Preliminary study on the feeding ecology of squacco heron *(Ardeola ralloides),* little bittern *(Ixobrychus minutus)* and black-crowned night heron *(Nycticorax nycticorax)* at the wetland of Agras-Bryta-Nisi, Northern Greece.

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This project took place at the protected area of Agras-Bryta-Nisi wetland, North Greece. Its purpose was the investigation of herons' feeding ecology *(Ardeola ralloides, Ixobrychus minutus* and *Nycticorax nycticorax).* Fieldwork's protocol demanded two surveys per month, from May until August 2008. In each survey, herons were observed from predefined positions with wetland's panoramic view during morning or afternoon. In each observation, the use of a specific habitat, as well as foraging method, pecking frequency, success and prey captured by herons were recorded. Prey length was compared to that of each herons' beak. The herons appeared in particular habitats of the wetland. *Nycticorax nycticorax* was detected on riparian vegetation. *Ardeola ralloides* was tracked foraging in reeds while *Ixobrychus minutus* in reeds and on aquatic vegetation. Two feeding methods were observed by *Ardeola ralloides* and *Ixobrychus mnutus:* 'stand-and-wait' and 'walking slowly'. The average success of the feeding attempts for *Ardeola ralloides* and *Ixobrychus minutus* was very high, reaching 87% for *Ardeolla* and 92% for *Ixobrychus*. The time between two consecutive captures was shorter for *Ixobrychus minutus* than *Ardeola ralloides* which mainly preferred fish than other prey types. *Ixobrychus minutus* most of the times captured prey (fish or other types) equal or half of its beak's size. The preliminary results showed that the three heron species resemble in prey capture techniques and differ in captured prey size. In addition, observing the feeding behavior of herons could be a useful tool for environmental education apart of its conservation value. More surveys are required to identify the value of the wetland as foraging ground for herons, particularly in relation to prey availability.