

# The UAE and Oman



'Kalba Collared Kingfisher'

**FEB 10-21, 2004**

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(Text and photos)

## Introduction

The Shell Birdwatching Guide to the UAE by Colin Richardson and Simon Aspinal and Birdwatching Guide to Oman by Hanne and Jens Eriksen are such thorough works on bird life in the countries mentioned that we had no essential problems in planning a trip to that part of the Arabian Peninsula. As the descriptions of the sites in the above guidebooks are very detailed this will not be the issue in this report unless the present state proved otherwise than described. Neither will there be any details about itinerary at the sites themselves unless we did not follow directions. Besides many good reports on the Internet, do consult the <http://uaeinteract.com/nature/bird/twitch.asp> and <http://www.birdsoman.com/>, which follow the bird life of the region closely.

A good road map is quite another matter so if you can find a decent one at home, or in a bookstore before leaving Dubai - buy it first thing! We created a problem for ourselves in leaving Dubai early in the morning and in considering buying a map no obstacle at all in an otherwise well-functioning country. It was! By the way, the same thing goes for buying postcards, which only proves that this is indeed no touristy haven! Thank God!

We flew KLM from Denmark to Dubai for D.kr 4400 (US \$780) and knowing to arrive late we had booked at Queens Hotel, Deira (Dkr. 215/person (US \$37)) from home. The night after we managed to lower the price to Dh 170/double (\$ 24/person) for the very same rooms! Both in the UAE and in Oman it was the custom to ask for a better price than the one listed, which meant staying in hotels was somewhat cheaper than mentioned in Lonely Planet's excellent guide to the area: Oman and the UAE. Prices hacked are mentioned along the itinerary. Generally accommodation was quite satisfactory. It was easy to find good food after nightfall more or less close to our lodgings. There was generally a good variety of Indian, Pakistani, Iranian, Syrian cuisine available. Excellent for afterbirding!

We had been informed that we could get a joined visa to the UAE and Oman when arriving. That had changed so that we did not need a visa (coming from the EU) to the UAE. This was nice of course, but this also meant that nobody knew about how to get a visa for Oman – and nobody cared. Suspense was kept until we reached the Omani border. This goes for the reader of this report as well!.

From home we had rented a Mazda 6.0 at Dh 2750 (\$770) besides an extra insurance of Dh 450 (\$125) for bringing the car across to Oman for a week plus Dh 30 for an extra driver. It proved a very nice vehicle for those 3127 km. Another luxury was the gas prices at the level of 1 Dh/litre, and it was very easy to get around by car. It did not seem problematic to drive anywhere at night.

The weather was very decent through our whole trip as were the people everywhere we went, another nice basis for a good trip – so let us get to the birds!

## Itinerary

In the following all birds observed are mentioned. There are references to the site numbers mentioned in Richardson and Eriksen. In the special case of overlap in Oman there are references to both guidebooks. Interesting races are mentioned in *italics*.

Wed  
Feb. 11

### **Queens Hotel, Deira – Emirates Golf Course 7.00-7.45**

Great Cormorant 17, Greater Flamingo 500 (**Khor Dubai (A1)**), Red-wattled Lapwing 1, Black-headed Gull 6, Slender-billed Gull 12, Rock Dove 65, Palm Dove 51, Eurasian Collared Dove 2, Crested Lark 1, House Crow 18, Common Mynah 24, House Sparrow 27.

### **Emirates Golf Course (A4) 7.45-14.10**

*It was easy to get access by turning up at the entrance. We just had to sign and then report again when leaving the area.*

Little Grebe 29, Great Cormorant 11, Cattle Egret 7, Little Egret 4, Grey Heron 11, Greater Flamingo 2, Gadwall 2, Teal 11, Mallard 6, Pintail 4, Shoveller 14, Shikra 1 (escape?), Grey Francolin 12, Moorhen 12, Black-winged Stilt 4, Red-wattled Lapwing 5, Ruff 1, Pintail Snipe 1, Curlew 3, Greenshank 1, Common Sandpiper 4, Black-headed Gull 5, Slender-billed Gull 8, *Caspian Gull* 2, Palm Dove 56, Eurasian Collared Dove 42, Rose-ringed Parakeet 22, Pallid Swift 37, Little Green Bee-eater 5, Indian Roller 26, Hoopoe 12, Crested Lark 6, White Wagtail 5, White-cheeked Bulbul 32, Red-vented Bulbul 11, Bluethroat 1, Black Redstart (*phoenicuroides*) 1 M, Song Thrush 1, Graceful Warbler 11, Olivaceous Warbler 1, Chiffchaff 9, Purple Sunbird 13, Isabelline Shrike 3, Southern Grey Shrike 1, House Crow 17, Common Mynah 37, House Sparrow 85, Indian Silverbill 7.

### **Dubai Pivot Fields 15.00-17.00**

*This location is not mentioned in Richardson, but go south from Dubai in the direction of Hatta (E44). After around 20 km you must look for a sign saying “Sewage Treatment Plant” and a number of yellow trucks going to and fro the area. After some initial bumps take the left road at a Y-junction. Going a few hundred yards further eventually brings you to the entrance to the area on your left hand side. Ask for admission at the gate. You can bring your car but see to it that you do not park it in the way of people working.*

Grey Heron 1, Glossy Ibis 14, Kestrel 2, Grey Francolin 13, Moorhen 2, Little Ringed Plover 8, Red-wattled Lapwing 37, White-tailed Plover 11 (outside the fence), Lapwing 1, Temminck’s Stint 9, Common Snipe 33, Curlew 2, Wood Sandpiper 1, Common

Sandpiper 2, Palm Dove 30, Eurasian Collared Dove 40, Rose-ringed Parakeet 3, Pallid Swift 30, Hoopoe 2, Crested Lark 35, Skylark 1, Sand Martin 2, Barn Swallow 10, Blyth's Pipit 1, Red-throated Pipit 50, Water Pipit 60, Yellow Wagtail 60, White Wagtail 35, Citrine Wagtail 2, White-cheeked Bulbul 1, Bluethroat 5, Isabelline Wheatear 3, Clamorous Reed Warbler 1, Ménétries' Warbler 1, Purple Sunbird 4, Isabelline Shrike 2, Southern Grey Shrike 1, Common Mynah 15, Starling 8.

**Mushrif National Park (A6) 18.05-19.15**

*Of course we went here to view the Striated Scops Owls. They did not let us down foraging nicely on beetles in the floodlights adjacent to the parking lot on both sides of the road. They were much better than us at ignoring the incredible noise from nearby festivities.*

Palm Dove 15, Eastern Collared Dove 10, Striated Scops Owl 6, Song Thrush 1, Common Mynah 40.

Thu  
Feb. 12

**Dubai - Ajman 7.00-7.45**

Black-headed Gull 90, Slender-billed Gull 16, Caspian Gull 1, Rock Dove 70, Palm Dove 39, Pallid Swift 19, Crested Lark 4, House Crow 5, House Sparrow 10, Common Mynah 44.

**Wetland area just W of Ajman 7.45-8.45**

*Richardson does not mention this area. Anyway, it will evidently be filled up soon.*

Little Egret 2, Greater Flamingo 2, Black-winged Stilt 30, Little Ringed Plover 19, Ringed Plover 21, Kentish Plover 104, Red-wattled Lapwing 1, Little Stint 21, Curlew Sandpiper 1, Redshank 5, Black-headed Gull 16, Slender-billed Gull 4, Whiskered Tern 5, Palm Dove 10, Crested Lark 20, Common Mynah 4, House Sparrow 6.

