

## The United Arab Emirates and Oman 2-12 January 2007

### Participants

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### General

The aim of the trip was to enjoy some good winter birding at a cold and uninspiring time of year at home and to try for a number of regional specialties, such as Lappet-faced Vulture, Grey Hypocolius and Oriental Skylark, which are generally hard to find in the Western Palearctic. Although the UAE and Oman are just outside the WP as defined by *Cramp et al*, the avifauna in the two countries is very much of a Western Palearctic flavour and a number of authorities (quite rightly in our humble opinion) now include most of the Arabian Peninsula in the WP region.

Our birding in the UAE was concentrated in the Dubai area, although we did visit several east coast sites. In Oman, we visited mainly coastal locations between the UAE border at Khatmat Milahah, an excellent birding site, and the capital, Muscat. We also visited several sites on the journey south from Muscat to Qurayyat, an easy day-trip from the capital, as well as the island of Al Fahr, just offshore from Muscat.

Both countries are easy to travel in, with value-for-money restaurants and usually very tasty food. We enjoyed Indian, Chinese, Persian, Lebanese and Mexican cooking during our stay, all of it delicious! Finding accommodation was no problem, even outside the cities, and the places we stayed were all of a perfectly adequate standard for the needs of the average travelling birder. Service is excellent and standards of hygiene etc. on a par with Europe. We found Oman to be the more pleasant of the two countries as a birding destination and were sorry to have to leave after four days when our car insurance expired. Natural habitat, in particular along the coastline, is infinitely less despoiled by "development" in Oman compared to the UAE, where birding sites are being degraded or destroyed at an alarming rate.

While traffic can be heavy in the Muscat area, outside the capital the roads are fairly empty and getting around is straightforward. By contrast, the UAE has much heavier traffic and the roads in Dubai especially can be gruelling. The five-lane freeways that run through the city are frequently clogged by such heavy traffic that jams of an hour or more are common. We also made the mistake of trying to find our way around using only the very basic map provided by the car hire firm. Road maps in Dubai are sold only at licensed book stores and we never managed to find one, though admittedly we didn't look as hard as we might. As a result, we had some frustrating moments trying to find our way on Dubai's road network. Al Ain, a city close to one of the UAE's prime birding spots, Jebel Hafeet, also proved difficult to navigate. All in all, we found that it was not possible to cover as many sites in a day from our base in Dubai as we'd expected.

### **Trip reports and birding literature**

The *Shell Birdwatching Guide to the United Arab Emirates* (Richardson and Aspinall, 1998) remains the indispensable site guide and reference but is now almost a decade old and many of its maps and site guides are out of date. The excellent website maintained by Tommy Pedersen, a Danish birder resident in Dubai, has updated much of the site information in the Shell Guide and proved an invaluable reference prior to the trip. Tommy's site is also the place to go for latest birding news and recent sightings, and also has a wealth of photographs of UAE birds and other interesting material. Tommy himself helped us with practical information ahead of our trip and is a genuinely nice guy whom we were pleased to meet by chance in Safa Park, Dubai, on the last afternoon of our stay.

In Oman, the *Birdwatching Guide to Oman* (Hanne & Jens Eriksen, 2001) is a must for information about bird sites and background. We also had with us a dozen or so trip reports, mostly downloaded from the Web. The Avifauna reports from Oman 4-19 November 2005 and the UAE 2-9 January 2006 (both in Swedish) were particularly helpful, along with several reports in English from Norwegian birders. Anders Blomdahl provided useful information ahead of the trip – thanks Anders!

*The Birds of the Middle East* (Porter, Christensen et al, 1996) is the essential field guide, with the *Collins Bird Guide* (Svensson et al, 1999) as a very useful complement. The *Macmillan Birders' Guide to European and Middle Eastern Birds* was used as reference.

### **Travel costs, car hire etc.**

Anders flew from Gothenburg and Greg from Copenhagen, meeting up in Amsterdam for the seven-hour flight to Dubai. Flights were with KLM, with Anders's round trip costing SEK 5,600 (€620) and Greg's SEK 5,400 (€600). For car hire we chose Budget, which was one of the few companies offering Omani insurance. Extra insurance for Oman is required and there's risk that you'll be turned back when leaving the UAE if you don't have the papers to prove you've paid it. Having said that, at the Al Ain border crossing there was a booth marked "Oman insurance", so it may be possible to purchase insurance on the spot, although of course this may not apply to hire cars. The hire car, a four-door Chevrolet saloon, cost SEK 2,740 (€300) for nine days, including the Oman insurance surcharge of about €80 for four days.

