



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

UAE & Oman Trip Report

Arabian Birding Adventure

4th to 17th December 2014 (14 days)



Grey Hypocolius by Forrest Rowland

Tour Leaders: Forrest Rowland & Mark Beevers

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Forrest Rowland

Tour Intro

There is nothing that quite compares to landing in Dubai. I've thought it must be something akin to what an astronaut might first perceive if he was to land on Mars, and find civilization there! The ships moving in the Gulf; sparkling lights line the shore; the Sun flashing against the World's tallest building; so many sights standing out stark, and bizarre, against the barren natural setting. The United Arab Emirates, along with the Sultanate of Oman, exemplify and tout man's ability to master the harshest of terrain. In the case of these two countries, this has been accomplished with a certain amount of grace that has gained the attention of the World. With constant change being the norm, new environmental standards in place, and one of the most ancient cultures in the entire industrial world, it was our privilege to enjoy these nations as our backdrop to one of the most unique birding adventures on Earth.

Our route began in Dubai. We birded the metropolitan hotspots thoroughly, as well as a recently renowned farming operation in the far North, before heading southeast, inland, to "The Garden City" of Al Ayn. Crossing into Oman, we birded the Sohar Coast of the Indian Ocean, before heading high into the Hajars Mountains, the only place where snow is known to fall on the Arabian Peninsula! After a visit to Masirah Island on the central coast of Oman, we headed west and south through the vast expanse of the Rub Al Khali (the Empty Quarter). Our tour ended at the Dhofar region of southern Oman among African Baobabs and Coconut Palms. It is an amazingly diverse country from start to stop: estuaries and mangroves, majestic mountains and wadis, endless desert and oases. It was the perfect Arabian Overland Odyssey among wonderful, friendly people, easy roads, good food, and fine accommodations.

Tour Summary

The United Arab Emirates

Dubai has several resident expert birders and, lucky for the visiting birder, wonderful infrastructure for navigation and seeking the sites that harbor the rare resident, and vagrant species. There are many to explore. We had our fair share of good birds as we visited a handful of the best sites near Dubai including the Pivot Fields, Mushrif National Park, Ras' al Khor, and a day's trip farther afield to Wamm Farms, in Fujairah. Some of the better birds seen, among the 100+ species recorded in the area, included Crested Honey Buzzard, Booted Eagle, Shikra, Northern Lapwing, **White-tailed Plover**, Pied Avocet, European and Siberian Stonechats, European Roller, **Arabian Babbler**, and 12 species of pipits and wagtails! Perhaps the rarest bird we saw in this area was a wayward Willow Warbler we got our bins onto at Mushrif Park. This cute little bird was difficult to get looks at, but worth confirming mid-Winter. One of the most exciting birding experiences in Dubai came on the first evening outing we took to Karn Nazwa. This is perhaps the most reliable site for **Pharaoh Eagle-Owl**. A vocal, very active pair came out well before the light waned from the sky. We had incredible looks, including scope views, of these regal, rare birds. We also noted the first of a few near-miss sign translations set up by the Transit Police.



White-tailed Lapwing by Bernard Master

Rather than “No U-Turns, Road being monitored”, it read “Don’t look behind you! We’re watching”.

En route to Al Ayn, we stopped for a bit at a random site in the desert after I spotted a few soaring birds. One of them proved to be **Griffon Vulture** (Eurasian Griffon)!!! Recorded perhaps once annually on the peninsula, this was a great find for our growing Arabian list, and an envy of local birders.

Next up, we had the equivalent of 2 full days to explore the Al Ayn area. With a possibility for several target birds, we decided two nights in the Garden City would do us well! Of course, we did so well the first day that we ended up with some free time on our hands. Jabel Hafeet and the Green Mubazzarah were certainly the highlight of the area, providing us with great views, and photos, of **Chukar, Arabian Partridge** and **Sand Partridge**. While Arabian Partridge is a possible range expansion from the Hajar population in Oman, the Chukar are most certainly introduced, though a very long-established population at that. We also enjoyed great views of Egyptian Vulture, Blue Rock Thrush, Purple Sunbird and Eastern Black Redstarts, as well as the most incredibly gorgeous sunset views in the region. Perched atop the highest mountain in the UAE, the 4-star Mercure Jabal Hafeet offers one of the most memorable views on the planet, not to mention fabulous accommodations and food. We quickly dubbed this the Desert Desert Tour, given the insane array of Desserts on offer at the Hotel’s buffet! Other great birds seen here were African Sacred Ibis, Eurasian Crag Martin (rare), Northern Wheatear (rare), **Hume’s, Red-tailed** and **Hooded Wheatears**, Desert and Lesser Whitethroats, and others.