**Ajman - Al Jazeerah Khor 8.45-9.50**

Rock Dove 6, Palm Dove 23, Pallid Swift 8, Little Green Bee-eater 1, Indian Roller 1, Crested Lark 43, Common Mynah 5, House Sparrow 2.

**Al Jazeerah Khor (D1) 9.50-11.00**

Great Cormorant 8, Western Reef Heron 20, Great White Egret 1, Spoonbill 3, Greater Flamingo 14, Osprey 1, Oystercatcher 5, Black-winged Stilt 1, Crab Plover 1, Lesser Sand Plover 4, Greater Sand Plover 14, Grey Plover 15, Bar-tailed Godwit 4, Curlew 20, Redshank 6, Marsh Sandpiper 2, Greenshank 6, Terek Sandpiper 18, Turnstone 6, Slender-billed Gull 120, Gull-billed Tern 6, Saunders' Little Tern 3, Palm Dove 2, Rose-

ringed Parakeet 2, Pallid Swift 10, Little Green Bee-eater 3, Asian Desert Warbler 1, Purple Sunbird 3, Southern Grey Shrike 5, Common Mynah 1.



Al Jazeerah Khor. The thorny scrub proved excellent for Ménétries' and Asian Desert Warbler

**Al Jazeerah Khor – Ra's-al-Khaimah – Khor el Beidah – Ra's al Khaimah 11-13.00  
+ 17.00-19.00**

Greater Spotted Eagle 1, Caspian Gull 4, Rock Dove 10, Palm Dove 17, Pallid Swift 1, Brown-necked Raven 2, Common Mynah 4, House Sparrow 22.

**Khor el Beidah (C2) 13.00-17.00**

*This was at high tide so it was very fortunate as to our main target species Great Knot and Crab Plover. However, when we had spent some time on the site we were politely asked to leave the area close to the palace (where all the waders were) by the military.*

Western Reef Heron 22, Great White Egret 15, Grey Heron 15, Greater Flamingo 290, Marsh Harrier 3, Greater Spotted Eagle 2, Osprey 2, Kestrel 1, Oystercatcher 110, Crab Plover 67, Little Ringed Plover 1, Ringed Plover 25, Kentish Plover 20, Lesser Sand Plover 22, Greater Sand Plover 193, Red-wattled Lapwing 2, Great Knot 38, Sanderling 4, Dunlin 950, Bar-tailed Godwit 640, Curlew 30, Redshank 115, Greenshank 10, Terek Sandpiper 26, Turnstone 59, Slender-billed Gull 250, *Caspian Gull* 3, Gull-billed Tern 5, Caspian Tern 2, Eastern Collared Dove 3, Little Green Bee-eater 4, Crested Lark 7, Barn Swallow 1, Desert Wheatear 2, Asian Desert Warbler 1, Purple Sunbird 1, Brown-necked Raven 1.

*We stayed the night at Al-Nakheel Hotel, Ra's-al-Khaimah paying Dh 150/double (\$42).*

Fri  
 Feb. 13

**Al Jazeerah Khor (D1) 6.30-9.45**

Great Cormorant 7, Western Reef Heron 35, Great White Egret 5, Grey Heron 15, Spoonbill 3, Greater Flamingo 60, Osprey 2, Chukar 1, Oystercatcher 4, Crab Plover 5, Ringed Plover 200, Kentish Plover 161, Lesser Sand Plover 20, Greater Sand Plover 30, Grey Plover 35, Temminck's Stint 13, Dunlin 400, Bar-tailed Godwit 50, Whimbrel 1, Curlew 70, Redshank 370, Terek Sandpiper 5, Turnstone 8, Sooty Gull 2, Slender-billed Gull 400, *Caspian Gull* 1, Gull-billed Tern 6, Sandwich Tern 2, Saunder's Little Tern 2, Eastern Collared Dove 15, Rose-ringed Parakeet 17, Pallid Swift 100, Little Green Bee-eater 6, Indian Roller 2, Hoopoe 1, Crested Lark 20, White-cheeked Bulbul 1, Desert Wheatear 1, Ménétries' Warbler 7, Asian Desert Warbler 9, Arabian Babbler 9, Purple Sunbird 20, Southern Grey Shrike 3, Common Mynah 12.

**Al Jazeerah Khor – Digdaga 9.45-10.30**

Black-winged Stilt 2, Palm Dove 22, Pallid Swift 60, Little Green Bee-eater 2, Indian Roller 2, Crested Lark 1, Common Mynah 5, House Sparrow 50.

**Hamraniyah Fields (D2) 10.30-15.30**

Short-toed Eagle 1, Pallid Harrier 1 2cy, Sparrowhawk 1, Red-wattled Lapwing 3, Palm Dove 30, Eastern Collared Dove 70, Pallid Swift 180, Little Green Bee-eater 29, Indian Roller 32, Hoopoe 2, Crested Lark 110, Pale Crag Martin 7, Richard's Pipit 1, Tawny Pipit 3, Long-billed Pipit 4, White-cheeked Bulbul 11, Yellow-vented Bulbul 5, Black Redstart 1, *Siberian Stonechat* 1, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Desert Wheatear 1, Eastern Pied Wheatear 1, Graceful Warbler 1, Asian Desert Warbler 4, *Desert Lesser Whitethroat* 2, Arabian Babbler 1, Purple Sunbird 26, Isabelline Shrike 1, Southern Grey Shrike 16,

Brown-necked Raven 5, Common Mynah 14, House Sparrow 200, Pale Rock Sparrow 2.

**Wadi Beah (D3) 16.50-19.45**

*We had some problems finding this site following Richardson's directory, but in the end we succeeded by turning at a sign saying "Shamal".*

Grey Heron 1, Black-winged Stilt 45, Kentish Plover 1, Red-wattled Lapwing 10, Temminck's Stint 9, Broad-billed Sandpiper 1, Common Snipe 3, Spotted Redshank 2, Greenshank 2, Wood Sandpiper 1, Terek Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 1, Palm Dove 7, Eastern Collared Dove 7, Little Green Bee-eater 1, Pale Crag Martin 24, House Martin 3, Black Redstart (*phoenicoroides*) 1, Desert Wheatear 2, Hume's Wheatear 2 M, Chiffchaff 2, Arabian Babbler 1, Southern Grey Shrike 1, House Crow 55, Common Mynah 36, House Sparrow 10.

*We spent another night at Al-Nakheel Hotel, Ra's-al-Khaimah.*

Sat  
Feb. 14

**Masafi (G1) 6.40-9.15**

Sand Partridge 2, Palm Dove 2, Desert Lark 4, Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, Black Redstart 1, Pied Wheatear 2, Desert Wheatear 2, Red-tailed Wheatear 2, Scrub Warbler 3, *Desert Lesser Whitethroat* 1, Plain Leaf Warbler 3, Purple Sunbird 2, Brown-necked Raven 1, House Sparrow 4.

