

A winter trip to Southern Oman (incl stopovers at UAE), 18-29 february 2016

by Remco Hofland

Introduction

This trip was initiated by me upon learning that (one of my few remaining new birdfamilies in the world) *Hypocolius* was fairly easy at Mudhay oasis (S Oman), and chances were good at seeing another couple of desired Arabian species, most noticeably White-cheeked Tern, Plain Leaf Warbler, Arabian Partridge, Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak, Jouanin's Petrel, Socotra Cormorant and three new wheatears: Hume's, Arabian and Persian (Red-tailed/Rusty-tailed/Rufous-tailed).



Male *Hypocolius*, Mudhay oasis (Jorrit Vlot)

All photographs in this report were taken in S Oman, unless stated otherwise.

Participants

Garry Bakker, Remco Hofland (report), Frank Oling, Marijke Roos, Paul Schrijvershof and Jorrit Vlot from The Netherlands.

Highlights

I'm pleased to say we saw all of my desired species well, and furthermore had a very pleasant stay in Salalah, enjoying the hundreds of eagles at Raysut rubbish dump (incl this winter's vagrant Pallas's Fish Eagle), the many beautiful wadis of S Oman, the tasty local fruitjuices, the excellent swimmingpool, Indian Ocean views and great cooking at Beach Villas in Salalah and, surprisingly, a great supporting cast of magnificent creatures like breaching Manta (or Devil) Rays, four Arabian Chameleons, breaching False Killer Whale, dozens of dolphins feeding only meters away, great views of sea turtles, Baluch Ground Gecko and many beautiful dragonflies.

Personal avifaunistic (non-lifer) highlights included a flock of 49 Cream-coloured Courser, daytime close-ups of Eurasian Scops Owl & male Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, soaring Verreaux's Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, multiple close-ups of Greater Spotted, Steppe, Bonelli's, Booted and Eastern Imperial Eagle & Crested Honey Buzzard, Arabian Warbler, Little & Spotted Crane, sev adult Turkistan Shrikes, Bimaculated, Oriental Sky- and Desert Lark, Sand Partridge, singing Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, sev Asian Desert Warbler, Forest Wagtail, getting reacquainted with Scrub Warbler, nest-building Rüppell's Weavers etc



Breaching False Killer Whale *Pseudorca crassidens*, Mirbat (Jorrit Vlot)

Despite great views of both sexes of Hypocolius, my personal **Highlight-top-5 of Oman** was:

1. breaching Manta (or Devil) Rays
2. breaching False Killer Whale
3. dozens of Bottlenosed & Indian Humpback Dolphins feeding very close to shore
4. Green (Khor Kalba, Sjarjah) & probable Loggerhead Turtles (Mirbat, Oman) swimming nearby
5. Arabian Chameleon (4!)

My **Lifer-top-10** (out of 12 lifers seen):

1. Hypocolius
2. Jouanin's Petrel
3. Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak
4. Arabian Partridge
5. Hume's Wheatear
6. Arabian Wheatear
7. White-cheeked Tern
8. Rusty-tailed Wheatear (this is its HBW Alive name)
9. Socotra Cormorant
10. Arabian Scops Owl

Non-lifer top-10:

1. Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse
2. Hooded Wheatear
3. Scrub Warbler
4. Eurasian Scops Owl
5. large numbers of eagles at dump
6. Black-crowned Tchagra
7. Cream-coloured Courser
8. Pallas's Fish Eagle
9. Forest Wagtail
10. Asian Desert Warbler

(The only lifers that didn't make the cut were Yemen Serin & Plain Leaf Warbler)



Yemen Serin, Tawi Atayr (Jorrit Vlot)



Plain Leaf Warbler, Wadi Masafi (UAE) (Garry Bakker)



Scrub Warbler, Wadi Masafi (UAE) (Garry Bakker). Aesthetically, my pic-of-the-trip!

Dragonfly top-5 (out of 22 species recorded):

1. Red-veined Dropwing *Trithemis arteriosa*
2. Blue Basker *Urothemis edwardsii*
3. Cora's Pennant *Macrodiplex cora*
4. Phantom Flutterer *Rhyothemis semihyalina*
5. Somali Bluet *Arabicnemis somalicum*



Red-veined Dropwing *Trithemis arteriosa*, male (Paul Schrijvershof)

Trip totals

We recorded a trip total of 228 birds, of which 34 were only seen in the UAE. Only one probable was heard-only, an Arabian (Spotted) Eagle Owl (not counted in the total), and the trip total furthermore includes 1 vulture and 1 bright *Phylloscopus* not identified to species and 6 feral birds (counting Rock Dove as genuine). We saw 8 birds endemic to the Arabian peninsula (**E**), 15 subspecies endemic to the Arabian peninsula (**Essp**) and 9 (mostly long-staying) vagrants to Oman (**V**). Of the 15 subspecies endemic to Arabia, I regard three as possible future splits (**E(ssp)**): *percivali* Black-crowned Tchagra, *arabs* Abyssinian White-eye and *arabicus* Long-billed Pipit.



Percivali Black-crowned Tchagra and *arabs* Abyssinian White-eye, Ain Tobruq (Garry Bakker, Jorrit Vlot)

Birds dipped

At Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), described on www.uaebirding.com as a good site for **Desert Eagle Owl**, we dipped. Random attempts in the desert between Thumrayt and Mudhay oasis (S Oman) failed as well. We (especially GB) checked all wadi walls of Wadi Al Mugsayl and Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah thoroughly for **Hume's (Desert) Owl**, but couldn't find any. **Arabian (Spotted) Eagle Owl** was attempted at night at Ain Hamran and Wadi Darbat, but not found. Although we checked dozens of African Rock Buntings, we did not encounter **Striolated Bunting** anywhere.

Sound recordings

We only used sound when searching for owls at night: Arabian Scops Owl readily responded (and two were seen), but Arabian (Spotted) Eagle Owl did not.

GB made sev sound recordings which he uploaded onto Observation.org; Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Arabian Wheatear and Hypocolius proved new for the website.

Timing

For me, this trip was designed primarily for Hypocolius. The usual (and bird(er)-wise more busy) time of year to visit Oman is November. However, Hypocolius is not guaranteed in November.

To us, late Febr was ideal. Aside from a Danish and a Belgian crew, Jens & Hanne updating their new edition, and Qatari and Kuweiti twitchers after Pallas's Fish Eagle and Malachite Kingfisher, we encountered no other birders so had to do everything ourselves (which we like). Unlike November, Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak numbers were fairly high (c 25 easily seen in a morning, birds singing and displaying) and many other birds were also singing and displaying (sunbirds, Rüppell's Weaver, Olivaceous Warbler etc). We were slightly disappointed in the small number of true migrants we found, but as temperatures were rising during our stay it felt like migration could start any moment. Migrants seen included Eurasian Scops Owl, Pallid Harrier, Booted Eagles & Caspian Reed Warbler, ever-changing numbers of 'Isabelline' Shrikes, waders, Citrine, White and Western Yellow Wagtails, Tawny & Tree Pipits). Personally, I also regret not connecting with the flock of c 65 Sociable Lapwings wintering at Shanawt Farm, but aside from that it was a perfect trip!

The Birdfinder states that no seabirds are around from Dec onwards, but we saw c 20 each of Jouanin's Petrel & Persian Shearwater during our Mirbat pelagic, so even for these Febr is excellent. We also found that this was a good time of year for other pelagic wildlife, encountering many breaching Manta (or Devil) Rays, breaching False Killer Whale, hundreds of breaching Tuna, as well

as turtles and dolphins (both presumably found year-round). The Danish crew, after learning from our success, also did a pelagic and they even encountered a (heavily worn) Swinhoe's Stormpetrel!

Temperature-wise Febr is also quite ideal. During the night, it was around 21 C, while during the day it would heat up to c 28-33 C (rising towards the end of our stay). Earlier in winter temperatures in Mudhay oasis are lower, c 13 C in early morning, which means Hypocolius could be easier to find as they warm themselves after cold nights on top of the palm trees in the morning.



Female Hypocolius, Mudhay oasis (Garry Bakker)

Trip design

Oman is a large country, and driving the stretch between Muscat in the north and Salalah in the south takes c 2 days (one-way). Many birders therefore drive down and fly back. In my view, when skipping the north, the only real thing of note one misses is **Bar el Hikman** (1,000's of Crab Plovers, Broad-billed Sandpipers and other waders). While that must be an awesome place, we decided it was for another trip.

Also, only found in the north is **Omani Owl**. However, its calls are very weak, it starts calling only after 11 pm, the site is not easy to reach and chances of seeing it are very slim. We therefore decided it was also for another trip.

The last interesting bird in the north (for a world birder) is **Eversmann's Redstart**. This Febr, c 10 turned up unexpectedly not far from Muscat. Usually, they're only found in the northernmost Omani province of Musandam (bordering the Strait of Hormuz), which is most easily reached crossing the border from the UAE. We had wanted to spend our first 2.5 days in Musandam but abandoned the plan after learning crossing the border is not that easy currently.

Interesting websites

www.uaebirding.com
www.birdsoman.com
birdingforalark.blogspot.nl
uae.observation.org
oman.observation.org

Literature taken on the trip

- Birdwatching guide to Oman (hereafter referred to as the Birdfinder), 2nd edition, by Jens & Hanne Eriksen, indispensable;
- Birds of the Middle East, 2nd edition, by Richard Porter and Simon Aspinall, indispensable;
- Birds of Europe, by Lars Svensson, Dan Zetterström and Killian Mullarney (not used);
- Birds of Europe, by Lars Svensson, Dan Zetterström and Killian Mullarney app;
- Macmillan Birder's Guide to European and Middle Eastern birds, by Hadoram Shirihi and David Christie (not used).
- Guide to the dragonflies and damselflies of South Africa, by Warwick & Michele Tarboton.

On-site PS and I purchased The Oman Birdlist from Jens & Hanne Eriksen (10 OR / € 25).

Visa

Entry into the UAE is visa-free for EU nationals. Entering Dubai was no hassle both times.

For Oman a visa is necessary, which can be obtained at the airport. At Salalah, a small airport, this meant a 15-min wait and paying € 15 each. Mind that this is the price for a 10-day visa (we were only staying 9 days); longer than 10 days is twice the price. Also note that, when first crossing into Musandam from the UAE and then flying onwards to either Muscat or Salalah (as we considered doing), two single-entry visa are required. A multiple-entry visa requires someone to have been out of the country for a certain (prolonged) period, so that visa doesn't do for what we planned.