Sand Partridge by Forrest Rowland

The fodder fields and other sites in Al Ayn, frequented in the past, had been shut to visitors in recent times, including the famous Zakher “Pools” (which are now a lake). However, not only are the pools once again open, but the local government has set up a shade pavilion and made a proper pull-in entryway! Akher delivered up some 33 species of waterfowl, waders and shorebirds, most at incredibly close range. Our tour’s only Egyptian Geese and Spotted Redshanks came from this site, though great, close views of the lovely Desert Wheatear, Citrine Wagtail and some 1200 Pallid Swifts swirling overhead added to the spectacle.

The last site we birded in the United Arab Emirates was the wadi at the base of Jabal Hafeet, where we picked up many of our target species: **Plain Leaf Warbler, Eastern Orphean Warbler, and Menetrie’s Warbler**. Finally, we chuckled at the last of the funny, Emirati road signs of the tour. Rather than declaring “No Graffiti”, it read “No writing whatsoever!”

The Sultanate of Oman

The only “hiccup” we had encountered logistically in the past was here at the border of Oman, when one outstandingly friendly agent at the UAE exit forgot to give us exit stamps the year before. He was so excited to be talking to us, that it must have slipped his mind at the time. Of course, this oversight was not missed at the border station upon entering Oman. It became the first time any of us had found

ourselves “nowhere”. After this debacle the year before, we easily sussed out the proper way of getting into Oman with satisfactory paperwork. Naturally, upon our attempt to enter today, we found the previous rules had ... changed. Therefore, after about 90 minutes of driving, talking and bureaucracy, we found ourselves changing vehicles and giving ourselves into the hands of our Omani driver and guide. Whew! So we lost a wee bit of birding time, but we made it through with relatively little trouble and only slight discomfort.

From the border crossing at Buraimi we headed east to the Sohar Coast of Oman. We spent the evening and following morning visiting the mangroves and coast at Shinas and Liwa as well as the stony flats of Khatmat Milahah, near the northern border of the country. Though Variable Wheatear was not in evidence, most of our target birds cooperated, and we were again rewarded with a few bonus individuals. **Slender-billed, Sooty** and the majestic **Pallas’s Gulls**, Saunder’s Tern, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, **Sykes’s Warbler** (incredible views of this tough bird!) and **Asian Desert Warbler** were among the highlights.

Our journey turned, at last, southwards to head high into the Hajar Mountains, a large range contained entirely in Oman. We had one full day to explore the montane habitats; Streaked Scrub Warbler and Pallid Scops Owl being the main targets of the region. Though owling was, in general, disappointing, the diuran birds put on a show! We managed spectacular views of two family groups of **Scrub Warblers**, which are high on peoples’ wish lists as a monotypic family of birds. We managed looks at most of the high elevation wintering species, which included **Plain Leaf Warbler**, hordes of pipits, Song Thrush, and our first big surprise of the tour: **Ring Ouzels**! Great views of two individuals coming to a waterhole were appreciated by all. From here we headed south across our first big expanse of desert to reach the central coast.



Crab-plovers by Markus Lilje

We only had one afternoon, and the following morning, to appreciate the volume and diversity of shorebirds in the Barr Al Hikkman area, on our journey south. This is undoubtedly one of the highest density of wintering and staging areas for shorebirds on the planet. The volume of species occupying less than 1km of shore at Filim typically surpasses the 10,000 individual mark! This shoreline extends over 70kms around the Barr Hikkman peninsula, and down from the Hijj harbor another 30kms past that! None of this aforementioned expanse of shoreline includes Masirah Island, which is entirely surrounded by the same shallow coastline, hosting the same amazing array of birds. Millions of

shorebirds spend their winters here – it is a spectacle not to be missed!! We enjoyed great views of nearly all the species of shorebirds we encountered, including hundreds of **Crab Plovers**, dozens of **Terek Sandpipers** and more than a few **Broad-billed Sandpipers**, amongst the 25 species of shorebirds catalogued here.

One night on the island of Masirah was allowed for us to enjoy the ferry ride across, as well as allow a

visit to the famed Hilf Sewage Works grove. Worthy of mention is the beautiful accommodation afforded us at the Masirah Island Resort, another 4-star hotel and restaurant that offered us a bit more luxury before a stint at the ... less well-appointed ... next location of the tour. Our visit to the island rewarded us with our first rafts of the near-endemic **Socotra Cormorant**, a lone Masked Booby, two Eurasian Sparrowhawks, and fine looks at two **Asian Koels** (now thought to winter here regularly), as well as a huge numbers of terns and gulls.