In Dubai we stayed at the Millennium Airport Hotel in the budget chalet wing. The room was basic but clean and sufficient for our needs and the breakfast (which cost extra) was the best of the trip and kept us going for a fair part of the day. The hotel had the major advantage of being just outside the main downtown area, which meant we saved time getting out to birding sites around the city. Booking via an Internet agency for our first two nights the rate was SEK 1,500, which worked out to an affordable SEK 375 (€42) per person. Our last two nights, booked directly with the hotel at the end of our initial stay, cost 25% extra for some unfathomable reason. We tried to haggle but the price was fixed, so we were told. Still, less than SEK 500 a night in Dubai – a city which boasts the world's only seven-star hotel – felt

like reasonable value. Elsewhere, the cost of accommodation averaged out at about SEK 350 (€35) per person and night. Including food, this worked out to a daily budget of SEK 500-600 (€55-€65) per person. One benefit of being in the Gulf states was the very low cost of petrol, with a full tank costing less than a quarter of the price in Europe.

### **Birding sites**

When reading the trip reports and other literature prior to our visit, four sites stood out as key places to visit for birds: Sohar Sun Farms in Oman, Dubai Pivot Fields, Fujairah Dairy Farm on the UAE east coast, and Sunub Waste Disposal in Muscat for raptors. The first three are all irrigated agricultural sites that serve as oases in the desert landscape. Dubai Pivot Fields more than lived up to its reputation and we saw a wealth of birds here on both our visits. Most definitely worth more than one visit if possible.

Sohar Sun Farms, one of Oman's top birding localities, was something of a disappointment since large areas were dry and only a few fields were green and being watered. Not surprisingly, numbers of larks, pipits, wagtails and other passerines were below what we'd been hoping for. Apparently, some areas of northern Oman have been suffering water tables in the last few years linked to water extraction. But whether the dryness was due to this or other seasonal or land use considerations was not apparent.

By comparison, Fujairah Dairy Farm was well watered and is an excellent place for birds. However, the premises are now under new management and more than a third of the property has been closed to birders. Ironically, the greenest fields were those now out of bounds and we were restricted to scanning the area from outside the perimeter fence – rather frustrating. It was also disappointing to discover that the drainage ditch behind the cow sheds, which used to be the best place in the UAE to see Pintail Snipe in winter, has now been levelled and filled in.

We heard shortly before our trip that Sunub Waste Disposal – *the* place in northern Oman to see large concentrations of eagles and vultures – has been closed and is no longer worth visiting. A great shame. Sunub is the location for many of the stunning Oman raptor photographs on the Web and in various bird publications. Instead, we visited two waste disposal sites, at Al Amerat and Qurayyat, south of Muscat. We saw plenty of raptors at both, though only one Lappet-faced Vulture, a species that has become harder to see in northern Oman since Sunub closed.

Other sites that we highly recommend include Al Jazeerah Khor in Dubai (although half of the site has been reclaimed for development and ruined as bird habitat), Ras al Sawadi in Oman for seawatching and gulls, Khatmat Milahah in Oman for semi-desert specialties such as Eastern Pied Wheatear and Plain Leaf Warbler, and Khawr al Mahadin near Qurayyat for shorebirds and gulls.