Emirates A380 over Burj Al Khalifa, Al Mamzar Park (UAE) (Garry Bakker)

Travel

International flights

We flew Emirates Amsterdam – Dubai (A380), departing 10 pm & arriving 7.35 am; and FlyDubai Dubai – Salalah (B737), departing 4.30 pm, arriving 6.15 pm, for € 537 return. The direct flight Dubai – Salalah (c 1h45m) is only available 5x a week, on four days (Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun).

When checking in for our FlyDubai Salalah-Dubai flight in the evening of Sun Febr 28, we were already given boarding passes for our Mon Febr 29, 3.15 pm Emirates flight Dubai-Amsterdam. We could have had our luggage labelled onwards to Amsterdam, but decided to collect it for our one night in Dubai.



Flying out to Oman from Dubai (Garry Bakker)

Car rental

In the UAE, having planned visits to Barracuda Beach, Qarn Nazwa, Wadi Masafi & Khor Kalba, we rented a Ford Explorer 7-seater at Hertz which was (barely) spacious enough for the six of us and our luggage. Price: € 278 for 2.5 days (Febr 18-20).

In Salalah, S Oman, we rented a Mitubishi Pajero 7-seater ('Ford Explorer 3.5 or similar') at EuropCar, with 1 seat in the back. It did not hold much space for luggage, but that wasn't necessary because we stayed 8 nights in the same hotel. Price: € 513 for 8 days (Febr 20-28) incl unlimited mileage, additional driver, AC & cd-player.

Back in Dubai, we rented a luxury Mercedes Viano 9-seater van at Sixt, since we only planned to visit Dubai city (most noticeably Burj Khalifa & Burj al-Arab). Price: € 180 for a day (Febr 29). Since we arrived at Terminal 2, a Sixt representative awaited us at the exit and took us to the car parked outside, where we handled the paperwork. We turned in the car a day later at Terminal 1, meaning we had to take a bus (free-of-charge) to Terminal 3 for international baggage drop.

Gas prices

All rental cars took Super unleaded. Price per liter in the UAE was c € 0.45, and in Oman c € 0.37.

Lodging

On Febr 18, we stayed at Falcon Apartments Hotel in downtown Fujairah (east coast UAE), prebooked for c € 50 per room.

On Febr 19, we stayed at Jonrad Hotel in downtown Dubai, for c € 38 per person. Parking the car on a nearby parking lot cost another c € 15 for the night.

On Febr 28, we stayed at Eureka Hotel in downtown Dubai, for c € 38 per person. Free parking was possible next to the hotel. Despite various discos inside the hotel (and it being located in a questionable neighbourhood) we slept very well. The next-door Phillippine restaurant was nice.

From Febr 20-28 we stayed at **Beach Villas at Salalah** Indian Ocean beachfront, for c € 42 per person per night (based on three double rooms). For this we got seaview spacious deluxe rooms on the third (= highest) floor. The view, dinners, swimmingpool and management were excellent, so we thoroughly recommend the place. They can be reached at beachspa@omantel.net.om, +968 2323 5999 (office), +968 9908 0943 (cell) and www.beach-villas-salalah.com.



View from Beach Villas, Salalah (Remco Hofland)

Mirbat pelagic

We contacted Hateem by whatsapp from home, arranging a pelagic for Tue Febr 23 (aiming at an easy start on Sun Febr 21 and Hypocolius on Mon Febr 22). His phone number is +968 9908 8815 and his email say_ary@hotmail.com. His English is fairly good, he knows where to go to intercept the Jouanin's Petrels flying east, and he has a keen eye for picking up shearwaters, turtles, dolphins etc. Hateem uses a small open wooden boat, c 5m long, with outboard engine (8 people maximum?). He will also take life vests, chum* and drinks. His price is 20 OR (c € 50) per person, but we got the boat for 100 OR (c € 250). Our pelagic trip was from 1 pm until dusk (c 6 pm) but tours can be designed as you like.

*Hateem's chum consisted of dead fish & fish oil (without popcorn). He created a trail that mainly attracted gulls (Sooty mostly, with the occasional Heuglin's, Steppe and Pallas's), which in turn would sometimes attract Persian Shearwaters. Jouanin's were never interested in the chum and typically flew past at c 100m distance. When lucky (and/or at other times of year: Nov is good for Wilson's), stormpetrels will check out the chum though.



Hateem (right) getting his boat ready; Jorrit enjoying himself, Mirbat (Remco Hofland)



Persian Shearwaters, Mirbat pelagic (Garry Bakker)



Steppe Gull, Mirbat pelagic (Garry Bakker)



Pallas's Gull, Mirbat pelagic (Jorrit Vlot)

Food

Excellent lunch and dinner at Beach Villas (order in advance, c € 15 per person) and at Al Khabeer Turkish Restaurant (23 July Street) in Salalah. Lunches were mostly had at the 'burger & juices' joints of which there are many in Salalah.

Acknowledgements

Kasper Hendriks and Jos van den Berg both kindly shared gen from their respective Nov 2015 trips. Jens Eriksen emailed us a Birdfinder update with various new sites (most noticeably Ain Tobruq and Mudhay oasis). Staying in the same hotel throughout our stay, Jens & Hanne Eriksen also provided us with recent on-site information. Gary Feulner, chairman of the Dubai Natural History Group, kindly identified the two lizards we photographed in Khor Kalba (Sjarjah).

Sites visited

U.A.E.: during our 2.5 day stopover, we decided to target birds we didn't stand a chance of seeing in S Oman, most noticeably Crab Plover, Desert Eagle Owl, Plain Leaf Warbler, Hume's & Variable Wheatear, White-cheeked & Saunders's Tern and Collared Kingfisher. Our plan to cross the border into the Omani enclave of Musandam, with wintering Plain Leaf Warbler and Eversmann's Redstart, was deserted when told by rental car companies there was a chance we'd be turned away by the Omani at the border crossing; this appeared to be a recent policy change. Our first stopover in the UAE was two nights, and we visited

Thu Febr 18

- Wasit Nature Reserve (distant White-tailed Lapwing scoped through the fence);
- Barracuda Beach (29 **Crab Plover**, 2 **Socotra Cormorant**);
- Qarn Nazwa (**Plain Leaf Warbler**, **Variable Wheatear**, dipped Desert Eagle Owl).



Four Crab Plovers flying past two preening Socotra Cormorants, Barracuda Beach (UAE) (Garry Bakker)

Fri Febr 19

- Wadi Masafi (**Plain Leaf Warbler**, Hooded & **Hume's Wheatear**, Scrub Warbler);
- Khor Kalba* (**Collared Kingfisher**, Indian Pond Heron, many Green Turtles);
- Fujairah beach (**White-cheeked Tern**, **Persian Shearwater**).

Sat Febr 20 (Abu Dhabi)

- Ghantoot (Eurasian Wryneck, Southern Grey Shrike);
- Al Wathba Camel Track (Clamorous Reed Warbler, Menetries' Warbler, Siberian Stonechat).

*When scoping Wasit Nature Reserve we bumped into a South African birder who invited us to join a Natural History Walk he was guiding through Khor Kalba's mangroves the next morning. Although the walk started 9.30 am and (after visiting Wadi Masafi first) we only arrived at Khor Kalba bridge at 10.15 am, the guard kindly phoned the guide and we were allowed access. The guided group consisted of c 30 people, all expats from Dubai city. The group walked past the northernmost mangroves (Indian Pond Heron) and onto the beach and returned to the bridge around noon. From the path along the mangroves (normally out-of-bounds) we could see 5 Green Turtles swim by under water; a further 8 (larger) Green Turtles were seen from the bridge (access allowed at any time) at low tide. Collared Kingfisher was seen from the bridge, both at 10.15 am and at noon.



Variable Wheatear, Qam Nazwa (UAE) (Garry Bakker)



Hume's Wheatear, Wadi Masafi (UAE) (Garry Bakker)



Collared Kingfisher, Khor Kalba (UAE) (Garry Bakker)



White-cheeked Tern, Fujairah (UAE) (Garry Bakker)

Our second UAE stopover lasted only half a day, and after visiting Burj al-Arab we went to:

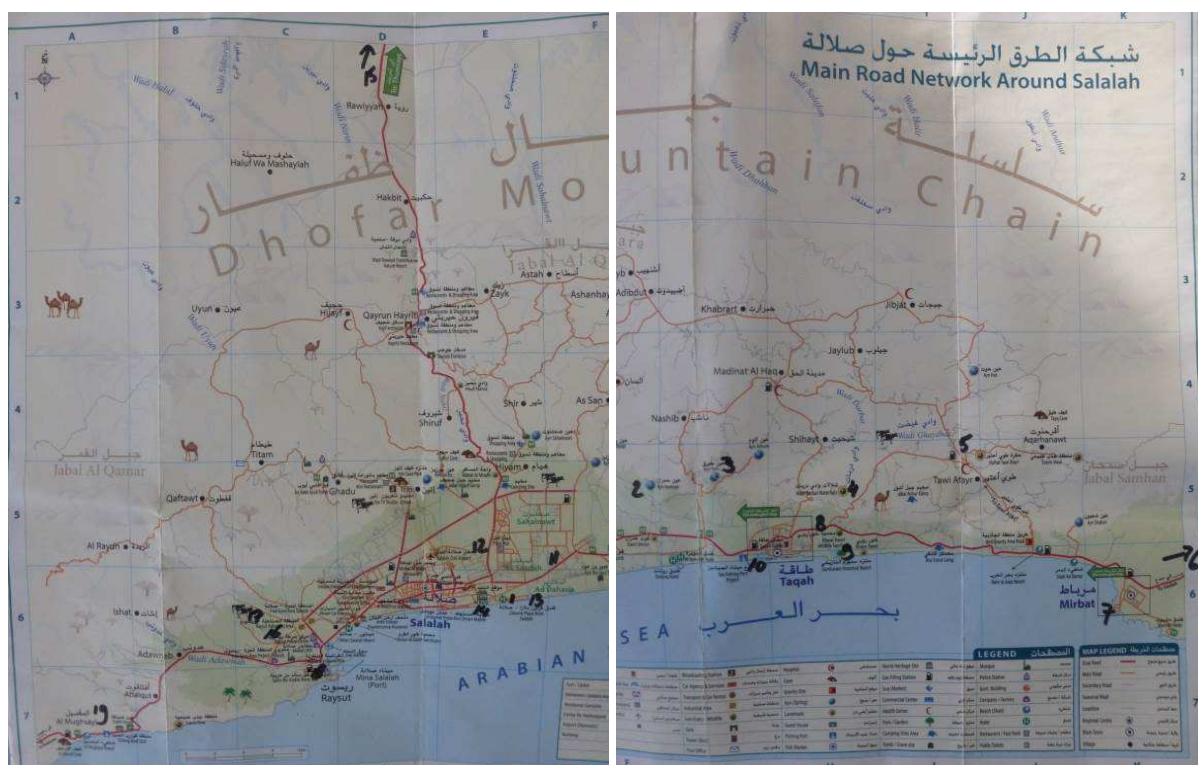
Mon Febr 29

- Al Mamzar Park (refused access because of 'ladies day' but still saw **Saunders's Tern** and feral Asian Pied Starling and Taveta Golden Weaver);
- Mushrif National Park (Shikra).

