

Oman



February - March
2017

Oman

25th February - 10th March
2017

By Stig Jensen and Jon Lehmborg

Introduction

After having been on our radar for several years, we finally decided that the time for a trip to Oman was now. Since we both had a couple of weeks to spend in late February and early March, the timing wasn't much of an issue for us. Most birders visit Oman towards the end of the year, especially in November, but we didn't regret our decision to go in spring instead. Of course, we missed some interesting stuff which is only seen in autumn or latter in spring, most notably "the swift", Sooty Falcon and some of the African migrants, but we reckon that we capitalized on other fronts instead. Red-billed Tropicbirds were inspecting potential breeding grounds, and ducks, sunbirds, weavers and others were all in superb breeding plumage. Other highlights like the impressive numbers of raptors, the various breeding owls, all the mammals and much more can be found in both seasons, and we don't hesitate in saying that Oman is worth a visit at almost any time of year. We certainly enjoyed our stay there immensely.

Logistics

Because of the Internet, being your own travel agent is easy these days, and we had no real problems booking both flights, rental cars and accommodation on the web. We bought the plane tickets directly on www.qatarairways.com (international) and www.omanair.com (domestic) respectively. Flights between Muscat and Salalah are frequent and fairly cheap, while the intercontinental flights were a wee bit pricey compared to other destinations. The connection time in Doha on our outbound travel was very good... - not so much on the way home, which made us spend a couple of days in Qatar.

The rental car in Muscat was a little bit more expensive than the one in Salalah, but they were both rather reasonably priced, and of course petrol was much, much cheaper than we're used to at home. Both rental cars were Mitsubishi Pajeros and they both served us well. If travelling on a tight budget, renting a salon car, instead of splashing out on a 4x4, is a good way of keeping down costs. We were pleased with our choice of car, but only really needed the four wheel drive and high ground clearance on very few occasions indeed, and all the places we visited are accessible in a "normal" car. The car we picked up in Muscat was supplied by Interrent and booked through www.rentalcars.com, while the one in Salalah was booked on www.holidayautos.com, supplied by Europcar, and handed over by an extremely serviceminded local agent, who went as far as jumping in his own car to guide us out of the airport, not that it was really needed, but still.

Like in other countries on the Arabian Peninsula, many of the big roads in large cities are dual carriageways which do certainly have their advantages, but can also be a bit annoying when trying to find your way around. Another challenge when trying to navigate urban areas are the many roadworks, but all in all driving in Oman is a nice experience. The locals are much more patient and relaxed than in Qatar and the U.A.E., and road conditions are generally very good - be aware of the many speed bumps, though!

We had decided to use Al Awabi as the base for our visit to the northern Al Hajar Mountains. Accommodation isn't exactly easy to find here, but, with a little help from our friends, we found the (previously named?) Village Resort Motel. It's situated by the road leading into Wadi Bani Awf a few kilometers west of Al Awabi and the rooms were clean and spacious, though by no means luxurious. We paid 25 Omani Rial per night for a room with twin beds, which is rather expensive, we think. However, we were the only visitors at the time and it might well be possible to haggle for a lower price. The staff was very friendly here, and extending our stay was no trouble at all. Birding around the resort can be quite good, and even if we didn't spend much time here, we still saw species like Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Blue Rock Thrush, Red-tailed Wheatear and Striolated Bunting in the immediate

surroundings. The resort have a Facebook page where you can see photos of the place, but since neither of us are Facebook users, we booked our room by writing directly to the manager (?) on this address: aufi.hamed@gmail.com

While accommodation was scarce and expensive around Al Awabi, the opposite was true in Salalah. Our initial thought was to book a hotel on the beach, like so many other birders do, but since we planed on spending as little time as possible around our accommodation, we decided to save a shit load of money instead. Rather than splashing out on a sea view that we wouldn't have used anyway, we booked our accommodation at Jawharet Al Kheir

Furnished Apartments through Booking.com. We paid next to nothing for an enormous apartment with kitchen, washing machine and well working Wi-Fi. Here we were just a few blocks from the main road traversing town, thus allowing easy access to both eastern and western localities, but still in a quiet neighbourhood. Lulu's Hypermarket was just down the road, and there were lots of other restaurants, shopping centres and petrol stations in the immediate vicinity. Access to and from the airport was also as easy as it gets. All in all we were disgustingly pleased with ourselves for having had the good sense to book an apartment here, and can easily recommend it to other visiting birders.

Finally we also spend one night in Muscat. We hadn't booked in advance but had no trouble finding suitable hotels near the city centre.

Weather

When approaching the Al Hajar Mountains the weather was cloudy with some rain showers, which caused some of the local population to rush to the mountains to see several small waterfalls being formed as a result of the downpour. Luckily this wasn't a sign of things to come! Even if the weather was somewhat unstable during our stay in the mountains, it was mostly dry with very pleasant temperatures in the low to mid twenties (Celsius) and predominantly clear skies, though with periods of more cloudy conditions. The wind wasn't much of an issue, but would pick up a little at times. Around Muscat and along the north coast there were no clouds at all, and the temperatures were a little higher.

In the south the weather was more stable with very few clouds, except around Jebel Samhan, temperatures around 30°C in the daytime and in the low twenties at night, and very little wind to speak of.

Resources

For good and bad, Oman is one of those countries where planing and visiting is greatly aided by a number of very helpful resources... - mostly for good. As always www.cloudbirders.com is one of the first websites you'll want to check out for a host of reports, of which many are very good and helpful. Another site which is gradually becoming a good tool for birders travelling to all parts of the World is www.ebird.org which no doubt will eventually be extremely useful - it already is to a certain extent.

You can easily plan a trip to Oman by using the free sites alone, but we reckon it would be plain foolish not to buy the excellent "Birdwatching guide to Oman". It's written by Dave Sargeant and the long residing Danish Eriksen couple, which also operate the very useful website www.birdsoman.com with recent sightings and lots of lovely pictures of birds, mammals and other things. No doubt a new edition of the book would be welcome, but even if its age is starting to show, it's still almost a must for first time visitors, and some updates can actually be found on the website mentioned.

As we know, birders are a friendly and helpful lot... - well, some are anyway, and we benefited from that while planing our trip, and even afterwards. On Cloudbirders you can find a really nice report with loads of cool pictures made by a small group of Spanish birders - <https://www.cloudbirders.com/tripreport/show/18959/27661> Especially their observations, and photos, of birds of the night were impressive, and we greatly appreciated the advise given by Alex Ollé and Albert Burgas on the elusive Omani Owl. Our Danish friends Claus Brostrøm, Erik Mølgaard and in particular Andreas Bruun Kristensen were also very helpful, and we thank them all wholeheartedly. "Birds of the Middle East" by Porter and Aspinall is the obvious choice when looking for a field guide to bring on a trip to Oman. It pretty much include all the species you're likely to see, and is quite good. Other field guides aren't really necessary, though you might want to consider bringing one of the excellent guides covering Europe, since they'll included most species as well. Field guides covering mammals are much scarcer, but we brought "Field Guide to the Mammals of the Middle East" by Serhal et al. in Arabic and English, which was actually a little better than expected.

Before going we tried to find a decent map of the country but failed miserably. We ended up buying a 1:850000 map from Reise Know-How Verlag but never actually used it – not enough detail. Instead we used the maps in the birdwatching guide, a tourist map covering the Salalah area and a couple of navigation apps. For driving we primarily used Maps.me which is fairly good considering it's free. We also used Pocket Earth which looks and feels better but unfortunately didn't work as well as we would've wished for. For some reason Google Maps can't be used as a navigation tool in Oman, but we managed just fine with the means available.



Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse – Raysut

Places

So many places, so little time! And we even made it more difficult for ourselves by spending the last couple of days in Qatar. Not that we really regretted that decision, but it would have been nice with more time in both countries. A report from our visit to Qatar can be found here:

<https://www.cloudbirders.com/tripreport/show/19745/29031>

Perhaps then we were lucky that Socotra was pretty much out of bounds due to the volatile situation in the region. Flying to the islands was only possible from Jordan, though with very few departures, unreliable service and crazy prices. The other possibility was by boat from Salalah, and the weather was certainly perfect for it. However, pirates are a real threat in these waters, and it might have been difficult finding a boat willing to take us.

Below we've listed all the localities visited, more or less, but with all the resources available we don't see any need for a thorough description of them. We have, however, added a few comments where appropriate, and hope they'll be of help to other travelling birders.

Northern Oman.

Because we had only limited time, our initial thought was to visit only the southern part of the country, but as we started to realize that the recently discovered Omani Owl was not too much of a long shot, we decided to give it a go. After all, we assumed we'd be there at the perfect time of year to listen for them. The owl resides in wadis of the **Al Hajar Mountains**, and to be honest we don't really feel that known sites should be kept a secret. However, since we obtained information about the species from others, we won't betray their confidence, and consequently we'll call the locality, where we eventually heard the species, **Wadi X**. Furthermore we've omitted mentioning what time of day we visited the various places in the mountains here.

We have, however, no problems recommending a trip to **Al Ghubrah Bowl** in general and Wukan Village in particular. We were lucky to visit the village just as the almond trees were in bloom, and there were a few birds around as well. Most notably we saw Egyptian and Lappet-faced Vulture really well here, but also different passerines and some nice Sand Partridges. The rest of the bowl is also very scenic, and though birds are few and far apart, the selection is quite good. We particularly concentrated our efforts on the northern part of the bowl immediately east of Al Ghubrah Village, not that it looked any better than other parts of the bowl, though. The area was very good for Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, and we also saw a few other nice species like Plain Leaf Warbler and different wheatears. Staying just by the entrance road to **Wadi Bani Awf**, we naturally also took a look at that area. We imagine that birdlife isn't very different from one wadi to the next, but this one is certainly very spectacular in places, and well worth a visit.

Since we decided to stay all our nights except one in Al Awabi, we didn't have time to see much else than the mountains - not that we wouldn't have liked to. A trip to the southern reaches of the mountains could have been nice, not only for the wildlife and nature in general, but also to see the ancient beehive tombs. Well, maybe on our next visit, and one place that we actually did go to was **Ras Al Sawadi**, which is situated on the coast some 90 kilometres west of Muscat. We only had time to check out the beach which was very good for gulls, terns and waders. Since you're allowed to drive on the beach here, photo opportunities are very good, and we thoroughly enjoyed our short stay.

