

Oman 11-21/11- 2010

-Birding the Dhofar region



Tobias Berger & Göran Holm

## Oman – Birding the Dhofar region 11-21 November 2010

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### Itinerary

**11/11:** Muscat International Airport -Salalah Beach Villas

**12/11:** Salalah Beach Villas-East Khawr-Ayn Razat

**13/11:** Ras Mirbat-Wadi Darbat-Tawi Atayr-Khawr Taqah-Sahnawt Farm-East Khawr-Crowne Plaza

**14/11:** Ayn Hamran-Ayn Razat-Crown Plaza-Ad Dahariz Park, Salalah- East Khawr-Al Balid Archeological Garden, Salalah-Jarziz Farm-East Khawr

**15/11:** Al Mughsayl

**16/11:** Al Balid Farm-Qitbit Motel Garden-Qitbit Oasis

**17/11:** Qitbit Motel Garden-Qitbit Oasis-Dawkah New Farms

**18/11:** Wadi Rabkut-Salalah-Raysut Sewage Plant-Raysut Waste Disposal Site-West Khawr-Sahnawt Farm-East Khawr

**19/11:** East Khawr-Ayn Hamran-Khawr Taqah-Khwar W Mirbat-Ras Janjari

**20/11:** Wadi Darbat-Mirbat-Khawr Rawri-Khawr Taqah-Ayn Hamran-East Khawr

**21/11:** East Khawr-Ayn Hamran-Sahnawt Farm-Jarziz Farm

### Daily Log

**11<sup>th</sup> Nov** After a long flight from Stockholm, which started in the misty morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>, including a stopover in Istanbul, we reached Muscat International Airport in the early morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>, just a few of hours before sunrise. We tried to get some sleep on the cold concrete floor until the first light touched our eyes through the airport panorama windows. After a burger at DQ Grill & Chill we got some 30 minutes of birding from the second floor of

the building, using only binoculars. The only *Indian Rollers* of the trip were observed, flying back and forth hunting insects above the airport strip. After some additional hours we finally went on a domestic flight towards Salalah in the south. Directly upon arrival we took a cab to the great Salalah Beach Villas to get some birdwatching before the too soon to come sunset. Immediately we felt as if we were at the very right place to be! A male *Desert Weatbear*- by far the most widespread and common bird of the trip- greeted us just outside the hotel entrance. The fresh, salty and rather strong



Hundreds of gulls gliding along the waves close to the shore, just outside Salalah Beach Villas 11/11. Photo: Göran Holm

breeze had brought a lot of feeding seabirds closer to the mainland, mainly *Sooty* and *Siberian Gulls*, *Swift* and *Lesser Crested Terns*. From the balcony we had great birdwatching towards the sea. Along the shoreline several waders such as *Kentish Plovers*, *Oystercatchers*, *Sanderlings* and *Terek Sandpipers* were seen. We felt ready for some hardcore-birding.

**12<sup>th</sup> Nov** Early morning outside Beach Villas with lots of seabirds passing by. One *Indian Pond Heron* and several *Graceful Prinias* were added to the trip list. After receiving our rental car, we went off towards East Khawr. In the southern part of the khawr hundreds of waders were foraging- it actually turned out to be the best numbers at this locality during the whole trip. Over 100 *Pacific Golden Plovers* were counted in, as well as several *Greater* and *Lesser Sand Plovers*, three *Broad-billed Sandpipers* etc. Later we found out that a *Caspian Plover* had been here this day, too bad we missed it. A mixed flock of



Overnight outside Mirbat 12/11. Photo: Göran Holm

*Whiskered* and *White-winged Black Terns* were also present. A *Short-toed Snake-Eagle* flew by. We continued to Ayn Razat at the foothills of Dhofar Mountains. It is a small park and a nearby spring which is easily birded through during a couple of hours. Several *African-Rock Buntings*, a very nosy *Little Green Bee-eater*, *Shining* and *Palestine Sunbirds* and an adult *Imperial Eagle* were the highlights, but unfortunately no Bruce Green Pigeon which was the main target species. We spend the night outside Ras Mirbat, trying to

sleep in our sleeping bags close to the car. Some four-footed creature woke us up in the humid night, sneaking around closeby, probably a Golden Jackal.