**Masafi – Dibba 9.15-11.00 with a few stopovers along the way.**

Rock Dove 3, Palm Dove 12, Eastern Collared Dove 2, Pallid Swift 10, Rose-ringed Parakeet 2, Little Green Bee-eater 1, Indian Roller 5, Desert Lark 2, Pale Crag Martin 1, House Martin 1, Long-billed Pipit 2, Yellow-vented Bulbul 2, Pied Wheatear 1, Red-tailed Wheatear 2, Purple Sunbird 10, Southern Grey Shrike 2, House Crow 10, Common Mynah 1, House Sparrow 10.

**Fujairah Dairy Farm (G8) 11.00-13.15.** *There was no problem in getting admission without having obtained one in advance. We stayed near the farm only. Later on we learned (from Norbert, a German) that a Long-tailed Shrike was seen in the area across the field.*

Cattle Egret 15, Western Reef Heron 5, White Stork 6, Mallard 3, Sparrowhawk 1, Greater Spotted Eagle 1, Kestrel 2, Red-wattled Lapwing 46, Ruff 1, Common Snipe 29, Spotted Redshank 2, Green Sandpiper 1, Wood Sandpiper 2, Common Sandpiper 1, Black-headed Gull 8, Palm Dove 20, Rose-ringed Parakeet 5, Indian Roller 94, White Wagtail 15 (*personata* 1), Siberian Stonechat 1, Graceful Warbler 4, Chiffchaff 1,

Isabelline Shrike 2, House Crow 31, Common Mynah 11, Indian Silverbill 70, House Bunting 3.

**Dibba Harbour (G6.1)** 13.30-14.30. *We went to some official-looking man at the port. He titled himself “captain” and gave us kindly admittance to the area.*

Great Cormorant 15, Socotra Cormorant 1, Little Green Heron 2, Grey Heron 8, Common Sandpiper 1, Pomarine Skua 1, Sooty Gull 11, Black-headed Gull 20, *Caspian Gull* 15, Swift Tern 6, Lesser Crested Tern 27, Saunder’s Little Tern 1, Kingfisher 1.

**Dibba – Fujairah** 14.30-17.30

Grey Heron 7, Greater Flamingo 26, Osprey 2, Redshank 3, Common Sandpiper 1, Sooty Gull 4, Slender-billed Gull 3, Black-headed Gull 140, *Caspian Gull* 60, Lesser Crested Tern 2, Palm Dove 8, Pallid Swift 200, Indian Roller 27, Graceful Warbler 1, Purple Sunbird 4, House Crow 94, Common Mynah 34, House Bunting 2.

**Khor Kalba (G3)** 17.30-18.30. *As pointed out in Bunes 2004 things are changing rapidly in the area. Point 3, Map 16, p. 52 in Richardson has gone. Having seen that we went to point 2, which was still there and alive:*

Western Reef Heron 2, Grey Heron 3, Spoonbill 6, Whimbrel 3, Curlew 1, Spotted Redshank 14, Redshank 8, Terek Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 4, Palm Dove 20, Eastern Collared Dove 30, White-collared Kingfisher (*kalbaensis*) 3, Kingfisher 1, White-cheeked Bulbul 15, Syke’s Warbler 1.

*After having spent the night in Fujairah Beach Motel at Dh 210/double (\$60) we were back in the early morning:*

Sun  
Feb. 15

**Khor Kalba (G3.2+5)** 6.15-9.40. *Also the dunes (point 5, Map 16, p. 52 in Richardson) had been levelled for a higher purpose. This visit did not include the beach.*

Indian Pond Heron 15, Cattle Egret 4, Western Reef Heron 9, Grey Heron 2, Ringed Plover 4, Kentish Plover 5, Lesser Sand Plover 25, Greater Sand Plover 10, Grey Plover 5, Whimbrel 15, Curlew 8, Redshank 15, Spotted Redshank 15, Greenshank 10, Terek Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 6, Palm Dove 30, Eastern Collared Dove 65, White-collared Kingfisher 9, Kingfisher 2, Short-toed Lark 15, Crested Lark 35, Tawny Pipit 20, White-cheeked Bulbul 38, Desert Wheatear 3, Rock Thrush 1, Clamorous Reed Warbler 5, Syke’s Warbler 3, Asian Desert Warbler 18 (*in the small bushes*), Purple Sunbird 5, Isabelline Shrike 4, *Steppe* Grey Shrike 1.



**Kalba Port (G3.1) 9.45-10.15**

Great Cormorant 4, Western Reef Heron 1, Grey Heron 1, Oystercatcher 1, Kentish Plover 2, Common Sandpiper 2, Sooty Gull 34, Great Black-headed Gull 4, Black-headed Gull 150, *Siberian Gull* 5, *Caspian Gull* 10, Swift Tern 8, Lesser Crested Tern 32, Sandwich Tern 15, Whiskered Tern 2, Palm Dove 1, Desert Wheatear 1, House Crow 5, House Sparrow 4.

**Fujairah Port Beach (G2) 10.30-12.30**

Black-necked Grebe 6, Great Cormorant 2, Socotra Cormorant 20, Western Reef Heron 7, Little Egret 2, Great White Egret 1, Kentish Plover 7, Sanderling 2, Lesser Sand Plover 5, Greater Sand Plover 20, Arctic Skua 1, Sooty Gull 60, Great Black-headed Gull 4, Black-headed Gull 800, Slender-billed Gull 300, *Caspian Gull* 60, Swift Tern 6, Lesser Crested Tern 300, Sandwich Tern 15, Common Tern observed, Common/White-cheeked Tern 750, White-cheeked Tern 2+, Whiskered Tern 8.

**Fujairah – Dhaid – Al Ain 12.30-17.00**

Kestrel 1, Palm Dove 138, Eastern Collared Dove 900, Little Green Bee-eater 34, Indian Roller 2, Crested Lark 14, White-cheeked Bulbul 1, Purple Sunbird 6, Brown-necked Raven 1, Common Mynah 1, House Sparrow 125.

**Fossil Valley (F4/6.1) 17.30-18.45**

Palm Dove 6, Eastern Collared Dove 15, Rose-ringed Parakeet 3, *Desert Eagle Owl* 1, Isabelline Wheatear 5, Desert Wheatear 20, Asian Desert Warbler 1, Southern Grey Shrike 3, House Crow 2, Brown-necked Raven 2, House Sparrow 100.

*We stayed the night in Buraimi, Hamasa Hotel at Dh 130/double.*

**Mon  
Feb. 16**

**Fossil Valley (F4/6.1+6.3). 5.50-10.45.** *This visit included the ponds at the sewage plant.*

Shelduck 2, Teal 40, Mallard 18, Pintail 30, Shoveller 35, Pochard 34, Black-winged Stilt 10, Kentish Plover 7, Red-wattled Lapwing 28, Little Stint 19, Dunlin 5, Common Snipe 18, Pintail Snipe 3, Green Sandpiper 1, Wood Sandpiper 6, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 14, Palm Dove 15, Rose-ringed Parakeet 1, Little Owl 1, Pallid Swift 2, Black-crowned Finch-Lark 7, Desert Lark 30, Sand Martin 5, Yellow Wagtail 2, Citrine Wagtail 1, White Wagtail 80, Bluethroat 1, Desert Wheatear 1, Red-tailed Wheatear 1, Graceful Warbler 2, Scrub Warbler 1, Clamorous Reed Warbler 1, Ménétries' Warbler 3, Chiffchaff 3, Purple Sunbird 1, Southern Grey Shrike 1, *Steppe*

Grey Shrike 1, Brown-necked Raven 2, House Sparrow 20, Indian Silverbill 2, House Bunting 1.

