

# Southern Israel 16-23<sup>rd</sup> March 2000

By Hans-Åke Gustavsson and Kristian Svensson

## General information

The main aim of our trip was to see as many as possible of the resident and migrating birds in southern Israel during the earlier part of the spring.

We bought a charter trip from Fritidsresor in Sweden for 4.233: - SEK, which included the flight from Malmö-Sturup airport and accommodation (including breakfast) in the Moon Valley Hotel in Eilat. A Ford Fiesta was rented from Hertz (pre-booked from Sweden), which cost 218: - USD for seven days, including unlimited mileage, theft protection, collision damage waiver and taxes. The car, which was almost new, gave us no problems, although some off-road driving was done. Total driven distance was 1858 km.

## Itinerary

*16<sup>th</sup> March:* Left Malmö 07.45 in the morning and arrived at Ovda airport at 14.15. After transfer to the hotel and pick-up of our car we headed down to North Beach. There we were told that an Egyptian Nightjar was present at km 20. We went there straight away but unfortunately had the bird been flushed from its day-roost and could not be relocated before dusk.

*17<sup>th</sup> March:* +27° sunny and moderate northerly wind. Birding in the Eilat-area all day: North Beach, Switzerland Park, km 20, Ofira Park, Nahal Shamon and the water pumping station. 106 species observed during the day

*18<sup>th</sup> March:* +27° sunny, increasing southerly wind. Birding at km 33, km 40, Yotvata and Shizzafon. Evening sea watch at North Beach.

*19<sup>th</sup> March:* +25° sunny and light wind (chilly in the morning!): Left Eilat 02.30 and arrived at km 8 along the Ezuz-road, south of the airfield at Nizzana at 05.30. After a few hours we continued to the sewage ponds near the gas station (Sandgrouses arriving at 08.15), then birded around the Nizzana castle during the rest of the morning. Left around lunchtime for the Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim-area where we birded along the big power-line until the evening. Back in Eilat about 21.00.

*20<sup>th</sup> March:* +20° cloudy and rather strong northerly wind: Eilat-area all day: North Beach, Km 20, Amram's Pillars, Ofira Park, Eilat cemetery, Wadi Nettafim and North Beach again.

*21<sup>st</sup> March:* +20° cloudy and still rather strong northerly wind: Wadi Mapalim-Wadi Shelomo until lunchtime, where we experienced a heavy raptor migration. Left Eilat at 13.00 together with Erik Hirschfeld and Hadoram Shirihai and headed north. Short stop at kibbutz Hazeva where we looked for a Cyprus Pied Wheatear that had been present there for a few days, before continuing to the En Tamar fishponds, south of the Dead Sea. After dusk, Nubian Nightjar was ticked-off at Ne'ot HaKikkar. Back in Eilat at 22.00.

22<sup>nd</sup> March: +20° cloudy and moderate northerly wind: km 34, km 40, Yotvata, En Tamar fishponds, Wadi Tseelim and Ein Gedi. Back in Eilat at 21.00.

23<sup>rd</sup> March: +23° Rather sunny, light winds: North Beach and Switzerland Park. Left the hotel at 11.10, Ovda at 14.30 and landed in Malmö at 19.15.

## Acknowledgements

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## List of species

**Little Grebe**-*Tachybaptus ruficollis*: 8 En Tamar fishponds 21-22.3.

**Great Crested Grebe**-*Podiceps cristatus*: 1 North Beach 17.3.

**Great Cormorant**-*Phalacrocorax carbo*: 2-5 present by every visit to North Beach.

**Little Bittern**-*Ixobrychus minutus*: 4 En Tamar fishponds 21.3.

**Striated Heron**-*Butorides striatus brevipes*: 1-4 birds present in the fish farms off North Beach. Seen on every visit.

**Cattle Egret**-*Bubulcus ibis*: 1 Switzerland Park 17.3, 2 km 40 18.3, 48 around Be'er Sheva 19.3, 2 Yotvata 22.3.

**Squacco Heron**-*Ardeola ralloides*: 2 km 20 17.3, 1 North Beach 20.3, 2 En Tamar fishponds 21-22.3, 1 North Beach 23.3.

