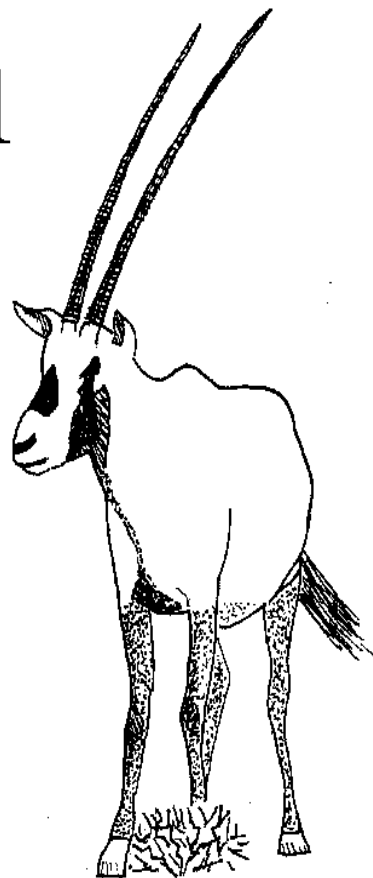


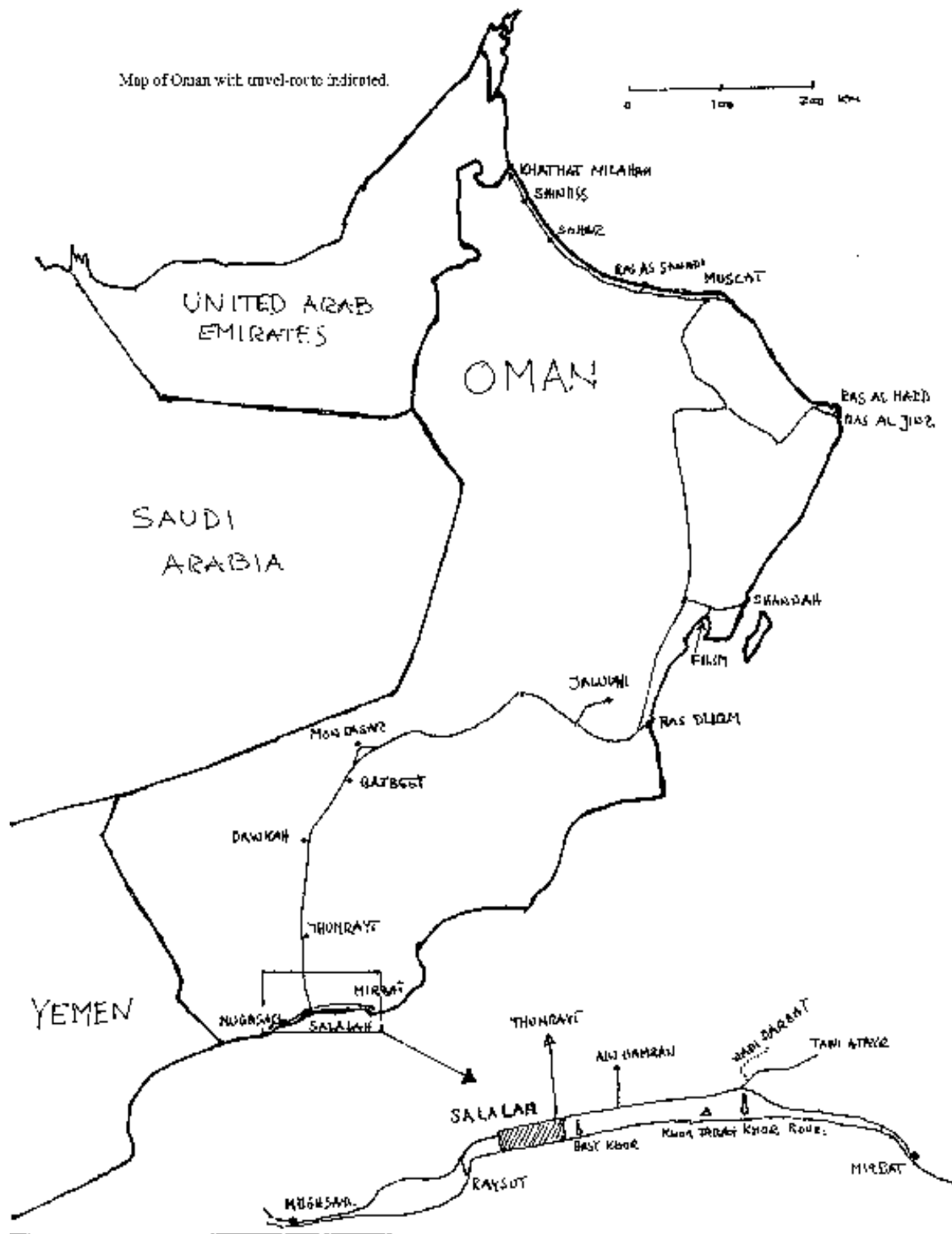
OMAN MARCH 2001

NOTES ON RECORDED
BIRDS, MAMMALS AND
SOME REPTILES

عمان



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Introduction:

A desert with plenty of graceful gazelles is the opposite of emptiness and desolation. Our visit to Jaluuni taught us this optimistic lesson, which today is so hard to find. One cannot think of a better setting for the legendary Arabian Oryx to emerge again into the wild than this vibrant desert for both Bedouins and wildlife. It was straight-out moving to be given the chance to see this magnificent animal back in its harsh environment. Not forgetting the many other qualities of Oman and its people Jaluuni indisputably became the highlight of our visit.

Oman is the leading Middle East country in nature conservation and this is clearly demonstrated through its rich diversity of unique habitats. Vast sand- and gravel-deserts in the interior with an often amazingly abundant vegetation including many old trees, rough mountains in the north and the distinctive Dhofar-mountains in the south besides a highly variable coastline ranging from steep, rocky and rough cliffs to gentle bays with sandy beaches made for turtles, over unique khors and mangroves to the extensive and inaccessible mudflats and sabkhets at Bar al Hikmann. The dynamics of the huge wader-concentrations at the latter site was very impressive. The northern coastal plain is under rapid transformation into cultural steppe with plenty of exotic trees and irrigated farmland. This development has given room for well-established populations of a number of introduced species. On one side this is showing the dynamic potential of nature but on the other side also the fragility of the desert environment. The coastal plain has the potential to be another House Crow disaster like in Aden, Dar es Salaam and other places, where this recently established species has exploded in numbers and become an overwhelming nuisance including being a serious competitor to the native birdlife.

Only 13 days doesn't justify for a proper visit to the diversity of Oman but still we managed to see a fine selection of the unique habitats and recorded a total of 193 different bird-species, 9 mammals and a couple of prolific reptiles. All records are listed below.

The timing of our visit in mid-March was perhaps a bit too early to catch the main season for the spring-migrants. At least the very low number of e.g. swallows, wagtails and only one Chiffchaff surprised us! Likewise lacking records of some of the winter-visitors could indicate that most had already left the country before our visit (e.g. White-tailed Plover, Eastern Pied and Red-tailed Wheatears, etc) although it was still time to see magnificent Great Black-headed Gulls. Eriksen & Sargeant (2000) clearly demonstrate the bird-migration in Oman to be significantly stronger during autumn than in spring. March is not the time for high sea birds, which have the main season from June to November. On the other hand we failed to get on a boat trip and despite the season the more coastal seabirds like boobies, Socotra Cormorant and Red-tailed Tropicbirds showed up very well. Most foreign birders will probably regard October-November as the best time to visit Oman, as also the summer-visitors are present then (Sooty Falcon and others).

Oman is an extremely well organised country and very easy to travel in when you have your own car. Car rental can easily be organised from home. We used Mark Rent a Car (Tel 562444/565567/560975, fax 565434, e-mail: mark@omantel.net.com). They offered the most favourable terms, worked efficiently and can only be recommend. All highways are new tarmac-roads and in between you find either other good tarmac-roads if not well-maintained gravel roads. In few years all main roads are likely to be tarmac. Away from main-roads one will face all kinds of roads and tracks and here a 4WD will often be a necessity. A 2WD is sufficient to reach most sites in the north of the country and around Salalah. Around Muscat the traffic is fairly heavy in contrast to the rest of the country with very little traffic. We had a 4WD for the last 8 days and had it delivered to Salalah. This allowed us to do a couple of rough sites near Salalah (Wadi Darbat, Wadi Mughsayl) before we headed towards Muscat visiting some of the more inaccessible sites on the way (Jaluuni, Bar al Hikmann). Fine middle class hotels are found in the major cities but in the villages even basic accommodation is apparently lacking. We didn't have any bookings arranged beforehand and camped regularly in the desert (6 nights). In Wadi Mughsayl this gave fine contacts to the local Bedouins guarding their camels - it is special and most reassuring to be encircled by the quiet grumbling sound from cud-chewing camels throughout the night. At Ras Duqm we had the opposite experience, when four cars each with their headlight on and a loud speaking man inside suddenly surrounded us late in the evening. However having explained we only stayed for one night they left.

The LonelyPlanet Guide claims that a tourist visa to any of the two countries Oman and the Emirates automatically will give access to the other country. However, if this new statutory instrument at all has been approved it is largely unknown. The Omani Embassies in both London and Bonn denied its existence prior to our departure and likewise did the Danish Consulate, which on the other hand had heard about its possible implementation. While at the border, we tried to get permission at the border post to reach Khor Kalba (within UAE) but this was declined as the staff immediately asked for special visa to UAE.

Acknowledgement:

This successful visit to Oman wouldn't have been possible without valuable assistance from a number of people:

It was a real pleasure to meet the key person for the development of conservation in Oman, Dr. Ralph Daly, Adviser for Conservation of the Environment, Diwan of Royal Court (Muscat). Dr. Daly kindly organised our permission to visit the Arabian Oryx Project in Jaluuni and gave us multiple information about the project since its very start. In Jaluuni we meet with the Field Manager David Hunt and briefly with the Liaison Officer & Deputy Field Manager Raa'id Juma'a bin-Ali Al Hikmani, and the Ass. Project Biologist Yasser bin Hamdan Al-Kharusi. We had a tremendously good introduction to the project including seeing the visitors-centre and the enclosure with the breeding heard and the on-going soft release programme. The following day we had an exceptional guiding around the Jaluuni-area by Loofty bin Said Msubah Hasusi. He gave us a comprehensive introduction to the desert-life through showing us his own home, had us invited for coffee at his neighbours as well as taking us to a unique array of sites including strange holes in the ground, caves in the escarpment with Horned Vipers etc and not to forget showing us more wildlife - including ibex and houbara - than we had ever dreamt of.

Access to the Sun Farms in Sohar and Salalah was kindly granted by their managers. Initial pre travel advice was received from Jørgen Hulbæk Christiansen, Eric Schaumburg, Ole Gylling-Jørgensen, Eric Hirschfeld and Henrik Læssøe. Kaj Halberg assisted with proofreading of this report. Travel arrangement as usual done by Hans Jørgen Bruun from Bennett Rejser (Aarhus)

Finally but none the least our deep thanks goes to Hanne and Jens Eriksen, who patiently answered our multiple questions before ever reaching Oman, facilitated various vital contacts, lend us a detailed map of Bar al Hikmann and through regular telephone contact during our stay provided us with additional information when needed. We would have missed a lot if not for their exceptional good advice based on their enormous dedication for and experience in Oman and its nature.