**Hanging Gardens (F5/6.2) 11.45-13.40**

Short-toed Eagle 1, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse 2, Palm Dove 20, Eastern Collared Dove 15, Yellow-vented Bulbul 6, Red-tailed Wheatear 6, Asian Desert Warbler 3, Purple Sunbird 6, Arabian Babbler 1, Southern Grey Shrike 5, Trumpeter Finch 6.

**Al Ain Equestrian Race Course (F3) 15.15-16.50**

Little Ringed Plover 5, Kentish Plover 1, Red-wattled Lapwing 2, Common Sandpiper 2, Palm Dove 6, Eastern Collared Dove 2, Rose-ringed Parakeet 9, Bimaculated Lark 8, Crested Lark 25, Sand Martin 1, Tawny Pipit 7, Red-throated Pipit 1, Water Pipit 3, Yellow Wagtail 1, White Wagtail 20, White-cheeked Bulbul 2, Isabelline Wheatear 2, Desert Wheatear 2, Graceful Warbler 2, Purple Sunbird 2, Southern Grey Shrike 1, House Sparrow 10.

*Back to Hamasa Hotel.*

**Tue  
Feb. 17**

*We passed a shed in the fog late at night and were not aware of it being the essential exit from the UAE before we came to the border to Oman and they demanded an exit stamp. 25 km back to pay Dh 20/person and another go at the Omani border. We paid Dh 60/person and got a visa for a month's stay if we felt like it.*

**Al Shikla – Sohar 7.00-9.00**

Black-headed Gull 6, Palm Dove 25, Eastern Collared Dove 64, Little Green Bee-eater 3, Crested Lark 4, Purple Sunbird 14, House Crow 45, Brown-necked Raven 2, Common Mynah 32, House Sparrow 90.

**Sun Farms, Sohar (2.2) 9.05-13.35.** *It was no problem to simply turn up at the entrance to ask for admission. It was granted right away.*

Cattle Egret 23, Short-toed Eagle 1, Sparrowhawk 1, Greater Spotted Eagle 7 (3 *fulvescens*), Steppe Eagle 5, Kestrel 1, Grey Francolin 4, Little Ringed Plover 4, Kentish Plover 2, Red-wattled Lapwing 27, Sociable Plover 3, Ruff 60, Common Snipe 3, Common Sandpiper 2, Black-headed Gull 40, Whiskered Tern 29, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 131, Palm Dove 15, Eastern Collared Dove 1100, Rose-ringed Parakeet 1, Pallid Swift 15, Indian Roller 8, Little Green Bee-eater 5, Black-crowned Finch-Lark 7, Crested Lark 25, Small Skylark 2, Sand Martin 48, Barn Swallow 27, House Martin 3,

Tawny Pipit 3, White Wagtail 50, Yellow-vented Bulbul 2, Isabelline Wheatear 2, Desert Wheatear 4, Graceful Warbler 2, Purple Sunbird 11, Isabelline Shrike 1, Southern Grey Shrike 1, House Crow 50, Common Mynah 43, House Sparrow 150, Indian Silverbill 27.

**Shinas (2.5) 14.40-18.10**

Great Cormorant 3, Western Reef Heron 12, Little Egret 5, Great White Egret 6, Grey Heron 2, Spoonbill 3, Osprey 1, Kentish Plover 15, Lesser Sand Plover 2, Greater Sand Plover 9, Sanderling 57, Dunlin 1, Curlew 7, Spotted Redshank 30, Greenshank 1, Arctic Skua 4, Sooty Gull 5, Greater Black-headed Gull 82, Black-headed Gull 40, Slender-billed Gull 50, *Siberian Gull* 40, *Caspian Gull* 150, Caspian Tern 4, Swift Tern 21, Lesser Crested Tern 40, Sandwich Tern 7, Palm Dove 1, Rose-ringed Parakeet 4, Indian Roller 2, Meadow Pipit 1, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Desert Wheatear 2, House Crow 33, House Sparrow 20.

*Al Wadi Hotel received us for the night: OR 27/double.*

Wed  
Feb. 18

**Sohar – Muscat 5.30-8.00**

Palm Dove 22, Eastern Collared Dove 30, Rose-ringed Parakeet 2, Indian Roller 2, Crested Lark 4, Purple Sunbird 6, House Crow 52, Common Mynah 16, House Sparrow 50.

**Sunub Waste Disposal Site (1.3) 8.30-11.50.** *This exotic site was difficult to find, but we got some help from the trend shown by the growing numbers of lorries filled with waste. At the entrance a permit to enter was given right away when we stated our purpose.*

Egyptian Vulture 36, Lappet-faced Vulture 3, Short-toed Eagle 2, Steppe Eagle 17, Imperial Eagle 1, Kestrel 1, Palm Dove 30, Pallid Swift 20, Pale Crag Martin 1, White Wagtail 2, White-cheeked Bulbul 6, Red-tailed Wheatear 3, Hume's Wheatear 2, Purple Sunbird 3, Brown-necked Raven 30, Common Mynah 6, House Sparrow 50.

**Mutrah, Dhow Harbour 14.00-14.45.** *It was actually to find a hotel that we went down to this place. We found one: Naseem Hotel at OR 15/double and after nightfall an excellent and cheap Indian restaurant just across the round-about on the same side of the street, but back to the birds:*

Western Reef Heron 3, Grey Heron 1, Common Sandpiper 3, Sooty Gull 300, Black-headed Gull 510, *Siberian Gull* 8, *Caspian Gull* 10, House Crow 5.

**Al Qurm Park (1. 2) 15.05-18.30.** We went to the rear entrance and took a look through the fence until we were let in at 16.00 (opening hours) as recommended in Eriksen.

Night Heron 3, Western Reef Heron 2, Great White Egret 2, Grey Heron 7, Glossy Ibis 1, Teal 18, Mallard 8, Garganey 3, Shoveller 1, Grey Francolin 6, Moorhen 4, Black-winged Stilt 2, Little Ringed Plover 1, Ringed Plover 2, Pacific Golden Plover 6, Red-wattled Lapwing 13, Temminck's Stint 1, Ruff 20, Common Snipe 6, Black-tailed Godwit 1, Whimbrel 1, Curlew 1, Redshank 3, Spotted Redshank 1, Greenshank 1, Wood Sandpiper 1, Green Sandpiper 2, Common Sandpiper 5, Black-headed Gull 12, *Siberian Gull* 1, Caspian Gull 9, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 2, Palm Dove 3, Eastern Collared Dove 3, Rose-ringed Parakeet 60, Pallid Swift 4, Kingfisher 1, Little Green Bee-eater 3, Indian Roller 3, Crested Lark 6, Pale Crag Martin 4, Barn Swallow 1, House Martin 1, Yellow Wagtail 4, White Wagtail 3, White-cheeked Bulbul 6, *Siberian Stonechat* 1, Graceful Warbler 4, Chiffchaff 2, Purple Sunbird 11, Isabelline Shrike 2, House Crow 70, Common Mynah 22, House Sparrow 200.

