) is a sedentary bird that remains in Romania during winter. It is known for its intelligence and colorful plumage, with blue patches on its wings. During the cold season, the jay adapts well to environmental conditions and searches for diverse food sources, including:

1. **Fruits and seeds:**

- Acorns (the jay is known for its habit of collecting and storing acorns in the ground during autumn, which it consumes in winter).
- Walnuts, hazelnuts, and sunflower seeds.

2. **Dried and soft fruits:**

- Rosehips, sea buckthorn, elderberries, or other fruits remaining in nature.

3. **Insects and invertebrates:**

- Although less common, the jay may eat hibernating insects or larvae if it finds them.

4. **Food scraps:**

- Near human settlements, jays may consume food scraps or food offered in feeders, such as raw, unsalted seeds and small pieces of nuts or hazelnuts.

5. **Meat and eggs** (less frequently):

- During harsh winters, jays may eat small pieces of meat or even eggs found in other birds' nests.



As an opportunistic species, the jay takes advantage of any available food source and adapts easily. It is an essential bird for forests, as it helps spread acorns, contributing to the regeneration of oak trees.



# Rock Partridge (Petroperthika as it is called in Greece)

primarily found in Crete.

## Characteristics:

- fast walking and running,
- flying rarely but effectively.
- red beak and legs
- grayish body
- distinctive striped markings.



During harsh winters, our numbers are often decimated, as we struggle to find the insects, seeds, and plant materials we rely on for survival.

**Threats:** hawks, snakes, weasels, and humans. Overhunting has further contributed to the dramatic decline in their population.

Female Partridges laying 10–15 **eggs** in spring and protecting their chicks with great care. They live peacefully in groups.



# Gypatetus Barbatus



*Crete is an island with enormous biodiversity and hosts hundreds of plants and animals. One of the rarest and most endangered species is the Vulture (Gypatetus Barbatus). Crete is one of their last refuges in Europe, the vulture lives here all year round. If you are really lucky you might even admire the king of the Cretan skies. The Vulture is the largest bird in Europe. It is also known as "bearded" because of the feathers under its beak that look like a beard.*

*Its body length can reach 125 cm and its wingspan 277 cm. Its weight ranges from 5.6 to 7 kg.*

*He likes to eat the bones of dead animals. Thus, it swallows the small bones whole. The bigger ones he carries in the air and lets them fall on certain sharp rocks to break, which are called spasistras.*



*But we are sure that he will love the seeds that we offered him*

# The black vulture

The black vulture, the emblematic species of Dadia National Park.

The Black Vulture is a diurnal bird of prey, one of the vultures that can be found in Greece. Its scientific name is *Aegypius monachus*. The Black Vulture, the largest bird of prey in Europe, builds its nest, over 2 meters in diameter, in the tops of mature trees. The Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli National Forest Park hosts the only natural colony of the species in the Balkans, with 30-36 breeding pairs.

Georgia Gourmou, 24 kindergarten, Alexandroupolis.





# The Vulture or Skara OF CRETE



The vulture

is a large and heavy predator

with wings spread

260 cm. and body length 97 -104 cm. In Crete it is called skara and it is found everywhere.

1st Kindergarden of Asimi ,teacher Helen Stiakaki .

## Σπίνος (Fringilla coelebs)

The Chaffinch is a relatively small bird (about 15 cm), about the size of the House Sparrow but slightly thinner and with a slightly longer and forked tail. The male has quite bright colors. It has cinnamon cheeks, chest and belly, which contrast with the gray-blue “cap” (crown) and neck. Its back is brownish-olive in color and its wings are black with a white patch. In the female, the colors on the chest and belly are not so bright, while the “cap” and neck are gray-brown. In flight, the white patches on the wing and sides of the tail are easily distinguished. Its beak is large and conical, with which it can break and eat seeds.



# Magpie (Pica Pica)



## Magpie

One of the most widespread birds in Greece is the Magpie (*Pica pica*). During the last decades its population in our country has skyrocketed and from a purely agricultural species it has now evolved into a numerous permanent inhabitant of villages and cities. It is known as “The thief magpie”. The magpie is said to “steal” objects that impress it and hide them in hard-to-reach places. The truth is that it is attracted by the presence of metallic objects which, however, can be anything, e.g. beads, glasses, cans, coins, or anything that “shines” in the light, but she does so out of innate curiosity due to her high IQ and not out of a desire to “steal”. It is considered not only among the most intelligent birds but also among the most intelligent of all animals in general.

Kindergarten of Charaka, Greece (Crete)

Responsible Teacher: Malliarou Rafailia





Tits:

Great Tit (*Parus major*):

The Great Tit is a small bird with a yellow belly and a black 'mask' around its head. In winter, Great Tits stay in forests, gardens, and parks. They love to visit bird feeders and eat seeds, nuts, and fat.

Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*):

The Blue Tit is a tiny bird with a blue cap and a yellow belly. Blue Tits also stay in gardens and forests during the winter. They like to eat seeds, insects, and fat, especially in cold weather.

Fun Fact:

Tits are very good at hanging upside down to pick food from feeders!"



Vilniaus Žaliakalnio darželis - mokykla  
Teacher: Božena Sergevič



Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*):

The male Bullfinch is a beautiful bird with a bright red belly. Bullfinches live in forests, especially in winter when they search for seeds. They eat seeds from trees like pines and spruces.

Fun Fact:

Bullfinches are quiet birds, but you can hear their soft song in the mornings!



Vilniaus Žaliakalnio darželis - mokykla  
Teacher: Božena Sergevič



# Dragoi Maria- Kindergarten “Castelul Fermecat”, Craiova, Romania

## The sparrow

The sparrow is the most widespread and well-known bird on the planet. The Latin word "passer", which means "sparrow" (but also "quick", "lively"), gave the scientific name of the zoological category Passeriformes, which includes 60% of current birds. It is a noisy, small and slender bird, up to 15 cm long and weighing only 30 g. It has a short tail, which is why it is not a good flyer, but it has a strong beak. The male has brown dorsal plumage with black spots, a gray head and a whitish ventral part. Under the chin it has a black spot that grows with age (the female lacks it) and which indicates its rank. The house sparrow lives both in villages and in cities, even in crowded ones, where it feeds on food scraps. Thus, we find it on restaurant terraces, around garbage containers (along with crows and pigeons), in supermarkets, warehouses, factories. It generally feeds on seeds, but when raising its chicks it also eats insects, worms, sometimes even frogs and lizards. It cleans its plumage by taking dust and water baths and sleeps with its head bent under its wing, but it is still not known why it usually picks yellow flowers.



# HOOPOE: The weird bird in the forest

Hoopoes are colourful birds found across Africa, Asia, and Europe, notable for their distinctive "crown" of feathers which can be raised or lowered at will.

The hoopoe has two basic requirements of its habitat: bare or lightly vegetated ground on which to forage and vertical surfaces with cavities (such as trees, cliffs or even walls, nestboxes, haystacks, and abandoned burrows) in which to nest.

In what was long thought to be a defensive posture, hoopoes sunbathe by spreading out their wings and tail low against the ground and tilting their head up; they often fold their wings and preen halfway through. They also enjoy taking dust and sand baths. Adults may begin their moult after the breeding season and continue after they have migrated for the winter.

The diet of the hoopoe is mostly composed of insects, although small reptiles, frogs and plant matter such as seeds and berries are sometimes taken as well

**15th Kindergarten of Aghia Paraskevi**

**Responsible teacher : Margariti Sofia**