**Western Reef Egret**-*Egretta gularis schistacea*: 2 white morph birds North Beach 17-23.3.

**Little Egret**-*Egretta garzetta*: Observed at North Beach (<30) and at En Tamar fishponds (~30).

**Great Egret**-*Egretta alba*: 2 En Tamar fishponds 21.3, 6 west of En Tamar fishponds 22.3.

**Grey Heron**-*Ardea cinerea*: Rather common.

**Black Stork**-*Ciconia nigra*: 1 Km 20 17.3, 34 Mt. Eyt (west of Shizzafon) 18.3, 3 Amram's Pillars 20.3, 58 Wadi Mapalim-Wadi Shelomo 21.3, 13 Yotvata 22.3, 81 Wadi Tseelim 22.3, 6 En Boqeq 22.3.

**White Stork**-*Ciconia ciconia*: Small numbers migrating in the Eilat-area 17-18.3, at least 4500 migrating Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim 19.3.

**Eurasian Spoonbill**-*Platalea leucorodia*: 3 south of Yotvata 18.3, 1 west of En Tamar fishponds 22.3.

**Greater Flamingo**-*Phoenicopterus ruber*: About 200 present in the km 20 saltpans all week.

**Common Shelduck**-*Tadorna tadorna*: About 200 km 20 saltpans 17.3 and 20.3, 11 west of En Tamar fishponds 22.3, 11 roosting and 80 migrating Switzerland Park 23.3.

**Eurasian Wigeon**-*Anas penelope*: 1 female Yotvata sewage ponds 18.3, 3 North Beach 18.3, 1 male Yotvata sewage ponds 22.3.

**Common Teal**-*Anas crecca*: 20 km 20 saltpans 17.3, 7 west of En Tamar fishponds 22.3.

**Mallard**-*Anas platyrhynchos*: 2 west of Be'er Sheva 19.3.

**Northern Pintail**-*Anas acuta*: 100 North Beach 16-18.3, 100 km 20 saltpans 17.3, 2 Yotvata sewage ponds 22.3.

**Garganey**-*Anas querquedula*: Observed at North Beach and the km 20 saltpans. Highest count: 70 North Beach 18.3.

**Northern Shoveler**-*Anas clypeata*: Observed at North Beach and the km 20 saltpans. Highest count: 200 North Beach 18.3.

**Common Pochard**-*Aythya ferina*: 20 North Beach 17.3, 40 North Beach 18.3.

**Tufted Duck**-*Aythya fuligula*: 16 North Beach 17.3.

**Black Kite**-*Milvus migrans*: Observed daily. Highest counts: 280 Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim 19.3, 25 migrating Amram's Pillars 20.3, 48 migrating Wadi Nettafim 20.3, 100 migrating Eilat mountains 21.3.

**Egyptian Vulture**-*Neophron percnopterus*: 2 km 33 18.3, 2 migrating Wadi Nettafim 20.3, 3 migrating Eilat mountains 21.3, 1 km 167 22.3, 2 migrating Wadi Tseelim 22.3.

**Eurasian Griffon Vulture**-*Gyps fulvus*: 1 Wadi Tseelim 22.3.

**Short-toed Eagle**-*Circaetus gallicus*: 1 km 20 17.3, 1 east of Ofaqim 19.3, 2 migrating Wadi Shelomo 21.3, 4 migrating Wadi Tseelim 22.3.

**Western Marsh Harrier**-*Circus aeruginosus*: Totally 17 recorded.

**Hen Harrier**-*Circus cyaneus*: 1 female Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim 19.3.

**Goshawk**-*Accipiter gentilis*: 1 2<sup>nd</sup> year bird east of the Nizzana castle 19.3.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk**-*Accipiter nisus*: 1 km 20 17.3, 1 km 102 22.3.

**Common Buzzard**-*Buteo buteo vulpinus*: Migrating birds observed daily in variable numbers. Highest count: about 4000 Eilat mountains 21.3.

**Long-legged Buzzard**-*Buteo rufinus*: 4 Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim area 19.3, 2 migrating Eilat mountains 21.3, 1 Wadi Tseelim 22.3.

**Lesser Spotted Eagle**-*Aquila pomarina*: 1 migrating Wadi Shelomo 21.3.

**Steppe Eagle**-*Aquila nipalensis*: Totally 39 recorded. Highest count: 29 migrating Eilat mountains 21.3.

**Imperial Eagle**-*Aquila heliaca heliaca*: 1 subadult north of Ze'elim 19.3, 2 2<sup>nd</sup> year birds migrating Wadi Shelomo 21.3, 1 adult migrating Yotvata 22.3.