**13<sup>th</sup> Nov** Ras Mirbat in the morning hoping for some seabirds, but there was almost no wind at all. Despite this, we almost immediately discovered an *Antarctic Skua* slowly passing by towards east, a great surprise! We could also add some *Jouanin's Petrels*, *Brown Noddys* and *Persian Shearwaters*. Continued to Wadi Darbat, what a nice valley!

There were dozens of Arabian Camels, Donkeys, Goats and Cattles grazing along the almost dry river bed. We spotted the



Wadi Darbat. Photo: Tobias Berger

first out of in total two cameleons during the trip in a wooden area, which also held several *African Paradise Flycatchers* and a *Nightingale* of the subspecies *golzii*. A *Lappet-faced Vulture* was a great surprise, soaring high over the Wadi. Then continued to Tawi Atayr, the great sink hole, and twitched two individuals of a real speciality- *Yemen Serin* (which only can be found here, except Yemen). Construction work for a new hotel complex had started at Khawr Taqah, but it was at the time of our visit still good birding in the area closest to the beach. Thousands of gulls and terns on the sandy beaches, among these a *Common Gull* (only a few winter records per year in Oman). We also saw *Purple Heron*, *Steppe Grey Shrike*, *Black Kite* etc. From the paved road outside the fenced Sahnawt Farm we got our eyes on a flock of 60+ *Sociable Lapwings*, one of the trips greatest finds- rarely recorded in the southern part of the country and never in such numbers. Later on during the winter even more birds were counted here by other visiting birders.

**14<sup>th</sup> Nov** We started off at Ayn Hamran, the number one hotspot for Verreaux's Eagle. Despite hours of watching the cliffs no Verreaux's were found, but several other eagles. In the bushes and trees surrounding the parking lot *Arabian* and *Eastern Olivaceous Warbler* were added to the trip list. After leaving Ayn Hamran we saw a flock of more than 60 *Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouses* which came to drink for a short while



Spotted Thick-knee, Salalah 14/11.  
Photo: Tobias Berger

at a water-conduit leaching water. At Ayn Razat the first *Bruce's Green Pigeon* of the trip showed itself well at some fig trees inside the fenced area. Back to Salalah and after some guidance from some other birders we managed to see four *Spotted Thick-knees* just outside Hotel Crown Plaza, amazing birds! Went off to Ad Dahariz Park where two *Crested Honey Buzzards* were roosting. After an interesting

meeting with the "head of farms", we got permission to enter Jarziz Farm during mid-afternoon. *Isabelline Shrikes*, *Pallid Harriers*, *Ring-necked Parakeets* etc. showed well.

**15<sup>th</sup> Nov** Early by car towards Al Mughsayl in the west- a must for every birder going to southern Oman. We started off at the small natural ponds which can be reached by going north on a gravelly road west of the khawr. It turned out to be a perfect place to start a morning, watching *Baillon's Crakes* feeding just metres away without paying any notice whatsoever. A strange sound made us turn our heads turning the sky. A flock of 13 waders came flying in high up in the air from the northeast and were soon telescoped- *CRAB PLOVERS!* They continued southwards towards

the ocean and we just stood there shocked looking at each other, definitely not a species we expected in this part of the country. Soon we



Baillon's Crake, Al Mughsayl 15/11. Photo: Tobias Berger

could also add *White-breasted Waterhen*, *Night Heron* and *Malachite Kingfisher* among the visitors to the pond. In the surroundings were several *South Arabian Weathervans*, *Citrine Wagtails* and *Mountain Buntings*. Göran took a walk up the cliffs and found a flock of 15 *Arabian Partridges* which were soon telescoped by Tobias. A skulky warbler puzzled us a bit, feeding in overhanging bushes up in steep cliffs over one of the ponds. Eventually it flew down to the reeds and turned out to be a *Clamorous Reed Warbler*. On the way back towards the coast we spotted a falcon on a power line- a 1cy *Amur Falcon!* Shortly after that another *Crested Honey Buzzard* was seen, this time of an almost white phase. At the "Blow holes" the only *Long-billed Pipit* of the trip was seen and outside the nearby restaurant a *Brown Booby* roosted on a navigation mark out on the sea. In the late afternoon we started the long drive towards Salalah and then northwards into the endless desert. Close to Al Balid Farm we called it a stop, turned off the car and simply jumped into our sleeping bags on the flat sand banks.

