

The Birds

Fossil bird remains are even more rare than those of reptiles. That is because their bones are extremely fragile. Bird bones are hollow, to save weight and make flying possible. The limb bones found at Vatera may belong to an eagle (*Aquila* sp.). The rarity of bird fossils gives the wrong impression that birds were scarce around Vatera, two million years ago. That was not the case, and the area was as full with birds as it is today. Even more, also large birds like eagles inhabited the sky. At present, such large wild birds become more and more rare.