Thu  
Feb. 19

**Al Bustan Palace Hotel (1.5) 6.40-8.10**

Egyptian Vulture 1, Osprey 1, Grey Francolin 29, Red-wattled Lapwing 6, Whimbrel 1, Common Sandpiper 3, Sooty Gull 48, Slender-billed Gull 6, *Siberian Gull* 1, Swift Tern 17, Sandwich Tern 1, Pallid Swift 5, Rock Dove 15, Palm Dove 12, Rose-ringed Parakeet 10, Indian Roller 1, Wryneck 1, Pale Crag Martin 4, White Wagtail 3, Yellow-vented Bulbul 14, Red-vented Bulbul 2, Black Redstart (*phonicuroides*) 5, Graceful Warbler 3, *Desert Lesser Whitethroat* 4, Isabelline Shrike 1, Purple Sunbird 24, House Crow 38, Common Mynah 64, House Sparrow 80.

**Sunub Waste Disposal Site (1.3) 9.45-10.30**

Egyptian Vulture 27, Lappet-faced Vulture 1, Short-toed Eagle 1, Greater Spotted Eagle 1, Steppe Eagle 22, Palm Dove 8, Indian Roller 1, Pale Crag Martin 3, Red-tailed Wheatear 1, Purple Sunbird 1, Brown-necked Raven 30, House Sparrow 10.

**Muscat – 17 km N Sohar 10.30-13.30**

Palm Dove 11, Eastern Collared Dove 6, Rose-ringed Parakeet 3, Pallid Swift 8, Little Green Bee-eater 5, Indian Roller 30, Crested Lark 6, Purple Sunbird 2, House Crow 65, Common Mynah 2, House Sparrow 13.

**17 km N Sohar – Al Ain (the UAE) 13.40-15.30** *We thought it best to cross the border at the same spot as we entered Oman. This was recommended in the past. We paid OR 2 for an exit vehicle visa. It had been a very pleasant stay in Oman indeed!*

Palm Dove 14, Eastern Collared Dove 14, Pallid Swift 2, Crested Lark 16, Pale Crag Martin 3, Purple Sunbird 2, Brown-necked Raven 2, House Sparrow 30.

**Hanging Gardens (F5/6.2) 16.15-19.30**

Bonelli's Eagle 1 ad, Sand Partridge 5, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse 2, Rock Dove 6, Palm Dove 8, Eastern Collared Dove 3, *Desert* Eagle Owl 1, Little Green Bee-eater 8, Desert Lark 22, Pale Crag Martin 10, Yellow-vented Bulbul 10, Red-tailed Wheatear 8, Asian Desert Warbler 2, *Desert* Lesser Whitethroat 2, Purple Sunbird 2, House Bunting 1.

*Back to Hamasa Hotel.*

Fri  
Feb. 20

**Jebel Hafeet (F1) 6.40-10.30**

Sand Partridge 5, Rock Dove 9, Palm Dove 5, Eastern Collared Dove 2, Pallid Swift 1, Desert Lark 9, Pale Crag Martin 5, Yellow-vented Bulbul 2, Black Redstart (*phoenicuroides*) 8, Desert Wheatear 2, Red-tailed Wheatear 5, Hooded Wheatear 3, Hume's Wheatear 13, Blue Rock Thrush 8, *Desert* Lesser Whitethroat 3, House Sparrow 50, House Bunting 6.

**Jebel Hafeet – Al Ain - Abu Dhabi 10.30-14.45**

Palm Dove 5, Eastern Collared Dove 5, Pallid Swift 3, Indian Roller 2, Little Green Bee-eater 11, Yellow-vented Bulbul 2, Purple Sunbird 3.

**Al Wathba Camel Racetrack, Abu Dhabi (B7) 14.45-19.30** *We met Steve James and Rob Qusted, who kindly put light on the Egyptian Nightjars roosting on the tracks after dark. They also informed us of many pipits, larks and shrikes further inside the area. However, our main target was a little dove...*

Marsh Harrier 3, Kestrel 2 (1 with "jesses"), Quail 2, Grey Francolin 12, Ruff 67, Curlew 3, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 152, Palm Dove 150, Eastern Collared Dove 400, Namaqua Dove 1 M (*among the camels on the other side of the road*), Egyptian Nightjar 19, Little Green Bee-eater 1, Lesser Short-toed Lark 2, Crested Lark 30, Barn Swallow 70, Tawny Pipit 5, White Wagtail 44, White-cheeked Bulbul 900, Yellow-vented Bulbul 12, Isabelline Wheatear 3, Desert Wheatear 2, Purple Sunbird 1, Isabelline Shrike 1, House Sparrow 500.

*We stayed the night at Zakher Hotel, Abu Dhabi at Dh 150/double. From the restaurant across the street we eventually became aware why our two friends at the racecourse had smiled broadly when we mentioned the name of our hotel – it simply doubled as a brothel!*



Hooded Wheatear, female, Jebel Hafeet

**Sat**  
**Feb. 21**

**Ghantoot (A9) 7.45-9.30**

Egyptian Goose 2, Marsh Harrier 1, Kestrel 2, Grey Francolin 22, Pacific Golden Plover 12, *Caspian Gull* 3, Palm Dove 50, Eastern Collared Dove 35, Rose-ringed Parakeet 7, Pallid Swift 6, Crested Lark 40, Barn Swallow 1, Tawny Pipit 15, White-cheeked Bulbul 80, Yellow-vented Bulbul 20, Hypocolius 1 M, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Graceful Warbler 6, *Desert Lesser Whitethroat* 8, Purple Sunbird 10, Southern Grey Shrike 8, Common Mynah 3, House Sparrow 50.

**Wimpey Pits** 10.45-12.55 + 17.40-18.40. *This location is not mentioned in Richardson, but go south from Dubai in the direction of Hatta (E44). After around 20 km you must look for a sign saying “Sewage Treatment Plant” as well as a number of yellow trucks going to and fro the area. After some initial bumps take the road to the right at a Y-junction. Going a few hundred yards further brings you to some minor pond on your left. Park here and go across the sand to the lakes you will see further ahead. We met local Gowind Kumar, who kindly showed us the area. However, there seems to be radical changes ahead, and the area is presumably not preserved in any way.*

Little Grebe 220, Black-necked Grebe 50, Cattle Egret 11, Little Egret 4, Glossy Ibis 15, Greater Flamingo 25, Greylag Goose 1, Wigeon 82, Gadwall 77, Teal 315, Mallard 20, Pintail 250, Garganey 3, Shoveller 94, Pochard 112, Ferruginous Duck 1, Tufted Duck 8, Marsh Harrier 6, Moorhen 45, Coot 82, Crested Coot 3, Black-winged Stilt 120, Little Ringed Plover 2, Ringed Plover 4, Kentish Plover 12, Red-wattled Lapwing 14, White-tailed Plover 1, Temminck’s Stint 12, Redshank 1, Marsh Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 7, Pallid Swift 60, Little Green Bee-eater 2, Barn Swallow 8, Sand Martin 80, Citrine Wagtail 2, White Wagtail 15, Bluethroat 1, Graceful Warbler 1, Clamorous Warbler 2, Purple Sunbird 8, Isabelline Shrike 2, Common Mynah 20, Streaked Weaver 1 M.