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Itinerary:

- 10/3 Departure. Copenhagen-Frankfurt 06.45-08.35. Frankfurt-Bahrain 11.00-18.15 (+2h), Bahrain-Seeb International Airport 20.40-22.45 (+1h). Car delivered in airport and drive to Corniche Hotel (Mutrah) with arrival 00.15.
- 11/3 Morning walks along cornich in Mutrah and at seafront near Intercontinental Hotel in Shatti al-Qurm. Short visit to Al Ansab Lagoons before driving towards the border to UAE. Stop at Ras as Sawadi and visit to Sohar Sun Farm 16.20-18.00. Drove further north to Shinass after dark but couldn't find any hotel and had to return to Al-Wadi Hotel at the highway near Sohar.
- 12/3 Early departure from hotel. Birding at Kathmat Milahah 06.30-09.00. Birding at the mangrove near Shinass 09.30-12.45 and drive back towards Muscat. Birded at Al Ansab Lagoons 16.15-19.30. Stayed at Naseem Hotel in Mutrah.

- 13/3 Met with Hanne Eriksen around 08.00 in order to get various good advice incl. a map of Bar al Hikman. Birding Sunup Rubbish Dump 08.30-09.30. Meeting with Ralph Daly at Diwan of Royal Court (Muscat) 10.30-12.10. Drive to airport in order to deliver car. Check-in at 13.10. Domestic flight to Salalah 14.00-15.30. Sea watch at Raysut 17.00-18.00. Brief stop at Salalah Bird Sanctuary 18.15-18.35. Stayed at Salalah Beach Villas.
- 14/3 Birding at Ain Hamran 07-09.10. Observations from Salalah Beach Villas 09.30-13.30 - tried to arrange a boat trip. Afternoon drive to Al Mughsayl Blowhole and khwar. Went back to Salalah to another try to arrange the boat trip (but it failed). Went to Khwar Taqat and camped near the beach 18.30-
- 15/3 Birding at Khor Taqah 06.00-?, wadi on the road to Mirbat, Mirbat, Khor Rouri, East Khor, coast E of East Khor 17.30-18.50. Stayed at Salalah Beach Villas.
- 16/3 Morning in Wadi Darbat, drive to Tawi Atayr, Salalah Beach Villas, Salalah Bird Sanctuary, drive to Khor Mughsayl, Wadi Mughsayl 15.30-dusk. Camping Wadi Mughsayl.
- 17/3 Morning in Wadi Mughsayl, drive to Salalah, Sun Farm at Salalah, stop 25 km from Sun Farm, stop 35 km from Sun Farm, drive to Montasar, Thumrayt Dump, Dawkah, Qatbeet 17.20-17.40, Montasar 18.10-dusk. Camping at Montasar.
- 18/3 Montasar dawn-10.40, drive to Jaaluni (10.40-15.00), Jaluuni HQ late afternoon.
- 19/3 Jaluuni HQ early morning, drive around Jaluuni (incl. Huqf escarpment) 09.15-16.50, drive to Ras Duqm, Ras Duqm 17.45-dusk. Camping at Ras Duqm.
- 20/3 Ras Duqm 06.10-11.30, drive, Barr al Hikman around Shannah 16.30-dusk. Camping south of the harbour at Shannah.
- 21/3 Barr al Hikman: Around Shannah 06.05-09.30, Around Filim 10.45-12.10, drive through mainly desert to Sinaw, drive to Ras al Jinz (arrival 19.30). Camping at campsite by turtle beach. Guided visit to beach 21.30-22.30 in order to see egg-laying turtles.
- 22/3 Ras al Jinz 05.00-08.45. Sea watch Ras al Hadd 09.00-10.30. Sea watch Ras al Khabbah. Khor Jamarah 12.00-12.20 (observation from village only), drive towards Muscat with four stops around Al Hajar ridge. Stayed Arabia Felix.
- 23/3 Sunup Dump, around Intercontinental in Shatti-al-Qurm, Al Ansab Lagoons (-19.30). Delivered car at airport around 20.00. Met with Hanne and Jens Eriksen 21.00-22.00. Check-in around 22.00.
- 24/3 Muscat-Bahrain (00.20-02.00). Bahrain-Frankfurt (03.00-06.55, but delayed to 07.30). Frankfurt-Copenhagen (08.10-09.40).

Records.

Names of areas visited follows the gazetteer in Eriksen & Sargeant (2000). An * by a species name indicates, that we obtained a photo of the species during the visit. For each species the total number recorded is given in brackets.

List of bird records:

1. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. 12/3 2 juvenile + 2 heard Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 3 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 15/3 2 Khor Rouri, 16/3 43 Wadi Darbat, 23/3 5 Al Ansab Lagoons. (57)
2. Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*. 11/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (2)
3. Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*. 22/3 1 Ras al Hadd. (1)
4. Persian Shearwater *Puffinus [lherminieri] persicus*. 15/3 1 E + 1 W coast E of East Khor, 22/3 4 Ras al Hadd. (6)
5. *Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*. 13/3 2 mig. W Raysut, 14/3 10+ attending cliffs W of Mughsayl Blowhole, 15/3 6 attending sea-cliffs at Khor Rouri, 22/3 2 attending cliffs Ras al Khabbah. Our records seem to indicate that this year the tropicbirds started attending the cliffs already from mid-March, i.e. slightly earlier than late March reported in Eriksen & Sargeant (2000). (20)

6. *Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*. 13/3 6 W + 1 E + 1 R Raysut, 14/3 15 Salalah Beach Villas, 1 beach E of Mughsayl, 10 Mughsayl Blowhole, 15/3 4 Mirbat, 2 Khor Rouri, 6 coast E of East Khor, 16/3 4 Salalah Beach Villas, 10 coast at Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 22/3 2 E Ras al Hadd, 22/3 1 Ras al Khabbah. (63)
7. Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*. 14/3 1 Salalah Beach Villas, 4 beach E of Mughsayl, 2 Mughsayl Blowhole, 15/3 1 coast E of East Khor, 16/3 1 Salalah Beach Villas, 2 coast at Salalah Bird Sanctuary. Six records of this uncommon species were more than expected. (11)
8. Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. 11/3 5 Shatti al-Qurm, 6 Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 8 Al Ansab Lagoons, 20/3 1 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 22/3 12 Ras al Jinz. (27)
9. Socotra Cormorant *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*. 13/3 543 W + 1 R Raysut, 14/3 2 W + 7 E beach E of Mughsayl, 15/3 2 coast at Khor Rouri, 2 W coast E of East Khor. The migration at Raysut was recorded during one hour of observation from 17.00, when 7 flocks passed (9+190+46+220+39+38+1). (557)
10. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*. 12/3 10 Al Ansab Lagoons, 14/3 3 Khor Taqah, 23/3 3 Al Ansab Lagoons. (16)
11. Common Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*. 16/3 1 adult in breeding plumage Wadi Darbat. (1)

Besides we recorded the following Common Squacco Heron/Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola ralloides/grayii*. 12/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 14/3 1 Khor Taqah, 15/3 2 Khor Taqah. (5)
12. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. 11/3 25+ Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 23/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (27)
13. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. 11/3 3 Al Ansab Lagoons, 15/3 1 Khor Taqah, 6 East Khor, 16/3 6 Wadi Darbat, 23/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (17)
14. Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*. 11/3 1 Mutrah, 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 16 Ras as Sawadi, 13/3 1 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 14/3 1 beach E of Mughsayl, 2 Khor Mughsayl, 15/3 2 Khor Taqah, 2 East Khor, 20/3 5 Ras Duqm, 5 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 2 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 22/3 1 Khor Jamarah. (39)
15. Yellow-billed Heron *Egretta intermedia*. 15/3 3 East Khor. When we were driving along the west-side of the Khor the three herons flew up (with other herons) and soon after landed in tops of trees in the inner part of the Khor. The distance was down to 50 m. Description: A medium sized white heron being slightly larger and more long necked than nearby Little Egrets. Distinct yellow bill with dark tip. Lack of 'gape' below the eye was carefully checked in the telescope. All dark legs and feet. Soon one bird flew up and disappeared towards the W. Uncommon visitor to Oman with the previous maximum-record being 2 birds (Eriksen & Sargeant 2000). (3)
16. Great White Heron *Egretta alba*. 11/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 1 Mangrove at Shinass, 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 15/3 1 Khor Rouri, 1 East Khor, 22/3 1 Khor Jamarah, 23/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (7)
17. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*. 13/3 1 Salalah Bird Sanctuary. (1)
18. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. 11/3 15 Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 20 Mangrove at Shinass, 10 Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 5 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 14/3 2 farm E of Salalah, 5 Khor Mughsayl, 15/3 + Khor Taqah, 5 Khor Rouri, 4 East Khor, 16/3 5 Wadi Darbat, 20/3 8 Ras Duqm, 2 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 1 Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 22/3 1 Khor Jamarah, 23/3 10 Al Ansab Lagoons. (93)
19. White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*. 14/3 7 farm E of Salalah. (7)
20. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*. 14/3 6 Khor Mughsayl, 15/3 1 East Khor, 16/3 25 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 17/3 2 Khor Mughsayl, 22/3 4 Khor Jamarah, 23/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (39)

21. European Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*. 14/3 11 Khor Mughsayl , 17/3 1 Khor Mughsayl, 20/3 10 Ras Duqm. (22)
22. * Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*. 13/3 41 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 14/3 25 Khor Mughsayl , 11 Khor Taqah, 15/3 30 Khor Taqah, 3 Khor Rouri, 2 East Khor, 16/3 + Khor Mughsayl, 17/3 + Khor Mughsayl, 19/3 4 Ras Duqm, 20/3 105 Ras Duqm, 200 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 + Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 350 Barr al Hikmann (Filim). (806)
23. Cotton Teal *Nettapus coromandelianus*. 13/3 1 female Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 15/3 2 Khor Rouri, 16/3 2 Wadi Darbat. (5)
24. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. 11/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 15/3 4 males Khor Rouri, 16/3 1 male Wadi Darbat, 1 female khor E of Mughsayl, 23/3 3 Al Ansab Lagoons. (11)
25. European Wigeon *Anas penelope*. 13/3 1 pair Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 15/3 1 male Khor Rouri. (3)
26. Common Teal *Anas crecca*. 11/3 10 Al Ansab Lagoons, 14/3 30 Khor Mughsayl , 15/3 10 Khor Rouri, 16/3 60 Wadi Darbat, 23/3 6 Al Ansab Lagoons. (116)
27. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*. 13/3 1 pair Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 14/3 2 Khor Mughsayl, 15/3 18 Khor Rouri, 16/3 40 Wadi Darbat. (62)
28. Garganey *Anas querquedula*. 13/3 45 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 14/3 10 Khor Mughsayl , 10 Khor Taqah, 15/3 10 Khor Taqah, 10 Khor Rouri, 16/3 20 Wadi Darbat, 23/3 12 Al Ansab Lagoons. (117)
29. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. 13/3 50 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 14/3 40 Khor Mughsayl , 15/3 30 Khor Rouri, 16/3 5 Wadi Darbat. (125)
30. Pochard *Aythya ferina*. 11/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 15/3 1 male Khor Rouri. (2)
31. Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*. 13/3 1 female Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 16/3 1 female Wadi Darbat. (2)
32. Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*. 13/3 2 males 2 females Salalah Bird Sanctuary. (4)
33. Yellow-billed (Black) Kite *Milvus [migrans] aegyptius*. 13/3 2 Salalah, 14/3 2 Salalah, 15/3 4 Salalah. (8)
34. Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*. 11/3 1 adult Shatti al-Qurm, 1 adult Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 1 adult Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 100 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 1 Salalah, 18/3 1-2 adult Jaluuni Head Quarter, 19/3 1 immature Jaluuni Head Quarter, 21/3 2 adult drive Sinew-Sur, 23/3 60 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 3 Al Ansab Lagoons. (170)
35. Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*. 23/3 2 immatures Sunup Rubbish Dump. (2)
36. Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. 11/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 5 Sohar Sun Farm, 14/3 1 Salalah, 1 Khor Taqah, 15/3 2 Khor Taqah, 20/3 3 Ras Duqm, 3 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 1 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah). (17)
37. Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*. 11/3 1 2nd calendar year Sohar Sun Farm. (1)
38. Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*. 11/3 1 2nd calendar year Sohar Sun Farm, 17/3 1 female or immature Salalah Sun Farm. (2)
39. Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*. 11/3 1 immature Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 20+ Sunup Rubbish Dump, 15/3 1 immature Khor Taqah, 16/3 1 adult mig. N Wadi Darbat, 17/3 5 (2 fulvescens) Salalah Sun Farm, 22/3 3 Sunup Rubbish Dump. (32)