Oman: All birding sites mentioned in the Birdfinder are c 30 mins drive from Beach Villas, except Al Balid archaeological site, Ad Dahariz Park and East Kawr (all c 5 mins), Raysut area and Mirbat (c 45 mins), Al Mugsayl and Tawi Atayr (c 1 hr), Mudhay oasis (2 hrs) and Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (c 3.5 hrs). These times are estimates, since we frequently stopped for birding along the way. As Beach Villas is located on the east side of Salalah, with birding sites further west one has to take town traffic into account. Going east, one primarily uses highways with 120 km/hr speed limit.

The numbers mentioned below refer to the chapters in the Birdfinder; Ain Tobruq, Al Balid and Mudhay oasis are not in the 2nd edition but probably will be in the 3rd.

1. Beach Villas accomm
2. Ain Hamran, 10.4
3. Ain Tobruq
4. Wadi Darbat, 10.8
5. Tawi Atayr, 10.9
6. to Jinawt & Ash Shuwaymiyah, 9.4
7. Mirbat, 10.11
8. Kawr Rawri N, 10.7
9. Kawr Rawri S, 10.7
10. Kawr Taqah, 10.6
11. Shanawt Farm, 10.1
12. Jarziz Farm, 10.1
13. East Kawr & Ad Dahariz Park, 10.2
14. Al Balid Archaeological Site
15. to Mudhay oasis
16. Raysut dump, 10.14
17. Raysut sewage plant, 10.14
18. Raysut Lagoon, with just south of it
Raysut lighthouse, 10.14
19. Wadi Al Mugsayl, 10.15



Tourist map of Dhofar region mentioning sites visited (Remco Hofland)

A free Tourist map (see above) is available on Omani airports and at Beach Villas; this, combined with the Birdfinder, is sufficient for birding the Salalah region. However, while preparing we made an export of (GPS waypoints of) the most important local birding sites and sightings (using Observation.org and the tripreport by Valérie Goedhals, Oman 22 Nov – 5 Dec 2014 (in Dutch)) and used Maps.me to carry them on our cellphones to navigate and get to birding sites faster.

We visited, in chronological order:

Sun Febr 21

- Ain Tobruq** (**Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak**, the distinct *percivali* Black-crowned Tchagra and *arabs* Abyssinian White-eye, Black-crowned Sparrowlark, Arabian Warbler, African Wild Cat);
- Tawi Atayr (**Yemen Serin, Arabian Wheatear**, 12 Eastern Imperial Eagle);
- Kawr Rawri N*** (**Malachite Kingfisher**);
- Kawr Taqah (Yellow Bittern, Pheasant-tailed Jacana);
- Kawr Rawri S*** (Pallas's Gull, Caspian & Gull-billed Tern);
- Shanawt Farm (200+ Pacific Golden Plover);
- Al Balid Archaeological Site (Salalah) at dusk (14 Spotted Thick-knee).



Bathing and drinking Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeaks, Ain Tobruq intersection (Garry Bakker)



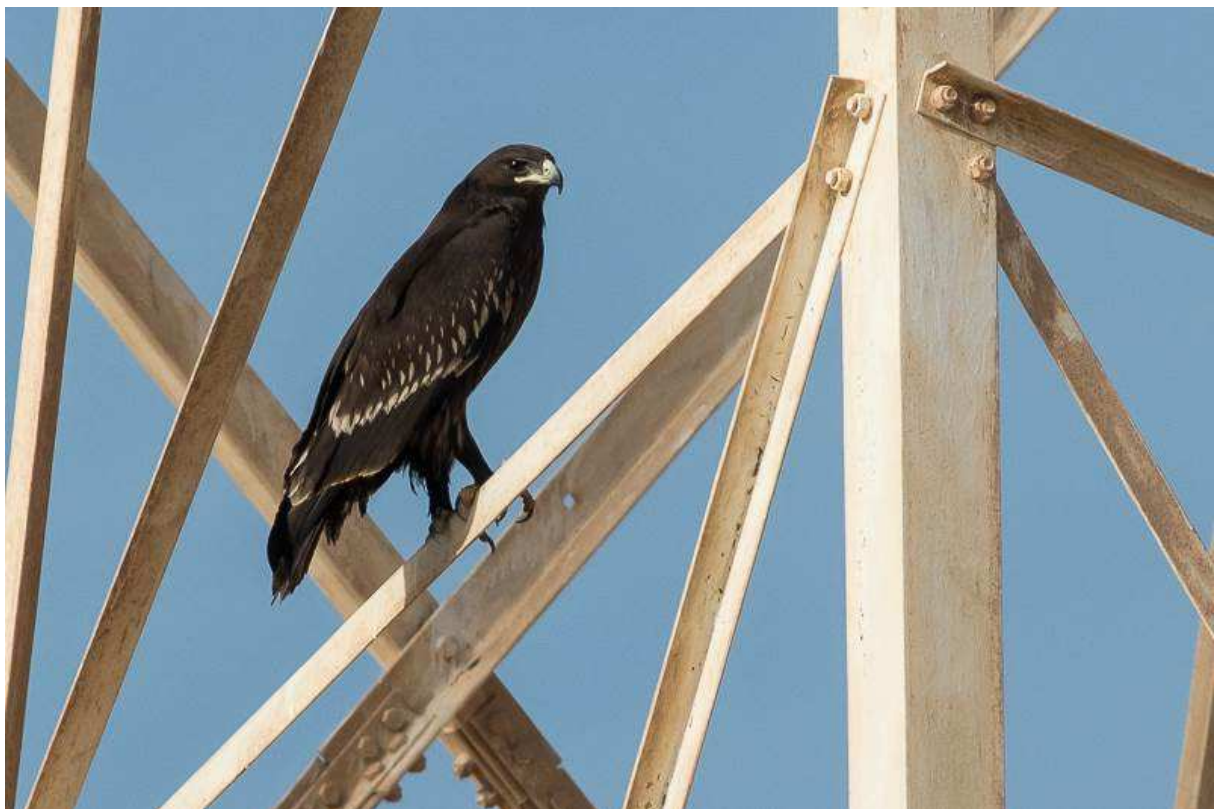
Kawr Rawri S, view to the north from the ruined fortress (Frank Oling)

Mon Febr 22

- Mudhay oasis (2 hr drive from Salalah)(**Hypocolius**, Hooded Wheatear, Lanner);
- Raysut dump (400+ Steppe, 25+ Eastern Imperial & c 15 Greater Spotted Eagles, 268 White Stork, 1,000+ Heuglin's & 1,000+ Sooty Gulls, *feldegg* Western Yellow Wagtail);
- Raysut sewage plant (83 **Abdim's Stork**, Citrine Wagtails).



Immature Steppe Eagle, Raysut dump (Garry Bakker)



Immature Greater Spotted Eagle, Raysut dump (Garry Bakker)



Immatures Steppe (left) and Eastern Imperial Eagle, Raysut dump (Jorrit Vlot)

Tue Febr 23

- Ain Hamran (**Arabian Partridge, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Verreaux's Eagle**, Long-billed Pipit, **Crowned Sandgrouse**, Arabian Warbler, 1m Pallid Harrier);
- Ad Dahariz Park (Turkestan & Daurian Shrike, Red-throated & Long-billed Pipit, Citrine & *beema* Western Yellow Wagtail, Yellow-billed Kite & nest-building Rüppell's Weaver);
- Mirbat pelagic (**Jouanin's Petrel, Persian Shearwater**, Pallas's Gull, Masked Booby, large (Loggerhead?) Turtles, 40+ Bottlenose Dolphins, **breaching False Killer Whale**).



Ain Hamran (Frank Oling)



Arabian Partridge, Ain Hamran (Garry Bakker)



Ad Verreaux's Eagle, Ain Hamran (Jorrit Vlot)



Bruce's Green Pigeon, Ain Hamran (Jorrit Vlot)

Wed Febr 24

- East Kawr (**Indian Humpback Dolphins**);
- Ad Dahariz Park (**Forest Wagtail, Crested Honey Buzzard**, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler);
- random Salalah roadside lawn (Eurasian Scops Owl, Red-breasted Flycatcher, *lutea* Western Yellow Wagtail);
- Jarziz Farm (Rosy Starling, Bimaculated Lark, **Oriental Skylark**);
- Shanawt Farm (Imperial & Greater Spotted Eagle, Namaqua Dove);
- Ad Dahariz Park (**Arabian Chameleon**);
- Kawr Rawri S (Pallas's Gull, Caspian Tern, **Cotton Pygmy Goose**, Red-knobbed Coot, **Lesser Flamingo**);
- Kawr Rawri N (Little & Spotted Crane, White-breasted Waterhen, Caspian Reed Warbler, Yellow Bittern);
- Ain Hamran (**Arabian Scops Owl**).

Thu Febr 25

- Beach Villas (**Indian Humpback Dolphins**);
- driving towards Al Mugsayl (Arabian Wheatear, Arabian Partridge, Ospreys);
- Al Mugsayl beach (dozens of **breaching Manta/Devil Rays**, Indian Humpback Dolphins);
- Wadi Al Mugsayl (Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Steppe Grey Shrike, Black-crowned Sparrowlarks);
- Raysut lighthouse (**Red-billed Tropicbird**);
- Ain Tobruq intersection (14 drinking **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse**).



Forest Wagtail and imm Crested Honey Buzzard, Ad Dahariz Park (Garry Bakker)

Fri Febr 26

- Jinawt (3 Socotra Cormorants, **hundreds of breaching Tuna**, many Bottlenose Dolphins, 1,000's Sooty Gulls);
- Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (**breathtaking scenery**, Menetries's Warbler, **3 Red-breasted Flycatcher**, Baillon's Crake, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Blue Rock Thrush, c 5 pairs of Arabian Wheatear and an ad Eastern Imperial Eagle);
- along the way (trip exclusives Mallard, Black-necked Grebe, Little Swift & Black Stork);
- Wadi Suneik (ad Imperial Eagle, 2 Sand Partridge, 1m Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse);
- prior to dusk (**30+ Bottlenose Dolphins feeding 3m from shore for 45 mins**).