**Booted Eagle**-*Hieraaetus pennatus*: 1 migrating km 40 19.3, 4 migrating Eilat mountains 21.3, 1 km 35 21.3.

**Bonelli's Eagle**-*Hieraaetus fasciatus*: 1 adult and 1 2<sup>nd</sup> year Wadi Shelomo 21.3.

**Lesser Kestrel**-*Falco naumanni*: A party of 39 south of Be'er Sheva at dusk 19.3.

**Common Kestrel**-*Falco tinnunculus*: Totally 32 recorded. Highest count: 10 migrating km 34 22.3.

**Merlin**-*Falco columbarius*: 2 Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim 19.3.

**Lanner Falcon**-*Falco biarmicus*: 1 2<sup>nd</sup> year north of Ze'elim 19.3.

**Peregrine Falcon**-*Falco peregrinus*: 1 adult and 1 2<sup>nd</sup> year Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim 19.3.

**Chukar**-*Alectoris chukar*: 3 Nizzana 19.3, 2 Ofaqim rubbish dump 19.3.

**Sand Partridge**-*Ammoperdix heyi*: 1 Eilat pumping station 17.3, 3 Wadi Nettafim 20.3, 3 Hazeva 21.3, 2 Wadi Tseelim 22.3.

**Common Quail**-*Coturnix coturnix*: Totally 28 recorded. Highest count: 10 Switzerland Park 17.3.

**Little Crake**-*Porzana parva*: 1 male and 1 female En Tamar fishponds 21.3, 4 females En Tamar fishponds 22.3.

**Common Moorhen**-*Gallinula chloropus*: 1 Switzerland Park 17.3, 1 km 40 18.3, 1 Yotvata sewage ponds 18.3, 24 En Tamar fishponds 21-22.3.

**Eurasian Coot**-*Fulica atra*: 1 Switzerland Park 17.3, 2 Yotvata sewage ponds 18.3, 10 En Tamar fishponds 21-22.3.

**Crane**-*Grus grus*: 205 migrating Nizzana 19.3, 38 Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim 19.3, about 40 migrating En Tamar fishponds 21.3.

**Houbara Bustard**-*Chlamydotis undulata maqueenii*: 1 displaying male south of the Nizzana airfield 19.3.

**Oystercatcher**-*Haematopus ostralegus*: 3 North Beach 18.3.

**Black-winged Stilt**-*Himantopus himantopus*: 10 Switzerland Park 17.3, 75 km 20 salt pans 17.3, about 10 En Tamar fishponds 21-22.3, about 10 Switzerland Park 23.3.

**Pied Avocet**-*Recurvirostra avosetta*: 14 km 20 salt pans 17.3.

**Stone-curlew**-*Burhinus oediconemus*: 2 heard after dusk at Ne'ot HaKikkar 21.3.

**Cream-coloured Cursor**-*Cursorius cursor*: 4 south of the Nizzana airfield 19.3.

**Little Ringed Plover**-*Charadrius dubius*: 4 flying north at km 40 and probably the same birds later at Yotvata 22.3.

**Common Ringed Plover**-*Charadrius hiaticula*: 5 North Beach 17.3, About 20 km 20 salt pans 17.3, 10 km 20 salt pans 20.3, about 10 North Beach 23.3.

**Kentish Plover**-*Charadrius alexandrinus*: 3 North Beach 17.3, about 15 km 20 salt pans 17.3, 5 km 20 salt pans 20.3, 3 Switzerland Park 23.3.

**Greater Sand Plover**-*Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus*: 1 North Beach 17.3, 2 km 20 salt pans 17.3.

**Grey Plover**-*Pluvialis squatarola*: 1 Switzerland Park 17.3 and 23.3.

**Spur-winged Lapwing**-*Vanellus spinosus*: Totally 73 recorded. Highest count: 20 Yotvata sewage ponds 18.3.

**Little Stint**-*Calidris minuta*: 40 km 20 salt pans 17.3, 1 km 40 sewage ponds 18.3, 5 km 20 salt pans 20.3.

**Dunlin**-*Calidris alpina*: 2 km 20 salt pans 17.3.

**Ruff**-*Philomachus pugnax*: 5 Switzerland Park 17.3, about 50 km 20 salt pans 17.3, 1 Yotvata fields 22.3, 25 Switzerland Park 23.3.