40. *Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*. 13/3 30+ Sunup Rubbish Dump, 16/3 1 2nd calendar year near Raysut RA, 23/3 15 Sunup Rubbish Dump. All 2nd calendar years or older immatures. (46)
41. *Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*. 12/3 2 immature Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 1 juvenile Sunup Rubbish Dump, 14/3 1 2nd calendar year east of Salalah, 17/3 1 immature 25 km from Salalah. (5)
42. Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. 17/3 2 (at least one immature) Montasar, 18/3 1 Montasar. (2)
43. **Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus* 13/3 1 immature Raysut, 16/3 1 adult Wadi Darbat, 1 pair Tawi Atayr. (4)
44. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. 11/3 2 Ras as Sawadi, 13/3 1 Raysut Harbour, 1 Raysut, 1 coast W of Salalah, 14/3 2 Khor Mughsayl, 15/3 1 Khor Taqah, 2 Khor Rouri, 2 East Khor, 1 coast E of East Khor, 17/3 1 Khor Mughsayl, 20/3 9 Ras Duqm, 2 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 1 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 22/3 2 Khor Jamarah. (28)
45. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. 11/3 1 Sohar Sun Farm, 13/3 1 near Sunup Rubbish Dump, 1 Salalah, 14/3 1 Ain Hamran, 1 farm E of Salalah, 15/3 1 Khor Rouri, 16/3 1 Wadi Darbat, 16/3 1 Tawi Atayr, 17/3 4 Salalah Sun Farm, 3 stop 25 km from Salalah, 18/3 1 Montasar, 19/3 1 Jaluuni. (17)
- Peregrine/Barbary Falcon *Falco peregrinus/peleginoides*. 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (1)
46. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*. 13/3 1 adult Raysut, 20/3 1 adult (showed mixed characters with Barbary Falcon) Ras Duqm, 22/3 1 Khor Jamarah. The bird at Ras Duqm was seen at close range as it landed on a cliff next to our camp and could be studied in the telescope for several minutes. Superficially it looked like a typical adult Peregrine with a distinct broad moustache and a striking contrast between dark almost blackish upperside and whitish underside. However, only the upper breast and throat were whitish while the rest of the underside had a peach-coloured tone and the underside barring was restricted to delicate small spots and bars on the side of the breast and flanks. Closer studies also revealed a broken faint reddish V-shaped patch on the nape. (3)
47. Barbary Falcon *Falco peleginoides*. 11/3 1 adult Sohar Sun Farm. (1)
48. Sand Partridge *Ammoperdix heyi*. 11/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 2 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 23/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (6)
49. Arabian Partridge *Alectoris melanocephala*. 14/3 4 + heard Ain Hamran, 15/3 4 roadside wadi near Mirbat, 16/3 1 Wadi Darbat, 3 Wadi Mughsayl. (12)
50. Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*. 11/3 15+ Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 10+ Kathmat Milahah. (25)
51. Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*. 12/3 1 adult Al Ansab Lagoons. (1)
52. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. 11/3 10 Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 2 + heard Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 10 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 15/3 20 Khor Taqah, 16/3 100+ Wadi Darbat, 23/3 + Al Ansab Lagoons. (142+)
53. Coot *Fulica atra*. 11/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 14/3 9 Khor Mughsayl, 16/3 2 Wadi Darbat, 4 Khor Mughsayl. (19)
54. *Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*. 16/3 1 Wadi Darbat. The bird was studied in the telescope down to a distance of app. 25 meters. A typical coot but slightly different in shape compared to European Coot as the head/neck was held slightly more tipped forward. Diagnostic characters were the two red knobs at the top of the white front shield and the smoothly curved feather-line along the front shield/bill, which was without the distinct pointed tip shown by the Coot. Two European Coots a little further down the same lake were studied in detail. Third record for Oman. (1)

55. Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata*. 19/3 2 Jaluuni. Yet another highlight to see this legendary bird once widespread in the Arab deserts. Both birds were seen in a well vegetated area with fairly extensive grass/herbs and scattered bushes and trees. The first bird was discovered at close range. It walked steadily and quickly away and while we studied this bird the other one was found as a distant silhouette in the shade under an Acacia-tree. (2)
56. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*. 15/3 3 Khor Taqah, 16/3 1 Wadi Darbat. All in non-breeding plumage. (4)
57. European Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. 11/3 6 Ras as Sawadi, 14/3 2 Salalah Beach Villas, 19/3 25 Ras Duqm, 20/3 35 Ras Duqm, 150 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 25 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), + Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 22/3 8 Khor Jamarah. (151)
58. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. 11/3 1 Sohar Sun Farm, 13/3 2 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 16/3 4 Wadi Darbat. (7)
59. Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*. 13/3 3 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 20/3 3 Ras Duqm. (6)
60. *Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*. 19/3 7 Ras Duqm, 20/3 9 Ras Duqm, 60 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 5 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 22/3 6 Khor Jamarah. (89)
61. *Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*. 19/3 1+2 Jaluuni. (3)
62. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*. 11/3 15 Sohar Sun Farm. (15)
63. Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. 14/3 heard Khor Taqah, 15/3 10 Khor Taqah, 20/3 5 Ras Duqm, 50 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 10 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah). (76)
64. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*. 12/3 1 Mangrove at Shinass, 15/3 20 Khor Taqah, 20/3 2 Ras Duqm, 100 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 25 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah). (148)
65. Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*. 15/3 2 Khor Taqah, 20/3 4 Ras Duqm, 50 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 15 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 15 Barr al Hikmann (Filim). (86)
66. Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*. 16/3 1 Khor Mughsayl, 20/3 1 Ras Duqm, 15 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 5 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 1 Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 22/3 2 Khor Jamarah. (25)
67. Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*. 16/3 6 Salalah Bird Sanctuary. (6)
68. Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. 14/3 1 Salalah Beach Villas, 19/3 10 Ras Duqm, 20/3 35 Ras Duqm, 25 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 10 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), + Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 22/3 1 W Ras al Hadd. (83)
69. Red-wattled Plover *Hoplopterus indicus*. 11/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 20 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 1 Kathmat Milahah, 2 Mangrove at Shinass, 6 Al Ansab Lagoons, 23/3 4 Al Ansab Lagoons. (34)
70. Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. 12/3 6 Al Ansab Lagoons, 15/3 3 Khor Taqah, 23/3 10+ Al Ansab Lagoons. (19)
71. Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*. 15/3 1 possibly this species Khor Taqah, 23/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (1-2)
72. Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptus minimus*. 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 23/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (3)
73. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. 13/3 2 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 15/3 6 Khor Rouri. (8)

74. *Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. 19/3 400+ Ras Duqm, 20/3 50 Ras Duqm, 2000+ Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 500 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), + Barr al Hikmann (Filim). (2950)
75. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. 11/3 1 Ras as Sawadi, 19/3 1 Ras Duqm, 20/3 2 Ras Duqm, 25 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 + Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 22/3 2 Khor Jamarah. (31)
76. Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*. 11/3 1 Ras as Sawadi, 12/3 1 Mangrove at Shinass, 14/3 1 Salalah Beach Villas, 1 beach E of Mughsayl, 15/3 1 Mirbat, 19/3 50+ Ras Duqm, 20/3 60 Ras Duqm, 100+ Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 5 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), + Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 22/3 1 W Ras al Hadd, 22/3 10 Khor Jamarah. (231)
77. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 11/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 16/3 1 Wadi Darbat, 2 khor E of Mughsayl, 23/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (7)
78. *Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*. 11/3 1 Mutrah, 12/3 2 Mangrove at Shinass, 16/3 2 Wadi Darbat, 19/3 2 Ras Duqm, 20/3 20 Ras Duqm, 50+ Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 350 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), + Barr al Hikmann (Filim). (428+)
79. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*. 20/3 2 Ras Duqm, 1 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah). (3)
80. Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. 13/3 3 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 14/3 3 Salalah Beach Villas, 1 beach E of Mughsayl, heard Khor Taqah, 15/3 8 Khor Taqah, 4 Khor Rouri, 6 East Khor, 16/3 1 Wadi Darbat, 4 khor E of Mughsayl, 19/3 4 Ras Duqm, 20/3 35 Ras Duqm, 50+ Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 10 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), + Barr al Hikmann (Filim). (129+)
81. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*. 23/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (2)
82. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*. 11/3 15 Al Ansab Lagoons, 5 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 1 Mangrove at Shinass, 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 2 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 23/3 10 Al Ansab Lagoons. (34)
83. Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*. 20/3 1 Ras Duqm, 10 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 25 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 20 Barr al Hikmann (Filim). (56)
84. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. 11/3 2 Mutrah, 1 Ras as Sawadi, 12/3 3 Mangrove at Shinass, 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 14/3 2 Khor Taqah, 15/3 5 Khor Taqah, 2 Khor Rouri, 23/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (18)
85. Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. 20/3 1 Ras Duqm, 5 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 120 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah). (126)
86. *Longbilled Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. 11/3 1 Sohar Sun Farm. Probably the same bird has now for four successive winters turned up at the Sohar Sun Farm. (1)
87. Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*. 20/3 3 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 20 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 3 Barr al Hikmann (Filim). To find this exclusive visitor from the eastern palaeartic was one of the finer experiences during the visit to Oman. The discrete coloured mega-*Calidris* is hiding well between the similar sized Bar-tailed Godwits. At first it reveals itself due to its shorter legs giving a pot-bellied appearance compared to the more elegant Godwits. Although most Great Knot were moulting to their summer-plumage this very modest outfit still doesn't make much of a show-off with the chestnut feathers on the shoulders being the only colourful element. However, the summer-plumage also adds fine spots on the flanks and as soon this was recognised together with the pot-bellied appearance the icon was fairly easily detectable among the comparatively showy Godwits with their almost undue coppery summer-plumages. (26)
88. Sanderling *Calidris alba*. 15/3 12 Khor Taqah, 20/3 22 Ras Duqm, 10 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 70 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah). (114)

89. Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. 11/3 5 Sohar Sun Farm, 14/3 20 Khor Taqah, 15/3 15 Khor Taqah, 1 Khor Rouri, 17/3 2 Montasar, 18/3 2 Montasar, 20/3 20 Ras Duqm, 400+ Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 75 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 20 Barr al Hikmann (Filim). (560)
90. Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*. 15/3 5 Khor Taqah. (5)
91. Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*. 15/3 1 Khor Taqah, 1 Khor Rouri. This diminutive Wood Sandpiper look-alike was on both occasions found feeding singly among tussocks in muddy waterholes. (2)
92. Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. 14/3 6 Khor Taqah, 15/3 15 Khor Taqah, 20/3 6 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 25 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 100 Barr al Hikmann (Filim). (152)
93. Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. 20/3 11 Ras Duqm, 200+ Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 500 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 125 Barr al Hikmann (Filim). (837)
94. Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*. 21/3 3 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 132 Barr al Hikmann (Filim). While it was hard work to find the first Broad-billed Sandpipers at the more exposed coast by Shannah it was obvious the species made up a significant proportion of the small waders on the exposed mudflats at Filim. Knowing the species as a loner or in very small flocks during the migration at home it was great to see the concentration at Filim. (135)
95. Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. 11/3 25 Sohar Sun Farm, 13/3 10 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 23/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (39)
96. Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*. 11/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (1)
97. Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarina*. 11/3 3 Shatti al-Qurm, 12/3 1 Mangrove at Shinass, 22/3 1 Ras al Hadd. (5)
98. *Sooty Gull *Larus hemprichii*. 11/3 400 Shatti al-Qurm, 40 Ras as Sawadi, 12/3 20 Mangrove at Shinass, 13/3 + Raysut, 14/3 25 Salalah Beach Villas, 132 beach E of Mughsayl, + Mughsayl Blowhole, 15/3 20 Khor Taqah, 200 Mirbat, + Khor Rouri, 1250 coast E of East Khor, 19/3 + Ras Duqm, 20/3 200 Ras Duqm, 30 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 22/3 + Ras al Hadd, 23/3 + Shatti al-Qurm. (2317+)
99. Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*. 13/3 1 adult coast W of Salalah. Noticed because of the striking blackish back and clear yellow legs. A slightly smaller, longer-winged and more delicate build large gull compared to the numerous nearby Large White Gulls. (1)
100. Taimyr Gull *Larus [fuscus/argentatus] heuglini*. 11/3 25 Shatti al-Qurm, 6 Ras as Sawadi. (31)
101. Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*. 11/3 800 Shatti al-Qurm, 100 Ras as Sawadi. (900)