**Dubai Pivot Fields** 13.00-17.30 *We were lucky to meet Dave Diskin, who willingly pointed out the 4 Buff-bellied Pipits.*

Cattle Egret 5, Little Egret 1, Grey Heron 1, Glossy Ibis 15 (*same as those at Wimpey Pits*), Marsh Harrier 3, Pallid Harrier 1 M, Kestrel 1, Grey Francolin 13, Little Ringed Plover 2, Ringed Plover 3, Kentish Plover 1, Red-wattled Lapwing 21, White-tailed Plover 17, Temminck’s Stint 13, Common Snipe 6, Curlew 1, Wood Sandpiper 2, Common Sandpiper 4, Palm Dove 15, Eastern Collared Dove 20, Indian Roller 1, Hoopoe 5, Bimaculated Lark 6, Short-toed Lark 12, Crested Lark 80, Skylark 3, Blyth’s Pipit 1, Tawny Pipit 20, Meadow Pipit 1, Buff-bellied Pipit 4, Red-throated Pipit 30, Water Pipit 60, Yellow Wagtail 15, Citrine Wagtail 5, White Wagtail 70 (*Personata* 2), Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, Bluethroat 2, *Siberian* Stonechat 1, Isabelline Wheatear 3, Isabelline Shrike 3, Starling 17, Common Mynah 5.

*Off we went to the airport.*

## Systematic List of Birds Observed

In case of many observations of one species only the highest numbers are mentioned. Gatherings at a site are here preferred to counts of a stretch of road. If a site is visited more than once counts varying are mentioned by means of /. Date, time and other specifications do not occur on this list as they are supposedly easy to find in the itinerary once you know the place of observation. Observations are mentioned chronologically. We observed 184 species in all.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**29** Emirates Golf Course, **220** Wimpey Pits.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

**6** Fujairah Port Beach, **50** Wimpey Pits.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Biggest count **17** Deira – Emirates Golf Course, **11** Emirates Golf Course, **15** Dibba Harbour.

**Socotra Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*

**1** Dibba Harbour, **20** Fujairah Port Beach.

**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**3** Al Qurm Park.

**Little Green Heron** *Butoroides striatus*

**3** Dibba Harbour.

**Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*

**15** Khor Kalba.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

Most noted **15** Fujairah Dairy Farm, **11** Wimpey Pits, **23** Sun Farms, Sohar.

**Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis*

Most **20/35** Al Jazeerah Khor, **22** Khor el Beidah, **12** Shinas.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

**4** Emirates Golf Course, **2** Ajman, **2** Fujairah Port Beach, **5** Shinas, **1** Dubai Pivot Fields.



**Great White Egret** *Egretta alba*

Most observed **15** Khor el Beidah, **5** Al Jazeerah Khor, **6** Shinas.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Seen singly, biggest gatherings being **11** Emirates Golf Course, **15** Khor el Beidah, **15** Al Jazeerah Khor.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

**6** Fujairah Dairy Farm.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

**14/15** Dubai Pivot Fields. Same flock was also seen visiting nearby Wimpey Pits, **1** Al Qurm Park.

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

**3** Al Jazeerah Khor, **6** Khor Kalba, **3** Shinas.

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*

The biggest flock of estimated **500** was seen at Khor Dubai, of course, but also worth mentioning are **60** Al Jazeerah Khor, **290** Khor Beidah.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

**1** Wimpey Pits. Feral according to Aspinal.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

**2** Ghantoot.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

**2** Hanging Gardens.

**Wigeon** *Anas Penelope*

**82** Wimpey Pits.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

**2** Emirates Golf Course, **77** Wimpey Pits.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Highest counts **40** Fossil Valley, **315** Wimpey Pits.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Most were **18** Fossil Valley, **20** Wimpey Pits.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

**4** Emirates Golf Course, **30** Fossil Valley, **250** Wimpey Pits.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

**3** Al Qurm Park, **3** Wimpey Pits.

**Shoveller** *Anas clypeata*

Biggest flocks were **14** Emirates Golf Course, **35** Fossil Valley, **94** Wimpey Pits.

**Pochard** *Aythya farina*

**34** Fossil Valley, **112** Wimpey Pits.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

**1** Wimpey Pits.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

**8** Wimpey Pits.

**Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*

**36/27** Sunub Waste Disposal Site, **1** Al Bustan Palace Hotel.

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgus tracheliotus*

**3/1** Sunub Waste Disposal Site.

**Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*

**1** Hamraniyah Fields, **1** Hanging Gardens, **1** Sun Farms, Sohar, **2/1** Sunub Waste Disposal Site.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

**3** Khor el Beidah, **3** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack, **1** Ghantoot, **6** Wimpey Pits, **3** Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*

**1 2 cy** Hamraniyah Fields, **1 ad M** Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

1 Hamraniyah Fields, 1 Fujairah Dairy Farm, 1 Sun Farms, Sohar.

**[Shikra** *Accipiter badius*]

1 Emirates Golf Course is a potential escape.

**Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

1 Al Jazeerah Khor – Ra's-al-Khaimah, 2 Khor el Beidah, 1 Fujairah Dairy Farm, 7 (3 *fulvescens*) Sun Farms, Sohar, 1 Sunub Waste Disposal Site.

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

5 Sun Farms, Sohar, 17/22 Sunub Waste Disposal Site.

**Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*

1 Sunub Waste Disposal Site.

**Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus*

1 ad Hanging Gardens.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

9 birds at 6 sites in all.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

11 birds at 8 sites in all.

**Chukar** *Alectoris chukar*

1 Al Jazeerah Khor.

**Sand Partridge** *Ammoperdix heyi*

2 Masafi, 5 Hanging Gardens, 5 Jebel Hafeet.

**Grey Francolin** *Francolinus pondicerianus*

Commonly seen in small nominations, most 29 Al Bustan Palace Hotel, 22 Ghantoot.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

2 Al Wathba Camel Racetrack.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Most **12** Emirates Golf Course, **45** Wimpey Pits.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

**82** Wimpey Pits.

**Crested Coot** *Fulica cristata*

**3** Wimpey Pits.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

**110** Khor el Beidah, otherwise in small numbers.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

Noted at several occasions, most **30** Ajman, **45** Wadi Beah, **120** Wimpey Pits.

**Crab Plover** *Dromas ardeola*

**1/5** Al Jazeera Khor, **67** Khor el Beidah.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

**8** Dubai Pivot Fields, **19** Ajman were the highest counts.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Biggest gatherings were **21** Ajman, **25** Khor el Beidah, **200** Al Jazeera Khor.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Commonly seen, most **104** Ajman, **161** Al Jazeera Khor.

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

**4/20** Al Jazeera Khor, **22** Khor el Beidah, **25** Khor Kalba, **5** Fujairah Port Beach, **2** Shinas.

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

**14/30** Al Jazeera Khor, **193** Khor el Beidah, **10** Khor Kalba, **20** Fujairah Port Beach, **9** Shinas.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

**6** Al Qurm Park, **12** Ghantoot.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*  
15/35 Al Jazeerah Khor, 5 Khor Kalba.

**Red-wattled Lapwing** *Hoplopterus indicus*  
37/21 Dubai Pivot Fields, 46 Fujairah Dairy Farm, 28 Fossil Valley, 27 Sun Farms, Sohar are highest counts of this widespread species.