The last birding locality we went to in the north was **Al Qurm**. It's located by the coast in Muscat, but isn't very easy to explore. The mangrove is fenced in, but some semi decent views can be had from the road separating the area from the coast - we saw a good selection of waders here, though in low numbers. A "stroll along the fence" near the rear entrance, as suggested in "Birdwatching guide to Oman" is no longer possible since new buildings have shot up here. Instead we took a walk inside the park, but the interesting parts aren't really reachable, so we had to settle for sniffing round the periphery - Glossy Ibis, Kingfisher, and Wryneck were the most interesting species here. Before our late departure to Salalah, we even managed to fit in a little sightseeing.

Southern Oman.

Driving through the empty quarters is something we'd have loved, but alas, in order to save time, we had to take the quick flight from Muscat to Salalah instead. This meant that neither Barr Al Hikman, with its selection of shorebirds, nor some of the interesting desert localities along the way were visited. The **Mudday** area was therefore the only real inland locality south of the Al Hajar Mountains we went to. In addition to the village, we also took a couple of walks in the two big wadis east of the village. Expect to be pulled over at military check points along the way between Thumrait and the border to Yemen, as we were on a couple of occasions. We had no trouble at all on these routine stops, and the soldiers seemed amused with two foreigners looking for birds in the middle of the desert. On our way back from Mudday to Salalah, we made a quick stop at the **Thumrait Dump** south of town. It was a complete waste of time though, since we didn't see a single vulture, eagle or any other raptor for that matter.

When descending towards Salalah on the road from Thumrait a string of excellent sites stretches to the east along the escarpment. We visited, in order from west to east, **Ayn Razat** (don't limit yourself to visiting the park, since the wadi behind it is very good also), **Ayn Hamran** (easy watching both day and night, and one of our favourites), **Ayn Tobruq** (both the intersection and the stream at the end of the road are very good for birds coming to drink - the later for dragonflies as well), **Wadi Darbat** (we regret not having spent more time here. Brilliant day and night for raptors, scops owls and mammals) and **Wadi Hanna** (only a brief visit, but could be good and worth seeing for the baobab trees alone).



Hoopoe - Ayn Hamran

Arabian Wheatear - Wadi Mughsayl



The road leading from the coast to the Wadi Darbat exit continues up to a rocky plateau before descending to the coast again passing Wadi Hanna on the way. Before reaching the descend, you'll pass the small town of **Tawi Atayr**. The famous sinkhole is situated just north of town and is of course the place to see Yemen Serin. Luckily we ticked it off instantly and were thus able to turn our full attention to the real attraction of the place, namely the resident couple of Bonelli's Eagle - you probably won't see this species better anywhere on the planet! By continuing further east on the road passing the sinkhole, you'll eventually reach the escarpment at **Jebel Samhan**, on the way passing the exit to **Tayq Sinkhole**. We went to this other sinkhole as well, and saw pretty much nothing - except for the sinkhole itself, of course. The escarpment is a whole different matter, since this is the place to see the magnificent Verreaux's Eagle. It can also be seen at some of the other sites mentioned here, but the chance of seeing it well is better here than anywhere else. Apart from the eagles the place is worth the trip for the spectacular scenery, and this is also the only place where we saw Rock Hyrax even if it is quite common all along the escarpment. It's worth keeping in mind that timing can be all important when going to Jebel Samhan. In the middle of the day when temperatures are soaring, the place can be shrouded in clouds as moist air is being drawn in from the sea and forced upwards. We therefore recommend a visit in the morning or perhaps (we didn't try) late in the afternoon.

From Jebel Samhan there's an incredible view of the plain east of Mirbat, where **Ras Janjari** is located. Our plan was to do a pelagic trip from Mirbat, but since our inquiry was never answered, we decided to try some seawatching from the cape instead. That worked out well for us, even if we didn't see the birds and marine mammals as well as we would have from a boat. On the way back from the cape, we made a quick stop at sunset by **Wadi Baqlat** which was quite nice and should be worth a second look. Wadi Stimah, immediately to the west, might also be worth checking out, but sadly we didn't have the time. A place that we did have time to visit, and which we absolutely loved, was **Kawr Rawri**, which is located by the sea just below Wadi Darbat. The wetland is simply superb and given the opportunity, we would no doubt have spent even more time exploring this area.

There are several other kawrs along the coast between Mirbat and Salalah which could be worth visiting, but we concentrated our efforts on the ones in and around Salalah. **Kawr East** and **Kawr West** (regarding location, the names says it all really) were both very good and easy to access. We only had a brief look at **Kawr Salalah** and **Kawr Al Baleed**, and the latter of them doesn't look all that interesting, though a Malachite Kingfisher was seen here during our stay. This is also an easy place to find Spotted Thick-knee which rest during the day under trees and bushes west of the Al Baleed Restaurant. Kawr Salalah actually looks more interesting, but sadly we didn't have time to explore more thoroughly. In addition to the wetlands, Salalah also offer good birding on some of the farms around town. However, since standing on a busy street peeping through a fence isn't really our idea of a good time, we decided to spend our time elsewhere, even if it did cost us a few nice species.

Unlike many of the eastern sites, the Raysut area, which is located in the western outskirts of town, is distinctly un-scenic. This is especially true when it comes to the two most famous sites, **Raysut Sewage Plant** and **Raysut Dump**, which are both positively uncharming places. The noisy and dusty dump is a heaven for raptors and it's sometimes possible to talk your way into the dump itself. If you're being turned away at the entrance, equally good views of flying raptors can be had by following the perimeter fence to the back of the dump. The extremely foul smelling sewage plant is excellent for eagles and a variety of water birds, and unlike at the dump birders are being welcomed as long as you follow the instructions of the wardens.

Raysut Lagoon lacks the industrial "charm" of the two previously mentioned sites, and offer a wide selection of water birds in a nicer environment, though still far from pristine. We only managed to fit in a short visit late in the afternoon to the area just right of the main road when coming from Salalah, and were pleasantly surprised. Lots of birds, including a few Rosy Starlings and lots of herons, came flying in to sleep in bushes standing in the water, while quite a few Black-crowned Night Herons made the opposite trip. Waders, ducks and terns were also common around here, and since access was easy we have no problems recommending a visit here. A closer look at the area on the other side of the main road, and further upstream would surely be interesting as well.

The last site we visited in the Raysut area was **Raysut Lighthouse** which is a fantastic place to see the amazing Red-billed Tropicbird. Military check points control access to the harbour, but we were waved through without further questions on our visits there. We spent most of our time here by the cliffs a couple of hundred metres east of the lighthouse. You can park at the top of the cliffs, where the tropicbirds came in very close and were seen really well. If you're in the area at the right time of year, it would be a crying shame to deny yourself this experience. However, please be aware that the birds are not present throughout the day. In our experience they came in sometime during the morning and stayed around for a while before flying out to sea again. In the middle of the afternoon they would reappear by the cliffs. Presumably they leave again before sunset, but we never stayed long enough to see for ourselves. Lightconditions (contrast) can be trying for photographers here, but it's perfectly possible to climb down the cliffs, which helps somewhat since you see the birds with a brighter background - the sky instead of the sea - from there.



Red-billed Tropicbird - Raysut Lighthouse.

The blowholes at Mughsayl west of Salalah is a well known tourist attraction, and is probably more impressive, when the sea isn't as calm as it was during our visit. For birders, **Wadi Mughsayl** is more interesting and we took the trip out there on a couple of occasions. The wetlands are quite good for birds and the wadi itself a well known site for Hume's Owl, which we sadly dipped out on despite making a good effort. The road leading into the wadi was surprisingly well maintained, and it would have been no problem driving all the way to the bottom even without a 4x4, except perhaps for the last couple of hundred metres. This is a very nice and quiet place.

25/2

Muscat - Village Resort Motel 12.30 - 14.45.

Egret sp. 3, Great white-headed gull 1, Laughing Dove 30, Rose-ringed Parakeet 2, Indian Roller 4, House Crow 45, White-eared Bulbul 1, Common Myna 60, Wheatear sp. 2, Purple Sunbird 20, House Sparrow 4m+2f, Indian Silverbill 4.

Village Resort Motel - Al Ghubrah Bowl.

Short-toed Eagle 1, Laughing Dove 6, Brown-necked Raven 2, Purple Sunbird 2, Striolated Bunting 3.

Al Ghubrah Bowl.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse 21, Laughing Dove 7, Pale Crag Martin 4, Red-vented Bulbul 2, Plain Leaf Warbler 1, Black Redstart 1m+2f, Red-tailed Wheatear 1, Hume's Wheatear 1m, Purple Sunbird 15, House Sparrow 25. Red Fox 1, bat sp. 20.

26/2

Wadi X.

Grey Francolin h+1, Bonelli's Eagle 1ad, Rock Dove 14, Laughing Dove 60, Omani Owl 1h, Green Bee-eater 4, Hoopoe 1, Pale Crag Martin 11, White-spectacled Bulbul 25, Plain Leaf Warbler 1, Lesser Whitethroat 9, Black Redstart 2m+2f, Red-tailed Wheatear 4, Hume's Wheatear 4, Purple Sunbird 25, House Sparrow 30. Red fox 2, Egyptian Fruit Bat 4, bat sp. 20.

Al Ghubrah Bowl.

Sand Partridge 4, Grey Francolin 5, Egyptian Vulture 2ad, Lappet-faced Vulture 4, Sparrowhawk 1f, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse 15, Laughing Dove 50, Southern Grey Shrike 1, Brown-necked Raven 1, Pale Crag Martin 20, Desert Lark 5, Graceful Warbler 3, White-spectacled Bulbul 25, Chiffchaff 2, Lesser Whitethroat 20, Arabian Babbler 16, Black Redstart 3m+4f, Red-tailed Wheatear 5, Desert Wheatear 1m, Hume's Wheatear 3, Purple Sunbird 25, House Sparrow 30, Long-billed Pipit 3.

27/2

Wadi X.

Egyptian Vulture 1ad, Laughing Dove 35, Pallid Scops Owl 1, Omani Owl 1h, Little Owl 2h, Green Bee-eater 1, Brown-necked Raven 1, Pale Crag Martin 11, White-spectacled Bulbul 35, Plain Leaf Warbler 1, Lesser Whitethroat 4, Black Redstart 1f, Hume's Wheatear 3, Blue Rock Thrush 1f, Purple Sunbird 8, House Sparrow 30, Indian Silverbill 2. Red Fox 3, Egyptian Fruit Bat 11.