Eurasian Scops Owl, Salalah (Garry Bakker)



Rosy Starling, Jarziz Farm (Garry Bakker)

Sat Febr 27

- Shanawt Farm E side at dawn (**49 Cream-coloured Courser**, 2f Pallid Harrier, c **360 Pacific Golden Plover**);
- Ain Tobruq (10+, incl a displaying pair & 2 singing, Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak, Red-breasted Flycatcher, **Black-throated Thrush**);
- East Kawr (Indian Pond Heron);
- Ad Dahariz Park, Salalah (Forest Wagtail, Crested Honey Buzzard);
- a dip in the Indian Ocean & swimmingpool;
- Raysut Lagoon (5 Ruddy Shelduck, 4 Osprey);
- Raysut sewage plant (50+ Abdim's Stork, Peregrine, sev Greater Spotted, Imperial & Steppe Eagles, Spur-winged Lapwing);
- Wadi Darbat (**African Wild Cat**, 'arabica' Red Fox).

Sun Febr 28

- Kawr Rawri N just after dawn (**Yellow Bittern**, 1p **Malachite Kingfisher**, Little & Spotted Crake, Arabian Partridge, ad Turkestan Shrike, Menetries's Warbler);
- Kawr Rawri S (Cotton Pygmy Goose, Lesser Flamingo, imm Greater White-fronted Goose, juv **African Spoonbill**, imm **White-breasted Cormorant**);

- Ad Dahariz Park, Salalah (3 Crested Honey Buzzard, Daurian Shrike, **3 Arabian Chameleon**);
- Raysut dump, mid-afternoon (first-winter **Pallas's Fish Eagle**, c 250 White Stork, c 12 Eastern Imperial (incl 2 ad), c 15 Greater Spotted & 300+ Steppe Eagle, 2 Yellow-billed Kite).

****Ain Tobruq:** this site is found by driving north (signposted Nashib) at a roundabout east of Salalah, along the highway to Taqah / Mirbat. On the road north towards Nashib, after c 5 kms there's a turnoff to Ain Tobruq and Ain Athoom, signposted to the right (east) by a small brown sign (in Arabic only). This road drops and after sev km's there's an intersection, left leading to Ain Tobruq and right to Ain Athoom (both these signs are in English). At this intersection (hereafter referred to as 'Ain Tobruq intersection') there's a large green tap (to fill water trucks for camel farms) that spills water, as well as, c 80m south of the road, a large concrete water trough. Both the water spill and the concrete trough held drinking and bathing Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak in the morning (until c 9.30 am), while the green tap produced 14 drinking Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse at dusk. A Phantom Flutterer (beautiful dragonfly) was found at the water spill one morning. After taking the 'Ain Tobruq' sign left, one gets to the parking at the end of the road after another c 2 km, where a well supplements a stream that sees loads of drinking passerines in early morning, with (when we were there) up to 10 Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeaks, as well as dozens of confiding African Rock Buntings. Other interesting birds seen here include Black-throated Thrush, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Bruce's Green Pigeon & Bonelli's Eagle; while we also recorded Persian Rock Gecko, an African Wild Cat, dragonflies Little Scarlet, Epaulet Skimmer, Red-veined Dropwing & Common Blacktail, and damselflies Common Orange, Black-tailed Bluet & Cherry-eye Sprite. This site is hereafter simply referred to as 'Ain Tobruq'.



Water trough, Ain Tobruq intersection (Jorrit Vlot) White-spectacled Bulbul traffic at the trough (Jorrit Vlot)

*****Kawr Rawri N** is the northern end of the wadi, immediately adjacent to (S of) the highway: this part has a narrow strip of reedbeds frequented by crakes & reed warblers, while the southern end of this wadi held a pair of Malachite Kingfisher and Yellow Bittern; the small bushes W of the reedbeds are good for warblers and the rocky wadi edge for Arabian Partridge.

Kawr Rawri S is the southern end, separated from the Indian Ocean only by a narrow beach; this end is most easily entered by paying 2 OR (€ 5) at the gate (few km's E of Kawr Rawri N) and driving past the ruined fortress down to the water's edge. From here, the wadi can be scanned; rarities in the winter of 2015-2016 included Lesser Flamingo, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Red-knobbed Coot, imm African Spoonbill and imm White-breasted Cormorant; others include Gull-billed & Caspian Tern, Pallas's Gull, Eurasian Spoonbill, Greater Spotted Eagle & Ferruginous Duck.

Observation.org

All our sightings, and therefore all sites visited, are found in detail on observation.org (GPS, photographs, numbers and/or sexes recorded, behaviour etc). GB, RH, FO, PS and JV recorded birds, mammals, dragonflies, reptiles, butterflies and even fish by using specialized country / regional lists on iObs (for iPhone) and ObsMapp apps (for Android phones). Our sightings can be individually queried by country, date, species, family etc. Alternatively, go to oman.observation.org to see all Oman records entered into the website.

List of most important GPS waypoints

The key species mentioned were seen at the site, but not necessarily exactly at/from the given waypoint. Sites are mentioned geographically, not chronologically.

UAE

Western UAE

Wasit Nature Reserve (White-tailed Lapwing):	25.371, 55.456
Barracuda Beach S (waders):	25.533, 55.571
Barracuda Beach N (Crab Plover & Socotra Cormorant):	25.583, 55.578
Qarn Nazwa, uae.birding site (recently fenced off):	24.995, 55.659
Qarn Nazwa (Variable Wheatear, Desert Warbler):	24.993, 55.663
Qarn Nazwa (Plain Leaf Warbler):	24.990, 55.662
Ghantoot (Eurasian Wryneck):	24.867, 54.893
Al Wathba Camel Track (passerines):	24.233, 54.652
Al Mamzar Park (Saunders's Tern):	25.318, 55.343
Mushrif National Park (Shikra):	25.218, 55.448

Eastern UAE

Wadi Masafi (Plain Leaf Warbler, Scrub Warbler):	25.350, 56.176
Khor Kalba bridge (Collared Kingfisher, Green Turtles):	25.015, 56.361
Fujairah beach (White-cheeked Tern):	25.146, 56.357
North of Fujairah (Persian Shearwater):	25.390, 56.362

Southern Oman

Beach Villas, Salalah:	17.009, 54.158
Shanawt Farm (no admittance), S entrance:	17.037, 54.196
Shanawt Farm (no admittance), E viewpoint:	17.047, 54.205
Jarziz Farm (Oriental Skylark, Bimaculated Lark):	17.043, 54.136
Salalah lawn (Eurasian Scops Owl, Red-breasted Flycatcher):	17.088, 54.149
East Kawr:	17.012, 54.177
Ad Dahariz Park (Crested Honey Buzzard, Forest Wagtail):	17.013, 54.172
Al Balid Archaeological site (Spotted Thick-knee):	17.011, 54.138
Ain Hamran (Arabian Partridge, Arabian Scops Owl):	17.098, 54.282
Ain Tobruq intersection (Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse):	17.091, 54.333
Ain Tobruq well (Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak, Black-throated Thrush, dragonflies):	17.099, 54.327
Wadi Darbat:	17.105, 54.453
Kawr Rawri N (Malachite Kingfisher, Yellow Bittern, crakes):	17.048, 54.426
Kawr Rawri S (Lesser Flamingo, White-breasted Cormorant, African Spoonbill, Cotton Pygmy-Goose):	17.036, 54.436
Kawr Taqah (recently fenced off)(Yellow Bittern):	17.038, 54.377
Tawi Atayr tea shop (Yemen Serin, Arabian Wheatear):	17.114, 54.558
Mirbat harbour:	16.987, 54.686
Mirbat, small island opposite Marriott Hotel:	16.948, 54.740
Mirbat pelagic (Jouanin's Petrels passing):	16.932, 54.694
Hasik (Black Stork):	17.434, 55.274
Bottlenose Dolphins at dusk:	17.265, 55.244
Wadi Suneik (Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse):	17.601, 55.255
Jinawt beach:	17.823, 55.434
Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah:	17.910, 55.457
Raysut Lagoon:	16.960, 53.989
Raysut dump (no admittance), S viewpoint:	16.982, 53.951
Raysut sewage plant:	16.993, 53.937
Raysut lighthouse (Red-billed Tropicbird):	16.930, 54.005
Wadi Al Mugsayl (Black-crowned Sparrowlark):	16.889, 53.781
Desert W of Thumrayt (Lanner):	17.640, 53.986
Mudhay oasis, playground viewpoint:	17.477, 53.353
Camel farm just outside Mudhay oasis:	17.489, 53.358



Malachite Kingfisher (Garry Bakker); White-breasted Cormorant & African Spoonbill, Kawr Rawri (Jorrit Vlot)

Legend

E = species endemic to the Arabian peninsula

Essp = subspecies endemic to the Arabian peninsula

E(ssp) = endemic subspecies, perhaps a future split

M = male

F = female

Imm / juv = immature / juvenile

P = pair

V = vagrant to Oman

Yemen Serin = lifer

[UAE] = only recorded in UAE

FER = non-native, feral population

[HO] / HO = heard only

E = east

W = west

N = north

S = south

VU = Vulnerable

EN = Endangered

List of recorded birds

1. Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*: 1 flushed Jarziz Farm
2. **Arabian Partridge** *Alectoris melanocephala* **E**: 23 Ain Hamran, 15 roadside N of Al Mugsayl, 1 Wadi Al Mugsayl, 4 Kawr Rawri N
3. Sand Partridge *Ammoperdix h. heyi*: 1 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah, 2 Wadi Suneik



Arabian Partridge, Ain Hamran (Garry Bakker)



Sand Partridge, Ash Shuwaymiyyah (Garry Bakker)

4. **[UAE]** Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus mecranensis* **FER**: frequent in UAE
5. Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*: 1 imm Kawr Rawri S
6. Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* **V**: 5 Raysut Lagoon
7. Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*: 1f Kawr Rawri S
8. Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*: 1m Kawr Rawri S
9. Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: 21 (5m) Kawr Rawri S
10. Garganey *Spatula querquedula*: c 40 Kawr Rawri S, 1 Raysut sewage plant, 12 East Kawr, 3 Ash Shuwaymiyyah
11. Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*: max 120 Kawr Rawri S, 1m Raysut sewage plant, 2 Al Mugsayl
12. Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*: max 12 Kawr Rawri S
13. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: 1m, 2f seaside pool Ash Shuwaymiyyah

14. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*: max 25 Kawr Rawri S, 5 Raysut sewage plant, 4 East Kawr, 4 seaside pool Al Mugsayl, 12 seaside pool Ash Shuwaymiyah
15. Common Teal *Anas crecca*: 12 Wasit Nature Reserve (Sjarjah), 32 Kawr Rawri S, 2 Raysut sewage plant
16. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: 10 Raysut sewage plant, 2 Kawr Rawri S, 6 Raysut Lagoon
17. Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*: 2 (winter-plumaged) at seaside pool Ash Shuwaymiyah
18. Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*: 2 imm Wasit Nature Reserve (Sjarjah), c 200 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 44 Kawr Rawri S, 44 Raysut sewage plant, 30 East Kawr, 2 imm Al Mugsayl, 33 Ash Shuwaymiyah, 124 Raysut Lagoon
19. Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* **V**: 3 ad Kawr Rawri S



Lesser Flamingos, Kawr Rawri S (Jorrit Vlot)



Cotton Pygmy Goose, Kawr Rawri S (Jorrit Vlot)

20. Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus indicus*: 3 Raysut lighthouse (3.15 pm)
21. Rock Dove *Columba livia palaestinae*: fairly common, suspected genuine ones at Al Mugsayl and Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
22. Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*: common; highest number 3,000+ Shanawt Farm one morning
23. African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea arabica*: c 15 Mudhay oasis
24. Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis cambayensis*: common
25. Namaqua Dove *Oena c. capensis*: 1 Raysut industrial area, 2 Jarziz Farm, 3 Shanawt Farm, 3 Kawr Rawri N
26. Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*: 8 (many singing) Ain Hamran, 3 singing Wadi Darbat, 2 Ain Tobruq



Laughing Dove, Ain Tobruq trough (Jorrit Vlot)



Namaqua Doves, Shanawt Farm (Jorrit Vlot)

27. Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus erlangeri* **Essp**: 11 in flight Shanawt Farm (distant), c 90 feeding Al Mugsayl turn-off, 1p low over the highway Salalah
28. Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus atratus*: 1p flushed twice Ain Hamran
29. Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii arabicus*: 14 at dusk Ain Tobruq intersection, 1m Wadi Suneik, approachable to 4m (RH, FO, MR, PS)



Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Al Mugsayl (Jorrit Vlot)

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Wadi Suneik (Frank Oling)

30. Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*: c 30 feeding over Shanawt Farm (Febr 21)
31. **[UAE]** Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*: max 6 daily
32. Little Swift *Apus affinis*: 1 just N of Hasik (in the morning)
33. Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*: 1 ad Kawr Rawri N (dusk & dawn)
34. Little Crake *Zapornia parva*: 1f Kawr Rawri N (dusk & dawn)
35. Baillon's Crake *Zapornia pusilla*: 1 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (late morning)(GB, FO, JV)
36. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: 15 Wadi Taqah, 9 Raysut sewage plant, 8 Kawr Rawri S, 15 Wadi Al Mugsayl, 44 East Kawr
37. Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* **V**: 3 Kawr Rawri S
38. Common Coot *Fulica atra*: 8 Kawr Rawri S
39. Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus*: 12 flying north past (a point c 20 kms N of) Fujairah (E UAE), 17 Mirbat pelagic (of which 4 swimming next to the boat)
40. **Jouanin's Petrel** *Bulweria fallax* **E**: 21, all flying east, Mirbat pelagic



Little Crake, Kawr Rawri N (Garry Bakker)



Jouanin's Petrel, Mirbat pelagic (Garry Bakker)

41. Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: 1 first-summer in roadside pool just S of Hasik
42. Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*: max of 83 Raysut sewage plant, c 50 Raysut dump (same)
43. White Stork *Ciconia c. ciconia*: max of 268, Raysut dump
44. Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (ssp unknown): max 7 Kawr Rawri S
45. African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* **V**: Jens Eriksen put us onto this bird, 1 imm with entirely pale-yellow bill and black legs, Kawr Rawri S. Seventh record for Oman, if accepted.
46. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: 2 Kawr Rawri S, max 30 Shanawt Farm, 6 East Kawr
47. Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*: 1 Kawr Taqah (RH), 1 Kawr Rawri N at dusk (RH), 1 Kawr Rawri N in the morning
48. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax n. nycticorax*: 2 ad, 1 first-winter Mirbat, 1 HO at dusk Wadi Darbat
49. Striated (Green-backed) Heron *Butorides striata brevipes*: 1 small island, Mirbat



Abdim's Storks in flight, and White & Abdim's Storks, Sooty & Heuglin's Gulls, Raysut dump (Garry Bakker)

50. Squacco Heron *Ardeola r. ralloides*: 3 Kawr Rawri S, 1 Raysut sewage plant, 5 East Kawr, 5 Al Mugsayl, 3 Hasik
51. Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*: 2 Khor Kalba (Sjarjah), 1 East Kawr (Salalah), 10 Kawr Rawri S
52. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus i. ibis*: 17 over Shanawt Farm (dusk), 34 in Salalah, 2 in Dubai
53. Grey Heron *Ardea c. cinerea*: regularly encountered, with max 12 Al Mamzar Park (Dubai) and max 20 Kawr Rawri S
54. Purple Heron *Ardea p. purpurea*: 1 over Salalah, 2 East Kawr
55. Great White Egret *Ardea a. alba*: 1 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 1 Al Mugsayl, 2 Hasik
56. Yellow-billed Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha*: 1 Kawr Rawri S, 1 Shanawt Farm
57. Little Egret *Egretta g. garzetta*: 1 Kawr Rawri S, 1 East Kawr (Salalah), 1 Hasik, 2 Shanawt Farm
58. Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis schistacea*: c 10 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 1 Kawr Rawri S, 3 Mirbat (fishing from buoys), 1 Al Mugsayl, 1 Hasik (our only white morph encountered)
59. Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster plotus*: 1 (distant) ad flying west Al Mugsayl
60. Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra melanops*: 1 Taqah, 16 Mirbat pelagic, 6 Ash Shuwaymiyah
61. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*: 8 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 6 Fujairah (E UAE), 26 Kawr Rawri S (more seen but not all recorded)



Striated Heron ssp *brevipes*, Mirbat (Jorrit Vlot)

62. White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax (carbo) lucidus* **V**: 1 first-winter, Kawr Rawri S. Not mentioned in the Oman Bird List Edition 7 (2013), so possibly a first for Oman.
63. **Socotra Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis* **E, VU**: 1 ad summ & 1 imm, Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 585+ flying east past Al Mugsayl, 4 Jinawt (where there should have been 30,000!)
64. **[UAE]** Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedicephalus*: 2 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi)
65. Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis dodsoni*: max 14 Al Balid Archaeological site, Salalah



Masked Booby, Mirbat (Garry Bakker)



Spotted Thick-knee, Al Balid, Salalah (Garry Bakker)

66. Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus longipennis*: 45 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 7 Khor Kalba (Sjarjah), 1 East Kawr (Salalah)
67. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus h. himantopus*: c 50 Wasik Nature Reserve (Sjarjah), c 50 Kawr Rawri, 1 Raysut dump, 38 Raysut sewage plant, 7 East Kawr, sev Al Mugsayl & Hasik (more seen but not all recorded)
68. Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: 1 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 2 Kawr Rawri S, 6 small island S of Mirbat, 2 East Kawr (Salalah)(more seen but not all recorded)
69. Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*: max 360 Shanawt Farm, 180+ flying west past Beach Villas (Salalah)
70. Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (ssp unknown): 3 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 8 Shanawt Farm, singles Al Mugsayl & East Kawr
71. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius curonicus*: 2 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), singles Raysut sewage plant & Al Mugsayl
72. Kentish Plover *Charadrius a. alexandrinus*: 1 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 3 Kawr Rawri S, c 30 small island S of Mirbat, 15 East Kawr, 4 Shanawt Farm
73. **[UAE]** Lesser Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus* (ssp unknown): 3 Barracuda Beach (Dubai)
74. Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (ssp unknown): singles Khor Kalba (Sjarjah) & Fujairah beach (E UAE), 2 small island S of Mirbat (more seen but not all recorded)
75. Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* **V**: 1 Raysut sewage plant (present since Nov)
76. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*: 1 Wasit Nature Reserve (Sharjah), 10 along E11 highway (Sharjah), 2 Raysut sewage plant, 2 Al Mamzar Park (Sharjah)
77. **[UAE]** White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*: 1, distant, Wasit Nature Reserve (Sjarjah)



Greater Sandplover, Fujairah (UAE) (Garry Bakker)



Spur-winged Lapwing, Raysut sewage (Garry Bakker)

78. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*: 5 Taqah, 3 Kawr Rawri S, 3 East Kawr
79. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: 2 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), singles small island S of Mirbat, Beach Villas (Salalah)(more heard but not all recorded)
80. Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata orientalis*: singles Barracuda Beach (Dubai) and East Kawr (Salalah)
81. **[UAE]** Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*: sev Barracuda Beach (Dubai)
82. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa l. limosa*: 15 Kawr Rawri S, 5 East Kawr
83. Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: 2 small island S of Mirbat
84. Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: 2 Kawr Rawri S, 18 Raysut sewage plant, c 250 East Kawr
85. **[UAE]** Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: 1 Barracuda Beach, 4 Al Wathba
86. Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: 1 East Kawr, 2 Kawr Rawri S, 2 Raysut Lagoon
87. Sanderling *Calidris alba*: max 17 Beach Villas (Salalah)
88. Dunlin *Calidris alpina*: 1 Raysut sewage plant, 8 small island S of Mirbat
89. Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: 1 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 2 Kawr Rawri S, max 35 Raysut sewage plant, 2 small island S of Mirbat, max 111 East Kawr



Pheasant-tailed Jacana, East Kawr (Jorrit Vlot)



Cream-coloured Courser, Shanawt Farm (Jorrit Vlot)

90. Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*: 1 flushed, Kawr Rawri N (RH, JV). The only bird on which we noticed the different call, lack of white trailing edge to secondaries, dark upperparts & belly.
91. Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: 2 Kawr Rawri N, 8 Raysut sewage plant, 2 Al Mugsayl
92. **[UAE]** Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*: 14 waders repeatedly landing on the Indian Ocean at Fujairah (E UAE), distantly, surely must have been this species
93. **[UAE]** Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*: 1, Barracuda Beach (Dubai)
94. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: singles regularly encountered (UAE and Oman); highest count 71 at roost, Al Balid Archaeological Site (Salalah)
95. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*: 1 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 2 Ain Tobruq, 1 Raysut dump, 15 Raysut sewage plant
96. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: 1 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 1 Kawr Rawri S, 71 Raysut sewage plant, 1 Beach Villas (Salalah), 11 Al Mugsayl, 1 Ash Shuwaymiyah, 1 East Kawr
97. Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*: 1 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 5 Fujairah (E UAE), 2 Kawr Rawri S, 1 Raysut sewage plant, 3 East Kawr
98. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: max 14 Raysut sewage plant, 10 East Kawr, 1 Kawr Rawri
99. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: 3 Kawr Rawri S, 1 Raysut sewage plant, 1 Raysut Lagoon
100. **[UAE]** Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*: 29 N end of Barracuda Beach (Dubai)
101. Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius c. cursor*: max 49 Shanawt Farm E
102. Slender-billed Gull *Croicocephalus genei*: c 50 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 2 Kawr Rawri S, c 25 Raysut sewage plant, 43 Al Mugsayl beach (more seen but not recorded)
103. Black-headed Gull *Croicocephalus ridibundus*: 43 Dubai, c 120 Fujairah beach (both UAE), c 40 Raysut sewage plant
104. Pallas's Gull *Ichthyæetus ichthyæetus*: c 30 on the Persian Gulf at Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 1 ad summer Khor Kalba (Sjarjah), 1 2nd-summer Kawr Rawri S, 1 2nd-winter Mirbat pelagic, 1 ad summer Kawr Rawri S, 1 2nd-summer Al Mugsayl beach