**Sociable Plover** *Chettusia gregaria*  
3 Sun Farms, Sohar.

**White-tailed Plover** *Chettusia leucura*  
11/17 Dubai Pivot Fields, 1 Wimpey Pits.

**Lapwing** *vanellus vanellus*  
1 Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*  
38 Khor el Beidah.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*  
4 Khor el Beidah, 2 Fujairah Port Beach, 57 Shinas.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*  
21 Ajman, 19 Fossil Valley.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temmincki*  
9/13 Dubai Pivot Fields, 13 Al Jazeerah Khor, 9 Wadi Beah, 1 Al Qurm Park, 12 Wimpey Pits.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*  
1 Ajman.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*  
950 Khor el Beidah, 400 Al Jazeerah Khor, otherwise few sightings in small numbers.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*  
1 Wadi Beah.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

**60** Sun Farms, Sohar, **20** Al Qurm Park, **67** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

**33** Dubai Pivot Fields, **29** Fujairah Dairy Farm, **18** Fossil Valley are highest counts.

**Pintail Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*

**1** Emirates Golf Course, **3** Fossil Valley.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

**1** Al Qurm Park.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

**50** Al Jazeerah Khor, **640** Khor el Beidah are biggest gatherings observed.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

**1** Al Jazeerah Khor, **3/15** Khor Kalba, **1** Al Qurm Park , **1** Al Bustan Palace Hotel.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Highest scores were **20/70** Al Jazeerah Khor, **30** Khor el Beidah. Many were definitely of the long-billed race *orientalis*.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

**14/15** Khor Kalba, **30** Shinas, otherwise very small numbers.

**Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

Commonly seen, highest numbers being **115** Khor el Beidah, **370** Al Jazeerah Khor.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

**2** Al Jazeerah Khor, **1** Wimpey Pits.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Singles often noted, top counts were **6** Al Jazeerah Khor, **10** Khor el Beidah, **10** Khor Kalba.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

**2** Al Qurm Park, otherwise singles.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

2 Dubai Pivot Fields, 2 Fujairah Dairy Farm, 6 Fossil Valley and a few singles noted at other sites.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

18/5 Al Jazeerah Khor, 26 Khor el Beidah, 1 Wadi Beah, 1 Khor Kalba.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

As the name suggests commonly seen wherever the site was suitable. Highest conglomerations were 6/4 Khor Kalba, 5 Al Qurm Park, 7 Wimpey Pits.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

6/8 Al Jazeerah Khor, 59 Khor el Beidah.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

1 Dibba Harbour.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1 Fujairah Port Beach, 4 Shinas.

**Sooty Gull** *Larus hemprichii*

2 Al Jazeerah Khor, 11 Dibba Harbour, 4 Dibba – Fujairah, 34 Kalba Port, 60 Fujairah Port Beach, 5 Shinas, 300 Mutrah, Dhow Harbour, 48 Al Bustan Palace Hotel.

**Great Black-headed Gull** *Larus ichthyaetus*

4 Kalba Port, 4 Fujairah Port Beach, 82 Shinas.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

Abundant, highest score was 150 Kalba Port, 800 Fujairah Port Beach, 510 Mutrah, Dhow Harbour.

**Slender-billed Gull** *Larus genei*

Commonly observed, highest counts being 120/400 Al Jazeerah Khor, 250 Khor el Beidah, 50 Shinas, 300 Fujairah Port Beach.



Great Black-headed Gulls, Shinas

***Siberian Gull* *Larus (fuscus) heuglini***

**5** Kalba Port, **40** Shinas, **1** Al Bustan Palace Hotel, **8** Mutrah, Dhow Harbour, **1** Al Qurm Park.

***Caspian Gull* *Larus (argentatus) cachinnans/barabensis***

**60** Dibba – Fujairah, **60** Fujairah Port Beach, **150** Shinas were the highest counts.

***Gull-billed Tern* *Gelochelidon nilotica***

**6** Al Jazeerah Khor, **5** Khor el Beidah.

***Caspian Tern* *Sterna caspia***

**2** Khor el Beidah, **4** Shinas.



**Swift Tern** *Sterna bergii*

**6** Dibba Harbour, **8** Kalba Port, **6** Fujairah Port Beach, **21** Shinas, **17** Al Bustan Palace Hotel.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*

**27** Dibba Harbour, **2** Dibba – Fujairah, **32** Kalba Port, **300** Fujairah Port Beach, **40** Shinas.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandwichensis*

**15** Kalba Port, **15** Fujairah Port Beach, **7** Shinas. Otherwise singles noted.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Observed among the **750** Common/White-cheeked Terns at Fujairah Port Beach.

**White-cheeked Tern** *Sterna repressa*

**2+** Fujairah Port Beach.

**Saunders's Little Tern** *Sterna saundersi*

**3/2** Al Jazeerah Khor, **1** Dibba Harbour.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

**5** Ajman, **2** Kalba Port, **8** Fujairah Port Beach, **29** Sun Farms, Sohar.

**Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse** *Pterocles lichtensteinii*

**2** Hanging Gardens.

**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus*

**14** Fossil Valley, **131** Sun Farms, Sohar, **2** Al Qurm Park, **152** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

**65** Deira – Emirates Golf Course, **70** Dubai – Ajman were the highest estimations.

**Palm Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Abundant wherever we went. Most **138** Fujairah – Dhaid – Al Ain, **150** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack.

**Eastern Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

It was hard to miss this species. Most **900** Fujairah – Dhaid – Al Ain, **1100** Sun Farms, Sohar, **400** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

After much searching we finally succeeded in seeing **1 M** among camels opposite Al Wathba Camel Racetrack.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*

Seen around in small flocks. However, **22** Emirates Golf Course, **17** Al Jazeerah Khor, **60** Al Qurm Park.

**Striated Scops Owl** *Otus brucei*

**6** Mushrif National Park.

**Desert Eagle Owl** *Bubo (bubo) ascalaphus*

**1** Fossil Valley, **1** Hanging Gardens.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

**1** Fossil Valley.

**Egyptian Nightjar** *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

**19** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack.

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*

Commonly observed. **100** Al Jazeerah Khor, **180** Hamraniyah Fields, **200** Dibba – Fujairah were highest numbers.

**White-collared Kingfisher** *Halcyon chloris kalbaensis*

We had some excellent views of this endemic race: **3/9** Khor Kalba.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

**1** Dibba Harbour, **1/2** Khor Kalba, **1** Al Qurm Park.

**Little Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*

Often observed in the landscape. Most **29** Hamraniyah Fields, **34** Fujairah – Dhaid – Al Ain.