## Systematic trip list

- 1) Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* – 10 at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 2) Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis* – 4 at Khawr al Milh near Qurayyat, Oman 6/1
- 3) Persian Shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri persicus* – 50 fishing offshore at Khor Fakkan 8/1
- 4) Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra melanops* – 1 off Ras as Sawadi, Oman, in late-afternoon 5/1
- 5) Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* – small numbers at several sites including Al Jazeerah Khor and Muscat
- 6) Socotra Cormorant *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis* – 800 estimated at Al Jazeerah Khor 9/1 and 40 there 10/1
- 7) Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea cinerea* – widespread in small numbers at wetland and coastal sites
- 8) Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea purpurea* – 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/11 and 11/1
- 9) Great Egret *Egretta alba* – small numbers at several coastal sites, incl 10 at Al Jazeerah Khor 10/1
- 10) Little Egret *Egretta garzetta garzetta* – seen at Dubai Pivot Fields, Sohar Sun Farms, Shinas, Fujairah Dairy Farm
- 11) Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis schistacea* – widespread and common along coasts e.g. 7 at Ras al Sawadi, Oman, 5/1 and at least 50 at Al Jazeerah Khor 10/1. Dark phase predominates. One inland at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1.
- 12) Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis ibis* – seen in suitable habitat, eg 10 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 5 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1 and 15 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1
- 13) Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* – 1 at Shinas, Oman, 8/1
- 14) Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* – 1 at Liwa, Oman 7/1, 3 at Khor Fakkan 8/1
- 15) Black-crowned Night Heron *N. nycticorax nycticorax* – 1 adult at Safa Park 11.1
- 16) White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* – 2 at Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1
- 17) Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* – 9 at Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1
- 18) Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia* – 1 at Khawr al Milh, Oman, 6/1 and 3 at Al Jazeerah Khor 10/1
- 19) Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* – 3 at Qurayyat waste disposal and 6 at Khawr al Milh 6/1 and up to 150 Al Jazeerah Khor 9/1 and 10/1
- 20) Greylag Goose *Anser anser rubirostris* – 3 at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 21) Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* – 15 at Khawr al Milh 6/1, 1 at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 22) Eurasian Wigeon *Anas Penelope* – 1 at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 23) Gadwall *Anas strepera strepera* – 8 at Khawr al Milh 6/1 and 1 at Emirates Golf Course 11/1
- 24) Common Teal *Anas crecca crecca* – a few individuals seen at Dubai Pivot Fields, Sohar Sun Farms, Khawr al Milh and Sharjah Tip
- 25) Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* – a few individuals seen at Ghantoot, Sohar Sun Farms and Khawr al Milh
- 26) Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* – 9 at Khawr al Milh 6/1

- 27) Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* – the most numerous duck, with 10 at Khawr al Milh 6/1, 100+ at Sharjah Tip 11/1 and 40+ Emirates Golf Course 11/1
- 28) Common Pochard *Aythya farina* – 1 at Emirates Golf Course 11/1
- 29) Osprey *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus* – up to three individuals seen at various coastal locations
- 30) Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus orientalis* – 1 second cal year digiscoped in palm grove west of main road between Sohar and Liwa 7/1. Description submitted to the Oman Rare Birds Committee.
- 31) Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgus tracheliotus negevensis* – 1 second cal year over Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1
- 32) Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* – 1 from road between Al Amerat and Qurayyat 6/1
- 33) Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus* – 5 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 2 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 1 at Liwa 7/1, 1 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 3 at Dubai Pivot Fields and 2 at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 34) Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* – 1 adult-type female at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 1 second cal year at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1 and 1 second cal year at Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1
- 35) Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* – 1 at Ghantoot 3/1, 2 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 1 at Fujairah Dairy Farm and 1 Dibba Park 9/1
- 36) Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* – 1 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 8 (1 adult, several subadults and 4 second cal-years) at Al Amerat waste disposal and about 10 at Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1
- 37) Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis orientalis* – 20+ at Al Amerat waste disposal and 15+ at Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1. Ages well distributed between second cal-year, subadult and adult birds.
- 38) Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* – 6 individuals seen: 2 second cal-years at Al Amerat waste disposal, 2-3 second cal-years from road between Al Amerat and Qurayyat and 1 fifth cal-year and 1 second cal-year at Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1
- 39) Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus* – 2 pale phase birds at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1
- 40) Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* – lone individuals seen at a variety of sites
- 41) Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – 1 adult by roadside several kilometres south of Al Amerat 6/1
- 42) Sand Partridge *Ammoperdix heyi intermedius* – 1 pair at Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1
- 43) Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* – seen at a variety of sites in small numbers. Fairly common around Dubai, eg 15 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1
- 44) Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* – 2 seen at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1
- 45) Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus chloropus* – 10 or so at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 46) Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra atra* – several at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 47) Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola* – 9 at Al Jazeera Khor 9/1 and approx 50 there 10/1, 22 at Khor al Beida and 35 at Dreamland Beach 10/1
- 48) Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus longipes* – 3 at Ras as Sawadi 5/1 and 9 at Dreamland Beach 10/1
- 49) Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus himantopus* – 8 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 9 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1 and 25+ at Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1