It takes a good proportion of skills and patience to identify the 'Large White Gulls' in the Middle East - and elsewhere. Being insufficient of the first made us run lean on the second already on the first day. From time to time the always beautiful gulls were studied and yes: Large, nice typical 'streaked-necked' *heuglini*-types mixed everywhere with likewise nice, smaller white-headed *cachinnans*-types of whatever subspecies and with seemingly every other possible mix of characters and sizes present as well, so we leave it there:

*Large White Gull *Larus heuglini/cachinnans*. 12/3 300+ Mangrove at Shinass, 13/3 10 Raysut, 1500+ coast W of Salalah, 14/3 100 Salalah Beach Villas, 155 beach E of Mughsayl, 15/3 + Khor Taqah, + Mirbat, + Khor Rouri, 1250 coast E of East Khor, 19/3 + Ras Duqm, 20/3 1000+ Ras Duqm, 50 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 25 Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 22/3 + Ras al Hadd, + Khor Jamarah, 23/3 + Shatti al-Qurm. (4390+)

102. Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*. 11/3 2 adult Shatti al-Qurm, 1 adult Ras as Sawadi, 13/3 1 immature coast W of Salalah, 19/3 2 Ras Duqm, 20/3 3 adult 3 immature Ras Duqm, 22/3 20 (adult + immatures) W Ras al Hadd, 1 immature Khor Jamarah. (33)
103. Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. 11/3 100 Shatti al-Qurm, 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 5 drive to Sohar, 13/3 20 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 20/3 2 Ras Duqm. (129)
104. Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*. 11/3 300 Shatti al-Qurm, 5 drive to Sohar, 75 Ras as Sawadi, 13/3 60 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 14/3 16 Salalah Beach Villas, 15/3 3 Khor Rouri, 1 coast E of East Khor, 20/3 5 Ras Duqm, 50 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 5 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 22/3 + Khor Jamarah. (530)
105. Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*. 15/3 1 Khor Taqah, 16/3 3 Salalah Beach Villas, 20/3 12 Ras Duqm, 2 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 2 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 22/3 1 Khor Jamarah. (21)
106. Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*. 11/3 4 Ras as Sawadi, 12/3 3 Mangrove at Shinass, 19/3 4 Ras Duqm, 10/3 30 Ras Duqm, 22/3 6 Khor Jamarah. (47)
107. Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*. 11/3 60 Shatti al-Qurm, 60 Ras as Sawadi, 13/3 38 W + 2 E Raysut, 14/3 5 Salalah Beach Villas, 13 beach E of Mughsayl, + Mughsayl Blowhole, 15/3 1 Mirbat, 5 coast E of East Khor, 19/3 1000 Ras Duqm, 20/3 1200 Ras Duqm, 500 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 30 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 22/3 + Ras al Hadd, 2 Khor Jamarah. (2916+)
108. Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna benghalensis*. 11/3 15 Ras as Sawadi, 14/3 40 Salalah Beach Villas, 15/3 10 coast E of East Khor, 20/3 1 Ras Duqm. (66)
109. Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. 11/3 30 Shatti al-Qurm, 5 Ras as Sawadi, 12/3 15 Mangrove at Shinass, 14/3 30 Salalah Beach Villas, 15/3 1 Khor Taqah, 19/3 1 Ras Duqm, 20/3 15 Ras Duqm, 22/3 + Ras al Hadd. (97+)
110. White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa*. 14/3 1 Salalah Beach Villas. Perhaps an early arrival? The bird was standing on the beach in a mixed flock of its larger cousins, Swift, Lesser Crested and Sandwich Tern. Compared to Common Tern the longer and slightly drooping bill was diagnostic. (1)
111. **Saunders's Tern** *Sterna saundersi*. 20/3 6 Ras Duqm, 2 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 21/3 3 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah). The grey rump was the main character used for the identification and with patience it could be recognised in the telescope on even fairly long distances. (11)
112. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*. 11/3 3 Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 1 Salalah Bird Sanctuary, 20/3 1 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 23/3 4 Al Ansab Lagoons. (10)
113. White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*. 13/3 2 Salalah Bird Sanctuary. (2)
- Un-identified Sandgrouse *Pterocles sp.* 17/3 15 Montasar. (15)
114. *Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*. 11/3 2 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 6 Mangrove at Shinass, 18/3 12 (to drink) Montasar, 19/3 30 (to drink) Jaluuni Head Quarter, 2 Jaluuni, 23/3 10 Al Ansab Lagoons. (62)
115. *Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus*. 18/3 1367 Montasar. (1367)
116. *Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus*. 18/3 53 (to drink) Montasar, 19/3 475 (to drink) Jaluuni Head Quarter, 2 Jaluuni. (530)

Two major morning-concentrations of Sandgrouses were recorded: 18/3 1430 (3 species) Montasar, 19/3 505 (2 species) Jaluuni. At Montasar the whole lot came to drink from 08.46-10.30 at the run off from the artificial well - a grand spectacle with one flock replacing the other. The three species arrived in single-species flocks. A proportion of the Spotted Sandgrouse - the most numerous species - gathered on sandy flats some hundred meter away from the water. From here (and elsewhere) they flew in and landed at the shore if not directly in the water and within seconds drank 3-4-5 times and flew off again. In contrast the Crowned Sandgrouses (6 flocks, 6-16 birds/flock) all landed on the same barren expanse close to the water (30-40 m) and from there walked the final distance to the shore. The few Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (3 flocks, 2x1 pair, and 1x4 pairs) had a similar behaviour landing within the same area close to the water. At Jaluuni the sandgrouses gathered on the gravel-expanse next to the head quarters and from there flew in small flocks to the artificial waterhole established almost among the buildings. Again the species didn't mix.

117. Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii*. 12/3 9 (came to drink around 19.00) Al Ansab Lagoons, 22/3 2 near Ibra, 1 Al Hajar Ridge. (12)
118. Rock Dove *Columba livia*. 11/3 + Mutrah, 14/3 3 Ain Hamran, 15+ Salalah, 14/3 18 Mughsayl Blowhole, 300+ (incl. some *var. domestica*) Raysut roundabout, 16/3 50 Tawi Atayr, 10 Wadi Mughsayl, 17/3 80 Wadi Mughsayl, 12 Thumrayt Rubbish Dump, 19/3 1 Jaluuni Head Quarter. (579+)
119. Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. 11/3 3 Ras as Sawadi, 500+ Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 3 Kathmat Milahah, 3 Mangrove at Shinass, 10 Al Ansab Lagoons, 14/3 2 Salalah Beach Villas, 15/3 2 Khor Taqah, 17/3 2 Montasar, 18/3 6 Montasar, 19/3 2 Jaluuni Head Quarter, 23/3 + Shatti al-Qurm, + Al Ansab Lagoons. (533+)
120. Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*. 11/3 20+ Mutrah, 10+ Al Ansab Lagoons, + drive to Sohar, 50 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 + Kathmat Milahah, 20 Mangrove at Shinass, 50 Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 30 Sunup Rubbish Dump, + Salalah, 14/3 20 Ain Hamran, 15/3 + roadside wadi near Mirbat, 16/3 10 Wadi Darbat, + Tawi Atayr, 6 Wadi Mughsayl, 17/3 10 Wadi Mughsayl, 10 Dawkah, 2 Qatbeet, 18/3 20+ Jaluuni Head Quarter, 19/3 20 Jaluuni Head Quarter, 20/3 2 drive Duqm-Hajj, 21/3 2 Hajj, 22/3 3 Al Hajar Ridge, 23/3 10 Sunup Rubbish Dump, + Shatti al-Qurm, + Al Ansab Lagoons. (295+)
121. Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*. 12/3 1 male singing + 1 near mangrove at Shinass. A scarce bird in the coastal areas of the north. (2)
122. Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*. 16/3 6 Wadi Darbat. (6)
123. Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*. 11/3 heard Shatti al-Qurm, 11 drive to Sohar, 12/3 1 Kathmat Milahah, 14/3 2 Salalah, 15/3 East Khor. (16)
124. Barn Owl *Tyto alba*. 11/3 1 btw Seeb Int. Airport and Mutrah. (1)
125. **Hume's Tawny Owl** *Strix butleri*. 16/3 1 heard Wadi Mughsayl. The bird was completely silent just after sunset and despite use of playback it remained so until we gave up and started setting up our camp. Then suddenly at 20.10 it started of its own accord and continued up to 21.00. At the beginning it was several hundred meters away but with playback it came nearer. Unfortunately it didn't make it the whole way down the slope and we never saw the bird. (1)

Unidentified Nightjar *Caprimulgus sp.* 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. A pale nightjar was seen in the headlight from the car (and somewhat it looked like the Egyptian Nightjars we in the minutes to follow started enjoying). However, when it flew up we both noticed pale spots at the wingtips and to the tail-corners, i.e. two characters of Sykes's Nightjar *Caprimulgus mahrattensis*. Unfortunately, we never managed to relocate any nightjar with these characters and the record - a first to Oman - remains unproven. (1)

126. Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*. 12/3 6 Al Ansab Lagoons, 23/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. A fabulous experience. The first nightjar flew ghostly over our heads just as the Lichtenstein's Sandgrouses arrived. In flight only glimpses of a pale nightjar was captured in the torchlight. After a while we located several nightjars, which were connected to a sandy expanse next to the lagoons. Here the nightjars could be found sitting singly on the ground and being studied down to 2 m's distance could be identified to Egyptians. From time to time each bird did feeding-flights over the area. In flight the species repeats a very low cluck-sound (tape-recorded). The single bird on 23/3 was discovered in the headlight of our vehicle, while it was sitting on the road. We approached it to less than 10 meters. The bird was pumping up and down with the head (nicely exposing the white spot on the throat) and we were mystified by this behaviour. It soon became clear that the bird was struggling to swallow a large moth as it after a while suddenly gave up and spitted out nothing less than a death's head hawkmoth *Acherontia atropos*. The moth had been harmed one way or the other by the rough treatment and spinned like a top on the ground next to the nightjar, which now seemed completely un-interested. The moth was collected and albeit it is a slightly small specimen (body-length 4 cm, wingspan 9 cm) it apparently indicates the upper-limit of prey-size for the Egyptian Nightjar. (7)
127. Pallid Swift *Apus pallida*. 11/3 4 Mutrah, 25 Ras as Sawadi, 12/3 10 Kathmat Milahah, 4 Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 6 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 23/3 4 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 30+ Shatti al-Qurm, 6 Al Ansab Lagoons. Swifts were only seen in the north and none made us suspect other species involved. (89)
128. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*. 12/3 1 seen + 1 heard Mangrove at Shinass. (2)
129. Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*. 11/3 11 drive to Sohar, 3 Ras as Sawadi, 6 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 4 drive Shinass-Muscat. (24)
130. Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*. 12/3 2 + heard Mangrove at Shinass, 23/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (3)
131. Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*. 11/3 37 drive to Sohar, 10 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 15 drive Shinass-Muscat, 21/3 4 drive Sinew-Sur, 22/3 3 drive Sur-Ibra, 23/3 1 Hotel Intercontinental. (70)
132. European Hoopoe *Upupa epops*. 12/3 2 drive Shinass-Muscat, 17/3 1 stop 25 km from Salalah. (3)
133. Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans*. 17/3 10 Salalah Sun Farm. (10)
134. Hoopoe Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*. 17/3 1 drive Salalah-Montasar, 2 Dawkah, 18/3 4 drive Montasar-Jaluuni, 19/3 4 Jaluuni, 21/3 3 drive Hajj-Sinew. (14)
135. Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*. 16/3 14 Wadi Mughsayl, 17/3 2 Wadi Mughsayl, 19/3 1 Jaluuni, 22/3 1 Al Hajar Ridge, 23/3 1 Sunup Rubbish Dump. (19)
136. Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*. 19/3 1 Jaluuni. (1)
137. **Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda dunnii*. 17/3 2 Dawkah. One bird was discovered sitting on the ground and was briefly studied in the telescope. The striking large bill and a delicate feather-pattern on the head was seen well. The plump and rather short-tailed bird soon flew up and showed dark sides to the tail and from below a completely all-dark tail. The bird flew a couple of hundred meters before landing, but it could not be relocated. Later another bird flew over giving a call similar to the first. (2)
138. Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*. 11/3 3 drive to Sohar, 10 Ras as Sawadi, 80+ Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 10 Kathmat Milahah, 20 Mangrove at Shinass, 13/3 10 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 15/3 1 Khor Taqah, 1 W of Mirbat, 16/3 6 drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr, 17/3 10 Salalah Sun Farm, 2 Montasar, 18/3 4 Montasar, 22/3 2 Ras al Hadd. (158)
139. *Black-crowned Finch Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*. 11/3 30 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 15 Mangrove at Shinass, 17/3 1 male Dawkah, 19/3 11 Jaluuni, 1 male drive Jaluuni-Ras Duqm, 20/3 60 mig. away from coast Ras Duqm, 22/3 2 drive Sur-Ibra, 6 near Ibra. (125)

140. European Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. 12/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (2)
141. Pale Crag Martin *Hirundo [fuligula] obsoleta*. 11/3 1 Shatti al-Qurm, 14/3 10 Ain Hamran, 1 Salalah Beach Villas, 15/3 1 Khor Taqah, 16/3 10 Wadi Darbat, 17/3 5 Wadi Mughsayl, 20+ Thumrayt Rubbish Dump. (48)
142. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. 11/3 2 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 8 Al Ansab Lagoons, 17/3 1 Salalah Sun Farm, 21/3 1 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah), 1 Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 23/3 4 Al Ansab Lagoons. (17)
143. Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava ssp.* 12/3 20 Al Ansab Lagoons, 17/3 10 Salalah Sun Farm, 1 Thumrayt Rubbish Dump. Two subspecies identified: Sykes's Wagtail *Motacilla flava beema*. 12/3 a few identified (included in *ssp.* above) Al Ansab Lagoons. Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*. 23/3 3 Al Ansab Lagoons. (41)
144. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 17/3 1 Dawkah.(2)
145. * Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*. 11/3 5 Al Ansab Lagoons, heard Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 40 Al Ansab Lagoons, 15/3 3 Khor Taqah, 2 males Khor Rouri, 23/3 10 Al Ansab Lagoons. (60)
146. White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*. 11/3 15 Al Ansab Lagoons, 15 drive to Sohar, 25 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 30 Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 1 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 17/3 1 Salalah, 5 Salalah Sun Farm, 3 Thumrayt Rubbish Dump, 18/3 3 Montasar, 19/3 1 Jaluuni, 20/3 1 Ras Duqm, 23/3 15 Al Ansab Lagoons. Masked Wagtail *Motacilla alba personata*. 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 14/3 1 Salalah. A beautiful wagtail revealing its probable Iranian origin by the all black burqa over the head leaving only the eyes free. The mainly black head has strong contrasting effect to the grey back and pure white wing-coverts. A rare winter-visitor to Oman with only about 20 previous records (Eriksen & Sargeant 2000). (115)
147. Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*. 11/3 1 Sohar Sun Farm, 17/3 2 Salalah Sun Farm, 4 Dawkah, 19/3 2 Jaluuni, 21/3 1 Barr al Hikmann (Shannah). (10)
148. Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*. 17/3 1 25 km from Salalah, 22/3 2 Al Hajar Ridge. (3)
149. Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. 16/3 1 drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr, 17/3 1 Montasar, 18/3 1 Montasar. (5)
150. Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*. 11/3 2 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 1 Al Ansab Lagoons, 23/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (5)
151. Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. 11/3 2 Sohar Sun Farm, 23/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (4)
152. Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*. 11/3 1 near Hotel Intercontinental (Shatti al-Qurm). (1)
153. Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*. 11/3 1 Ras as Sawadi, 12/3 10 Kathmat Milahah, 14/3 40 Ain Hamran, 15/3 10 roadside wadi near Mirbat, 16/3 40 Wadi Darbat, 17/3 2 Wadi Mughsayl, 23/3 + Shatti al-Qurm, 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (105+)
154. Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*. 23/3 1 female Al Ansab Lagoons. (1)
155. Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*. 12/3 2 Kathmat Milahah. Both birds had beautiful chestnut undersides and clearly belonged to one of the eastern subspecies. *Ssp. phoenicuroides* from west-central Asia seems most likely. (2)
156. Blackstart *Cercomela melanura*. 14/3 6 Ain Hamran, 15/3 1 W of Mirbat, 16/3 4 Wadi Darbat, 1 drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr. (12)

157. Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*. 11/3 1 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 2 Mangrove at Shinass, 14/3 1 Mughsayl Blowhole, 16/3 1 Wadi Mughsayl, 17/3 1 Wadi Mughsayl, 1 Qatbeet, 18/3 1 Montasar, 2 drive Montasar-Jaluuni, 19/3 3 Jaluuni, 23/3 1 (partly albinistic with pale blotches on the head - appearing moth-eaten) Al Ansab Lagoons. (14)
158. Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*. 12/3 2 Kathmat Milahah. (2)
159. Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*. 11/3 1 male (with a tick on the front like a giant pimple) Ras as Sawadi, 12/3 1 female Mangrove at Shinass, 14/3 1 Khor Taqah, 15/3 1 male Khor Rouri, 16/3 1 btw Salalah-Mughsayl, 2 Khor Mughsayl, 17/3 1 drive Salalah-Montasar, 5 Dawkah, 2 Qatbeet, 18/3 4 Montasar, 18/3 1 drive Montasar-Jaluuni, 19/3 9 Jaluuni, 1 drive Jaluuni-Ras Duqm, 20/3 1 drive Duqm-Hajj, 21/3 1 Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 22/3 1 Khor Jamarah, 1 Al Hajar Ridge. (34)
160. *South Arabian Wheatear *Oenanthe lugentoides*. 16/3 5 males 1 female drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr, 1 female Tawi Atayr, 1 pair Wadi Mughsayl, 17/3 1 pair stop 25 km from Salalah, 2 pairs stop 35 km from Salalah, 19/3 1 female Jaluuni (Hugf Escarpment). (16)
161. Hume's Wheatear *Oenanthe alboniger*. 13/3 3 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 23/6 6 (incl. recently fledged juveniles) Sunup Rubbish Dump. (9)
162. Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*. 11/3 5 Shatti al-Qurm, 25 Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 5+ Mangrove at Shinass, 20+ Al Ansab Lagoons, 14/3 heard Khor Taqah, 15/3 5 Khor Taqah, 23/3 25+ Al Ansab Lagoons. (85+)
163. Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. 12/3 3-4 Al Ansab Lagoons, 23/3 4 Al Ansab Lagoons. (8)
164. Clamorous Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*. 11/3 2 heard Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 15+ (most only heard) Mangrove at Shinass, 5 Al Ansab Lagoons, 23/3 10+ heard Al Ansab Lagoons. (32+)
165. Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*. 14/3 1 Ain Hamran, 15/3 1 roadside wadi near Mirbat. (2)
166. Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus*. 12/3 2 Kathmat Milahah. A diminutive, short-tailed Chiffchaff type of *Phylloscopus*-warbler with a restless, energetic behaviour like a Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. (2)
167. Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. 17/3 1 Montasar. (1)
168. Arabian Warbler *Sylvia leucomelaena*. 14/3 8 Ain Hamran, 15/3 1 roadside wadi near Mirbat, 16/3 3 Wadi Darbat. (12)
169. Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*. 17/3 1 Dawkah, 1 Qatbeet. (2)
170. Desert Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia [curruca] minula*. 12/3 2 Kathmat Milahah. (2)
- Besides we had two records of unspecified Lesser Whitethroats: 14/3 2 Ain Hamran, 15/3 1 roadside wadi near Mirbat. (2)
171. Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana*. 11/3 1 Sohar Sun Farm. The only one on the trip but it demonstrated very well is discrete behaviour while working its way through a patch of scattered low vegetation. (1)
172. Ménétries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*. 12/3 4 Kathmat Milahah, 1 female Mangrove at Shinass. (5)
173. African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*. 14/3 6 Ain Hamran, 16/3 2 Wadi Darbat. (8)

174. Arabian Babbler *Turdoides squamiceps*. 11/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 12/3 2 Kathmat Milahah, 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 22/3 5 at nest with 6 eggs Al Hajar Ridge. The nest was around 1½ m above the ground - halfway up an Acacia-tree. A similar sized old nest at the bottom of the same tree was probably a babbler-nest from the previous year. (11)
175. Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*. 11/3 5 Shatti al-Qurm, 12/3 6 Kathmat Milahah, 15 Mangrove at Shinass, 22/3 1 Al Hajar Ridge, 23/3 3 Shatti al-Qurm, 2 Al Ansab Lagoons. (32)
176. Shining Sunbird *Nectarinia habessinica*. 14/3 10 Ain Hamran, 16/3 12 Wadi Darbat, 4 Wadi Mughsayl, 17/3 6 Wadi Mughsayl. (32)
177. Palestine Sunbird *Nectarinia osea*. 14/3 4 Ain Hamran. (4)
178. White-breasted White-eye *Zosterops abyssinica*. 14/3 20 Ain Hamran, 16/3 30 Wadi Darbat. (50)
179. *Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*. 11/3 2 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 2 near Mangrove at Shinass, 12/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 14/3 1 Ain Hamran, 17/3 4 Dawkah. (11)
180. Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis aucheri*. 11/3 1 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 1 Mangrove at Shinass, 17/3 2 Wadi Mughsayl, 18/3 2 Montasar, 1 Jaluuni Head Quarter, 19/3 2 Jaluuni, 22/3 1 Ras al Jinz, 1 drive Sur-Ibra. No *ssp. pallidirostris* were found. One Grey Shrike 11/3 at Sohar Sun Farm was in the field identified as Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* among things based on head pattern and shape. However, a grey rather than rosy underside has made us put a question mark to the identification. (11)
181. Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*. 14/3 4 Ain Hamran. (4)
182. Indian House Crow *Corvus splendens*. 11/3 200+ Muscat, + drive to Sohar, + Ras as Sawadi, 800+ Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 + Kathmat Milahah, + Mangrove at Shinass, 14/3 1 Salalah, 23/3 + Shatti al-Qurm. (1001+)
183. *Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*. 11/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 20 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 17/3 1 drive Salalah-Montasar, 1 Montasar, 18/3 2 Montasar, 10 drive Montasar-Jaluuni, 40+ Jaluuni Head Quarter, 19/3 25 Jaluuni Head Quarter, 1 Jaluuni, 21/3 1 Barr al Hikmann (Filim), 2 Hajj, 23/3 25 Sunup Rubbish Dump. (130+)
184. Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus*. 14/3 4 Ain Hamran, 20 desert east of Salalah, 4 Mughsayl Blowhole, 15/3 2 Khor Rouri, 16/3 4 Wadi Darbat, 6 drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr, 17/3 + btw Mughsayl and Salalah, 6 stop 25 km from Salalah, 30 stop 35 km from Salalah. (76+)
185. **Tristram's Grackle** *Onychognathus tristramii*. 13/3 1 Salalah, 14/3 50 Mughsayl Blowhole, 20 Khor Mughsayl, 15/3 25 Mirbat, 16/3 30 Wadi Darbat, 50 drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr, 17/3 2 Wadi Mughsayl, + btw Mughsayl and Salalah, 2 Thumrayt Rubbish Dump. (180+)
186. Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*. 11/3 + Shatti al-Qurm, + drive to Sohar, + Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 2 Kathmat Milahah, 23/3 + Shatti al-Qurm. (+)
187. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. 11/3 + Mutrah, + Al Ansab Lagoons, + drive to Sohar, + Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 25 Kathmat Milahah, + Mangrove at Shinass, + Al Ansab Lagoons, 13/3 ++ Sunup Rubbish Dump, 21/3 + drive Sinew-Sur, 23/3 + Shatti al-Qurm, + Al Ansab Lagoons. (25++)
188. Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*. 19/3 3 males 3 females Jaluuni Head Quarter. A rare visitor to Oman with only 18 previous records (Eriksen & Sargeant, 2000). (6)
189. Rüppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula*. 14/3 20 Ain Hamran, 15/3 10 roadside wadi near Mirbat, 16/3 30 Wadi Darbat, 17/3 50 Salalah Sun Farm. (110)

190. Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica*. 11/3 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 15 Sohar Sun Farm, 12/3 10 Mangrove at Shinass, 2 Al Ansab Lagoons, 23/3 2 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 3 Al Ansab Lagoons. (34)
191. African Silverbill *Euodice cantans*. 15/3 2 entrance to Salalah Sun Farm, 16/3 1 drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr. (3)
192. House Bunting *Emberiza striolata*. 23/3 4 Sunup Rubbish Dump, 1 Al Ansab Lagoons. (5)
193. African Rock Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*. 14/3 35 Ain Hamran, 15/3 1 roadside wadi near Mirbat, 16/3 15 Wadi Darbat, 15 drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr, 10 Tawi Atayr, 17/3 4 stop 25 km from Salalah, 2 stop 35 km from Salalah. (82).

List of Mammal records

1. Unidentified Bat. 16/3 1 Wadi Mughsayl
2. Red/Sand Fox *Vulpes vulpes/ruePELLII*. 21/3 1-2 Ras al Jinz, 22/3 1 Ras al Jinz.
3. *Common Genet *Genetta genetta*. 16/3 1 (roadkill) drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr.
4. Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin *Sousa chinensis*. 14/3 10+ Mughsayl Blowhole, 15/3 20+ coast at Khor Taqah, 10 coast E of East Khor.
5. Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*. 15/3 50+ Mirbat.
6. *Arabian Oryx *Oryx leucoryx*. 18/3 53 in enclosure + 7 outside Jaluuni Head Quarter, 19/3 10 (2+3+5) Jaluuni.
7. *Arabian Gazelle *Gazella gazella cora*. 18/3 15+ around Jaluuni Head Quarter, 19/3 85 Jaluuni.
8. *Arabian Ibex *Capra [ibex] nubiana*. 19/3 3 Jaluuni.
9. Nile Rat *Arvicanthes niloticus*. 16/3 1 Wadi Darbat. This rat was seen very well at a short distance shortly after dawn, i.e. in full daylight, next to the road to Wadi Darbat. For almost half a minute it was seen running around on a barren part of the otherwise forested slope before it finally disappeared down its hole. It was a very rat-like and -sized rodent with fairly large ears, round snout and with a rather long, round and hairless tail. The fur looked a little coarse, rather dark but had also a little moulded cast to it. However, the most distinct characters were a clear rufous colour of the snout, of the hairy ears and of a thin ring around each eye. These characters in particular are diagnostic to the Nile Rat. According to Harrison & Bates (1991) this widely distributed afro-tropical species is only found in the southwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula. Specimens are known from South Yemen. A couple of sources are quoted for records from south-eastern Arabia but without giving locations, and Harrison & Bates (*op.cit.*) note, that the species 'may extend eastwards to Dhofar' ... 'where suitable conditions for this rodent exist'. The species has only recently been recorded from Oman (Snowden et. al. 2000) and Wadi Darbat seems to be the most eastern known site for the species on the Arabian Peninsula.

List of identified Reptiles

1. Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*. 14/3 3-4 probably this species at sea off Mughsayl Blowhole, 21/3 2 egg-laying (around 22.00) Ras al Jinz, 22/3 2 going out to sea early morning (around 05.15) + fresh tracks of a total of 21 Ras al Jinz. Another major experience during the visit to Oman. The guide to the egg-laying turtles could tell that an estimated 30.000 females (the guidebook says 13.000?) use this particular beach annually. During peak season 3-400 females come ashore every night and the beach is turned into a genuine battlefield of egg-laying turtles.
2. *Horned Viper *Cerastes cerastes*. 19/3 2 Jaluuni.

Besides a number of reptiles was never tried identified; geckos (mostly), a few lizards and once an agama-type.

Essential literature & guides:

Baldwin, R. & R. Salm. 1994. Whales and Dolphins along the coast of Oman.

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Schaumburg, E & Gylling-Jørgensen, O. no year. Oman oktober-november 1997. DOF, København (trip report).

Other valuable reading:

Bundy, G. 1986. Notes on Seabirds in South-Eastern Arabia. Sandgrouse 7: 29-42.

Eriksen, J. 1996. The Birds of Barr Al Hikman, Sultanate of Oman. Sandgrouse 18 (2): 19-29.

Gallagher, M. & Woodcock, M.W. 1980. The Birds of Oman. Quartet Books.

Hirschfeld, E. 1994. Observations of seabirds off Dhofar (Oman), 1990-2. Sandgrouse 14: 62-71.

Schackleton, D.M. (ed) and the IUCN/SSC Caprinae Specialist Group. 1997. Wild Sheep and Goats and their Relatives. Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan for Caprinae. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Snowden, P., P.J.J.Bates, D.L.Harrison & M.R.Brown. 2000. Recent records of bats and rodents from Oman including three species new to the country. Fauna of Arabia 18: 397-407.

Spalton, J.A., M.W. Lawrence and S.A.Brend. 1999. Arabian oryx reintroduction in Oman: successes and setbacks. Oryx 33 (2): 168-175.

Yésou, P. & E. Hirschfeld. 1997. Which large gulls from the *Larus fuscus-cachinnans-argentatus* complex of (sub) species occur in Bahrain? Sandgrouse 19(2): 111-121.

Localities - Bird-, mammal- and reptilelists.

11. March

Muscat. 00.15.
Barn Owl 1

Muscat. 07.20.

Cormorant 5, Western Reef Heron 1 light ph., Egyptian Vulture 1 ad, Common Redshank 1, Common Sandpiper 2, Pomarine Skua 3, Sooty Gull 400, Taimyr Gull 25, Yellow-legged Gull 800, Large White Gull 27, Great Black-headed Gull 2 ad, Black-headed Gull 100, Slender-billed Gull 300, Swift Tern 60, Feral Dove +, Laughing Dove 20, Rose-ringed Parakeet 1, Pallid Swift 4, Pale Crag Martin 1, Red-vented Bulbul 1, Graceful Warbler 5, Purple Sunbird 5, Indian House Crow 200, Common Mynah +, House Sparrow +.

Al Ansab Lagoons. 11.10-12.15

Black-necked Grebe 2, Cormorant 6, Little Egret 3, Western Reef Heron 1 dark ph., Great White Egret 1, Grey Heron 15, Common Teal 10, Common Pochard 1, Egyptian Vulture 1 ad, European Marsh Harrier 1, Greater Spotted Eagle 1 imm, Mallard 2, Sand Partridge 2, Common Moorhen 10, Coot 2, Red-wattled Lapwing 1, Common Snipe 7, Spotted Redshank 1, Wood Sandpiper 15, Red-necked Phalarope 1, Black-headed Gull 2, Whiskered Tern 3, Laughing Dove 1, Crested Lark 1, Citrine Wagtail 5, White Wagtail 15, Graceful Warbler 25, Clamorous Reed Warbler 2+ heard, Arabian Babbler 2, Brown-necked Raven 2, House Sparrow +, Indian Silverbill 2.

Ras as Sawadi. 13.30.

Western Reef Heron 12 dark, 4 white, Osprey 2, European Oystercatcher 6, Whimbrel 1, Eurasian Curlew 1, Common Sandpiper 1, Sooty Gull 40, Taimyr Gull 6, Yellow-legged Gull 100, Great Black-headed Gull 1 ad, Slender-billed Gull 75, Capian Tern 4, Swift Tern 60, Lesser Crested Tern 15, Sandwich Tern 5, Pallid Swift 25, Little Green Bee-Eater 3, Crested Lark 10, Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, Desert Wheatear 1, House Crow +, Indian Silverbill 5.

Muscat to Sohar (drive)

Rose-ringed Parakeet 11, Little Green Bee-Eater 11, Indian Roller 37, Collared Dove 3, Laughing Dove +, Crested Lark 3, White Wagtail 15, Southern Grey Shrike 1, C.Mynah +, House Crow +, House Sparrow +.

Sohar Sunfarm. 16.20-18.00

Cattle Egret 25, Marsh Harrier 4, Pallid Harrier 1 juv, Montagu's Harrier 1 juv, Common Kestrel 1, Barbary Falcon 1 ad, Grey Francolin 20, Black-necked Stilt 1, Little Ringed Plover 15, Red-wattled Lapwing 20, Wood Sandpiper 5, Long-billed Dowitcher 1, Little Stint 5, Ruff 25, Chestnut-bellied Sand-grouse 2, Collared Dove 500, Laughing Dove 50, Little Green Bee-Eater 6, Indian Roller 10, Crested Lark 50, Black-crowned Finch Lark 30, Barn Swallow 2, Citrine Wagtail 1, White Wagtail 25, Tawny Pipit 1, Red-throated Pipit 2, Water Pipit 2, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Desert Warbler 1, Red-tailed Shrike 2, Unidentified Grey Shrike 1, Southern Grey Shrike 1, House Crow 800, Common Mynah 10, House Sparrow +, Indian Silverbill 15

12. March

Kathmat Milahah. 06.30-9.00.

Red-wattled Lapwing 1, Grey Francolin 15, Rose-ringed Parakeet 1, Laughng Dove +, Collared Dove 3, Pallid Swift 10, Crested Lark 10, Yellow-vented Bulbul 10, Black Redstart 2, Pied Wheatear 2, Plain Leaf Warbler 2, Desert Lesser Whitethroat 2, Menetries's Warbler 4, Purple Sunbird 6, Arabian Babbler 2, Common Mynah 2, House Sparrow 25.

Shinass Mangroves. (high-tide) 09.30-12.45

Great White Heron 1, Grey Heron 20, Kentish Plover 1, Red-wattled Lapwing 2, Eurasian Curlew 1, Common Redshank 2, Wood Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 3, Pomarine Skua 1, Sooty Gull 20, Large White Gull 300, Caspian tern 3, Sandwich Tern 15, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 6, Collared Dove 3, Laughing Dove 20, Namaqua Dove 1 male + 1, Common Kingfisher 2, Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater 4, Crested Lark 20, Black-crowned Finch Lark 15, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Desert Wheatear 1, Graceful Prinia 5, Clamorous Reed Warbler 15+,

Menetries's Warbler 1, Purple Sunbird 15, Red-tailed Shrike 2, Southern Grey Shrike 1, House Crow +, House Sparrow +, Indian Silverbill 10.