The two days that followed this brief visit are perhaps the most anticipated of the whole tour. The central desert oases are always exciting to visit; in migration, something rare and wonderful inevitably shows up. Of course, these oases are also the haunt of the enigmatic **Grey Hypocolius!** As recently as 15 years ago, this species was considered rare, even a vagrant, to Oman. With more regular coverage, and an obvious trend of this species incorporating Oman as a regular wintering ground, Hypocolius is now considered a regular winter visitor in decent numbers.

We stopped only twice en route to Qatbit from Barr Hikkman, enjoying views of the high dunes along a new shortcut to the main highway. It was a full day's journey from Masirah Island to our abode at Qatbit, and our main stop was at Ghaftayn, to see what vagrant might turn up. We were rewarded with one **Yellow-browed Warbler!** Upon arriving at Qatbit, we got settled in at the guesthouse, ate dinner, and dreamed of Hypocolius.

Now, being a magnet for wintering visitors and migrants, as well as being totally primed to find a Hypocolius, we wanted to bird the Qatbit oases thoroughly. We were rewarded with tons of great birds including Red-rumped Swallow, Great Reed Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Song Thrush, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher, more Menetrie's Warbler, Black Redstart, and numerous **Nile Valley Sunbirds!** Alas, of very obvious absence, was our most-sought-after species... We therefore decided to head to Muntasar and continue our search.



Nile Valley Sunbird by Adam Riley

The other must-visit site in the central desert of Oman is the Muntasar Oasis, some 30kms out on dirt roads. The big drawcard to this remote site is the sandgrouse spectacle. From dozens to hundreds of **Crowned** and **Spotted Sandgrouse** congregate at the open water to drink. Seeing flocks of these birds zooming in, low over the sand, is an amazing sight! Always heard before seen, it is incredible how well they blend in to their desert environs, even in flight. The spectacle would have been enhanced, had a Bedouin group (protected by Omani law ... or simple logistics ... as free-roaming to do as they wish, more or less) not set up its camel farm right at the oasis, stealing water from the spring site. While we still managed fine views of sandgrouse, and many other species, we would have been treated to a much more exciting show had they not been present, with their ubiquitous .410 shotguns. Luckily, they kept a messy camp and attracted several fancy **Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks** and one stunning **Cream-colored Courser!** Of note, I spotted one beautiful Ruppell's Sand Fox on the drive to the Oasis, which was a surprising treat, mid-morning. Nevertheless this was, of yet, a Hypocolius-less tour. Thus far...

With the discovery of easy-access groundwater in the southern central desert, vast farming operations are popping up at an alarming rate. Though the impact these might have, over time, on the water table is unsure, one thing we do know: these are magnets for desert birds and migrants. We spent one full morning visiting two of the more productive farms en route to Thumrayt and, ultimately, Salalah in the Dhofar. Highlights of our efforts at the farms included White Stork, Lanner Falcon, 4 **Cream-colored Coursers** (gorgeous birds!), Southern and **Steppe Grey Shrikes** (scarce), several stellar **Greater Hoopoe-Larks**, many Eurasian Skylark, **Greater Short-toed Lark**, **Lesser Short-toed Lark**, and studies of the uber-rare **Dunn's Lark**, among many other species!



Cream-colored Courser by Adam Riley

En route to the Dhofar we made our final bid for the rare, monotypic Grey Hypocolius. Taking off the main highway across black stony plains, red dunes and spectacular wadis, we came to the historic oasis of Mudday. Though not regarded as a must-do site by most birding companies, Mudday is perhaps the best kept secret in the desert. This palm-choked oasis has recently hosted the largest groups of wintering Hypocolius in the entire region. After a bit of poking around, we were rewarded with numerous incredible views of perched Hypos, flying Hypos, males, females ... we got the whole show at last!!! And I'm pretty sure I kissed the ground with relief, as this was

undoubtedly the most-wanted bird of the whole tour by a wide margin of desire bordering obsession. It was probably the best views I've had, personally, of the species, and added to by the days of anticipation. Other fine sights here included our first **Blackstart** and **Palestine Sunbirds** of the tour, as well as several beautiful, breeding-plumaged male **Nile Valley Sunbirds**. On a personal note, I didn't have **African Collared Dove** on my Arabian list, and was delighted when, as we stopped for tea, one perched on the power line right behind the shop! En route, we had lovely views of the tour's only **Long-legged Buzzard**, searching for lizards on the rocky outcrops near the highway.