Al Ghubrah Bowl.

Falcon sp. 1, Egyptian Vulture 1ad, Lappet-faced Vulture 1, Laughing Dove 20, Southern Grey Shrike 2, Pale Crag Martin 6, White-spectacled Bulbul 40, Lesser Whitethroat 12, Arabian Babbler 4, Black Redstart 2m+2f, Red-tailed Wheatear 5, Desert Wheatear 1m, Purple Sunbird 9, House Sparrow 60.

Al Ghubrah Bowl - Sahkla - Village Resort Motel.

Grey Francolin h, Kestrel 1m, Laughing Dove 50, Indian Roller 3, Green Bee-eater 1, Pale Crag Martin 4, Desert Lark 4, Black-crowned Sparrow-lark 3m1f, Graceful Warbler 2, White-eared Bulbul 3, White-spectacled Bulbul 15, Lesser Whitethroat 4, Common Myna 7, Black Redstart 2m+3f, Red-tailed Wheatear 1, Desert Wheatear 1m+1f, Purple Sunbird 15, House Sparrow 90, Indian Silverbill 9.

Wadi Bani Awf.

Kestrel 1, Laughing Dove 15, Swift 6, Isabelline Shrike 1, Brown-necked Raven 2, Pale Crag Martin 14, Desert Lark 2, Graceful Warbler 2, White-spectacled Bulbul 25, Lesser Whitethroat 7, Black Redstart 2m+1f, Red-tailed Wheatear 4, Hume's Wheatear 1, Rock Thrush 1m, Purple Sunbird 15, House Sparrow 60.

28/2

Wadi Bani Awf.

Sand Partridge 6 , Egyptian Vulture 1ad , Wood Pigeon 1h , Laughing Dove 75 , Isabelline Shrike 1 ,
Pale Crag Martin 20 , Desert Lark 4 , Graceful Warbler 2 , White-spectacled Bulbul 100 , Chiffchaff 2 ,
Lesser Whitethroat 19 , Black Redstart 1m+1f , Red-tailed Wheatear 3 , Hume's Wheatear 4 , Purple Sunbird 35 ,
House Sparrow 140 , Long-billed Pipit 2.
Red Fox 1.

Village Resort Motel.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse 2 , Laughing Dove 25 , Green Bee-eater 1 , Pale Crag Martin 2 , Desert Lark 1 ,
White-spectacled Bulbul 25 , Lesser Whitethroat 3 , Red-tailed Wheatear 1 , Purple Sunbird 9 ,
House Sparrow 25 , Indian Silverbill 4 , Long-billed Pipit 1.

Village Resort Motel - Ras Al Sawadi 12.00 - 13.55.

Laughing Dove 15 , Green Bee-eater 1 , Pale Crag Martin 2 , Desert Lark 3 , White-spectacled Bulbul 20 ,
Lesser Whitethroat 2 , Black Redstart 1f , Red-tailed Wheatear 1 , Blue Rock Thrush 1m , Purple Sunbird 12 ,
House Sparrow 25 , Indian Silverbill 4 , Striolated Bunting 1.



Greater Sand Plover - Ras Al Sawadi

Ras Al Sawadi 13.55 - 17.35.

Grey Heron 7 , Western Reef Egret 8 , Great Cormorant 75 , Osprey 3 , Oystercatcher 19 , Kentish Plover 26 ,
Greater Sand Plover 9 , Curlew 4 , Dunlin 26 , Sooty Gull 85 , Great white-headed gull 105 ,
Great Black-headed Gull 6ad+1imm , Black-headed Gull 7 , Slender-billed Gull 200 , Caspian Tern 2 ,

Lesser Crested Tern 400 , Sandwich Tern 350 , Greater Crested Tern 150 , Laughing Dove 6 , Pallid Swift 7 ,
House Crow 50 , Crested Lark 1 , Common Myna 30 , House Sparrow 15.

Ras Al Sawadi - Muscat 17.40 - 18.45.

Grey Francolin 4 , Slender-billed Gull 45 , Laughing Dove 40 , House Crow 55 , Barn Swallow 1 , Crested Lark 3 ,
Graceful Warbler 1 , Common Myna 25 , Purple Sunbird 4 , House Sparrow 35.

1/3

Al Qurm 6.40 - 9.30.

Grey Francolin 17 , Teal 31 , Glossy Ibis 1 , Striated Heron 1 , Grey Heron 4 , Great White Egret 1 ,
Western Reef Egret 7 , Great Cormorant 5 , Common Moorhen 3 , Black-winged Stilt 1 , Red-wattled Lapwing 24 ,
Ringed Plover 5 , Kentish Plover 8 , Lesser Sand Plover 3 , Greater Sand Plover 16 , Black-tailed Godwit 1 ,
Bar-tailed Godwit 1 , Whimbrel 1 , Curlew 6 , Spotted Redshank 1 , Redshank 2 , Greenshank 2 ,
Terek Sandpiper 1 , Common Sandpiper 11 , Sooty Gull 7 , Great white-headed gull 23 , Black-headed Gull 10 ,
Slender-billed Gull 60 , Lesser Crested Tern 3 , Sandwich Tern 5 , Greater Crested Tern 25 ,
Little Tern /Saunders's Tern 3 , Laughing Dove 45 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 50 , Indian Roller 2 , Kingfisher 1 ,
Green Bee-eater 2 , Wryneck 1 , Isabelline Shrike 3 , House Crow 75 , Pale Crag Martin 2 , Graceful Warbler 7 ,
White-eared Bulbul 12 , Red-vented Bulbul 1 , Clamorous Reed Warbler 1 , Chiffchaff 7 , Common Myna 80 ,
Purple Sunbird 30 , House Sparrow 50 , Indian Silverbill 2.

Muscat 9.40 - 18.40.

Striated Heron 1 , Grey Heron 2 , Great Cormorant 17 , Whimbrel 1 , Common Sandpiper 3 , Sooty Gull 17 ,
Great white-headed gull 25 , Black-headed Gull 350 , Laughing Dove 20 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 3 , Pallid Swift 4 ,
Indian Roller 2 , House Crow 150 , Brown-necked Raven 1 , Graceful Warbler 4 , White-eared Bulbul 6 ,
White-spectacled Bulbul 1 , Common Myna 100 , Purple Sunbird 14 , House Sparrow 35.

2/3

Ayn Hamran 6.05 - 10.45.

Arabian Partridge h , Short-toed Eagle 2 , Sparrowhawk 1 , Green Sandpiper 2 , Common Sandpiper 1 ,
Collared Dove 20 , Laughing Dove 80 , Hoopoe 3 , Black-crowned Tchagra 9 , Isabelline Shrike 1 ,
Southern Grey Shrike 2 , African Paradise-flycatcher 12 , Fan-tailed Raven 4 , Pale Crag Martin 17 ,
Graceful Warbler 6 , White-spectacled Bulbul 125 , Arabian Warbler 8 , Ménétrié's Warbler 1f ,
Abyssinian White-eye 30 , Tristram's Starling 34 , Desert Wheatear 1m , Arabian Wheatear 1m , Blackstart 7 ,
Palestine Sunbird 2m+2f , Shinning Sunbird 14 , Rüppell's Weaver 20 , African Silverbill 12 ,
Grey Wagtail 1 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 20.

Bat sp. 1.

Kawr Rawri 11.10 - 14.30.

Greater White-fronted Goose 20 , Wigeon 4m+2f , Shoveler 55 , Pintail 30 , Garganey 6m+3f , Teal 18 ,
Little Grebe 3 , Greater Flamingo 67 , Black Stork 2 , Glossy Ibis 1 , Squacco Heron 4 , Indian Pond Heron 1 ,
Cattle Egret 14 , Grey Heron 28 , Great White Egret 2 , Intermediate Egret 2 , Little Egret 4 ,
Western Reef Egret 9 , Masked Booby 2 , Great Cormorant 40 , Osprey 7 , Western Marsh Harrier 1 2K f ,
Sparrowhawk 1f , Greater Spotted Eagle 2imm , Steppe Eagle 1ad , Eastern Imperial Eagle 1imm ,
Common Moorhen 7 , Coot 4 , Oystercatcher 1 , Black-winged Stilt 13 , Grey Plover 1 , Kentish Plover 6 ,
Greater Sand Plover 1 , Pheasant-tailed Jacana 4 , Common Snipe 1 , Black-tailed Godwit 3 , Spotted Redshank 1 ,
Redshank 3 , Marsh Sandpiper 4 , Greenshank 3 , Wood Sandpiper 1 , Common Sandpiper 7 , Little Stint 3 ,
Ruff 2 , Sooty Gull 110 , Great white-headed gull 55 , Black-headed Gull 20 , Slender-billed Gull 30 ,
Gull-billed Tern 8 , Caspian Tern 57 , Sandwich Tern 3 , Whiskered Tern 18 , White-winged Black Tern 1 ,
Laughing Dove 9 , Isabelline Shrike 5 , Pale Crag Martin 4 , Crested Lark 2 , Clamorous Reed Warbler 1 ,
Desert Wheatear 2m , Tawny Pipit 1.

Kawr Rawri - Tawi Atayr.

Kestrel 3 , Egyptian Vulture 1ad , Lappet-faced Vulture 1.

Tawi Atayr Sinkhole 15.00 - 17.30.

Kestrel 1 , Eastern Imperial Eagle 1imm , Bonelli's Eagle 2ad , Collared Dove 6 , Laughing Dove 75 , African Scops Owl 1h (!) , Hoopoe 1 , African Paradise-flycatcher 1 , Fan-tailed Raven 8 , Pale Crag Martin 50 , White-spectacled Bulbul 20 , Abyssinian White-eye 12 , Tristram's Starling 35 , Arabian Wheatear 1m+1f , Blackstart 6 , Shinning Sunbird 9 , Rüppell's Weaver 30 , African Silverbill 4 , Yemen Serin 3 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 25.



Bonelli's Eagle - Tawi Atayr Sinkhole

Wadi Darbat 17.50 - 18.20.

Steppe Eagle 1ad , Greenshank 1 , Common Sandpiper 2 , Whiskered Tern 1 , Laughing Dove 11 , Bruce's Green Pigeon 7 , Fan-tailed Raven 4 , Pale Crag Martin 9 , Tristram's Starling 3 , Arabian Wheatear 1m+1f , Grey Wagtail 3.
Arabian Spiny Mouse 1.