**Black-tailed Godwit**-*Limosa limosa*: 2 km 20 salt pans 17.3 and 20.3.

**Common Redshank**-*Tringa totanus*: Numerous at the km 20 salt pans 17.3 and 20.3, 10 Switzerland Park 23.3.

**Marsh Sandpiper**-*Tringa stagnatilis*: 2 Switzerland Park 17.3, 1 km 20 salt pans 17.3, 2 Switzerland Park 23.3.

**Common Greenshank**-*Tringa nebularia*: 3 Switzerland Park 17.3, 2 Switzerland Park 23.3.

**Green Sandpiper**-*Tringa ochropus*: Recorded at Switzerland Park, km 20 salt pans and En Tamar fishponds.

**Arctic Skua**-*Stercorarius parasiticus*: 1 adult North Beach 20.3.

**White-eyed Gull**-*Larus leucophthalmus*: Observed on every visit to North Beach. Highest counts: 42 on 20.3 and 40 on 18.3.

**Pallas's Gull**-*Larus ichtyaetus*: At least seven different birds seen at North Beach 16-23.3: 4 adults, 2 3<sup>rd</sup> year birds and 1 2<sup>nd</sup> year bird.

**Little Gull**-*Larus minutus*: 1 2<sup>nd</sup> year bird North Beach 17.3 and 23.3.

**Black-headed Gull**-*Larus ridibundus*: Numerous at Eilat.

**Slender-billed Gull**-*Larus genei*: 18 North Beach 17.3, 10 migrating Switzerland Park 17.3, about 20 km 20 salt pans 17.3, about 40 North Beach 18.3, recorded but not counted North Beach and km 20 salt pans 20.3, 25 North Beach 23.3.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**-*Larus fuscus*: Migrating flocks recorded daily at Eilat. Highest count: 250 on 18.3.

**Pontic Gull**-*Larus (argentatus) cachinnans*: Up to 10 at North Beach 16-23.3.

**Caspian Tern**-*Sterna caspia*: 2 North Beach 18.3, 20.3 and 23.3.

**Sandwich Tern**-*Sterna sandvicensis*: 2 North Beach 17.3, 18.3 and 23.3.

**Common Tern**-*Sterna hirundo*: 2 North Beach 20.3, 6 North Beach 23.3.

**Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse**-*Pterocles lichtensteinii*: 27 drinking at dusk at the Eilat pumping station 17.3.

**Spotted Sandgrouse**-*Pterocles senegallus*: 30 Nizzana sewage ponds 19.3.

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse**-*Pterocles orientalis*: 5 Nizzana sewage ponds 19.3.

**Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**-*Pterocles alchata*: 97 south of the Nizzana airfield 19.3.

**Rock Dove**-*Columba livia*: Feral birds common.

**Collared Dove**-*Streptopelia decaocto*: Common. Observed daily.

**Laughing Dove**-*Streptopelia senegalensis*: Common. Observed daily.

**Namaqua Dove**-*Oena capensis*: 1 male and 1 female km 40 palmgrove 18.3, 2 females km 40 palmgrove 22.3.

**Striated Scops Owl**-*Otus brucei*: 1 roosting bird seen from very close range in a small orchard, "Leaa Sachrovs garden", just south of the Nizzana castle 19.3.

**Scops Owl**-*Otus scops*: 1 Ofira Park, Eilat 17.3 and 20.3.

**Little Owl**-*Athene noctua*: 1 Ofaqim rubbish dump 19.3, 1 calling Ne'ot HaKikkar 21.3.

**Nubian Nightjar**-*Caprimulgus nubicus*: 1 displaying male at Ne'ot HaKikkar 21.3.

**Common Swift**-*Apus apus*: Common. Observed daily.

**Pallid Swift**-*Apus pallidus*: 5 North Beach 17.3, 1 Switzerland Park 17.3, 5 km 20 salt pans 17.3, 1 En Tamar fishponds 21.3, 5 migrating km 34 22.3.