Our final birding destination was the small, unique region in southern Oman known as the Dhofar. The Dhofar is a monsoon-affected mountainous region that receives much more annual precipitation than any other comparable site in Oman, or northern Arabia, for that matter. Indeed, it receives more precipitation than anywhere else on the Arabian Peninsula, save for sites in Yemen and far southeast Saudi Arabia. The mountains, though not reaching above 1400m elevation, are very steep and near to the coast, trapping the humidity and forming steep wadi ravines and pools. This water and relatively lush vegetation attracts a completely distinct avifauna, and is the most species-rich region of the whole tour. An exciting note to end on!

During our three-day stay in the Dhofar, we explored a few farm sites, several wadis and springs, and the astonishing Tawi Atayr sinkhole in search of raptors, passerines and the like. We spent a fair bit of time at the various wonderful Khawrs and estuaries in the region, and made time for a bit of seawatching. We couldn't visit this diverse area and not sample the array of seabirds, waterfowl, gulls,

terns and waders, though they were not our primary focus.

The highlights of these final few days of our adventure included **Persian Shearwater**, Brown Booby and Bridled Tern at sea. We noted 9 species of raptors here, including seeing hundreds of Greater Spotted, Steppe and Eastern Imperial Eagles at the Raysut rubbish tip, Verreaux's Eagles and **Short-toed Snake Eagles** at Wadi Hanna, and one **Bonelli's Eagle** at Tawi Atayr. Black and Yellow-billed Kites put in appearances, but the resident birds were our main quarry and stole the show. **Bruce's Green Pigeon**, **Black-crowned (Percival's) Tchagra**, **Arabian Warbler**, Tristram's Starling, **Arabian Wheatear**, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, **Singing Bush Lark**, all three Sunbirds (Nile Valley, Palestine and Shining), and the extremely range-restricted **Yemen Serin** rounded out a great visit. The one bird of the region that probably stands out the most in our minds will be, perhaps, the singing **Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeaks** we had at Wadi Hanna. This incredibly range-restricted species is typically seen only during breeding season, from March to September. The rest of the year, only a few individuals remain, mostly at Ayn Hamran, which is where we found ours!

Mammals were in large supply during our nocturnal outings, of which one proved exceptionally exciting. We headed out in search of Hume's Owl up Wadi Hashir, which, unfortunately, proved fruitless. On the return drive, however, we were treated to several Common Jackal before something odd "loped" in front of my vehicle. I immediately called in on the radio for the other vehicle to follow my headlights to us as I sped up a small hillside in pursuit. It was a Striped Hyena!!! Very rare in Oman, and a lifer mammal for the whole tour, we were all stoked at this fine compensation for our efforts. Also of note, we found a Small-spotted Genet up Ayn Hamran on our outing for **Arabian Scops Owl**. Our only diurnal mammal was Rock Hyrax, of which we saw several.



Black-crowned (Percival's) Tchagra by Bernard Master

As always, we enjoyed a few real surprises. While **Sociable Plover** at Sahnoot Farms was probably the most prized rarity we encountered on this last leg, **Spur-winged Plover** was the only true vagrant. **Cotton Pygmy Goose**, **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, and no fewer than 6 **Intermediate Egrets** were also great finds! Among the showstoppers were most certainly the "Big Birds" we encountered. One **Black Stork** at Wadi Darbat provided the 31st record of this species for the country. But the real fun was seeing 450 **Abdim's Stork** littering the Raysut sewage plant site. Incredible! These birds are irregular irrupters into Oman, which I had only seen once previously here.

Many thanks go to the intrepid, patient and helpful personalities on the tour, whose enthusiasm will always be appreciated by this author. A big "Thank You" also goes to Mark Beevers, who was a brilliant co-leader, and will be a fine main leader of this tour in the future. On his behalf I think I can safely say: We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!!!

List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). IOC World Bird List v 4.4 (2014).