**16<sup>th</sup> Nov** We woke up early due to the frosty desert morning. When sleeping out in nature in Salalah region, close to the ocean, the problem was the high humidity, in the desert the problem was, as expected, the opposite- it was freezing



Hotel with a thousand stars close to Al Balid Farm. Photo: Göran Holm

cold! When the first sunrays started to warm our bodies a *Pied Wheatear* welcomed us at the parking lot next to the farm. We started to walk around in between the small fields, ditches and plantations and soon found out that the desert farms in Oman was something quite special. *Asian Koel*, “*Caspian Stonechat*” (ssp. *variegatus*) and *Yellow-browed Warbler* were the highlights at this location. We also saw an Arabian Fat-tailed Scorpion and hundreds of Vagrant Emperors (*Anax ephippiger*). We continued deeper in to the central desert, the only sightings along the straight road were a few *Hoopoe Larks* and *Brown-necked Ravens*, respectively. We finally reached the Qitbit Motel- having a rather large garden which is frequently visited by birdwatchers- and birds. Almost immediately we spotted the young male *Black-throated Thrush* which had been present in the garden for some time. We continued to walk around and soon spotted an *Ortolan Bunting*. A strange looking bunting caught our attention, but we just saw it very briefly before it disappeared. Either a pale Yellowhammer or a Pine Bunting, anyway a first for Oman! A 1 cy *Brahminy Starling* surprised us as well. We enjoyed a nice fish meal at the motel and looked forward for a morning in the garden!

**17<sup>th</sup> Nov** Some british birders had seen a Nile-Valley Sunbird in the garden the day before, so we started looking for this one. Soon we could hear the bird singing, moving fast high up in the

trees. This species is usually rare in Oman, but we managed to see another one at the nearby Qitbit oasis later in the afternoon as well. Lots of activity of passerines in the early morning! We soon found the unidentified *Emberiza* from yesterday, now feeding together with the *Ortolan* and a male *Little Bunting* (!). It turned out to be a *Pine Bunting* and we got good photos of the bird. In the garden we spotted one of the highlights of the trip- a male *Hypocolius*! A female *Red-tailed Wheatear* was also seen here. We went on towards the Qitbit Oasis, on the way there a *Rüppels Sand Fox* were seen passing by in the desert. At the oasis we got glimpses and heard a presumed *Taiga Flycatcher*. It was a male with a small distinct, orange throat-patch that was moving quickly in the bushes. After a visit in Nepal in 2011, listening to several calling “Taiga’s”, there’s no doubt about the bird belonging to this species. We also saw and heard a skulky *Dusky Warbler*, another 1<sup>st</sup> for Oman, however found by the British birders as we were there. The oasis facilitated a natural spring, attracting thirsty Sandgrouses every morning at a specific time. We were right on time for the breakfast drink. Mainly *Spotted Sandgrouses*, but we also got nice views of a small flock of *Crowned* coming to drink. We went on to Dawkah New Farms which did not disappoint us. A flock of *Rosy Starlings* were accompanied by a male *Namaqua Dove*. On the grassy fields hundreds of *Greater Short-toed Larks* were present. Several *Asian Desert Warblers* were seen in the scrubs surrounding the fields and next to some abandoned greenhouses a female *Ménétriés’s Warbler* was spotted. We moved on to a nearby field which was being watered and, naturally, gave a greener and more inviting impression. We saw a small flock of *Sociable Lapwings* together with *Cream-Coloured*



Göran checking out the Qitbit Oasis. Photo: Tobias Berger

*Courasers*, a *Richards Pipit* and lots of Swallows and Wagtails.

In the evening we arrived to Thumrait, had a nice dinner and fell asleep in a hotel which could have been used as inspiration to the song “Hotel California”.