**Little Swift**-*Apus affinis*: 1 migrating with other swifts at km 34 22.3.

**White-throated Kingfisher**-*Halcyon smyrnensis*: 1 km 40 palmgrove 18.3, 1 Yotvata 18.3, 1 En Tamar fishponds 21-22.3.

**Common Kingfisher**-*Alcedo atthis*: 1 North Beach 18.3, 21.3 and 22.3. 2 North Beach 23.3.

**Pied Kingfisher**-*Ceryle rudis*: 1 North Beach 18.3, 20.3 and 23.3.

**Little Green Bee-eater**-*Merops orientalis*: 3 km 20 17.3, 1 Nahal Shamon 17.3, 1 km 32-33 18.3, 3 km 40 18.3, 6 at different locations Eilat-area 20.3, 2 Wadi Shelomo 21.3, 3 Yotvata 22.3, 1 Switzerland Park 23.3.

**Eurasian Hoopoe**-*Upupa epops*: Totally 38 observed. Highest count: 10 Yotvata fields 22.3.

**Eurasian Wryneck**-*Jynx torquilla*: 1 Ofira Park 17.3.

**Bar-tailed Lark**-*Ammomanes cincturus*: 5 at km 32-33 18.3, 2 south of the Nizzana airfield 19.3.

**Desert Lark**-*Ammomanes deserti*: 2 Mount Eyet (w of Shizzafon) 18.3, 2 Nizzana 19.3, 1 Wadi Shelomo 21.3, 5 Wadi Tseelim 22.3.

**Greater Hoopoe Lark**-*Alaemon alaudipes*: 3 km 32-33 18.3, 1 km 34 22.3.

**Bimaculated Lark**-*Melanocorypha bimaculata*: 1 km 33 18.3.

**Greater Short-toed Lark**-*Calandrella brachydactyla*: Small flocks recorded almost daily. Highest count: 30 at km 34 22.3.

**Crested Lark**-*Galerida cristata*: Common. Recorded daily.

**Eurasian Skylark**-*Alauda arvensis*: 5 Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim 19.3.

**Sand Martin**-*Riparia riparia*: Totally 10 recorded during four different days.

**Rock Martin**-*Hirundo fuligula*: 1 Switzerland Park 17.3, 5 km 20 17.3, totally 15 at different localities 18.3, Singles Eilat-area 20.3, totally 20 at different localities 21.3, totally 20 at different localities 22.3.

**Barn Swallow**-*Hirundo rustica*: Common.

**Red-rumped Swallow**-*Hirundo daurica*: 30 Switzerland Park 17.3, 10 Hazeva 21.3, 10 En Tamar fishponds 21.3, 10 Yotvata 22.3.

**Common House Martin**-*Delichon urbica*: Rather common.

**Richards pipit**-*Anthus richardi*: 2 Shizzafon 18.3.

**Tawny Pipit**-*Anthus campestris*: 1 migrating km 32-33 18.3, 1 Shizzafon 18.3, 1 migrating Nizzana 19.3, 1 Yotvata fields 22.3.

**Tree Pipit**-*Anthus trivialis*: Totally 9 birds recorded.

**Meadow Pipit**-*Anthus pratensis*: 1 Shizzafon 18.3.

**Red-throated Pipit**-*Anthus cervinus*: 3 Ofira Park 17.3, 3 Shizzafon 18.3, 3 Yotvata fields 22.3, 1 Switzerland Park 23.3.

**Water Pipit**-*Anthus spinoletta coutellii*: Rather common in suitable habitat (lawns, sewage ponds etc.). Highest count: 15 Ofira Park 17.3.

**Buff-bellied Pipit**-*Anthus rubescens japonicus*: 2 Ofira Park 17.3 and 21.3.

**Yellow Wagtail**-*Motacilla flava*: Observed in moderate numbers during five out of eight days. Racially identified birds were:

-*M. f. flava*: 2 km 20 20.3, 3 Ofira Park 21.3, 1-2 Yotvata fields 22.3.

-*M. f. feldegg*: 2 males Ofira Park 17.3, 1 male Ofira Park 21.3, 13 Yotvata fields 22.3, 3 Switzerland Park 23.3.