- 50) Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor cursor* – 3 at Ghantoot Polo Club 3/1 and 2 there on 11/1.
- 51) Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola pratincola* – 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1 and 11/1
- 52) Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* – 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1
- 53) Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus aigneri* – widespread and common and seen at many sites both inland and coastal
- 54) Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* – 3 in winter plumage at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1 and 11/1
- 55) White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* – 17 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 2 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1 and 15 at Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1
- 56) Eurasian Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria altifrons* – 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1
- 57) Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* – 1 at Ghantoot Polo Club 3/1 and 3 at Dreamland Beach 10/1
- 58) Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – 30 at Al Jazeerah Khor 9/1 and 40 there 10/1
- 59) Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula tundrae* – 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1 and a few individuals at Khor al Beida and Dreamland Beach 10/1
- 60) Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius curonicus* – 25+ at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1
- 61) Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus* – common in suitable shoreline habitat in UAE and Oman
- 62) Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* – common along shorelines of UAE and Oman, with eg hundreds at Al Jazeerah Khor and Khor al Beida
- 63) Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia* – common along shorelines of UAE and Oman, though somewhat less numerous than Lesser. Common at Khor al Beida, Al Jazeerah Khor, Ras al Sawadi and coast south of Qurayyat
- 64) Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* – 1 flushed at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1
- 65) Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago gallinago* – common at eg Dubai Pivot Fields, Sohar Sun Farms and Fujairah Dairy Farm
- 66) Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa limosa* – 1 at Khawr al Milh 6/1
- 67) Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica lapponica* – 1 at Liwa 7/1, 3 at Shinas 8/1, numerous at Khor al Beida, Dreamland Beach and Al Jazeerah Khor 10/1
- 68) Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* – 1 at Al Jazeerah Khor and 2 at Dreamland Beach 10/1
- 69) Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* – small numbers seen at various coastal sites
- 70) Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* – 1 at Khawr al Milh 6/1
- 71) Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus* – common in shoreline habitats
- 72) Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* – 3 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1 but probably overlooked
- 73) Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* – small numbers seen at various coastal sites
- 74) Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* – 1 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 1 at Liwa 7/1, 1 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 1 at Al Jazeerah Khor 10/1

- 75) Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* – 2 at Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1, 1 Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 3 at Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1
- 76) Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* – 1 at Liwa 7/1, 1 at Shinas 8/1, 5 at Khor Fakkan 9/1, 2 at Al Jazeera Khor 9/1 and 45 there 10/1, 5 at Dreamland Beach 10/1 and 10 at Khor al Beida 10/1
- 77) Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* – common
- 78) Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres interpres* – quite common on shorelines
- 79) Sanderling *Calidris alba* – 2 at Liwa 7/1 but probably underrecorded
- 80) Little Stint *Calidris minuta* – common along shorelines and beaches
- 81) Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* – common in suitable habitat, eg 25 Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1
- 82) Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* – 3 at Khawr al Milh 6/1, 2 at Liwa 7/1, 20 at Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 83) Dunlin *Calidris alpina* – common in Dubai along coast
- 84) Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus falcinellus* – 2 at Dreamland Beach 10/1
- 85) Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* – quite common in suitable areas, eg 30 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1
- 86) Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* – 120 offshore from Khawr Sallan 6/1
- 87) Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* – 1 adult offshore from Ras al Sawadi 5/1
- 88) Sooty Gull *Larus hemprichii* – common along coasts, particularly in Oman
- 89) Caspian (Steppe) Gull *Larus cachinnans barabensis* – very common along coastlines, eg 1,000+ estimated at Khawr Sallan 6/1
- 90) Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini* – common along coastlines, eg 300 estimated at Khawr Sallan 6/1
- 91) Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* – widespread and locally common along coasts, eg 35 Ras al Sawadi 5/1, 450 Khawr Sallan 6/1, 65 Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 92) Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* – common
- 93) Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* – common
- 94) Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica nilotica* – seen only in UAE, where fairly common along coast north of Dubai, eg 15 Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 95) Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* – seen in small numbers at various coastal sites in UAE and Oman, with max 4 at Liwa. Also 3 overflying Safa Park 11/1
- 96) Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* – locally common along coasts both in UAE and Oman, with max count being 60 at Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 97) Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis* – fairly common along coasts, with max count of 20 at Shinas 8/1 and Al Jazeera Khor 9/1
- 98) Swift Tern *Sterna bergii velox* – common along coasts both in UAE and Oman, with max count of 70 at Khawr Sallan 6/1
- 99) Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* – widespread but rather thinly distributed along coasts, with max count of 8 at Qurayyah Pools 8/1