Total bird species recorded: 234

Ducks, Geese, and Swans

Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptica</i>
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya niroca</i>
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>

Partridges

Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
Arabian Partridge	<i>Alectoris melanocephala</i>
Sand Partridge	<i>Ammoperdix heyi</i>
Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>

Petrels and Shearwaters

Persian Shearwater	<i>Procellaria persicus</i>
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Grebes

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>

Flamingos

Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
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Storks

White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>

Ibis and Spoonbills

African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>

Hérons and Bitterns

Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>

Gannets and Boobies

Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>

Cormorants

Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Socotra Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrigularis</i>

Ospreys

Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
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Kites, Hawks, and Eagles

Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophon percnopterus</i>
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nepalensis</i>
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxi</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>

Rails, Crakes, and Coots

Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>

Oystercatchers

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haemotopus ostralegus*

Crab-Plover

Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*

Avocets and Stilts

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
 Pied Avocet *Recurveirostridae avosetta*

Plovers

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
 Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus spinosus*
 Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
 Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*
 White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*
 Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
 Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
 Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
 Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
 Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
 Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Jacanas

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophaesianus criurgus*

Sandpipers and Snipes

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
 Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
 Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquatus*
 Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
 Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
 Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stangatilis*
 Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
 Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
 Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
 Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
 Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
 Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*
 Sanderling *Calidris alba*
 Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
 Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
 Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinella</i>
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>

Courser and Pratincoles

Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>
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Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers

Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus rubindus</i>
Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>
Sooty Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus hemprichii</i>
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinanns</i>
Yellow-legged (Steppe) Gull	<i>Larus micahellis barabensis</i>
Lesser Black-backed (Heuglin's) Gull	<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergeii</i>
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Saunders's Tern	<i>Sternula saundersi</i>
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>

Jaegers and Skuas

Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
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Sandgrouse

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>
Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>
Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>

Pigeons and Doves

Rock Dove	<i>Colomba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Colomba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
African Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia roseigrisea</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>

Cuckoos and allies

Asian Koel	<i>Eudanymus scolopaceus</i>
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Typical Owls

Arabian Scops Owl	<i>Otus pamela</i>
Omani Owl	<i>Strix omanensis</i>
Pharoah Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>

Swifts

Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>

Rollers

Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>

Kingfishers

Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>

Bee-eaters

Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
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Hoopoes

Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
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Falcons

Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>

Parrots

Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
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Bushshrikes

Black-crowned (Percival's) Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalensis percevali</i>
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Shrikes

Daurian Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius palludirostris</i>

Monarchs

African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
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Crows and Jays

House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>
Fan-tailed Raven	<i>Corvus rhupidurus</i>

Hypocolius

Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus*

Larks

Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*
 Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*
 Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans*
 Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
 Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*
 Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunnii*
 Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*
 Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
 Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*

Bulbuls

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotus*
 Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*
 White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*

Swallows and Martins

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
 Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
 Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
 Pale Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*

Scrub Warbler

Streaked Scrub Warbler *Scotocercus inquieta grisea*

Leaf Warblers and Allies

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
 Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita (ssp. collybita, albeitinus, tristis)*
 Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus*
 Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Reed Warblers and Allies

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
 Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnens*
 Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
 Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama*

Cisticolas and Allies

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*

Laughingthrushes

Arabian Babbler *Turdoides squamiceps*

Sylvia Babblers

Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Desert Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia minula</i>
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>
Arabian (Red Sea) Warbler	<i>Sylvia leucomelanae</i>
Asian Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia nana</i>
Menetrie's Warbler	<i>Sylvia mystacea</i>

White-eyes

Abyssinian (White-breasted) White-eye	<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>
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Starlings

Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Pied Myna	<i>Gracupica contra</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Tristram's Starling	<i>Onychognathus tristramii</i>

Thrushes

Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>

Old World Flycatchers

Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maura</i>
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellinus</i>
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe Oenanthe</i>
Red-tailed Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe chrysopygia</i>
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
Arabian Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugentoides</i>
Hume's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe albonigra</i>
Hooded Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monacha</i>
Blackstart	<i>Oenanthe melanura</i>
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapilla parva</i>

Sunbirds

Nile Valley Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna metallica</i>
Palestine Sunbird	<i>Cynniris osea</i>
Shining Sunbird	<i>Cynniris habyssinicus</i>
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cynniris asiaticus</i>

Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
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Weavers and Widowbirds

Ruppell's Weaver	<i>Ploceus galbula</i>
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Waxbills, Munias, and Allies

African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>
Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>

Wagtails and Pipits

Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Masked Wagtail	<i>Motacilla personata</i>
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>

Finches

Yemen Serin	<i>Crithagra menachensis</i>
Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak	<i>Rhynchostruthus percivali</i>

Buntings, Sparrows, and Allies

Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
Striolated Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>

List of Mammals recorded (6 species)

Mountain (Arabian) Gazelle	<i>Gazella gazella arabica</i>
Striped Hyena	<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>
Common (Arabian) Jackal	<i>Canis aureus aureus</i>
Rueppel's Sand Fox	<i>Vulpes ruppellii</i>
Small-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
Arabian Camel	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>

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