-*M. f. thunbergi*: 1 male Ofira Park 17.3, 2 males Ofira Park 21.3, 3 Yotvata fields 22.3.  
 -*M. f. beema*: 1 male Ofira Park 17.3, 1 male Yotvata fields 22.3.  
 -"*M. f. superciliaris*": 2 males Yotvata fields 22.3.  
**Citrine Wagtail**-*Motacilla citreola*: 1 male Yotvata sewage ponds 22.3, 1 male En Tamar fishponds 22.3.  
**Grey Wagtail**-*Motacilla cinerea*: 1 Ofira Park 17.3.  
**White Wagtail**-*Motacilla alba*: Common. Observed daily.  
**White-spectacled Bulbul**-*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*: Common. Observed daily.  
**Grey Hypocolius**-*Hypocolius ampelinus*: 1 male km 20 20.3.  
**Robin**-*Erithacus rubecula*: 1 km 40 palmgrove 18.3 and 22.3.  
**Common Nightingale**-*Luscinia megarhynchos*: 1 Switzerland Park 23.3.  
**Bluethroat**-*Luscinia svecica*: Totally 34 recorded.  
**Black Redstart**-*Phoenicurus ochruros*: 1 female Eilat pumping station 17.3.  
**Common Redstart**-*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*: Totally 43 recorded. Of these, 35 were of the race *P. p. samamisisicus*.  
**Blackstart**-*Cercomela melanura*: Rather common in mountainous areas. Totally 27 recorded.  
**Common Stonechat**-*Saxicola torquata rubicola*: Totally 18 recorded.  
**Isabelline Wheatear**-*Oenanthe isabellina*: 2 km 20 17.3, 1 Eilat 17.3, 1 km 32-33 18.3, 2 Shizzafon 18.3, 1 km 20 saltpans 20.3, 1 km 40 22.3, 1 Yotvata 22.3.  
**Northern Wheatear**-*Oenanthe oenanthe*: Rather common. >50 recorded.  
**Black-eared Wheatear**-*Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca*: Totally 45 recorded.  
**Desert Wheatear**-*Oenanthe deserti*: 1 male and 1 female km 20 17.3, 3 males and 2 females km 32-33 18.3, 1 male south of the Nizzana airfield 19.3, 1 male Nizzana castle 19.3.  
**Mourning Wheatear**-*Oenanthe lugens*: 2 Shizzafon 18.3.  
**Hooded Wheatear**-*Oenanthe monacha*: 1 male and 1 female km 20 saltpans 17.3, 1 female km 32-33 18.3, 1 male Amram's Pillars 20.3, 1 male Wadi Mapalim 21.3, 1 male Yotvata fields 22.3.  
**White-crowned Wheatear**-*Oenanthe leucopyga*: Rather common in mountainous areas. Totally 17 recorded.  
**Rock Thrush**-*Monticola saxatilis*: 1 male Shizzafon 18.3, 1 male km 40 22.3.  
**Blue Rock Thrush**-*Monticola solitarius*: 1 female near the Eilat pumping station 17.3.  
**Song Thrush**-*Turdus philomelos*: Totally 14 recorded.  
**Cetti's Warbler**-*Cettia cetti*: 1 En Tamar fishponds 21.3, 1 singing Switzerland Park 23.3.  
**Graceful Prinia**-*Prinia gracilis*: Common.  
**Scrub Warbler**-*Scotocerca inquieta*: 2 Wadi Mapalim 21.3.  
**Sedge Warbler**-*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*: 1 Switzerland Park 17.3, 2 En Tamar fishponds 21.3.  
**European Reed Warbler**-*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*: 3 singing En Tamar fishponds 22.3.  
**Clamorous Reed Warbler**-*Acrocephalus stentoreus*: 2 singing En Tamar fishponds 22-23.3.  
**Olivaceous Warbler**-*Hippolais pallida elaeica*: 1 Yotvata 22.3.  
**Sardinian Warbler**-*Sylvia melanocephala*: Rather common. Totally 30 recorded.  
**Cyprus Warbler**-*Sylvia melanothorax*: 1 male km 20 17.3, 2 males Nahal Shamon 17.3, 1 male km 20 20.3.  
**Rüppell's Warbler**-*Sylvia rueppelli*: 1-2 males and 1 female Eilat cemetery 20.3, 1 male Yotvata 22.3.  
**Arabian Warbler**-*Sylvia leucomelaena*: 1 male and 1 female Yotvata 18.3.  
**Orphean Warbler**-*Sylvia hortensis crassirostris*: 1 male and 1 female Yotvata 18.3, 1 male Yotvata 22.3.  
**Lesser Whitethroat**-*Sylvia curruca*: Common.  
**Common Whitethroat**-*Sylvia communis*: 1 Nahal Shamon 17.3, 1 km 40 palmgrove 18.3, 1 Nizzana 19.3, 2 Eilat cemetery 20.3, 3 km 40 palmgrove 22.3.