- 100) Saunders's Tern *Sterna saundersi* – approx 20 at Al Jazeerah Khor 10/1
- 101) White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa* – 1 ad and 1 probable 2 cal year identified at Qurrayah Pools and several fishing off Khor Fakkan 8/1
- 102) Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida hybrida* – 1 ad and 1 2 cal year at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1
- 103) White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* – 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 6 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1
- 104) Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus erlangeri* – 6 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 25 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1
- 105) Rock Dove *Columba livia palaestinae* – possible wild birds at Al Fahr Island 7/1, feral birds widespread in UAE and Oman
- 106) Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto* – abundant virtually everywhere
- 107) Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis cambayensis* – abundant virtually everywhere
- 108) Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis capensis* – 8 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1
- 109) Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* – common in Safa Park 11/1
- 110) Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* – common
- 111) Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* – fairly common and seen at half a dozen locations, both in urban areas, mountains and along coasts, eg 40 at Al Jazeerah Khor 10/1 and 80 at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 112) Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris kalbaensis* – 2 at Liwa 7/1
- 113) Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* – 4 at Liwa 7/1, 1 at Al Jazeerah Khor 10/1
- 114) Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis cyanophrys* – widespread, seen daily
- 115) Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis benghalensis* – widespread and seen most days, with best site being Fujairah Dairy Farm where 35-40 on 9/1
- 116) Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops epops* – common at watered inland sites, eg up to 10 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1 and 3 Dibba Park 9/1
- 117) Black-crowned Sparrow-lark *E. nigriceps melanauchen* – 6 at Sohar Sun Farm 5/1 and 1 at Khor al Beida 10/1
- 118) Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* – 1 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1
- 119) Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* – common, seen daily
- 120) Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* – 8 Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 15 Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 8 Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1 and at least 50 Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1
- 121) Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula inconspicua* – 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1 and at least 2 there on 11/1
- 122) Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica rustica* – 4 at Qurayyat 6/1, 1 at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 123) Pale Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* – widespread in small numbers with max 20 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1
- 124) Common House Martin *Delichon urbica urbica* – 2 at Sharjah Tip 11/1
- 125) Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi richardi* – 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, at least 5 Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 3 Dubai Pivot Fields and 1 Emirates Golf Club 11/1



- 126) Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* – 2 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1 and 2 at Emirates Golf Course 11/1
- 127) Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* – approx 15 individuals seen at half a dozen locations
- 128) Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* – 1 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1
- 129) Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* – 3 Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 5 Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 3 Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 8 Dubai Pivot Fields and 1 Safa Park 11/1
- 130) Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* – common at Dubai Pivot Fields, Sohar Sun Fields and Fujairah Dairy Farm
- 131) Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens japonicus* – 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1 and 2 there on 11/1
- 132) White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* – common in agricultural areas  
Masked Wagtail *Motacilla alba personata* – 3 males at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1 and 2 males at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1
- 133) Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* – common at Dubai Pivot Fields, Sohar Sun Farms and Fujairah Dairy Farm; subspecies *M. f. beema* and *M. f. feldegg* noted.
- 134) Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola citreola* – 4 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 2 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 1 Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1, 2 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 6 at Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1
- 135) Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea cinerea* – 1 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 1 Safa Park 11/1
- 136) White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos* – common in parks and gardens
- 137) White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis* – common in towns and cultivations
- 138) Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* – 2 at Millennium Airport Hotel, Dubai 3/1, 1 at Al Ain 4/1, 2 at Emirates Golf Club 11/1
- 139) Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* – 3 at Ghantoot 11/1
- 140) Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* – 1 at Ghantoot 3/1, 1 in Dibba Park 9/1, 1 Al Jazeera Khor 10/1, 1 Ghantoot 10/1, 3 in Safa Park 11/3
- 141) Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* – 1 at Hotel Mercure, Jebel Hafeet 4/1
- 142) Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* – 2 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 3 Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1
- 143) Eastern Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* – 3 at Jebel Hafeet 4/1, 4 at Khatmat Milahah 8/1 and 1 at Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 144) European Stonechat *Saxicola rubricola* – 1 male at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 1 male and 1 female at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1
- 145) Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus/variegata* – 1 male at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1 and 11/1 and 1 male at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1
- 146) Hooded Wheatear *Oenanthe monacha* – 1 male at Hotel Mercure, Jebel Ali, 4/1
- 147) Hume's Wheatear *Oenanthe alboniger* – 3 at Hotel Mercure, Jebel Ali, 4/1 and 1 at Al Amerat waste disposal 6/1
- 148) Eastern Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe picata* – 3 males at Khatmat Milahah 8/1 and 1 female Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1
- 149) Persian Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopygma* – 1 just inside Oman past the UAE border from Al Ain 4/1, 1 at Al Amerat waste disposal 6/1, 2 at Khatmat Milahah 8/1