Egyptian Fruit Bat 1 - Salalah.

3/3

Wadi Mughsayl 6.05 - 10.50.

Arabian Partridge h+4 , Sand Partridge 3 , Wigeon 2m , Shoveler 3m+2f , Garganey 2m+3f , Teal 3m+3f , Tufted Duck 1f , Yellow Bittern 1 , Grey Heron 2 , Intermediate Egret 1 , Steppe Eagle 1ad+2imm , Bonelli's Eagle 2ad , Common Moorhen 30 , Coot 1 , Little Ringed Plover 2 , Common Snipe 3 , Greenshank 2 , Green Sandpiper 1 , Common Sandpiper 4 , Little Stint 1 , Rock Dove 40 , Laughing Dove 35 , Green Bee-eater 2 , Isabelline Shrike 1 , Pale Crag Martin 8 , Desert Lark 16 , White-spectacled Bulbul 45 , Clamorous Reed Warbler 6 , Arabian Warbler 2 , Asian Desert Warbler 1 , Tristram's Starling 85 , Isabelline Wheatear 2 , Desert Wheatear 2m+2f , Arabian Wheatear 6m+4f , Blackstart 3 , Palestine Sunbird 3m+2f , Shinning Sunbird 11 , Citrine Wagtail 1 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 1m+2f .
Wadi Racer 1.

Mughsayl Beach & Blowholes 10.50 - 13.25.

Pintail 3m+6f , Grey Heron 2 , Great White Egret 1 , Western Reef Egret 4 , Brown Booby 2 , Socotra Cormorant 37 , Osprey 2 , Greenshank 1 , Sooty Gull 110 , Great white-headed gull 85 , Slender-billed Gull 3 , Lesser Crested Tern 4 , Sandwich Tern 11 , Greater Crested Tern 65 , Common Tern 8 , White-cheeked Tern 3 , Rock Dove 35 , Tristram's Starling 9 , Desert Wheatear 1m.

Raysut Dump & Sewage Plant 14.05 - 17.05.

Ruddy Shelduck 1 , Wigeon 2m , Shoveler 5m+2f , Pintail 5m+3f , Garganey 1m+1f , Teal 16 , Little Grebe 17 , Greater Flamingo 8 , White Stork 285 , Glossy Ibis 6 , Cattle Egret 60 , Grey Heron 30 , Osprey 1 , Black Kite 4 , Greater Spotted Eagle 2 , Steppe Eagle 350 , Eastern Imperial Eagle 2ad+6imm , Common Moorhen 15 , Demoiselle Crane 1 , Black-winged Stilt 14 , Spur-winged Lapwing 1 , Red-wattled Lapwing 1 , White-tailed Lapwing 1 , Little Ringed Plover 7 , Spotted Redshank 1 , Redshank 3 , Marsh Sandpiper 1 , Greenshank 3 , Green Sandpiper 2 , Wood Sandpiper 3 , Common Sandpiper 27 , Little Stint 2 , Ruff 4 , Great white-headed gull 600 , Black-headed Gull 28 , Slender-billed Gull 2 , Rock Dove 250 , Collared Dove 2 , Laughing Dove 16 , House Crow 250 , Brown-necked Raven 2 , Barn Swallow 20 , Pale Crag Martin 2 , Crested Lark 7 , White-spectacled Bulbul 35 , Common Myna 2 , Desert Wheatear 3m+2f , Rüppell's Weaver 25 , African Silverbill 2 , Yellow Wagtail 12 , White Wagtail 8 .



Steppe Eagle - Raysut Dump

Raysut Lagoon 17.15 - 19.05.

Ruddy Shelduck 9 , Shoveler 3m+2f , Pintail 1m+3f , Garganey 2m+1f , Teal 4 , Little Grebe 2 , Greater Flamingo 85 , Glossy Ibis 17 , Spoonbill 15 , Black-crowned Night Heron 67 , Squacco Heron 8 , Indian Pond Heron 2 , Grey Heron 45 , Great White Egret 2 , Little Egret 3 , Western Reef Egret 28 , Great Cormorant 65 , Osprey 1 , Common Moorhen 25 , Black-winged Stilt 13 , Pied Avocet 2 , Little Ringed Plover 9 , Common Snipe 2 , Black-tailed Godwit 7 , Spotted Redshank 1 , Redshank 6 , Marsh Sandpiper 11 , Greenshank 6 , Green Sandpiper 1 , Wood Sandpiper 2 , Common Sandpiper 9 , Little Stint 16 , Temminck's Stint 1 , Dunlin 3 , Ruff 14 , Great white-headed gull 450 , Slender-billed Gull 6 , Gull-billed Tern 31 , Whiskered Tern 3 , Laughing Dove 1 , House Crow 250 , White-spectacled Bulbul 3 , Common Myna 285 , Rosy Starling 9 .
Bat sp. 1.

Egyptian Fruit Bat 1 - Salalah.

4/3

Ayn Tobroq 6.10 - 10.40.

Arabian Partridge h+17 , Kestrel 1f , Barbary Falcon 1imm , Bonelli's Eagle 2ad , Green Sandpiper 1 ,
Common Sandpiper 2 , Rock Dove 80 , Collared Dove 16 , Laughing Dove 90 , Namaqua Dove 1m+1f ,
Bruce's Green Pigeon 8 , Hoopoe 1 , Black-crowned Tchagra 6 , Isabelline Shrike 1 , African Paradise-flycatcher 5 ,
Pale Crag Martin 8 , Crested Lark 4 , Black-crowned Sparrow-lark 1m , Graceful Warbler 2 ,
White-spectacled Bulbul 125 , Arabian Warbler 1 , Abyssinian White-eye 30 , Common Myna 110 ,
Tristram's Starling 26 , Desert Wheatear 1f , Blackstart 6 , Palestine Sunbird 4 , Shinning Sunbird 11 ,
Rüppell's Weaver 18 , African Silverbill 9 , Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak 8 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 55.
African Grass Rat 1.

Griffon Vulture 4 - Tawai Atayr.

Jabal Samhan 11.40 - 13.20.

Kestrel 1 , Fan-tailed Raven 4 , Pale Crag Martin 7 , Tristram's Starling 5 , Desert Wheatear 2m+1f ,
Arabian Wheatear 1m+1f , Blackstart 2

Eastern Imperial Eagle 4imm - Tawai Atayr > Mirbat.

Ras Janjari & Wadi Baqlat 15.10 - 18.55

Pintail 1m , Persian Shearwater 16 , Jouanin's Petrel 5 , shearwater sp. 35 , Greater Flamingo 12 , Black Stork 1 ,
Spoonbill 4 , Grey Heron 11 , Great White Egret 1 , Western Reef Egret 7 , Masked Booby 4 , Osprey 3 ,
Western Marsh Harrier 1f , Grey Plover 3 , Kentish Plover 9 , Lesser Sand Plover 2 , Black-tailed Godwit 1 ,
Whimbrel 1 , Curlew 3 , Redshank 5 , Greenshank 3 , Common Sandpiper 2 , Little Stint 8 , Temminck's Stint 1 ,
Curlew Sandpiper 1 , Dunlin 4 , Ruff 2 , Sooty Gull 150 , Great white-headed gull 30 , Slender-billed Gull 9 ,
Greater Crested Tern 20 , Rock Dove 35 , Crested Lark 4 , Desert Wheatear 2 , House Sparrow 8.
False Killer Whale 15-20 , Spinner Dolphin 85.

Ayn Hamran 20.25 - 22.10.

Collared Dove 4 , Laughing Dove 2 , African Scops Owl 3h.
Wild Cat 1 , Striped Hyaena 1 , Egyptian Fruit Bat 20 , bat sp. 10.

5/3

Raysut Lighthouse 6.20 - 7.55 & 15.45 - 17.00.

Grey Heron 3 , Western Reef Egret 2 , Red-billed Tropicbird 6 , Brown Booby 2 , Socotra Cormorant 85 ,
Sooty Gull 75 , Great white-headed gull 25 , Greater Crested Tern 6 , Rock Dove 8 , Collared Dove 4 ,
Laughing Dove h , House Crow 40 , Crested Lark 2 , White-spectacled Bulbul 12 , Common Myna 30 ,
Tristram's Starling 14.
Long-beaked Common Dolphin 20.

Raysut Dump 8.10 - 9.25.

White Stork 300 , Cattle Egret 65 , Black Kite 3 , Steppe Eagle 250 , Eastern Imperial Eagle 6imm ,
Great white-headed gull 450 , Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 13 , House Crow 200 , Brown-necked Raven 1 ,
Crested Lark 7 , Black-crowned Sparrow-lark 2m+1f , Common Myna 8 , Shinning Sunbird 1m , House Sparrow 9 ,
Yellow Wagtail 18 , White Wagtail 21.

Kawr West 9.30 - 11.05.

Pintail 2m+4f , Garganey 17 , Teal 3 , Little Grebe 13 , Greater Flamingo 23 , Striated Heron 1 , Squacco Heron 2 ,
Indian Pond Heron 11 , Grey Heron 8 , Great White Egret 1 , Intermediate Egret 2 , Western Reef Egret 7 ,
Socotra Cormorant 2 , Oriental Honey Buzzard 1 , Greater Spotted Eagle 2imm , Baillon's Crake 1 ,
Common Moorhen 16 , Oystercatcher 1 , Black-winged Stilt 7 , Pacific Golden Plover 1 , Grey Plover 3 ,
Little Ringed Plover 11 , Kentish Plover 5 , Black-tailed Godwit 14 , Redshank 6 , Greenshank 8 ,

Common Sandpiper 5 , Sanderling 16 , Little Stint 12 , Dunlin 6 , Ruff 2 , Sooty Gull 2 , Slender-billed Gull 40 , Caspian Tern 2 , Gull-billed Tern 2 , Whiskered Tern 45 , Collared Dove 6 , Laughing Dove h , Isabelline Shrike 1 , House Crow 20 , Crested Lark 5 , Graceful Warbler 1 , Clamorous Reed Warbler 1 , Common Myna 25.
Mouse sp. 1.

Kawr Salalah 11.20 - 11.30.

