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The evolution of Greek fauna since classical times

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Abstract

This article concerns the Greek fauna of classical and late antiquity and changes up to the present day. The main sources are geographical and zoological texts, as well as descriptions from travellers who visited Greece. The study of the texts of classical authors following classical authors: Xenophon, Aristotle, Aristophanes Byzantios, Pliny, Dio Chrysostom, Plutarch, Pausanias and the Greek fauna of classical and late antiquity, such as the lion and the leopard, are today extinct in Greece, whereas some such as the cat, the chicken and the peacock, were introduced about that time or a little earlier from other regions. Some of them such as the wild rabbit and the pheasant, were unknown at that time, as they appeared later in Greece from other areas.

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