105. Sooty Gull *Ichthyaetus hemprichii*: 1 Khor Kalba (Sjarjah), sev Fujairah beach (E UAE); seen daily in S Oman, highest numbers: 1,000+ Raysut dump, 3,000+ Jinawt beach
106. Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*: c 50 Kawr Rawri S, 1,000+ Raysut dump, c 200 Beach Villas (Salalah), 29 Al Mugsayl beach (more seen but not recorded)
107. Steppe Gull *Larus barabensis*: few Fujairah beach (E UAE), 1 Mirbat pelagic
108. Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*: 1 dying 1st-winter Kalba beach (Sjarjah), dozens Fujairah beach (E UAE), dozens Raysut dump
- (..) Steppe/Caspian Gull *Larus barabensis/cachinnans*: dozens Kalba beach (Sjarjah)



Pallas's Gull, Mirbat pelagic (Garry Bakker)



Sooty Gull, Fujairah (UAE) (Garry Bakker)

109. **[UAE]** Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi*: 2-3 feeding, Al Mamzar Park (Dubai)
110. Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon n. nilotica*: 3 ad & 2 first-winters Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 1 ad Kawr Rawri S, c 15 flying W along highway E of Salalah, 1 ad Raysut Lagoon
111. Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*: max 12 Kawr Rawri S, 1 Raysut Lagoon
112. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias h. hybrida*: 32 Wasit Nature Reserve (Sjarjah), 3 amongst White-cheeked and Common Terns, Fujairah beach (E UAE), 1 Kawr Taqah, max 14 Kawr Rawri S, 2 Raysut Lagoon
113. White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*: 33 ad winters over East Kawr
114. Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: c 100 at sea, with another c 40 (with White-cheeked and Whiskered Terns), at fishermen hauling in nets, Fujairah (E UAE), 1 imm Al Mugsayl
115. **[UAE] White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa***: 1 flying N past Kalba, 3 (with Common and Whiskered Terns), at fishermen hauling in nets, Fujairah (E UAE)
116. Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*: 2 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 13 Fujairah (E UAE), 45 Al Mugsayl beach
117. Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*: 2 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 4 Fujairah (E UAE), 2 Al Mugsayl beach, 2 Ash Shuwaymiyah beach
118. Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*: 2 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 5 Fujairah (E UAE), 21 Beach Villas (Salalah), 2 Mirbat pelagic, 204 Al Mugsayl beach, 200+ Jinawt
119. **[UAE]** Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*: 3 ad chasing and flying N, Fujairah (..) Arctic/Pomarine Jaeger *S. parasiticus/pomarinus*: 1 flying east, Mirbat pelagic



Saunders's Tern, Dubai (UAE) (Garry Bakker)



Lesser Crested Tern, Fujairah (UAE) (Jorrit Vlot)

- (..) **[HO]** Arabian (Spotted) Eagle Owl *Bubo milesi* **E**: 1 hoot, Wadi Darbat, after dusk, was probably this species (GB, JV)
120. **Arabian Scops Owl** *Otus pamela* **E**: 2 seen, c 8 HO Ain Hamran, 5 HO Wadi Darbat
121. Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*: 1 Salalah, mobbed by a Red-breasted Flycatcher!



Arabian Scops Owl, Ain Hamran (Garry Bakker, Frank Oling)

122. Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* / Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*: 1 briefly seen over Tawi Atayr
123. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: 30+ recorded, highest numbers 5 Kawr Rawri S, 5 on highway lamp posts between Salalah and Al Mugsayl, 4 Raysut Lagoon
124. Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: max 3 Ad Dahariz (East Kawr) Park (Salalah): 1 ad, 1 rufous-brown imm and 1 pale imm
125. Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*: 2 over Tawi Atayr, 1 over Ain Hamran
126. Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* **VU**: c 30 recorded, as follows: single ad Barracuda Beach (Dubai) and Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 2 Kawr Rawri S, 1 ad Shanawt Farm, c 15 Raysut dump (most ad), 2 ad East Kawr, 3 imm & 1 ad Raysut sewage plant, 1 imm over Salalah, 1 ad Raysut Lagoon, 2 ad over Mushrif Park (Dubai)
127. Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* **EN**: c 450 seen in S Oman, mostly imm's; largest number 400+ Raysut dump
128. Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* **VU**: 40+ recorded, as follows: 9 imm (together) over Wadi Darbat, 1 ad & 2 imm Tawi Atayr, 1 imm S of Thumrayt, 2 ad & c 20 imm Raysut dump, 3 imm Raysut sewage plant, 1 imm Shanawt Farm, 1 imm Wadi Al Mugsayl, 1 ad Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, 1 ad Wadi Suneik, 1 imm East Kawr,
129. Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*: 1 ad Ain Hamran (both perched and in flight)
130. Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*: 1p over Ain Tobruq, 1p + 1 over Tawi Atayr, 1 imm perched at well, Wadi Al Mugsayl
131. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*: 1 over Taqah and 4 over Salalah
132. Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: singles over Barracuda Beach (Dubai), Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), Kawr Taqah, Kawr Rawri S, 2 East Kawr
133. Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*: 1f near Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), 1m over Ain Hamran, 2f Shanawt Farm (Salalah)
134. Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*: 3 Ain Tobruq, 1 Kawr Taqah, 2 Raysut sewage plant, 1 Mushrif Park (Dubai)
135. **[UAE]** Shikra *Accipiter badius sphenurus*: 1m over Mushrif Park (Dubai)
136. Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* **V**, **VU**: 1 first-winter Raysut dump (Febr 28, 1.55 – 2.40 pm)
137. Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus (migrans) aegyptius*: 2 Ad Dahariz (East Kawr) Park (Salalah), 1 over Salalah, 2 Raysut dump



Western Osprey, Al Mugsayl (Garry Bakker)



Crested Honey Buzzard, Ad Dahariz Park (Jorrit Vlot)



Ad and imm Crested Honey Buzzard, Ad Dahariz Park (Jorrit Vlot)



Greater Spotted Eagles, Raysut dump (Garry Bakker)



Imm Steppe Eagle mobbed by Fan-tailed Raven, Raysut dump (Jorrit Vlot)



Imm Steppe Eagle, Raysut dump (Jorrit Vlot)



Imm Steppe Eagles, Raysut dump (Jorrit Vlot)



Imm and ad Eastern Imperial Eagle, Raysut dump (Garry Bakker)



Imm Eastern Imperial Eagles, Raysut dump (Jorrit Vlot, Garry Bakker)



Ad Bonelli's Eagle, Tawi Atayr (Jorrit Vlot)



Booted Eagle over Salalah (Garry Bakker)



Pallas's Fish Eagle, Raysut dump (Garry Bakker)



Ad Yellow-billed Kite, Ad Dahariz Park (Garry Bakker)



Male Shikra, Mushrif Park (UAE) (Jorrit Vlot)

- 138. Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*: 1 Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), 2 Ghantoot (Abu Dhabi), max 8 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), 2 Salalah lawn, 6 Dubai city
- 139. Arabian Green Bee-eater *Merops cyanophrys muscatensis* **Essp**: 3 Wasit Nature Reserve (Sjarjah), 1 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 1 Wadi Masafi (E UAE), 1 Ain Tobruq, 2 Ain Hamran, 2 Al Mamzar Park (Dubai), 1 Mushrif Park (Dubai)
- 140. **[UAE]** Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*: 6 seen, of which 2 in Mushrif Park
- 141. Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris kalbaensis* **Essp**: 1f Khor Kalba (Sjarjah)
- 142. Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* **V**: initially 1f, later 1p Kawr Rawri N
- 143. **[UAE]** Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: 1 Khor Kalba (Sjarjah), 1 N of Fujairah
- 144. **[UAE]** Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*: 1 Ghantoot (Abu Dhabi)



Arabian Green Bee-eater, Mushrif Park (UAE) (Frank Oling); Indian Roller, Al Mamzar Park (UAE) (Jorrit Vlot)

145. Common Kestrel *Falco t. tinnunculus*: 1m Tawi Atayr, 1m Mudhay oasis, 1f Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), 1 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
146. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (prob. N race): 2 ad over Raysut sewage plant
147. Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus tanypterus*: 1 over desert N of Thumrayt
148. Singing Bushlark *Mirafra cantillans simplex* **Essp**: 4 Jarziz Farm
149. Oriental Skylark *Alauda galgula*: 1 amongst Greater Short-toed (& Bimaculated) Larks, Jarziz Farm
150. Black-crowned Sparrowlark *Eremopterix nigriceps melanauchen*: 1m Ain Tobruq intersection, 10m & 4f Wadi Al Mugsayl
151. Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti samharensis*: 14 Wadi Masafi (UAE)(grey-brown) (..) Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti isabellina*?: 6 Mudhay oasis (pale sandy birds)
152. Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*: 8 amongst Greater Short-toed Larks, Jarziz Farm
153. Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (ssp unknown): 120 Jarziz Farm
154. Crested Lark *Galerida cristata tardinata* **Essp**: common in agricultural and rural areas in S Oman (not encountered in dry wadis)



Singing Bushlark, Jarziz Farm (Paul Schrijvershof) Black-crowned Sparrowlark, Ain Tobruq (Jorrit Vlot)

155. Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*: c 60 Raysut sewage plant
156. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: c 15 Shanawt Farm, c 30 Raysut dump, 1 over Dubai
157. Pale Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta arabica*: commonly seen UAE & S Oman
158. Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis arabicus* **E(ssp)**: 1p Wadi Masafi (E UAE), 2 Ain Hamran, singles Beach Villas & random lawn (Salalah), 1p Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), 1 Kawr Rawri N, 1p Wadi Al Mugsayl, 1 Ain Tobruq



Long-billed Pipit ssp *arabicus*, Ain Hamran (Garry Bakker)

159. Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*: 2 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 2 random lawn (Salalah), 1 Kawr Rawri N, 2 Wadi Al Mugsayl, 1 Raysut sewage plant
160. Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*: 3 HO over Shanawt Farm (Salalah)(at dusk), 1 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah)(RH, JV)
161. Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*: max 8 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), flock of 14 on roadside lawn (Salalah)(RH)
162. **[UAE]** Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta coutellii*: c 20 Al Wathba Camel Track
163. Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* **V**: 1 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah)(sev dates)
164. White Wagtail *Motacilla a. alba*: 7 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 2 Mudhay oasis, 5 Raysut dump, 4 Salalah, 1 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
165. Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava beema*: 2 HO over Shanawt Farm (at dusk), max 8 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), 25 random lawn Salalah, 14 Raysut Lagoon
- (..) Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava lutea*: 3 random lawn (Salalah)
- (..) Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*: 3m Raysut dump
166. Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*: 2 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 1m Kawr Rawri S, 3 Raysut sewage plant, 2m & 2f Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), 1f Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
167. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: 1m Raysut sewage plant
168. White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*: common S Oman
169. **[UAE]** White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*: common UAE
170. **(Grey) Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus*: 2m, 1f Mudhay oasis



White-eared Bulbul, Dubai (UAE) (Jorrit Vlot)



Male Hypocolius, Mudhay (Garry Bakker)

171. Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*: 1m briefly seen twice, Ain Tobruq (JV)
172. **[UAE]** Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*: 1m Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah)(RH, JV)
173. Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*: 1 Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), 1 first-summer male, Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah



Males Common Rock Thrush, Qarn Nazwa (UAE) & Blue Rock Thrush, Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (Jorrit Vlot)

174. Red-spotted Bluethroat *Luscinia s. svecica*: 1 Kawr Rawri N (GB), 1 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (PS)
- (..) Bluethroat *Luscinia s. svecica/cyanecula*: 1 Al Wathba, 1 Kawr Rawri, 1 Jarziz Farm

175. **[UAE]** Eastern Black Redstart *Phoenicurus (ochruros) semirufus*: 2m Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah)(RH, JV)
176. **[UAE]** Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*: 1m Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi)
177. Blackstart *Cercomela melanura neumanni* **Essp**: 1 Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah)(JV), fairly common S Oman
178. Hooded Wheatear *Oenanthe monacha*: 1m Wadi Masafi (E UAE), 1m Mudhay oasis
179. **[UAE] Hume's Wheatear** *Oenanthe albonigra*: 1p Wadi Masafi (E UAE)
180. **Arabian Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugentoides* **E**: 1p Tawi Atayr, 1p E of Al Mugsayl, 5p Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah



Male and female Arabian Wheatear, Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah and Tawi Atayr (Garry Bakker)

181. **[UAE]** Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*: 1m Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah)
182. **[UAE] Rusty-tailed (Persian) Wheatear** *Oenanthe chrysopygia*: 7 Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), 1 Wadi Masafi (E UAE)
183. Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (ssp unknown): commonly seen at all visited sites, males greatly outnumbering females
184. Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*: 1 Wadi Masafi (E UAE), 2 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), singles Tawi Atayr, Taqah, Jarziz Farm, Shanawt Farm



Males Desert Wheatear, Ain Tobruq intersection and Ain Hamran (Jorrit Vlot)

185. Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*: 1 Salalah, 3 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, 1 Ain Tobruq
186. African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis harterti* **Essp**: max 10 Ain Tobruq, 3 Kawr Rawri N, 2 Ain Hamran, 2 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah)
187. Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*: 1 c 20 km N of Fujairah (E UAE), fairly common (most by voice) S Oman
188. **[UAE]** Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta grisea* **Essp**: 2p Wadi Masafi (E UAE)
189. Caspian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus (scirpaceus) fuscus*: 1 Kawr Rawri N, 1 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah



Red-breasted Flycatcher, Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah; male African Paradise Flycatcher, Ain Tobruq (Jorrit Vlot)

190. Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens*: 1 Barracuda Beach mangroves (Dubai), 2 singing Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 2 singing Kawr Rawri N, singles Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), Ain Hamran, Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, Wadi Suneik
191. Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida elaeica*: max 4 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), incl 2 singing
192. Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: 2 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 3 Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), 1 singing Mudhay oasis, 4 Ain Hamran
193. Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus tristis*: 1 singing Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 2 (1 singing) Ain Tobruq, 1 HO calling Mudhay oasis, 3 (in reedbeds) Kawr Rawri N
194. Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus yakutensis* / Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *P. orientalis*: brief views of 1, Ain Hamran (JV)
195. **[UAE] Plain Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus neglectus*: 1 Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), 2 (1 singing) Wadi Masafi (E UAE)
196. Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: 1 Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), 1 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), 4 Kawr Rawri N
197. **[UAE] Small (Desert) Whitethroat** *Sylvia minula*: 1 Wadi Masafi (E UAE)
198. Arabian Warbler *Sylvia l. leucomelaena* **Essp**: 2 Ain Tobruq intersection, 1 Kawr Rawri N, 6 Ain Hamran (RH)
199. **[UAE] Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*: 2 Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), 4 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi)



Arabian Warbler, Ain Tobruq (Garry Bakker); male Menetries's Warbler, Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (Jorrit Vlot)



Desert Warblers, Qarn Nazwa and Al Wathba Camel Track (UAE) (Jorrit Vlot, Garry Bakker)

- 200. Greater Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*: 1 along Salalah lawn (not RH)
- 201. Menetries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*: 3 (2m singing) Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 1m Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, 1 Kawr Rawri N
- 202. Nile Valley Sunbird *Anthodiaeta metallica*: common Mudhay oasis, many males in breeding plumage
- 203. Palestine Sunbird *Cinnyris o. osea*: frequently encountered S Oman; recorded at Ain Tobruq, Tawi Atayr, Kawr Rawri N, Mudhay oasis
- 204. Shining Sunbird *Cinnyris habessinicus hellmayri* **Essp**: frequently encountered S Oman; recorded at Ain Tobruq, Tawi Atayr, Ain Hamran, Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), Raysut sewage plant
- 205. **[UAE]** Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus brevirostris*: 7 seen UAE



Males Nile Valley Sunbird, Mudhay oasis (Garry Bakker, Jorrit Vlot). Both have something on their bills, resin?

- 206. Abyssinian White-eye *Zosterops abyssinicus arabs* **E(ssp)**: common in all areas with scattered bushes; recorded at Ain Tobruq, Tawi Atayr, Raysut sewage plant, Ain Hamran, Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), Wadi Al Mugsayl
- 207. Daurian Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*: 1 ad & 1 second-summer Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah)(different dates), 1 ad Jarziz Farm
- 208. Turkestan Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*: 1 ad near Ghantoot (Abu Dhabi, GB), 1 ad Khawr Rawri N (*karelini* type), 1 ad Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), 1 ad East Kawr (..) "Isabelline Shrike" *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*: 1 Khor Kalba (Sjarjah), 2 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), 1 Wadi Darbat, 2 Al Mugsayl
- 209. Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis aucheri*: 1 Ghantoot (Abu Dhabi), 1 Ain Tobruq intersection, 1 camel farm near Mudhay oasis
- 210. Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius pallidirostris*: 1 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi) (GB), 1 Al Mugsayl
- 211. Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus percivali* **E(ssp)**: 1 Ain Tobruq intersection, 2 Ain Tobruq, 4 (incl 1 singing) Ain Hamran
- 212. House Crow *Corvus splendens* **FER**: common coastal UAE and S Oman



Male Shining Sunbird, Ad Dahariz Park (Jorrit Vlot)

- 213. Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*: 1 Qarn Nazwa (Sjarjah), 3 singing on lamp posts between Salalah and Al Mugsayl, 2 Al Mugsayl
- 214. Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus stanleyi* **Essp**: found in most dry wadis in S Oman, max 94 over Tawi Atayr
- 215. Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*: c 30 (almost summer-plumaged), many singing, Jarziz Farm
- 216. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* **FER**: common urban UAE and S Oman
- 217. **[UAE]** Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* **FER**: sev near Burj al-Arab & Al Mamzar Park (Dubai)
- 218. Tristram's Starling *Onychognathus tristramii*: frequently encountered in dry wadis in S Oman; highest numbers 50+ at fruiting tree in Ain Hamran, and 150+ Al Mugsayl



Turkistan Shrike, Kawr Rawri N (Garry Bakker)



Steppe Grey Shrike, Al Mugsayl (Jorrit Vlot)

- 219. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus indicus*: common urban UAE, few Mudhay oasis and Salalah
- 220. Yellow-throated Sparrow *Gymnoris xanthocollis*: 1f Mudhay oasis



Fan-tailed Raven, Tawi Atayr (Jorrit Vlot)



House Crow, Fujairah (UAE) (Jorrit Vlot)

221. Rüppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula*: common S Oman, many males in breeding plumage busy constructing nests
222. **[UAE]** Taveta Golden Weaver *Ploceus castaneiceps* **FER**: 1m Al Manzar Park (Dubai)(GB, RH, JV)
223. African Silverbill *Euodice cantans orientalis*: fairly common S Oman
224. **[UAE]** Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica*: 2, c 20 km N of Fujairah (E UAE)(RH, JV), 1 Mushrif Park (Dubai)(PS)
225. Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* **FER**: max 12 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah)
226. **Yemen Serin** *Serinus menachensis* **E**: 8 Tawi Atayr tea shop near parking
227. **Arabian Grosbeak** *Rhynchostruthus percivali* **E**: 15 drinking at Ain Tobruq intersection, with 11 at Ain Tobruq (Febr 21); there, 9 and 6 were seen on Febr 27. At both sites, birds were seen and heard singing.
228. African Rock (Cinnamon-breasted) Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi arabica* **Essp**: frequently encountered in forested wadis in S Oman, especially near water; numbers especially high in early morning at Ain Tobruq, where up to 35 birds came to drink simultaneously.



Rüppell's Weaver males at nest, Kawr Rawri (Garry Bakker) and Ad Dahariz Park (Jorrit Vlot)



African Rock Bunting ssp *arabica*, Ain Tobruq (Jorrit Vlot)



Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak singing, Ain Tobruq intersection trough (Garry Bakker)



Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak, Ain Tobruq intersection trough (Garry Bakker)



Pale Crag Martin *ssp arabica*, Raysut dump (Garry Bakker)



Black-crowned Tchagra *ssp percivali*, Ain Tobruq (Jorrit Vlot)

In all other groups, sightings indicated with * are tentative ID's (based on photographs and internet search). All these photographs are found on Observation.org.