Garganey 2 , Cattle Egret 35 , Grey Heron 2 , Osprey 1 , Western Marsh Harrier 1f , Greater Spotted Eagle 2 , Steppe Eagle 1 , Booted Eagle 2 (light & dark phase) , Pacific Golden Plover 6 , Grey Plover 2 , Little Ringed Plover 6 , Kentish Plover 5 , Lesser Sand Plover 2 , Greenshank 3 , Common Sandpiper 1 , Little Stint 8 , Temminck's Stint 1 , Dunlin 4 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 5 , Green Bee-eater 1 , Crested Lark 1 , Graceful Warbler 1 , Common Myna 8 , Rüppell's Weaver 6.



Brown Booby - Salalah

Kawr East 12.05 - 15.00.

Cotton Pygmy-goose 13 , Mallard 1f , Pintail 16 , Garganey 17 , Teal 4 , Ferruginous Duck 4 , Little Grebe 14 , Greater Flamingo 29 , Squacco Heron 1 , Indian Pond Heron 9 , Cattle Egret 30 , Grey Heron 26 , Purple Heron 1 , Great White Egret 1 , Masked Booby 2 , Brown Booby 7 , Osprey 1 , Black Kite 2 , Western Marsh Harrier 4 , Greater Spotted Eagle 3imm , Common Moorhen 22 , Coot 17 , Oystercatcher 1 , Black-winged Stilt 4 , Spur-winged Lapwing 3 , Grey Plover 6 , Ringed Plover 4 , Little Ringed Plover 12 , Kentish Plover 8 , Pheasant-tailed Jacana 3 , Common Snipe 2 , Black-tailed Godwit 4 , Spotted Redshank 5 , Redshank 8 , Greenshank 9 , Wood Sandpiper 8 , Common Sandpiper 7 , Sanderling 9 , Little Stint 32 , Temminck's Stint 2 , Dunlin 16 , Ruff 13 , Collared Pratincole 1 , Sooty Gull 30 , Great white-headed gull 100 , Slender-billed Gull 18 , Gull-billed Tern 2 , Caspian Tern 2 , Sandwich Tern 1 , Greater Crested Tern 9 , White-winged Black Tern 1 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 2 , House Crow 16 , Pale Crag Martin 2 , Crested Lark 2 , Clamorous Reed Warbler 1 , Common Myna 450 , Yellow Wagtail 2 , Citrine Wagtail 1.

Oriental Honey Buzzard 2 , Spotted Thick-knee 8 , Common Sandpiper 35 , Citrine Wagtail 2 - Kawr Al Baleed.

6/3

Mountain Gazelle 1 - Salalah > Thumrait.

Mudday 6.05 - 11.10.

Sand Partridge 2 , Collared Dove 350 , African Collared Dove 2 , Laughing Dove 200 , Green Bee-eater 5 ,
Southern Grey Shrike 1 , Pale Crag Martin 8 , Desert Lark 16 , Black-crowned Sparrow-lark 1m ,
White-spectacled Bulbul 30 , Upcher's Warbler 1 , Asian Desert Warbler 1 , Ménétriés's Warbler 1f ,
Desert Wheatear 1m+1f , Hooded Wheatear 2m , Blackstart 5 , Nile Valley Sunbird 6m+5f , House Sparrow 12 ,
White Wagtail 1 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 1m.
Red Fox 3 , Mountain Gazelle 6.

Red-tailed Wheatear 1 - Thumrait Dump.

Ayn Hamran 14.00 - 16.40.

Arabian Partridge 19 , Kestrel 1f , Sparrowhawk 1 , Steppe Eagle 1imm , Collared Dove 40 , Laughing Dove 25 ,
Hoopoe 2 , Isabelline Shrike 1 , African Paradise-flycatcher 5 , Pale Crag Martin 7 ,
Black-crowned Sparrow-lark 19 , White-spectacled Bulbul 45 , Arabian Warbler 4 , Abyssinian White-eye 15 ,
Common Myna 20 , Tristram's Starling 12 , Blackstart 3 , Shinning Sunbird 2m+1f , Rüppell's Weaver 4 ,
African Silverbill 6 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 50.

Isabelline Wheatear 3 - Kawr Sawli.

Kawr Rawri 17.20 - 18.40.

Greater White-fronted Goose 16 , Wigeon 2m , Shoveler 52 , Pintail 35 , Garganey 4m+3f , Teal 9 ,
Ferruginous Duck 11 , Little Grebe 8 , Greater Flamingo 32 , Spoonbill 2 , Squacco Heron 1 , Indian Pond Heron 5 ,
Grey Heron 13 , Great White Egret 1 , Western Reef Egret 7 , Great Cormorant 175 , Osprey 4 ,
Common Moorhen 6 , Black-winged Stilt 8 , Kentish Plover 11 , Pheasant-tailed Jacana 5 , Common Snipe 6 ,
Black-tailed Godwit 4 , Redshank 2 , Marsh Sandpiper 5 , Greenshank 3 , Common Sandpiper 6 , Little Stint 2 ,
Ruff 1 , Great white-headed gull 85 , Slender-billed Gull 80 , Gull-billed Tern 2 , Caspian Tern 45 ,
Whiskered Tern 30 , White-winged Black Tern 6 , Rock Dove 4 , Laughing Dove 11 , Isabelline Shrike 1 ,
Pale Crag Martin 4 , White-spectacled Bulbul 7 , Clamorous Reed Warbler 2 , Common Myna 3 , Citrine Wagtail 1.

7/3

Ayn Hamran 5.00 - 9.20.

Arabian Partridge 25 , Kestrel 1 , Sparrowhawk 1 , Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 1m , Rock Dove 6 ,
Collared Dove 25 , Laughing Dove 90 , Bruce's Green Pigeon 2 , African Scops Owl 1h , Black-crowned Tchagra 7 ,
Isabelline Shrike 1 , African Paradise-flycatcher 3 , Pale Crag Martin 12 , Crested Lark 2 ,
Black-crowned Sparrow-lark 5m+1f , Graceful Warbler 2 , White-spectacled Bulbul 150 , Arabian Warbler 4 ,
Ménétriés's Warbler 1f , Abyssinian White-eye 35 , Tristram's Starling 11 , Arabian Wheatear 1m , Blackstart 8 ,
Palestine Sunbird 1m+1f , Shinning Sunbird 4m+3f , Rüppell's Weaver 65 , African Silverbill 9 ,
Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak 2 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 90.
African Grass Rat 5 , Egyptian Fruit Bat 8 , bat sp. 5.

Short-toed Eagle 1 - Ayn Hamran > Tawi Atayr.

Jabal Samhan 10.20 - 13.50.

Kestrel 1m+1f , Barbary Falcon 1ad , Greater Spotted Eagle 1imm , Verreaux's Eagle 2ad , Fan-tailed Raven 8 ,
Pale Crag Martin 6 , Tristram's Starling 4 , Arabian Wheatear 1m+1f.
Rock Hyrax 6.

Long-legged Buzzard 1 - Tawi Atayr.

Wadi Hanna 14.15 - 14.45.

Steppe Eagle 1imm , Eastern Imperial Eagle 2imm , Laughing Dove 4 , African Paradise-flycatcher 1 ,
Fan-tailed Raven 2 , Blackstart 1 , Grey Wagtail 1.

Masked Booby 1 , Barbary Falcon 1ad , Bonelli's Eagle 1ad , Sooty Gull 4 , Great Black-headed Gull 1ad+1imm ,
Greater Crested Tern 2 - The sea at Wadi Hanna.

Wadi Darbat 15.25 – 20.40.

Arabian Partridge h , Pintail 4m+2f , Black Stork 1ad+1imm , Squacco Heron 1 , Indian Pond Heron 2 , Grey Heron 3 , Little Egret 5 , Kestrel 1m+1f , Short-toed Eagle 1 , Sparrowhawk 1 , Buzzard 1 , Greater Spotted Eagle 1ad , Steppe Eagle 1ad+1imm , Eastern Imperial Eagle 1ad+1imm , Bonelli's Eagle 2ad , Pintail Snipe 6 , Common Snipe 8 , Redshank 2 , Greenshank 5 , Green Sandpiper 1 , Wood Sandpiper 1 , Common Sandpiper 7 , Whiskered Tern 1 , Rock Dove 4 , Collared Dove 1 , Laughing Dove 110 , Bruce's Green Pigeon 3 , African Scops Owl 16h , Hoopoe 1 , Fan-tailed Raven 2 , Pale Crag Martin 13 , White-spectacled Bulbul 14 , Clamorous Reed Warbler 1 , Abyssinian White-eye 30 , Tristram's Starling 8 , Bluethroat 1f/imm , Blackstart 2 , Rüppell's Weaver 12 , African Silverbill 6 , Grey Wagtail 1 , White Wagtail 3 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 5.
African Grass Rat 5 , Common Genet 1 , Honey Badger 2 , Egyptian Fruit Bat 6 , bat sp. 75.

8/3

Ayn Razat 6.30 – 11.20.

Arabian Partridge h+3 , Black-crowned Night Heron 1 , Grey Heron 2 , Kestrel 1m , Barbary Falcon 1 , Bonelli's Eagle 1ad , Common Sandpiper 2 , Collared Dove 4 , Laughing Dove 85 , Bruce's Green Pigeon 4 , Black-crowned Tchagra 4 , Fan-tailed Raven 17 , Pale Crag Martin 9 , Crested Lark 1 , White-spectacled Bulbul 300 , Arabian Warbler 5 , Abyssinian White-eye 45 , Common Myna 11 , Tristram's Starling 30 , Arabian Wheatear 1m+1f , Blackstart 10 , Palestine Sunbird 3m+1f , Shinning Sunbird 18 , Rüppell's Weaver 60 , African Silverbill 3 , Long-billed Pipit 9 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 110.
African Grass Rat 2.

Greater Spotted Eagle 1ad , Booted Eagle 1 (light phase) , Sparrowhawk 1 , Isabelline Shrike 2 - Garzaiz Farm.
Red-billed Tropicbird 18 , Osprey 1 - Raysut Lighthouse.



Mughsayl Beach

Wadi Mughsayl 16.20 – 22.05.