Shinass to Muscat (drive).

Little Green Bee-eater 2, Indian Roller 15, Hoopoe 1 + 1.

Al Ansab Lagoons. 16.20-19.30

Little Grebe 2+2 h, Cormorant 8, Black-crowned Night Heron 10, Squacco Heron (sp) 2, Cattle Egret 1, Great White Egret 1, Grey Heron 10, Egyptian Vulture 1, Greater Spotted Eagle 1, Imperial Eagle 2 imm, Peregrine/Barbary Falcon 1, Baillon's Crake 1 ad, Common Moorhen 2 + heard, Coot 2, Red-wattled Lapwing 6, Common Snipe 5, Jack Snipe 1, Spotted Redshank 1, Wood Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 2, Whiskered tern 1, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse 9, Collared Dove 10, Laughing Dove 30, Pallid Swift 5, Egyptian Nightjar 6, Nightjar sp. 1 (Syke's?), Crested Lark 4, European Sand Martin 2, Barn Swallow 8, Yellow Wagtail 20, Grey Wagtail 1, Citrine Wagtail 40, White Wagtail 30, Masked Wagtail (personata) 1, Red-throated Pipit 1, Graceful Prinia 20, Reed Warbler 4, Clamorous Reed Warbler 5, Arabian Babbler 2, Red-tailed Shrike 2, House Sparrow +, Indian Silverbill 2.

13. March

Sunup Dump. 8.30-9.30

Egyptian Vulture 100, Greater Spotted Eagle 20 (ad,imm,juv), Steppe Eagle 30 (imm,juv), Imperial Eagle 1 juv, Kestrel 1, Sand Partridge 2, Laughing Dove 30, Pallid Swift 6, Crested Lark 10, White Wagtail 1, Hume's Wheatear 3, Brown-necked Raven 20, House Sparrow +

Salalah. 16.30.

Black Kite 2, Egyptian Vulture 1, Kestrel 1, Laughing Dove +, Tristram's Grackle 1.

Raysut. 17.00-17.45.

Red-billed Tropicbird 2, Masked Booby 8, Socotra Cormorant 543 W + 1 R, Osprey 2, Bonelli's Eagle 1 imm, Peregrine 1, Sooty Gull +, Swift Tern 38 W + 2 E, Tristram's Grackle 3.

Raysut to Salalah

Osprey 1, Lesser Black-backed Gull 1, Large White Gull 1500+, Great Black-headed Gull 1.

Salalah "Bird-sanctuary". 18.15-19.

Little Grebe 3, Western Reef Heron 1, Purple Heron 1, Grey Heron 5, Greater Flamingo 41, Cotton Teal 1 female, Wigeon 2, Northern Pintail 2, Northern Shoveler 50, Garganey 45, Ferruginous Duck 1 fem., Tufted Duck 4, Common Moorhen 10, Black-winged Stilt 2, Avocet 3, Black-tailed Godwit 2, Greenshank 2, Wood sandpiper 3, Ruff 10, Black-headed Gull 20, Slender-billed Gull 60, Whiskered Tern 1, White-winged Black Tern 2.

14. March

Ain Hamran. 06.50

Kestrel 1, Arabian Partridge 4 + heard, Rock Dove 3, Laughing Dove 20, Pale Crag Martin 10, Yellow-vented Bulbul 40, Blackstart 6, Upcher's Warbler 1, Arabian Warbler 8, Lesser Whitethroat 2 (usp), African Paradise Flycatcher 6, Shining Sunbird 10, Palestine Sunbird 4, White-breasted Whiteeye 20, Red-tailed Shrike 1, Black-crowned Tchagra 4, Fan-tailed Raven 4, Rüppel's Weaver 20, African Rock Bunting 34.

East of Salalah.

White Stork 7, Grey Heron 2, Marsh Harrier 1, Imperial Eagle 1 juv, Kestrel 1, Fan-tailed Raven 20.

Salalah Beach. 09.30.

Masked Booby 15, Brown Booby 1 ad, European Oystercatcher 2, Grey Plover 1, Greenshank 2, Sooty Gull 25, Large White Gull 100, Swift Tern 5, Lesser Crested Tern 40, Sandwich Tern 30, White-cheeked Tern 1, Collared Dove 2, Pale Crag Martin 1.

Salalah

Marsh Harrier 1, Black Kite 2, Rock Dove 15+, Rose-ringed Parakeet 2, Masked Wagtail (personata) 1.

Mughsayl Beach. 14.00.

Masked Booby 1, Brown Booby 4 ad, Socotra Cormorant 9, Western Reef Heron 1, European Curlew 1, Greenshank 1, Sooty Gull 132, Large White Gull 155.

Khor Mughsayl.

Glossy Ibis 6, European Spoonbill 11, Greater Flamingo 25, Western Reef Heron 5, Grey Heron 5, Common Teal 30, Northern Pintail 2, Garganey 10, Northern Shoveler 40, Osprey 2, Common Moorhen 30, Coot 9, Black-tailed Godwit 12, Large White Gull 30, Tristram's Grackle 50.

Mughsayl Blowhole.

Red-tailed Tropicbird 10, Masked Booby 10, Brown Booby 2, Osprey 1, Swift Tern +, Rock Dove 18, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Fan-tailed Raven 4, Tristram's Grackle 10.
Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin 10+, Green Turtle 3-4.

Khor Taqah. 18.30.

Squacco Heron (sp) 1, Black-crowned Night Heron 3, Greater Flamingo 11, Garganey 10, Marsh Harrier 1, Ringed Plover 2, Greenshank 1, Common Sandpiper 2, Little Stint 20, Curlew Sandpiper 6, Desert Wheatear 1, Graceful Prinia 1.

15. March

Khor Taqah. 6.00

Squacco Heron (sp) 2, Little Egret 2, Western Reef Heron 2, Grey heron +, Greater Flamingo 30, Garganey 10, Marsh Harrier 2, Greater Spotted Eagle 1 imm, Osprey 1, Common Moorhen +, Pheasant-tailed Jacana 3, Ringed Plover 10, Kentish Plover 20, Lesser Sand Plover 2, Common Snipe 3, Pintail Snipe 1, Greenshank 8, Common Sandpiper 5, Sanderling 12, Little Stint 15, Temminck's Stint 5, Long-toed Stint 1, Curlew Sandpiper 15, Sooty Gull 20, Large White Gull +, Gull-billed Tern 1, Sandwich Tern 1, Collared Dove 2, Crested Lark 1, Pale Crag Martin 1, Citrine Wagtail 2, Graceful Prinia 5.
Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin 20+

Wadi west of Mirbat.

Arabian Partridge 4, Laughing Dove +, Upcher's Warbler 1, Arabian Warbler 1, Lesser Whitethroat 1 (usp), Yellow-vented Bulbul 10, Rüppel's Weaver 10, African Rock Bunting 1.

Mirbat.

Masked Booby 4, European Curlew 1, Sooty Gull 200, Large White Gull +, Swift Tern 1, Tristram's Grackle 25.
Bottle-nosed Dolphin 50+

Khor Rouri. - including sea-coast

Little Grebe 2, Red-billed Tropicbird 6, Masked Booby 2, Socotra Cormorant 2, Great White Heron 1, Grey Heron 5, Glossy Ibis 2, Greater Flamingo 5, Cotton Teal 2, Widgeon 1, Mallard 4, Common Teal 10, Northern Pintail 18, Garganey 10, Northern Shoveler 30, Pochard 1, Osprey 2, Common Kestrel 1, Black-tailed Godwit 6, Greenshank 4, Common Sandpiper 2, Little Stint 1, Long-toed Stint 1, Sooty Gull +, Large White Gull +, Slender-billed Gull 3, Citrine Wagtail 2 males, Desert Wheatear 1, Fan-tailed Raven 2

W of Mirbat

Crested Lark 1, Blackstart 1.

East Khor.

Little Egret 6, Western Reef Heron 2, Intermediate Heron 3, Great White Heron 1, Grey Heron 4, Glossy Ibis 1, Greater Flamingo 2, Black Kite 4 (Salalah), Osprey 2, Greenshank 6, Rose-ringed Parakeet 1, African Silverbill 2 (Salalah).

Salalah (coast behind East Khor) . 17.30-18.50 - birds congregating around traditional fishlanding:
Persian Shearwater 1 E + 1 W close to shore-line, Masked Booby 6, Brown Booby 1, Socotra Cormorant 2,
Osprey 1, Sooty Gull 1250+, Large White Gull 1250+, Slender-billed Gull 1, Swift Tern 5, Lesser Crested Tern
10.

Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin 10

16. March

Wadi Darbat. 7.00-

Little Grebe 43 (display), Squacco Heron 1 (summer plumage), Little Egret 6, Grey Heron 5, Cotton Teal 2,
Mallard 1, Common Teal 60, Northern Pintail 40, Garganey 20, Northern Shoveler 5, Ferruginous Duck 1
female, Greater Spotted Eagle 1 ad (mig?), Bonelli's Eagle 1 ad, Common Kestrel 1, Arabian Partridge 1,
Common Moorhen 100, Coot 2, Red-knobbed Coot 1, Pheasant-tailed Jacana 1, Black-winged Stilt 4, Spotted
Redshank 1, Common Redshank 2, Greenshank 1, Laughing Dove 10, Bruce's Green Pigeon 3, Pale Crag Martin
10, Yellow-vented Bulbul 40, Blackstart 4, Arabian Warbler 3, African Paradise Flycatcher 2, Shiny Sunbird 12,
White-breasted White-eye 30, Fan-tailed Raven 4, Tristram's Grackle 30, Rüppell's Weaver 30, African Rock-
Bunting 15.

Nile Rat 1

Drive Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr

Crested Lark 6, Tree Pipit 1, Blackstart 1, South Arabian Wheatear 5 males 1 female, Fan-tailed Raven 6,
Tristram's Grackle 50, Indian Silverbill 2, African rock Bunting 15.

Common Genet 1 road-killed

Tawi Atayr (sinkhole)

Bonelli's Eagle 2 ad (pair), Common Kestrel 1, Rock Pigeon 50, Laughing Dove +, South Arabian Wheatear 1
female, African Rock Bunting 10.

Salalah Beach.

Masked Booby 4, Brown Booby 1, Gull-billed Tern 3.

Salalah Bird Sanctuary. (additions)

Masked Booby 10, Brown Booby 2, Glossy Ibis 24+1, Pacific Golden Plover 6.

Salalah to Mughsayl (drive)

Mallard 1, Steppe Eagle 1 juv, Spotted Redshank 2, Greenshank 4, Desert Wheatear 2.

Khor Mughsayl.

Greater Sand Plover 1, Coot 4, Desert Wheatear 2.

Wadi Mughsayl. 16.00-

Rock Pigeon 10, Laughing Dove 6, Hume's Tawny Owl 1 heard 20.10-21.00, Arabian Partridge 3 seen, Desert
Lark 14, Isabelline Wheatear 1, South Arabian Wheatear 2 (pair), Shiny Sunbird 4

Bat sp. 1

17. March

Wadi & Khor Mughsayl. 6.00-

Glossy Ibis 2, European Spoonbill 1, Osprey 1, Rock Pigeon 80, Laughing Dove 10, Desert Lark 2, Pale Crag
Martin 5, Yellow-vented Bulbul 2, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Shiny Sunbird 6, Southern Grey Shrike 2, Tristram's
Grackle 2

Salalah Sun Farm. (brief)

Montagu's Harrier 1, Greater Spotted Eagle 5 (2 fulvescens), Common Kestrel 4, Singing Bush Lark 10, Crested
Lark 10, Barn Swallow 1, Yellow Wagtail 10, White Wagtail 2, Tawny Pipit 2, Rüppell's Weaver 50+.