Indian Rollers, Hamraniyah Fields

**Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*

**26** Emirates Golf Course, **32** Hamraniyah Fields, **94** Fujairah Dairy Farm, **27** Dibba – Fujairah, **30** Muscat – 17 km N Sohar were highest numbers registered.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

**12** Emirates Golf Course, **5** Dubai Pivot Fields. Otherwise seen singly or in pairs.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

**1** Al Bustan Palace Hotel.

**Black-crowned Finch-Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps*

7 Fossil Valley, 7 Sun Farms, Sohar.

**Desert Lark** *Ammomanes deserti*

4 Masafi, 2 Masafi – Dibba, 22 Hanging Gardens, 30 Fossil Valley, 9 Jebel Hafeet.



Desert Larks, Fossil Valley

**Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculata*

8 Al Ain Equestrian Race Course, 6 Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*

15 Khor Kalba, 12 Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens*

2 Al Wathba Camel Racetrack.

**Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*

Very often observed, highest numbers: **110** Hamranyah Fields, **80** Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Small Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*

2 Sun Farms, Sohar.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

1/3 Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

**48** Sun Farms, Sohar, **80** Wimpey Pits were highest counts.

**Pale Crag Martin** *Hirundo obsoleta*

**7** Hamranyah Fields, **24** Wadi Beah, **10** Hanging Gardens. Besides often observed in small parties.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

**27** Sun Farms, Sohar, **70** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack were the biggest conglomerations.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

**3** Sun Farms, Sohar, otherwise very sporadically seen.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*

1 Hamranyah Fields.

**Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewski*

1 Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*

**3** Hamranyah Fields, **7** Al Ain Equestrian Race Course, **20** Khor Kalba, **3** Sun Farms, Sohar, **5** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack, **15** Ghantoot, **20** Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis*

**4** Hamranyah Fields, **2** Masafi – Dibba.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

1 Shinas, 1 Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

50/30 Dubai Pivot Fields, 1 Al Ain Equestrian Race Course.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

60 Dubai Pivot Fields, 3 Al Ain Equestrian Race Course.



One of four Buff-bellied Pipits, Dubai Pivot Fields

**Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*

4 Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Includes the races *feldegg*, *beema*, *thunbergi*. **60** Dubai Pivot Fields was highest score. Otherwise seen in small numbers.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

**2/5** Dubai Pivot Fields, **1** Fossil Valley, **2** Wimpey Pits.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

**35/70** Dubai Pivot Fields, **80** Fossil Valley, **50** Sun Farms, Sohar, **44** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack were highest numbers. Widespread.

*Personata* (Masked White Wagtail): **1** Fujairah Dairy Farm, **2** Dubai Pivot Fields.

**White-cheeked Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucogenys*

Seen a lot, most **900** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack, **80** Ghantoot.

**Yellow-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*

**10** Hanging Gardens, **14** Al Bustan Palace Hotel, **12** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack, **20** Ghantoot and single numbers a few other places.

**Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*

**11** Emirates Golf Course, **2** Al Bustan Palace Hotel.

**Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus*

**1** M Ghantoot.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*

**1** Emirates Golf Course, **1** Fossil Valley, **1** Wimpey Pits, **2** Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Most observations concerned *phoenicuroides*. **5** Dubai Pivot Fields, **8** Jebel Hafeet, **5** Al Bustan Palace Hotel, otherwise single observations.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

All observations concern "Siberian" *maura*. **1** Hamraniyah Fields, **1** Fujairah Dairy Farm, **1** Al Qurm Park, **1** Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*

**3** Dubai Pivot Fields, **5** Fossil Valley, **3** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack were highest numbers though often seen.

**Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*

**2** Masafi, **1** Masafi – Dibba.

**Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*

**20** Fossil Valley was definitely highest count of this often-observed species.

**Red-tailed Wheatear** *Oenanthe chrysopygia*

**2** Masafi, **2** Masafi – Dibba, **1** Fossil Valley, **6/8** Hanging Gardens, **3/1** Sunub Waste Disposal Site, **5** Jebel Hafeet.

**Eastern Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe picata*

**1** Hamraniyah Fields.

**Hooded Wheatear** *Oenanthe monacha*

**3** Jebel Hafeet.

**Hume's Wheatear** *Oenanthe alboniger*

**2** Wadi Beah, **2** Sunub Waste Disposal Site, **13** Jebel Hafeet.

**Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*

**1** Khor Kalba.

**Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*

**8** Jebel Hafeet.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

**1** Emirates Golf Course, **1** Mushrif National Park.

**Graceful Warbler** *Prinia gracilis*

Most **11** Emirates Golf Course, **6** Ghantoot.

**Scrub Warbler** *Scotocerca inquieta*

**3** Masafi, **1** Fossil Valley.





Blue Rock Thrush, Jebel Hafeet

**Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*  
1 Dubai Pivot Fields, 5 Khor Kalba, 1 Fossil Valley, 2 Wimpey Pits.

**Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*

1 Emirates Golf Course.

**Syke's Warbler** *Hippolais rama*

1/3 Khor Kalba.

**Ménétries' Warbler** *Sylvia mystacea*

1 Dubai Pivot Fields, 7 Al Jazeerah Khor, 3 Fossil Valley.

**Asian Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*

1 Khor el Beidah, 1/9 Al Jazeerah Khor, 4 Hamraniyah Fields, 18 Khor Kalba, 1 Fossil Valley, 3/2 Hanging Gardens.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Desert Lesser Whitethroat was the 'race' observed. 2 Hamraniyah Fields, 1 Masafi, 4 Al Bustan Palace Hotel, 2 Hanging Gardens, 3 Jebel Hafeet, 8 Ghantoot.

**Plain Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus neglectus*

3 Masafi.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

9 Emirates Golf Course was highest count. Seen from time to time in small numbers, presumably 'tristis-type'.

**Arabian Babbler** *Turdoides squamiceps*

9 Al Jazeerah Khor, 1 Hamraniyah Fields, 1 Hanging Gardens.

**Purple Sunbird** *Nectarinia asiatica*

Widespread, most 14 Emirates Golf Course, 20 Al Jazeerah Khor, 26 Hamraniyah Fields, 24 Al Bustan Palace Hotel.

**Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*

Both 'races' *phoenicuroides* and *isabellinus* observed with regularity, many single observations. Most 3 Emirates Golf Course, 2/3 Dubai Pilot Fields, 4 Khor Kalba.

**Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*

*Aucheri*: Most recorded were 5/3 Al Jazeerah Khor, 16 Hamraniyah Fields, 5 Hanging Gardens, 8 Ghantoot, otherwise noted singly at several sites.

*Pallidirostris* (Steppe Grey Shrike): 1 Khor Kalba, 1 Fossil Valley.

**House Crow** *Corvus splendens*

Highest site scores were **55** Wadi Beah, **50** Sun Farms, Sohar, **70** Al Qurm Park. Besides frequently noted along the road.

**Brown-necked Raven** *Corvus ruficollis*

**1** Khor el Beidah, **5** Hamraniyah Fields, **1** Masafi, **2** Fossil Valley, **30/40** Sunub Waste Disposal Site. Besides seen along the road in desert areas.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**8/17** Dubai Pivot Fields.

**Common Mynah** *Acridotheres tristis*

Abundant. At sites highest counts were **40** Mushrif National Park, **43** Sun Farms, Sohar, **64** Al Bustan Palace Hotel.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

**200** Hamraniyah Fields, **200** Al Qurm Park, **500** Al Wathba Camel Racetrack were the biggest estimations.

**Pale Rock Sparrow** *Petronia brachydactyla*

**2** Hamraniyah Fields.

**Streaked Weaver** *Ploceus manyar*

**1** M Wimpey Pits.

**Indian Silverbill** *Euodice malabarica*

**7** Emirates Golf Course, **70** Fujairah Dairy Farm, **2** Fossil Valley, **27** Sun Farms, Sohar.

**Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus*

**6** Hanging Gardens.

**House Bunting** *Emberiza striolata*

**3** Fujairah Dairy Farm, **2** Dibba – Fujairah, **1** Fossil Valley, **1** Hanging Gardens, **6** Jebel Hafeet.