Sunset in the desert. Photo: Göran Holm

**18<sup>th</sup> Nov** After a couple of hours we left the hotel and drove towards Wadi Rabkut, a dry Wadi stretching for several kilometers into the desert and the place in southern Oman to search for McQueens Bustard. A few hours later we found ourselves far into the wadi, with just some mouthfuls of water with us, as the sun started to really heat. We had seen a vulture sitting in a tree far away and simply started to move towards it while the sun still was rising, but now it went “all-vulcan-heat” on us. The vulture turned out to be a *Lappet-faced* and we also flushed some *Lichtenstein’s Sandgrouses* and saw a couple of *Desert Larks*, but no Bustards... Better luck next time, right? We went back to Salalah and went straight to the sewage plant in Raysut. Hundreds of eagles, mainly *Steppe Eagles*, were almost overwhelming. Also *Bonelli’s*, *Imperial-*, *Greater-spotted* and *Booted Eagles* were noted here. Our DSLR’s went warm. Overall, the great number of raptors of different species observed during our time in Oman surprised us. In the ponds several waders such as *Black-winged stilts*, *Wood Sandpipers* and *Common Sandpipers* were feeding in numbers. Also, we managed to spot four *Red-wattled* and one *Spur-winged Lapwing*, both species

rather scarce in the Salalah region. We continued to West Khawr where an *Intermediate Egret* and a *Cotton Teal* were new species of the trip. The day ended at the unpredictable East Khawr and this time we were awarded with a *Pheasant-tailed Jacana*. We welcomed the night at Ayn Hamran where three *African Scops Owl* called frequently after dusk.

**19<sup>th</sup> Nov** Woke up in the car just before sunrise and started birding the surroundings. Good views of Arabian Warblers but still no “King of the Dhofar mountains” in the sky. Afternoon we moved slowly towards the east. A stop at Khawr Taqah gave nothing new, except for a nice bath in the warm ocean (watching Barracudas, Dolphins and jumping Stingrays not far out!).

At Ras Janjari we saw several *Jouanin’s Petrels* and *Persian Shearwaters*, as well as a few *Pale-footed Shearwaters* and *Masked Boobys*. Also, a *Pomarine*, a couple of *Arctic Skuas*, *Brown noddys* and *Bridled Terns* passed by. Just before sunset we spotted two canines on a slope a few hundred metres away from the car, far away from any village. They were tall, large and looked healthy (compared to the wild domestic dogs running



Tobias scanning the skies at Ayn Hamran. Photo: Göran Holm

around the outskirts of Salalah, which represented the opposite attributes). Were they only an unusual couple of identical and wolf-like dogs or could it in fact have been Arabian Wolves?

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov** Morning at Wadi Darbat and again looking for the main target species for the moment, Verreaux's Eagle. Among a flock of *White Storks* we found a *Black Stork*, a scarce visitor to Oman. We left the area, again without an experience of the much sought after eagle. The day before we had met some birders that said they had observed an Abdim's Stork at Ras Mirbat, so we headed towards the small fishing



Gulls on the beach at Khawr Taqah. Photo: Göran Holm

village. We scanned the air above the town and suddenly an *Abdim's Stork* appeared. And another...and another... Altogether 69(!) Abdim's were seen together at the outskirts of

the village, attracted by the corps of a dead goat. At the small harbor the smell of rotten fish (?) was unbearable, but hundreds of *Sooty* and *Steppe Gulls* roosted and offered great views. Went on to Khawr Taqah followed by Ayn Hamran and now, finally, an impressive *Verreaux's Eagle* showed up and landed on a cliff! It was soon joined by another one, a younger individual, and they made some nice acrobatics in the air together straight above us before gliding towards south. We went on to East Khawr, this time two *Little Pratincoles* sat on the sandbanks close to beach track.

**21<sup>st</sup> Nov** This day we chilled out, after all, it was the last day of the trip! Calm morning at Ayn Hamran and then we continued to Raysut, but without any new sightings. In the afternoon we summarized and left our rental car at the hotel, caught a cab and headed towards Salalah Airport. All in all we saw more than 219 species. One thing is for sure; however, whenever we want some laidback-birding with with a great variety of species and good chances for surprising findings, we'll just grab a last minute flight to Salalah! And, actually, that time is coming soon again!