Sand Partridge h , Shoveler 3m+2f , Garganey 3m+3f , Teal 4m+5f , Tufted Duck 1f , Grey Heron 3 , Purple Heron 1 , Great White Egret 1 , Intermediate Egret 1 , Western Reef Egret 1 , Brown Booby 1 , Great Cormorant 1 , Little Crake 1 , Common Moorhen 30 , Common Snipe 3 , Greenshank 3 , Wood Sandpiper 1 , Common Sandpiper 3 , Little Stint 4 , Sooty Gull 75 , Great white-headed gull 45 , Slender-billed Gull 40 , Lesser Crested Tern 25 , Sandwich Tern 6 , Greater Crested Tern 35 , Common Tern 14 , Isabelline Shrike 1 , Clamorous Reed Warbler 4 , Bluethroat 1m , Desert Wheatear 1m , Arabian Wheatear 1m+1f.
Indo-Pacific Humpbacked Dolphin 6.

Ayn Tobruq 6.20 - 10.00.

Arabian Partridge h+6 , Kestrel 2 , Peregrine Falcon 1ad , Steppe Eagle 1imm , Eastern Imperial Eagle 1imm , Bonelli's Eagle 2ad , Green Sandpiper 1 , Common Sandpiper 1 , Collared Dove 55 , Laughing Dove 125 , Namaqua Dove 1m , Bruce's Green Pigeon 2 , Hoopoe 1 , Black-crowned Tchagra 9 , Isabelline Shrike 1 , African Paradise-flycatcher 3 , Fan-tailed Raven 2 , Pale Crag Martin 6 , White-spectacled Bulbul 200 , Arabian Warbler 2 , Abyssinian White-eye 18 , Desert Wheatear 1m , Blackstart 12 , Palestine Sunbird 1m+1f , Shinning Sunbird 7 , Rüppell's Weaver 25 , African Silverbill 12 , Grey Wagtail 1 , Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak 7 , Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 150.

Kawr East 10.25 - 11.05.

Cotton Pygmy-goose 13 , Pintail 18 , Garganey 23 , Ferruginous Duck 4 , Little Grebe 3 , Greater Flamingo 47 , Glossy Ibis 57 , Squacco Heron 1 , Indian Pond Heron 2 , Grey Heron 3 , Intermediate Egret 1 , Western Reef Egret 8 , Masked Booby 1 , Great Cormorant 1 , Western Marsh Harrier 1 , Steppe Eagle 1imm , Common Moorhen 21 , Coot 4 , Black-winged Stilt 9 , Spur-winged Lapwing 3 , Grey Plover 1 , Ringed Plover 2 , Kentish Plover 3 , Pheasant-tailed Jacana 1 , Common Snipe 2 , Black-tailed Godwit 2 , Spotted Redshank 1 , Redshank 12 , Greenshank 9 , Wood Sandpiper 2 , Common Sandpiper 4 , Little Stint 17 , Temminck's Stint 1 , Ruff 2 , Sooty Gull 16 , Great white-headed gull 60 , Greater Crested Tern 1 , Collared Dove 25 , Laughing Dove 40 , Pale Crag Martin 7 , Crested Lark 1 , White-spectacled Bulbul 8 , Common Myna 11 , Tristram's Starling 4 , Shinning Sunbird 1m , Yellow Wagtail 2.

White Stork 4 , Eastern Imperial Eagle 1imm - Salalah.

Kawr West 11.55 - 12.15.

Shoveler 4 , Pintail 12 , Garganey 14 , Teal 6 , Little Grebe 5 , Greater Flamingo 44 , Indian Pond Heron 4 , Grey Heron 4 , Great White Egret 2 , Intermediate Egret 1 , Western Reef Egret 8 , Western Marsh Harrier 1f , Common Moorhen 7 , Black-winged Stilt 6 , Pacific Golden Plover 1 , Lesser Sand Plover 2 , Black-tailed Godwit 32 , Redshank 5 , Greenshank 13 , Common Sandpiper 4 , Sanderling 2 , Little Stint 9 , Dunlin 2 , Ruff 4 , Sooty Gull 2 , Great white-headed gull 16 , Gull-billed Tern 1 , Caspian Tern 1 , Greater Crested Tern 2 , Whiskered Tern 30 , Collared Dove 8 , Laughing Dove 25 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 2 , House Crow 13 , Pale Crag Martin 2 , Crested Lark 2 , White-spectacled Bulbul 10 , Common Myna 4.

Ruddy Shelduck 4 , Glossy Ibis 6 , Osprey 3 , Greater Spotted Eagle 1imm - Raysut Lagoons.

Red-billed Tropicbird 5 , Socotra Cormorant 2 - Raysut Lighthouse.



Arabian Chameleon and Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak

Bird list

Arabian Partridge (*Alectoris melanocephala*)

- Common in wadis around Salalah.

Sand Partridge (*Ammoperdix heyi*)

- 26/2 4 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 28/2 6 Wadi Bani Awf ; 3+8/3 3+h Wadi Mughsayl ; 6/3 2 Mudday.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

- 2+6/3 20+16 Kawr Rawri.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

- 3/3 1 Raysut Sewage Plant ; 3+9/3 9+4 Raysut Lagoon.

Cotton Pygmy-goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*)

- 5+9/3 13 Kawr East.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

- 2+6/3 6+2 Kawr Rawri ; 3/3 2 Wadi Mughsayl ; 3/3 2 Raysut Sewage Plant.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

- 5/3 1f Kawr East.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

- Common in southern wetlands.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

- Common in southern wetlands.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

- Common in southern wetlands.

Teal (*Anas crecca*)

- 1/3 31 Al Qurm ; common in southern wetlands.

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)

- 5+9/3 4+4 Kawr East ; 6/3 11 Kawr Rawri.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

- 3+8/3 1+1 Wadi Mughsayl.

Persian Shearwater (*Puffinus persicus*)

- 4/3 16 Ras Janjari.

Some consider this a race of Tropical Shearwater (*P. bailloni*).

In addition to the ones above, a number of unidentified shearwaters was seen from Ras Janjari. They were probably mainly this species as well, but Flesh-footed Shearwater (*P. carneipes*) couldn't be ruled out completely.

Jouanin's Petrel (*Bulweria fallax*)

- 4/3 5 Ras Janjari.

Easy to identify by shape alone, even if they were a little distant.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

- Common in southern wetlands.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

- Numerous in southern wetlands.



Caspian Tern, Spoonbill, Greater Flamingos, Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Western Reef Egret

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

- 2/3 2 Kawr Rawri ; 4/3 1 Wadi Baqlat ; 7/3 2 Wadi Darbat.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

- 3+5/3 285+300 Raysut Sewage Plant & Dump ; 9/3 4 Salalah.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

- 1/3 1 Al Qurm ; 2/3 1 Kawr Rawri ; 3/3 6 Raysut Sewage Plant ; 3+9/3 17+6 Raysut Lagoon ; 9/3 57 Kawr East.

Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

- 3/3 15 Raysut Lagoon ; 4/3 4 Wadi Baqlat ; 6/3 2 Kawr Rawri.

Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

- 3/3 1 Wadi Mughsayl.

Flushed from the reeds at one of the smaller lakes north of the main kawr.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

- 3/3 67 Raysut Lagoon ; 8/3 1 Ayn Razat.

The birds at Raysut Lagoon flew out from day roost at dusk.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)

- 1/3 1 Al Qurm ; 1/3 1 Muscat ; 5/3 1 Kawr West.

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)

- Common in southern wetlands.

Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*)

- Common in southern wetlands.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

- Very common in the south.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

- Very common in southern wetlands.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

- 5/3 1 Kawr East ; 8/3 1 Wadi Mughsayl.

Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*)

- Fairly common and widespread.

Intermediate Egret (*Egretta intermedia*)

- Fairly common in the south.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

- Common in the south.

Western Reef Egret (*Egretta gularis*)

- Very common, primarily at coastal wetlands.

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*)

- 5+8+12/3 6+18+5 Raysut Lighthouse.

Of many highlight on this trip, this was maybe the one we appreciated the most. It was absolutely fantastic to see these amazing birds coming in from the sea to check the cliffs. We saw them exceptionally well here, but also found out that it's important to be here at the right time of day, since they were absent early morning and in the middle of the day.

Masked Booby (*Sula dactylactra*)

- Fairly common along the southern coastline from Salalah and further east.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

- Like Masked Booby fairly common along the south coast. However, this species was only seen around and west of Salalah. Coincidence, or do the two species actually have a different winter range only overlapping at Salalah?

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

- Very common along the coast and by coastal wetlands.

Socotra Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*)

- Common along the south coast, but only seen from Salalah and further west.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

- Common and widespread.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

- 9/3 1ad Ayn Tobruq.

Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*)

- 4/3 1 Ayn Tobruq ; 7/3 1 Jabal Samhan ; 7/3 1 Wadi Hanna ; 8/3 1 Ayn Razat.

The first bird tried to catch a Laughing Dove at the intersection, but despite some impressive aerobatics it missed out on this particular dove. Still, plenty around so no need to go hungry around here.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

- Very common along the coast.

Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)

- 5/3 1 Kawr West ; 5/3 2 Kawr Al Baleed.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

- 3+5/3 4+3 Raysut Dump ; 5/3 2 Kawr East.

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)

- 26+27/2 2+1 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 27/2 1 Wadi X ; 28/2 1 Wadi Bani Awf ; 2/3 1 Kawr Rawri - Tawi Atayr.

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

- 4/3 4 Tawi Atayr.

Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*)

- 26+27/2 4+1 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 2/3 1 Kawr Rawri - Tawi Atayr.

Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)

- 25/2 1 Al Awabi - Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 2/3 2 Ayn Hamran ; 7/3 1 Ayn Hamran - Tawi Atayr ;
7/3 1 Wadi Darbat.

Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

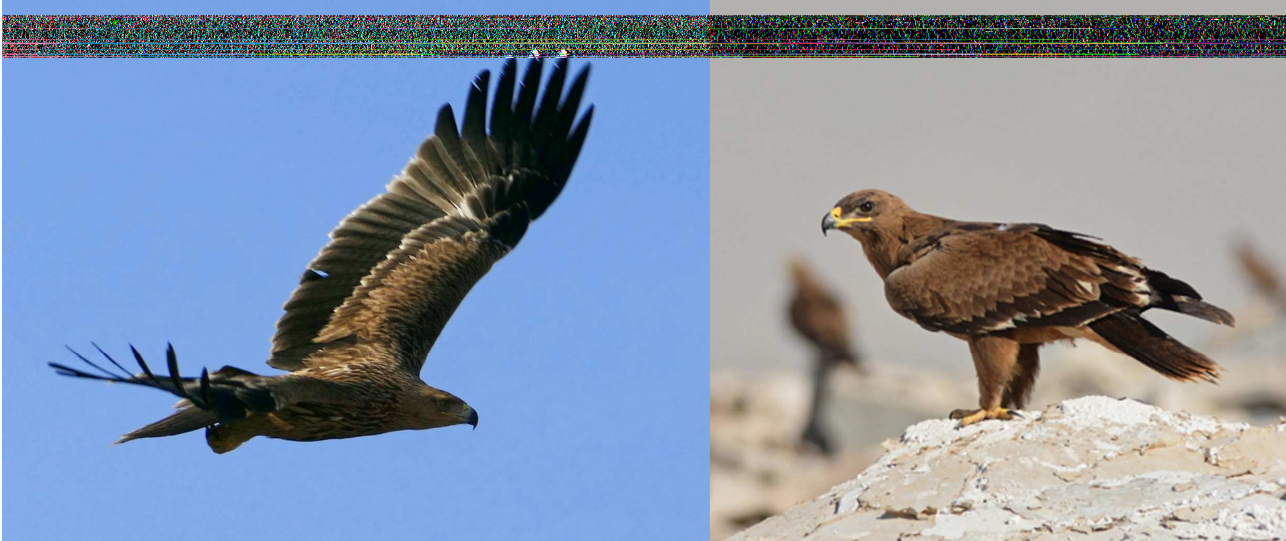
- Fairly common around wetlands in the Salalah area.

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

- Fairly common and widespread.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

- 7/3 1 Wadi Darbat.



Eastern Imperial Eagles, Steppe Eagles and Black Kite - Raysut Dump

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*)

- 7/3 1 Tawi Atayr.

Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*)

- Rather common in the south. Mostly seen near coastal wetlands.

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)

- Common in the south. Highest numbers seen around Raysut Dump and Sewage Plant.

Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

- Common in the south.

Verreaux's Eagle (*Aquila verreauxii*)

- 7/3 2 Jabal Samhan.

One of the coolest birds around and we eventually got good views of the local pair.

Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*)

- 26/2 1 Wadi X ; Common in mountains and wadis around Salalah.

Surely one of the species of trip. Particularly easy to see in the wadis around Salalah, and the pair at Tawi Atayr are such show-offs. When arriving at the car park there, one of them checked us out by passing within a couple of metres - cool!

Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*)

- 5/3 2 Kawr Salalah ; 8/3 1 Garzaiz Farm.

Little Crane (*Porzana parva*)

- 8/3 1 Wadi Mughsayl.

Rather skulky but we eventually got a good enough view for a positive id.

Baillon's Crane (*Porzana pusilla*)

- 5/3 1 Kawr West.

Unlike the other small crane, this one showed well feeding in the open for a lengthy period of time, albeit at much greater distance.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

- Very common in wetlands.

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

- 2/3 4 Kawr Rawri ; 3/3 1 Wadi Mughsayl ; 5+9/3 17+4 Kawr East.

No red-knobbed found despite careful checking.

Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*)

- 3/3 1 Raysut Sewage Plant.

Spotted Thick-knee (*Burhinus capensis*)

- 5/3 8 Kawr Al Baleed.

Easily found at the archaeological site where they were even visible from the road through the fence.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

- 28/2 19 Ras Al Sawadi ; 2/3 1 Kawr Rawri ; 5/3 1 Kawr West ; 5/3 1 Kawr East.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

- 1/3 1 Al Qurm ; common in wetlands in the south.

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avocetta*)

- 3/3 2 Raysut Lagoon.

Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*)

- 3/3 1 Raysut Sewage Plant ; 5+9/3 3+3 Kawr East.

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*)

- 1/3 24 Al Qurm ; 3/3 1 Raysut Sewage Plant.

White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*)

- 3/3 1 Raysut Sewage Plant.

Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*)

- 5+9/3 1+1 Kawr West ; 5/3 6 Kawr Salalah.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

- Fairly common along the south coast.

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

- fairly common at southern wetlands.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

- Common in the south.

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

- Very common along the coast.

Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

- 1/3 3 Al Qurm ; 4/3 2 Wadi Baqlat ; 5/3 2 Kawr Rawri ; 9/3 2 Kawr West.

Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

- 28/2 9 Ras Al Sawadi ; 1/3 16 Al Qurm ; 2/3 1 Kawr Rawri.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)

- 2+6/3 4+5 Kawr Rawri ; 5+9/3 3+1 Kawr East.

Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)

- 7/3 6 Wadi Darbat.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

- Common in the south.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa linosa*)

- 1/3 1 Al Qurm ; very common in the south.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

- 1/3 1 Al Qurm.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

- 1/3 1 Al Qurm ; 1/3 1 Muscat ; 4/3 1 Wadi Baqlat.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

- 28/2 4 Ras Al Sawadi ; 1/3 6 Al Qurm ; 4/3 3 Wadi Baqlat.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

- Widespread at coastal wetlands.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

- 1/3 2 Al Qurm ; Common at wetlands in the south.



Black-crowned Sparrow-lark, Desert Wheatear, Al Ghubrah Bowl, terns and Striated Heron.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

- 2+6/3 4+5 Kawr Rawri ; 3/3 1 Raysut Sewage Plant ; 2/2 11 Raysut Lagoon.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

- Very common along the coast.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

- Fairly common in southern wetlands.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

- Fairly common in southern wetlands.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)

- 1/3 1 Al Qurm.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

- Very common and widespread.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

- 5+9/3 16+2 Kawr West ; 5/3 9 Kawr East.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

- Common in the south.

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)

- 3/3 1 Raysut Lagoon ; 4/3 1 Wadi Baqlat ; 5/3 1 Kawr Salalah ; 5+9/3 2+1 Kawr East.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

- 4/3 1 Wadi Baqlat.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

- Common at wetlands.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

- Common at wetlands in the south.

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)

- 5/3 1 Kawr East.

Sooty Gull (*Larus hemprichii*)

- Abundant along both northern and southern coasts.

"Great white-headed gull" (*Larus sp.*)

- Abundant in coastal areas.

Different species/subspecies were seen, but since the jury is still out on the taxonomy of this complex, we decided not to put very much effort into identifying and counting the different forms. We're not sure they're all even possible to identify with certainty.

Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*)

- 28/2 7 Ras Al Sawadi ; 7/3 2 Wadi Hanna.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

- Very common, though seen on fewer locations than the next species.

Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*)

- Very common and widespread along the coast. Highest numbers seen in the north.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

- Common at southern wetlands.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*)

- 28/2 2 Ras Al Sawadi ; 2+6/3 57+45 Kawr Rawri ; 5+9/3 2+1 Kawr West ; 5/3 2 Kawr East.

Lesser Crested Tern (*Sterna bengalensis*)

- 28/2 400 Ras Al Sawadi ; 1/3 3 Al Qurm ; 3+8/3 4+25 Mughsayl Beach.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

- Common along the coast. Highest count was 350 at Ras Al Sawadi.

Greater Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*)

- Very common along the coast.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

- 3+8/3 8+14 Mughsayl Beach.

White-cheeked Tern (*Sterna repressa*)

- 3/3 3 Mughsayl Beach.

Little/Saunders's Tern (*Sterna albifrons/saundersi*)

- 1/3 3 Al Qurm.

Saunders's Tern is normally considered the default small tern this time of year, but these winter plumaged birds didn't quite seem to fit. However, we they weren't seen well enough to for a positive id.

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

- Very common at southern wetlands.

White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

- 2+6/3 1+6 Kawr Rawri ; 5/3 1 Kawr East.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*)

- 5/3 13 Raysut Dump ; 7/3 1 Ayn Hamran.

A bit of a strange experience seeing a small flock of these beautiful birds feeding, not quietly in the desert, but rather by the roadside just north of the Raysut Cement Company factory, while heavy trucks constantly moved noisily past.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (*Pterocles lichtensteini*)

- 25+26/2 21+15 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 28/2 2 Village Resort Motel, Al Awabi.

The birds in Al Ghubrah Bowl were all seen east of Ghubrah village.

Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)

- Very common and widespread.

No doubt a mix of wild and domesticated birds and therefore not consistently counted.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

- 28/2 1h Wadi Bani Awf.

A familiar sound in unfamiliar surroundings.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

- Only noticed in the south where common. Abundant around Mudday.

African Collared Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*)

- 6/3 2 Mudday.

Found without to much trouble at the camel farm.



Eastern Imperial Eagle, Violet Drosophila, Bluetheated Warbler, Desert Rose, Carter's Semaphore Gecko and Spotted Thick-knee

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)

- Abundant throughout.

Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*)

- 4+9/3 2+1 Ayn Tobroq.

Bruce's Green Pigeon (*Treron waalia*)

- 2+7/3 7+3 Wadi Darbat ; 4+9/3 8+2 Ayn Tobroq ; 7/3 2 Ayn Hamran ; 8/3 4 Ayn Razat.

Pallid Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*)

- 27/2 1 Wadi X.

Our expectation was that this species would be heard in good numbers in the Hajar Mountains. We didn't hear any, but were lucky to find a single bird, though it wasn't seen as well as we would have hoped.

African Scops Owl (*Otus senegalensis pamelaë*)

- 2/3 1h Tawi Atayr Sinkhole ; 4+7/3 3+1h Ayn Hamran ; 7/3 16h Wadi Darbat.

By some considered a separate species, Arabian Scops Owl (*O. pamelaë*).

Surprisingly the bird at Tawi Atayr were heard from the sinkhole in the afternoon well before sunset.

Omani Owl (*Strix butleri*)

- 26+27/2 1+1h Wadi X.

After having spent quite some time listening for this species, we certainly understand why it went undiscovered for so long. Hours and hours of night birding only yielded to short series of calls. Much to our surprise, we actually heard it best shortly after (!) sunrise on the 27th.

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

- 27/2 2h Wadi X.

Swift (*Apus apus*)

- 27/2 6 Wadi Bani Awf.

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*)

- 28/2 7 Ras Al Sawadi ; 1/3 4 Muscat.

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)

- 25/2 4 Muscat - Al Awabi ; 27/2 3 Sahkla ; 1/3 2 Al Qurm ; 1/3 2 Muscat.

Kingfisher (*Alcedo Atthis*)

- 1/3 1f Al Qurm.

Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)

- Fairly common. Mainly seen in the north.

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

- Widespread. Mainly seen in the south.

Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

- 1/3 1 Al Qurm.

Black-crowned Tchagra (*Tchagra senegalus*)

- 2+7/3 9+7 Ayn Hamran ; 4+9/3 6+9 Ayn Tobroq ; 8/3 4 Ayn Razat.

Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*)

- Widespread and fairly common.

Both races/species - Turkestan and Daurian Shrike - seen, but being conservative on the taxonomy issue, we treat it as a single species here.

Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*)

- 26+27/2 1+2 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 2/3 2 Ayn Hamran ; 6/3 1 Mudday.

African Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone viridis*)

- Very common in the wadis east of Salalah.

Brown-necked Raven (*Corvus ruficollis*)

- 25/2 2 Al Awabi - Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 26/2 1 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 27/2 1 Wadi X ; 27/2 2 Wadi Bani Awf ; 1/3 1 Muscat ; 3+5/3 2+1 Raysut Dump.

Fan-tailed Raven (*Corvus rhipidurus*)

- Common in southern wadis and mountains.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

- 28/2 1 Ras Al Sawadi - Muscat ; 3/3 20 Raysut Sewage Plant.

Pale Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*)

- Common and widespread.

Desert Lark (*Ammmanes deserti*)

- Common in appropriate habitat.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)

- Common and widespread, though not seen in the Al Hajar Mountains.

Black-crowned Sparrow-lark (*Eremopterix nigriceps*)

- 27/2 4 Wadi X ; 4/3 1 Ayn Tobroq ; 5/3 3 Raysut Dump ; 6/3 1 Mudday ; 6+7/3 19+6 Ayn Hamran.

Graceful Warbler (*Prinia gracilis*)

- Common and widespread.

White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*)

- 25/2 1 Muscat - Al Awabi ; 27/2 3 Sahlkla ; 1/3 12 Al Qurm ; 1/3 6 Muscat.

White-spectacled Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*)

- Abundant and widespread.

Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*)

- Fairly common. Primarily in marshy areas, but also seen in much drier habitat.

Upcher's Warbler (*Hippolais languida*)

- 6/3 1 East of Mudday.

A wee bit early for this species, but seen (and photographed) very well.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

- 26/2 2 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 28/2 2 Wadi Bani Awf ; 1/3 7 Al Qurm.

Plain Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus neglectus*)

- 25/2 1 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 26+27/2 1+1 Wadi X.

We expected to see more of this dull little bird in the north, but at least we saw it very well.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

- Very common in the northern mountains.

Arabian Warbler (*Sylvia leucomelaena*)

- Common in wadis around Salalah.



Shinning Sunbird, Nile Valley Sunbird, Long-billed Pipit, Black-crowned Tchagra, Arabian Warbler and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Asian Desert Warbler (*Sylvia nana*)

- 3/3 1 Wadi Mughsayl ; 6/3 1 Mudday.

Ménétriés's Warbler (*Sylvia mystacea*)

- 2+7/3 1+1 Ayn Hamran ; 6/3 1 Mudday.

Arabian Babbler (*Turdoides squamiceps*)

- 26+27/2 16+4 Al Ghubrah Bowl.

Abyssinian White-eye (*Zosterops abyssinicus*)

- Common in the south.

Rosy Starling (*Sturnus roseus*)

- 3/3 9 Raysut Lagoon.

Came flying in late in the afternoon to sleep in the bushes standing in the water just by the main road.

Tristram's Starling (*Onychognathus tristramii*)

- Very common in the south.

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

- 7/3 1 Wadi Darbat ; 8/3 1 Wadi Mughsayl.

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

- Common in northern mountains.

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*)

- 3/3 2 Wadi Mughsayl ; 6/3 3 Kawr Sawli.

Red-tailed Wheatear (*Oenanthe chrysopygia*)

- Common in the north ; 6/3 1 Thumrait Dump.

Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*)

- Widespread and fairly common.

Arabian Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugentoides*)

- Fairly common in the south.

Another one of those birds which taxonomic status is still unclear. Some consider it a subspecies of Abyssinian Wheatear (*O. lugubris*), others a race of Mourning Wheatear (*O. lugens*) and still others a separate species.

Hume's Wheatear (*Oenanthe albonigra*)

- Fairly common in the north.

Hooded Wheatear (*Oenanthe monacha*)

- 6/3 2m Mudday.

As usual they didn't care much for having their picture taken, but at least we got a decent look. Funny - or frustrating really - how they're always much more wary than the confiding Desert Wheatear.

Blackstart (*Cercomela melanura*)

- Common and widespread in the south.

Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*)

- 27/2 1 Wadi Bani Awf.

One of the first migrants or a wintering bird? Anyway the beautiful males are always a joy to behold.

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)

- 27/2 1 Wadi X ; 28/3 1 Al Awadi - Ras Al Sawadi.

Nile Valley Sunbird (*Hedydipna metallica*)

- 6/3 11 Mudday.

A lovely species which is apparently only possible to see in this area.

Palestine Sunbird (*Cinnyris osea*)

- Fairly common in the southern wadis.

Shinning Sunbird (*Cinnyris habessinicus*)

- Common in the mountains surrounding Salalah.

A real stunner in their superb breeding plumage.

Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*)

- Very common in the north.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

- Common and widespread, especially in the north.

Rüppell's Weaver (*Ploceus galbula*)

- Very common around Salalah.

Breeding season was clearly just beginning with several nests being built on different locations and the males just coming into their beautiful breeding plumage.

African Silverbill (*Lonchura cantans*)

- Common in the south.

Indian Silverbill (*Lonchura malabarica*)

- Quite common in the north.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

- 3+5/3 12+18 Raysut Dump ; 5+9/3 2+2 Kawr East.

Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)

- 3/3 1 Wadi Muhsayl ; 5/3 1 Kawr East ; 5/3 2 Kawr Al Baleed ; 6/3 1 Kawr Rawri.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

- 2/3 1 Ayn Hamran ; 2+7/3 3+1 Wadi Darbat ; 7/3 1 Wadi Hanna ; 9/3 1 Ayn Tobroq.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

- 3/3 3 Raysut Sewage Plant ; 3+5/3 5+21 Raysut Dump ; 6/3 1 Mudday ; 7/3 3 Wadi Darbat.

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)

- 2/3 1 Kawr Rawri.

Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*)

- 26/2 3 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 28/2 2 Wadi Bani Awf ; 28/2 1 Village Resort Motel, Al Awabi ; 8/3 9 Ayn Razat.

Yemen Serin (*Chrithagra menachensis*)

- 2/3 3 Tawi Atayr Sinkhole.

Some visitors struggle a bit with this species. We were in luck, however, since it was pretty much the first species seen on arrival, sitting on the wires above the car park when we exited the car. Pretty pleasing since we didn't really fancy spending too much time chasing this drab but rare Arabian endemic.

Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak (*Rhynchostruthus percivali*)

- 4+9/3 8+7 Ayn Tobroq ; 7/3 2 Ayn Hamran.

The species was easily found when coming to drink both by the intersection and by the car park in the wadi. Seen really well at both places too.

Striolated Bunting (*Emberiza striolata*)

- 25+28/2 3+1 Village Resort Motel, Al Awabi.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza tahapisi*)

- Abundant in the south, especially in the wadis surrounding Salalah.

Introduces species

Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) - Farly common in the north.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) - common in residential areas near the coast.

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) - abundant in coastal areas.

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) - 25/2 2 Al Ghubrah Bowl ; 1/3 1 Al Qurm.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) - Abundant and widespread.

Mammal list

Arabian Spiny Mouse (*Acomys dimidiatus*)

- 7/3 1 Wadi Darbat.

African Grass Rat (*Arvicanthis niloticus*)

- Common in the wadis east of Salalah.



African Grass Rat - Wadi Darbat

Common Genet (*Genetta genetta*)

- 7/3 1 Wadi Darbat.

Seen well sitting in one of the small trees. When we tried to approach, to get an even better view, it mysteriously disappeared into the night without us noticing.

Wild Cat (*Felis silvestris*)

- 4/3 1 Ayn Hamran.

"Our" cat was a spitting image of the one pictured on the Eriksen website. It certainly looks the part, but the question raised by Dominique Brugiére in his report, on Mammalwatching.com, is still valid: Do they even occur in this part of Oman? We saw lots of domestic cats, both at Ayn Hamran and particularly at Wadi Darbat, and they all looked quite different in both build and colours than this one.

Striped Hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*)

- 4/3 1 Ayn Hamran.

First seen briefly but well inside the shrubbery. After failing to relocate it here, we tried to intercept on the other side and succeeded spectacularly. Here we saw this lone animal really well at close range before it retreated quietly into bushes. The only regret was that we didn't get any photos despite the close encounter.

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

- Common in the north and around Mudday in the south.

Of course we checked carefully for the other fox species, but didn't find any.



Red Fox - Mudday

Honey Badger (*Mellivora capensis*)

- 7/3 2 Wadi Darbat.

Seen very well together approximately 1,5 kilometres before the last car park.

Egyptian Fruit Bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*)

- Common and widespread.

False Killer Whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*)

- 4/3 15-20 Ras Janjari.

One pod slowly moving east together.

Long-beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*)

- 5/3 20 Raysut Lighthouse.

Seen very well from the lighthouse. At first they were pretty far out, but they gradually moved closer to shore and finally came within a few hundred meters while putting on quite a show.

Spinner Dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*)

- 4/3 85 Ras Janjari.

One large pod moving quickly westwards, often jumping out of the water.

Indo-Pacific Humpbacked Dolphin (*Sotalia chinensis*)

- 8/3 6 Mughsayl Beach.

Seen very well as close as a hundred metres from the shore, where they were moving slowly east just outside the surf.

Mountain Gazelle (*Gazella gazella*)

- 6/3 1 Salalah - Thumrait ; 6/3 6 Mudday.

The first animal was seen near the Salalah - Thumrait Highway at night, and the other ones in the two wadis east of Mudday.

Rock Hyrax (*Procavia capensis*)

- 7/3 6 Jabal Samhan.

Seen almost at the very cliff edge, a couple of hundred metres west of the radio mast. Very shy animals which we only caught a fleeting glimpse of. Mind you, who wouldn't be a bit jumpy if your next door neighbours, Mr and Mrs Verreauxii, were constantly trying to kill you.



Mountain Gazelle - Mudday

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please feel free to contact either Stig on sej@primoris.dk or Jon on jon.lehmsberg@gmail.com.