- 150) Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* – 1 between Dubai and Al Ain 4/1 and 1 near Al Ain 4/1, 5 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 1 at Khawr al Milh 6/1
- 151) Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*
- 152) Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*
- 153) Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* – singles at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1 and Dubai Pivot Fields 11/1
- 154) Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* – 1 calling at Liwa 7/1, 1 calling at Fujairah Dairy Farm and 3 in Dibba Park 9/1, 1 calling at Sharjah Tip, 3 at Emirates Golf Club and 1 in Safa Park 11/1  
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita abietinus* – remarkably, only 2 individuals of this race seen or heard, at a petrol station between Dubai and Al Ain 4/1 and at Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 155) Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus* – disappointingly, only 1 seen at Khatmat Milahah 8/1
- 156) Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* – 1 individual likely to be of this species seen between Dubai and Al Ain 4/1
- 157) Desert Whitethroat *Sylvia minula* – singles presumed to be of this species at Mecure Hotel, Jebel Hafeet 4/1, Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1, several at Khatmat Milahah 8/1 and 1 at Ghantoot 10/1
- 158) Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* – 1 at Khawr al Milh 6/1, 3 at Khatmat Milahah 8/1 and 1 at Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 159) Eastern Orphean Warbler *Sylvia crassirostris* – 1 at Khatmat Milahah 8/1 and 1 adult male at Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 160) Menetries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea* – 1 singing male at Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1 and 1 male at Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 161) Arabian Babbler *Turdoides squamiceps muscatensis* – 3 near Qurayyat waste disposal 6/1, 3 at Khatmat Milahah 8/1, 5 Al Jazeera Khor 10/1
- 162) Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus brevirostris* – common and widespread; seen in towns, parks, near cultivations and in semi-desert
- 163) Daurian Shrike *Lanius isabellinus isabellinus* – 2 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 2 north of Al Ain 3/1, 5 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1, 1 Emirates Golf Club 11/1, all identified as certain or presumed ssp *isabellinus*
- 164) Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis aucheri* – about 20 seen at wide variety of locations  
Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis pallidirostris* – 1 juvenile at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1
- 165) House Crow *Corvus splendens* – abundant
- 166) Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis* – seen in areas of stony regions and near rubbish dumps, with max 20 at Al Amerat waste disposal 6/1
- 167) Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus* – 2 at Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1, 10 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1
- 168) Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* – abundant
- 169) Pied Myna *Gracupica contra* – 20 in Safa Park 11/1
- 170) Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* – ca 15 Dubai Pivot Fields 3/1
- 171) House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* – very common
- 172) Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* – 8-10 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1

- 173) Indian Silverbill *Lonchura malabarica* – locally common near cultivations eg Dubai Pivot Fields and Fujairah Dairy Farm
- 174) Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* – 1 in grounds of Mercure Hotel, Jebel Hafeet 4/1
- 175) Striated Bunting *Emberiza striolata striolata* – 8 at Sohar Sun Farms 5/1, 7 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1
- 176) Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* – 1 at Fujairah Dairy Farm 9/1