## Species list

### 1. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

2 ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11, 2 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

### 2. Jounanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*

4 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 11/11, 5 ind. Ras mirbat 13/11, 10 ind. East Khawr 18/11, 35 ind. Ras Janjari 19/11.

### 3. Pale-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*

1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 5 ind. Ras Janjari 19/11.

### 4. Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus*

19 ind. Ras Mirbat 13/11, 7 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 10 ind. East Khawr 18/11, 20 ind. Ras Janjari 19/11.

### 5. Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

19 ind. Ras Janjari 19/11.



"Sandfish" chilli'n out at Salalah Beach. Photo: Tobias Berger

**6. Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*

1 ad Al Mughsayl 15/11, 1 imm. Ras Janjari 19/11.

**7. Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

4 ind. Khawr Rawri 20/11.

**8. Socotra Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*

3 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 11/11.

**9. Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**10. Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*

Common at the khawrs along the coast with several individuals present at all sites, also at Salalah Sewage Plant and Wadi Darbat.

**11. Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*

1 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 12/11, 1 ind. East Khawr 12/11, 1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**12. Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

A flock of consisting of 50+ individuals roosted at East Khawr every night; 59 ind. counted 12/11 and 120 ind. 13/11. 1 ind. West Khawr 18/11.

**13. Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis*

Single or pairs observed every day along the coastline from Mughsayl to Janjari. Also 1 Al Balid Farm 16/11.

**14. Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Common along the coastline and waters in Dhofar-region.

**15. Intermediate Egret** *Mesophoyx intermedia*

1 ind. West Khawr 18/11, 1 ind. Khawr Taqah 19/11, 3 ind. Khawr Rawri 20/11.

**16. Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**17. Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Common along the coastline and waters in Dhofar-region, at most 30 Khawr Taqah 13/11 & 35 Khawr Rawri 20/11.

**18. Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

1 ind. Khawr Taqah 13/11, 1 ind. Jarziz Farm 14/11, 2 ind. East Khawr 14/11, 1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 1 ind. West Khawr 18/11, 1 ind. East Khawr 18/11, 3 ind. East Khawr 21/11.

**19. Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

1 imm. East Khawr 12/11, 1 imm.(same?) Wadi Darbat 20/11.

**20. Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii*

69 ind. Mirbat 20/11.





**21. White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

50 ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11 & 20/11, 120 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11, 30 ind. Raysut Waste Disposal Site 18/11 & 21/11.

**22. Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

Observed at East Khawr, Al Mughsayl, Khawr Taqah, West Khawr and Khawr Rawri, at most 19 ind. East Khawr 13/11.

**23. Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Observed at East Khawr every visit with 1-3 individuals.

**24. Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*

4 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 30 ind. West Khawr 18/11, 13 ind. Khawr Rawri 20/11.

**25. White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

35 ind. East Khawr 20-21/11.

**26. Cotton Teal** *Nettion coromandelianus*

1 male West Khawr 18/11.

**27. Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

3 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 2 ind. West Khawr 18/11.

**28. Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca*

Common in the coastal khawrs, also 5 Qitbit Oasis 16/11.

**29. Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Common in the coastal khawrs.

**30. Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Common in the coastal khawrs.

**31. Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Common in the coastal khawrs.

**32. Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**33. Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

1 ind. East Khawr 12/11, 2 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**34. Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

2 Ad Dahariz Park 14/11, 1 (new) ind. NW Ad Dahariz 14/11, 1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**35. Black Kite** *Milvus migrans ssp.?*

1 ind. Khawr Taqah 13 & 20/11, 1 ind. Khawr Rawri 20/11.

**36. Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos*

1 ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11, 1 ind. Wadi Rabkut 18/11.

**37. Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*

2 ind. East Khawr 12/11, 1 ind. Ayn Razat 12/11, 3 ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11, 1 ind. Ayn Hamran 14/11 & 19/11, 2 ind. Wadi Darbat 20/11.

**38. Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Single or pairs present at several locations such as East Khawr, Al Mughsayl, Khawr Taqah and Khawr Rawri. Also 1 Al Balid Farm 16/11 and 4 Jarziz Farm 21/11.

**39. Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*

1 male Tawi Atayr 13/11, 1 male Jarziz Farm 14/11, 1 pair Al Balid Farm 16/11, 1 pair Dawkah Farms 17/11, 1 male Ras Janjari 19/11.