**Blackcap**-*Sylvia atricapilla*: Rather scarce, only 13 recorded.

**Bonelli's Warbler**-*Phylloscopus bonelli orientalis*: 1 "Leaa Sachrovs garden", Nizzana 19.3, 1 Wadi Mapalim 21.3, 1 km 40 palmgrove 22.3.

**Chiffchaff**-*Phylloscopus collybita*: Common.

**Arabian Babbler**-*Turdoides squamiceps*: 5 km 20 17.3 and 20.3, 1 Hazeva 21.3, 1 En Tamar fishponds 21.3 and 22.3.

**Palestine Sunbird**-*Nectarinia osea*: Rather common. Totally 22 recorded.

**Great Grey Shrike**-*Lanius excubitor*: 4 Nizzana 19.3, 1 Ze'elim-Urim-Ofaqim 19.3, 2 Hazeva 21.3.

**Woodchat Shrike**-*Lanius senator*: Totally 16 recorded.

**Masked Shrike**-*Lanius nubicus*: 1 Yotvata 18.3, 1 Nizzana sewage ponds 19.3, 1 km 20 20.3, 1 Ofira Park 20.3, 1 km 40 palmgrove 22.3, 2 Yotvata 22.3, 1 Switzerland Park 23.3.

**House Crow**-*Corvus splendens*: Rather common in the Eilat area.

**Hooded Crow**-*Corvus corone*: Only recorded in the Nizzana area, where it was common.

**Brown-necked Raven**-*Corvus ruficollis*: Rather common.

**Fan-tailed Raven**-*Corvus rhipidurus*: 5 Wadi Tseelim 22.3, 1-2 Ein Gedi 22.3.

**Tristram's Starling**-*Onychognathus tristramii*: 3 Nahal Shamon 17.3, 2 km 32-33 18.3, 1 Ofira Park 20.3, 9 Eilat area 20.3, 2 Moon Valley Hotel, Eilat 23.3.

**Eurasian Starling**-*Sturnus vulgaris*: 3 west of Hazerim 19.3.

**House Sparrow**-*Passer domesticus biblicus*: Common.

**Spanish Sparrow**-*Passer hispaniolensis*: Rather common.

**Dead Sea Sparrow**-*Passer moabiticus*: 75 km 20 greenhouses 20.3.

**Indian Silverbill**-*Euodice malabarica*: 3 km 40 palmgrove 18.3.

**Syrian Serin**-*Serinus syriacus*: 4 Shizzafon 18.3.

**European Greenfinch**-*Carduelis chloris*: 4 km 40 18.3, 5 Shizzafon 18.3, 3 Nizzana 19.3, 6 km 40 22.3.

**Goldfinch**-*Carduelis carduelis*: 1 Switzerland Park 17.3.

**Linnet**-*Carduelis cannabina*: 1 Eilat cemetery 20.3, 5 km 40 22.3, 4 Yotvata 22.3.

**Desert Finch**-*Rhodospiza obsoleta*: 2 "Leaa Sachrovs garden", Nizzana 19.3, 2 Hazeva 21.3.

**Trumpeter Finch**-*Bucanetes githagineus*: 8 Nahal Shamon 17.3, 3 km 40 18.3, 6 Shizzafon 18.3, 1 km 40 palmgrove 18.3, 1 Eilat cemetery 20.3, 5 Wadi Mapalim 21.3.

**Ortolan Bunting**-*Emberiza hortulana*: 5 km 40 palmgrove 18.3, 2 Shizzafon 18.3, 1 Wadi Mapalim 21.3.

**Cretzschmar's Bunting**-*Emberiza caesia*: 1 km 20 20.3, 2 Eilat cemetery 20.3, 4 Hazeva 21.3, 6 km 40 22.3, 1 Yotvata 22.3.

Totally 185 species.

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