African Wild Cat, Ain Tobruq (Jorrit Vlot)



Bottlenose Dolphins, Mirbat (Jorrit Vlot)

List of recorded mammals

1. False Killer Whale *Pseudorca crassidens*: 1 breaching 3x, Mirbat pelagic
2. Indian Humpback Dolphin *Sousa plumbea*: pods feeding close to shore as follows: c 15 East Kawr, c 10 Beach Villas (Salalah), 5 Ash Shuwaymiyah
3. Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus*: 50+ Mirbat pelagic, sev small pods between Hasik and Hadbin in early morning; c 25 feeding there only 5m offshore at dusk
(..) unidentified dolphin: a distant pod of 100+ moving north fast, just north of Hasik, may have been Spotted Dolphins *Stenella attenuata* (although Bottlenose Dolphins here are known to occur in larger pods than usual)
4. *African Wild Cat *Felis silvestris lybica*: 1 Ain Tobruq (RH, JV), 1 Wadi Darbat (spotlighted after dusk)
5. Arabian Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes arabica*: 1 between Thumrayt and Mudhay (before dawn), 1 Mudhay, 1 Wadi Darbat (spotlighted after dusk)
6. **[UAE]** Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis*: 1 Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi)(PS, MR)
7. Egyptian Fruit Bat *Rousettus aegyptiacus*: 5 Beach Villas (drinking from the pool after dusk), 4 feeding on banana trees Al Balid Archaeological site (Salalah)
8. *Naked-bellied Tomb Bat *Taphozous nudiventris*: 40+ Wadi Darbat (dusk)
9. *Arabian Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus arabicus*: sev Beach Villas, Al Balid Archaeological site (Salalah)
10. **[UAE]** *Arabian Sand Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa marica*: sev Qarn Nazwa (fenced in), 8 Khor Kalba (Sjarjah)
11. *Mountain Gazelle *Gazella gazella*: 2m Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (PS)



Bottlenose Dolphins, north of Hasik (Jorrit Vlot)



Bottlenose Dolphin, north of Hasik (Garry Bakker)



Baluch Ground Gecko and Blanford's Fringe-toed Lizard, Khor Kalba (UAE) (Paul Schrijvershof)

List of recorded reptiles and amphibians

1. **[UAE]** Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*: c 13 Khor Kalba (Sjarjah), especially seen well swimming underneath the birdge at low tide
2. *Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta*: 2 huge sea turtles (c 2m) with very large heads swimming at the surface, Mirbat pelagic, may have been this species
3. Arabian Chameleon *Chamaeleo arabicus*: 4 found on ground, Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah)
4. *Persian Rock (Rock Semaphore) Gecko *Pristurus rupestris*: 3 Ain Tobruq
5. Baluch Ground Gecko *Bunopus tuberculatus*: 1 Khor Kalba (Sjarjah)
6. *Yellow-bellied House Gecko *Hemidactylus flaviviridis*: 3 Jarziz Farm (RH, JV)
7. Blanford's Fringe-toed Lizard *Acanthodactylus blanfordii*: 1 Khor Kalba (Sjarjah)
8. *Sinai Agama *Pseudotrapelus sinaitus*: 1 Tawi Atayr, 1m Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
9. *False Cobra (Hooded Malpolon) *Malpolon moileensis*: 1 dead, Raysut dump
10. *Dhofar Toad *Bufo dhufarensis*: 1 seen, 2 HO Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (RH)



Green Turtle, Khor Kalba (UAE) (Garry Bakker)

Persian Rock Gecko, Ain Tobruq (Paul Schrijvershof)



Arabian Chameleons # 1 and 2, Ad Dahariz Park, Salalah (Jorrit Vlot, Remco Hofland)



Arabian Chameleons # 3 and 4, Ad Dahariz Park, Salalah (Remco Hofland)



Arabian Chameleon #2, Ad Dahariz Park, Salalah (Jorrit Vlot)

List of recorded dragonflies

1. Marsh Bluetail *Ischnura senegalensis*: 1 Mudhay oasis, 100+ Wadi Al Mugsayl, 3m Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, 1 East Kawr, 2 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah)
2. Cherry-eye Sprite *Pseudagrion sublacteum*: 1m Ain Tobruq
3. Elegant Sprite *Pseudagrion decorum*: 8m Wadi Al Mugsayl
4. Black-tailed Bluet *Azuragrion nigradorsum*: 1m Ain Tobruq
5. Somali Bluet *Arabicnemis* (aka *Azuragrion*) *somalicum*: 23 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
6. Common Orange *Ceriagrion glabrum*: 20 Ain Tobruq, 10 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
7. Vagrant Emperor *Anax ephippiger*: 3 Barracuda Beach (Dubai), 1 Mudhay pond, 1 camel farm outside Mudhay
8. Blue Emperor *Anax imperator*: 2m Ain Tobruq, 2m Wadi Al Mugsayl, 9m Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
9. Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*: 3m Mudhay pond, 1m Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah

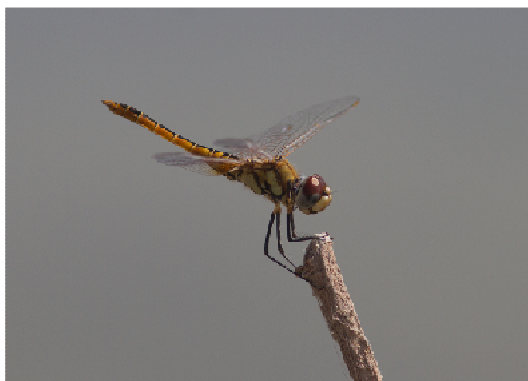
10. Broad Scarlet *Crocothemis erythraea*: 2 Jarziz Farm, 1m Wadi Al Mugsayl, 3 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, 1m Ain Tobruq
11. Little Scarlet *Crocothemis sanguinolenta*: 6 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, 2 Ain Tobruq
12. Black Percher *Diplacodes lefebvrii*: 23 Wadi Al Mugsayl, 1m Wadi Suneik
13. Epaulet Skimmer *Orthetrum chrysostigma*: 8 Ain Tobruq, 1m Jarziz Farm, 10 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
14. Slender Skimmer *Orthetrum sabina*: 1 Mudhay, 3 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, 1 East Kawr
15. Globe Skimmer (Wandering Glider) *Pantala flavescens*: 1 Mudhay oasis, 3 Ain Tobruq, 1 East Kawr, 3 Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah)
16. Phantom Flutterer *Rhyothemis semihyalina*: 1 Ain Tobruq intersection
17. Wheeling Glider *Tramea basilaris*: 1 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
18. Violet Dropwing *Trithemis annulata*: 2m Kawr Rawri N
19. Red-veined Dropwing *Trithemis arteriosa*: 3m Ain Tobruq, 17 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
20. Blue Basker *Urothemis edwardsii*: 1m Kawr Rawri N, 1p (copula) East Kawr
21. Cora's Pennant *Macrodiplax cora*: 2m & 1f Wadi Al Mugsayl, 1 Wadi Suneik, 50 East Kawr
22. Common Blacktail *Nesiothemis farinosum*: 2 Ain Tobruq



Urothemis edwardsii male (Frank Oling)



African Caper White *Belenois aurota* (Paul Schrijvershof)



Cora's Pennant *Macrodiplax cora*, imm and ad male (Paul Schrijvershof)



Cherry-eye Sprite *Pseudagrion sublacteum* & Somali Bluet *Arabcnemis somalicum* (Paul Schrijvershof)



Male Little Scarlet *Crocotthemis sanguinolenta* (Paul Schrijvershof)

List of recorded butterflies

1. African Caper White *Belenois aurota*: 1m Ain Tobruq intersection
2. Small Salmon Arab *Colotis (amata) calais*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, Wadi Suneik
3. Sulphur Orange Tip *Colotis danae*: 1 Ain Hamran
4. Plain Tiger (African Monarch) *Danaus chrysippus*: frequently seen S Oman
5. Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*: singles Al Wathba Camel Track (Abu Dhabi), Tawi Atayr, Mudhay oasis
6. Blue Pansy *Precis orithya*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah, Kawr Rawri N
7. Yellow Pansy *Precis hierta*: Wadi Al Mugsayl (FO)
8. Mediterranean Pierot *Tarucus rosaceus*: 1m Ain Tobruq
9. African Grass Blue *Zizeeria knysna*: common Ad Dahariz Park (Salalah), 1 Wadi Al Mugsayl
10. Grass Jewel *Freyeria trochylus*: 1 Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah
11. UnIDD butterfly: 6m Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (PS, nice pic on Observation.org)

List of recorded fish

1. *Kuhl's/Thurston's Devil Ray *Mobula kuhlii/thurstoni*, possibly Manta Ray *Manta birostris/alfredi*: c 20 large rays, black above, white below, with mouthflaps, repeatedly breaching up to 2m high, incl backflips, 100-500m offshore Al Mugsayl, 1 Raysut lighthouse, 1 found dead Jinawt beach (pics on Observation.org)
2. [UAE] Garfish *Belone belone*: 1 found dead Fujairah (E UAE), 2 swimming by Al Mamzar Park beachfront (Dubai)(pics on Observation.org)
3. *Yellowfin Tuna *Thunnus albacares*: dozens breaching, between Hasik & Hadbin

Remco Hofland

April 5, 2016

Links to our photographs

Garry Bakker: www.flickr.com/gp/113669696@N06/GsXxHU

Jorrit Vlot: www.flickr.com/photos/140709950@N04/albums/72157664775250899

and <http://observado.org/user/photos/3005>



Near Qarn Nazwa (UAE) (Jorrit Vlot)



Near Wadi Masafi (UAE) (Jorrit Vlot)



Locals at Fujairah beach (UAE) (Garry Bakker)



Al Wathba Camel Track, Abu Dhabi (UAE) (Jorrit Vlot)



Mirbat (& Western Reef Heron) (Jorrit Vlot)



Salalah lawn (& Tawny Pipit) (Jorrit Vlot)



Al Mugsayl beach (Jorrit Vlot)



Wadi Al Mugsayl (Jorrit Vlot)



Sunrise near Hasik (Jorrit Vlot)



Driving between Mirbat and Ash Shuwaymiyah (Jorrit Vlot)



Road between Mirbat and Ash Shuwaymiyah, with clouds over the Indian Ocean (Jorrit Vlot)



Kawr Rawri N, early morning, watching a Yellow Bittern fishing (Frank Oling)



Ad Dahariz Park, Salalah, watching the Forest Wagtail (Frank Oling)



Wadi Suneik, north of Hasik (Jorrit Vlot)



Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyah (Remco Hofland)



Raysut dump (& Steppe Eagle) (Garry Bakker)



Greater Spotted (top) & 4 Steppe Eagles, Raysut dump (Jorrit Vlot)



Raysut dump (& Steppe Eagles) (Garry Bakker)



First-winter Pallas's Fish Eagle, Raysut dump (Garry Bakker)