**40. Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

1 ind. Ayn Hamran 19/11.

**41. Common/Steppe Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

2 ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11.

**42. Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

1 East khawr 12/11, 1 Ayn Razat 12/11, 1 Ad Dahariz Park 14/11, 1 Al Mughsayl 15/11, 5-10 Raysut Waste Disposal Site 18/11 & 21/11, 3 Wadi Darbat 20/11, 3 Khawr Rawri 20/11.

**43. Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

Singles recorded <10 occasions in the Dhofar mountains and at the coastal khawrs. Concentration: >200 at Raysut Waste Disposal Site 18/11 & 21/11.

**44. Imperial Eagle** *Aquila beliaea*

2 ad Ayn Razat 12/11, 2 ad & 1 imm. Tawi Atayr 13/11, 1 ad & 1 imm. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 1 imm. Dawkah Farms 17/11, 4 Raysut Waste Disposal Site 18/11 & 2 21/11, 1 ad & 1 imm. Ayn Hamran 19/11, 1 ad & 2 imm. Wadi Darbat 20/11, 1 imm. Mirbat 20/11, 1 imm. Ayn Hamran 21/11.

**45. Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii*

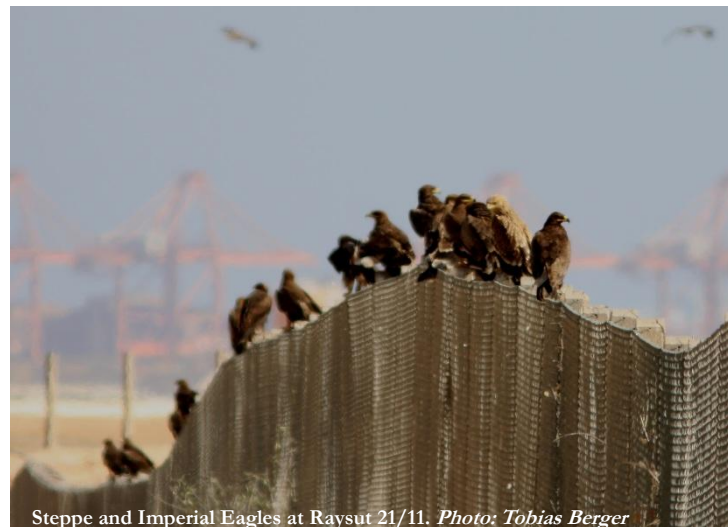
1 ad & 1 imm. displaying Ayn Hamran 20/11.

**46. Booted Eagle** *Aquila pennata*

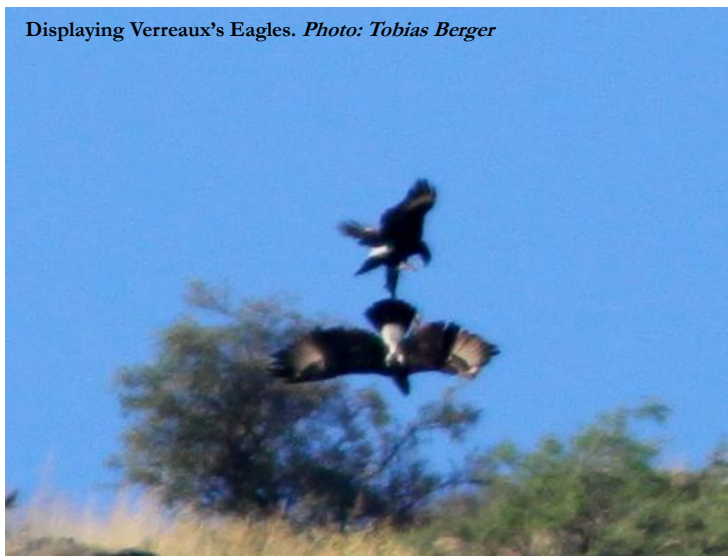
1 light morph Sahnawt Farm 12/11, 2 light morph & 1 dark morph Wadi Darbat 13/11, 1 light morph Salalah C 18/11, 1 dark morph Wadi Darbat 20/11.