Dhofar Mts. - 25 km from Salalah.

Imperial Eagle 1 juv, Common Kestrel 3, European Hoopoe 1, Long-billed Pipit 1, South Arabian Wheatear 2 (pair), Fan-tailed Raven 6, African Rock Bunting 4.

Dhofar Mts. - 35 km from Salalah.

South Arabian Wheatear 4 (2 pair), Fan-tailed Raven 30.

Thumrait Dump

Rock Pigeon 12, Pale Crag Martin 20, Yellow Wagtail 1, White Wagtail 1, Tristram's Grackle 2. No raptors!

Desert: Drive Mts - Dawkah.

Hoopoe Lark 1, Desert Wheatear 1, Brown-necked Raven 1.

Dawkah. 17.25

Laughing Dove 10, Hoopoe Lark 2, Dunn's Lark 2, Black-crowned Finch Lark 1, Grey Wagtail 1, Tawny Pipit 4, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Desert Wheatear 5, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Red-tailed Shrike 3 males + 1.

Qatbeet

Laughing Dove 2, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Desert Wheatear 2, and Lesser Whitethroat 1.

Montasar. 18.10-camping.

Golden Eagle 2 imm (to night-roost in Acacia trees), Unidentified Sandgrouse 15, Little Stint 2, Collared Dove 2, Crested Lark 2, Tree Pipit 2, Chiffchaff 1, Brown-necked Raven 1.

18. March

Montasar. 6.00-10.40

Golden Eagle 1 imm (night-roost), Common Kestrel 1, Little Stint 2, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 12, Spotted Sandgrouse 1367, Crowned Sandgrouse 53, Collared Dove 6, Crested Lark 4, Tree Pipit 1, White Wagtail 1, Desert Wheatear 4, Southern Grey Shrike 1, Brown-necked Raven 2

Montasar-Jaluuni (drive) 10.40-15.15

Hoopoe Lark 1+1+2, Isabelline Wheatear 2, Desert Wheatear 1, Brown-necked Raven 10.

Jaluuni. (HQ) 15.45-

Egyptian Vulture 2 ad, Laughing Dove 20+, Southern Grey Shrike 1, Brown-necked Raven 40+.
Arabian Oryx 7 outside + 53 in enclosure, Arabian Gazelle 15.

19. March

Jaluuni. (HQ) 06.30-09.15

Egyptian Vulture 1 ad, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 30, Crowned Sandgrouse 475 (arriving to drinking pool from 8.00), Rock Pigeon 1, Collared Dove 2, Laughing Dove 20, Brown-necked Raven 25, Spanish Sparrow 6 (3 males, 3 females).

Jaluuni. - 110 km off-road driving 9.15-16.50

Common Kestrel 1, Houbara Bustard 2, Cream-coloured Courser 1+2, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 2, Crowned Sandgrouse 2, Hoopoe Lark 1+1, Desert Lark 1 (at Huqr Escarpment), Greater Short-toed Lark 1, Black-crowned Finch Lark 9, White Wagtail 2, Tawny Pipit 2, Isabelline Wheatear 3, South Arabian Wheatear 1 female (Huqr Esc.), Desert Wheatear 11, Southern Grey Shrike 2, Brown-necked Raven 2
Arabian Oryx 10 (2+3+5), Arabian Gazelle 85, Arabian Ibex 3 (Huqr Escapement), Horned Wiper 2

Drive Jaluuni-Ras Duqm

Black-crowned Finch-Lark 1 male, Desert Wheatear 1.

Ras Duqm. 17.45-camping.

Flamingo 4, European Oystercatcher 25, Crab Plover 7, Grey Plover 10+, Whimbrel 1, Eurasian Curlew 50+, Bar-tailed Godwit 400+, Common Redshank 2, Greenshank 4, Sooty Gull +, Large White Gull +, Great Black-headed Gull 2, Caspian Tern 4, Swift Tern 1000+, Sandwich Tern 1.

20.March

Ras Duqm. 6.00-11.30.

Western Reef Heron 5, Grey Heron 8, European Spoonbill 10, Greater Flamingo 105, European Marsh Harrier 3, Osprey 9, Peregrine/Barbary Falcon 1 (an "intermediate"), European Oystercatcher 35, Avocet 3, Crab Plover 9, Ringed Plover 5, Kentish Plover 2, Lesser Sand Plover 4, Greater Sand Plover 1, Grey Plover 35, Bar-tailed Godwit 50, Whimbrel 2, European Curlew 60, Common Redshank 20, Marsh Sandpiper 2, Greenshank 35, Terek Sandpiper 1, Ruddy Turnstone 1, Sanderling 20, Little Stint 22, Dunlin 11, Sooty Gull 200, Large White Gull 1000, Great Black-headed Gull 6(3 ad,3imm), Black-headed Gull 2, Slender-billed Gull 5, Gull-billed Tern 12, Caspian Tern 30, Swift Tern 1200, Lesser Crested Tern 1, Sandwich Tern 15, Saunder's Little Tern 6, Laughing Dove 2, Black-crowned Finch-Lark 60, White Wagtail 1.

Ras Duqm to Bar Al Hikmann (drive)

Laughing Dove 2, Desert Wheatear 2.

Bar Al Hikmann (Shannah). 16.30-camping.

Cormorant 1, Western Reef Heron 5, Grey Heron 2, Greater Flamingo 200, European Marsh Harrier 3, Osprey 2, European Oystercatcher 150, Crab Plover 60, Ringed Plover 50+, Kentish Plover 100+, Lesser Sand Plover 50, Greater Sand Plover 15, Grey Plover 25+, Bar-tailed Godwit 2000+, Whimbrel 25, European Curlew 100+, Common Redshank 50+, Marsh Sandpiper 1, Greenshank 50+, Terek Sandpiper 10, Ruddy Turnstone 5, Great Knot 3, Sanderling 10, Little Stint 400+, Curlew Sandpiper 6, Dunlin 200+, Sooty Gull 30, Large White Gull 50, Slender-billed Gull 50, Whiskered Tern 1, Gull-billed Tern 2, Caspian Tern 50, Swift Tern 500, Saunder's Little Tern 2, Desert Wheatear 1. (distant waders in 1000's, ---godwits, smaller waders....)

21.March

Bar Al Hikmann (Shannah). 6.00-

(empty shoreline at low-tide until mid-night when flocks of waders were heard flying in, continued through the night, the first daylight revealing tight roosts close to the shore as far South as the binoculars could reach - reducing our morning-counts to a minor subtotal:)

Western Reef Heron 2, Flamingo +, European Marsh Harrier 1, Osprey 1, European Oystercatcher 25, Crab Plover 5, Ringed Plover 10, Kentish Plover 25, Lesser Sand Plover 15, Greater Sand Plover 5, Grey Plover 10, Ruddy Turnstone 120, Bar-tailed Godwit 500, European Curlew 5, Common Redshank 350, Greenshank 10, Terek Sandpiper 25, Great Knot 20, Sanderling 70, Little Stint 75, Curlew Sandpiper 25, Dunlin 500, Broad-billed Sandpiper 3, Gull-billed Tern 2, Caspian Tern 4, Swift Tern 30, Saunder's Little Tern 3, Slender-billed Gull 5, Tawny Pipit 1, Barn Swallow 1

Bar Al Hikmann (Filim).

(Vast mudflats - with a major proportion of waders left unidentified; this is Broad-billed Sandpiper stronghold!)
Grey Heron 1, Greater Flamingo 350, European Oystercatcher +, Ringed Plover +, Lesser Sand Plover 15, Greater Sand Plover 1, Grey Plover +, Bar-tailed Godwit ++, Whimbrel +, European Curlew +, Common Redshank +, Greenshank +, Terek Sandpiper 20, Great Knot 3, Little Stint 20, Curlew Sandpiper 100, Dunlin 125, Broad-billed Sandpiper 132, Large White Gull 25, Barn Swallow 1, Brown-necked Raven 1.

Hajj

Laughing Dove 2, Brown-necked Raven 2.

Desert: North from Filim - drive.

Hoopoe Lark 1 + 2, Desert Wheatear 1.

Desert-mountain - drive further North.

Egyptian Vulture 1 + 1, Indian Roller 4, Brown-necked Raven 4.

Ras al Jinz. 21.30-23.30

Red/Sand Fox 1-2, Green Turtle 2 on the beach - egg-laying.

22.March

Ras al Jinz. 5.00-

Cormorant 12, Desert Wheatear 1, Southern Grey Shrike 1.

Red/Sand Fox 1, Green Turtle 2 going out to sea after breeding, a total of 21 fresh tracks!

Ras al Hadd. 9.00-10.30

Wedge-tailed Shearwater 1 E - close to shore, Persian Shearwater 4, Masked Booby 2, Grey Plover 1 W, European Curlew 1 W, Pomarine Skua 1, Sooty Gull +, Large White Gull +, Great Black-headed Gull 20 E, Swift Tern +, Sandwich Tern +, Crested Lark 2.

Ras al Khabbah.

Red-billed Tropicbird 2, Masked Booby 1.

Khor Jamarah.

Western Reef Heron 1, Great White Heron 1, Grey Heron 1, Glossy Ibis 4, Osprey 2, Peregrine 1, European Oystercatcher 8, Crab Plover 6, Greater Sand Plover 2, Whimbrel 2, European Curlew 10, Large White Gull +, Great Black-headed Gull 1 imm, Gull-billed Tern 1, Caspian Tern 6, Swift Tern 2, Desert Wheatear 1

Sur-Ibra-Muscat - drive with few stops.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse 2, Indian Roller 3, Desert Lark 1, Black-crowned Finch-Lark 2+6, Long-billed Pipit 2 (Al Hajar ridge), Desert Wheatear 1, Arabian Babbler 5 + nest with 6 eggs (Al Hajar), Purple Sunbird 2, Southern Grey Shrike 1

23.March

Sunup Dump.

Egyptian Vulture 60, Lappet-faced Vulture 2 imm, Greater Spotted Eagle 3 (a significant drop since 13.March), Steppe Eagle 15 imm/juv, Laughing Dove 10, Pallid Swift 4, Desert Lark 1, Hume's Wheatear 6 (2 pairs each with 1 young), Brown-necked Raven 30, Indian Silverbill 2, House Bunting 4.

Al Ansab Lagoons.

Little Grebe 5, Grey Heron 10, Cattle Egret 1, Little Egret 1, Black-crowned Night Heron 3, Great White Egret 1, Glossy Ibis 1, Egyptian Vulture 3, Greater Spotted Eagle 2 imm, Mallard 3, Teal 6, Garganey 12, Common Snipe 10, Pintail Snipe 1, Jack Snipe 1, Spotted Redshank 2, Green Sandpiper 2, Wood Sandpiper 10, Ruff 2, Whiskered Tern 4, Sand Partridge 2, Common Moorhen +, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 10, Laughing Dove +, Egyptian Nightjar 1, Pallid Swift 6, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater 1, Barn Swallow 4, Yellow Wagtail 3, Citrine Wagtail 10, White Wagtail 15, Water Pipit 1+1, Red-throated Pipit 2, Yellow-vented Bulbul 2, Bluethroat 1 female, Graceful Prinia 25+, Reed Warbler 4, Clamorous Reed Warbler 10+, Purple Sunbird 2, House Sparrow +, Indian Silverbill 3, House Bunting 1.

Muscat

Sooty Gull +, Large White Gull +, Laughing Dove +, Collared Dove +, Pallid Swift 30, Indian Roller 1, Yellow-vented Bulbul +, House Crow +, Purple Sunbird 3, Common Mynah +, House Sparrow +.

End!