**47. Bonelli's Eagle** *Aquila fasciata*

2 ad Wadi Darbat 13/11, 1 imm. NW Ad Dahariz 14/11 2 imm. & 2 ad Al Mughsayl 15/11, 1 imm. Raysut Waste Disposal Site 18/11, 1 ad & 1 imm. Ayn Hamran 19/11, 2 ad & 1 imm. Wadi Darbat 20/11.



Steppe and Imperial Eagles at Raysut 21/11. Photo: Tobias Berger



Displaying Verreaux's Eagles. Photo: Tobias Berger

**48. Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Observed daily at East Khawr. Also 1 ind. West Khawr 18/11, 1 ind. Khawr Rawri 20/11.

**49. Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

2 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 12/11, 3 ind. Wadi Darbat 13 & 4 ind. 20/11, 2 ind. Ayn Hamran 14, 19 & 21/11.

**50. Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis*

1 1cy Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**51. Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

1 1cy Ad Dahariz Park 14/11.

**52. Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

1 1cy 13/11 & 21/11 Sahnawt Farm.

**53. Barbary Falcon** *Falco pelegrinoides*

1 ad Ayn Hamran 19/11.

**54. Arabian Partridge** *Alectoris melanocephala*

15 Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**55. Little Crake** *Porzana parva*

1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**56. Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla*

3 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 1 ind. West Khawr 18/11, 1 ind. small Khawr W Mirbat 19/11.

**57. White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**58. Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Common to very common in the coastal khawrs, at most 50+ ind. at West Khawr 18/11. Also 1 ind. Qitbit Oasis 16/11.



**59. Coot** *Fulica atra*

5 ind. East Khawr 12/11, 2 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 20 ind. West Khawr 18/11.

**60. Common Crane** *Grus grus*

2 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11, 3 ind. Sahnawt Farm 18/11.

**61. Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

1 ind. East Khawr 18/11 & 20/11.

**62. Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

10 ind. Salalah Beach 12/11.

**63. Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

45 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11, 5 ind. East Khawr 20/11.

**64. Crab Plover** *Dromas ardeola*

13 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**65. Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*

2 ind. Crown Plaza 13/11, 4 ind. Crowne Plaza 14/11, 1 ind. Al Balid Archeological Garden, Salalah 14/11.

**66. Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor*

5 ind. Dawkha farms 17/11, 3 ind. Mirbat 20/11.

**67. Little Pratincole** *Glareola lactea*

2 ind. East Khawr 20/11.

**68. Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

3 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.



Little Pratincole at East Khawr 20/11. Photo: Göran Holm

**69. Ringed plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Singles or small groups of 3-5 individuals along the coastline Mughsayl-Mirbat, at most 20+ ind. at East Khawr 12/11.

**70. Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

3 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 11/11, 1 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 12/11 and present in varying numbers at East Khawr daily, at most 200+ ind. 12/11 and 45+ ind. 20/11.

**71. Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

8 ind. East Khawr 12/11, 5 ind. East Khawr 18/11, 3 ind. East Khawr 20/11.

**72. Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

4 ind. East Khawr 12/11.

**73. Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

102 ind. East Khawr 12/11, 25 ind. Khawr Taqah 13/11.

**74. Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Singles or small groups of 3-5 individuals along the coastline Mughsayl-Mirbat.

**75. Spur-winged Lapwingr** *Vanellus spinosus*

1 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**76. Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*

4 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**77. Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius*

60+ ind. Sahnawt Farm 13/11, 7 (1 1cy) ind. Dawkha farms 17/11.

**78. Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

26 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 11/11, 40 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 12/11.

**79. Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

15 ind. East Khawr 12/11, 25 ind. Khawr Taqah 13/11, 4 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11 and 21/11.

**80. Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

2 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**81. Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

3 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 11/11, around 30 ind. at East Khwar 12-21/11, 15 ind. Khawr Taqah 13/11.

**82. Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*

3 ind. East Khawr 12/11.

**83. Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

1 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 11/11, 15 ind. East Khawr 12/11.

**84. Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

1 ind. Qitbit Oasis 16/11, 1 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**85. Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

1 ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11, 1 ind. Qitbit Oasis 16/11, 3 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11, 1 ind. Ras Janjari 19/11.

**86. Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

1 ind. East Khawr 13/11 and 2 ind. 20/11, 1 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**87. Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

16 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 12/11.

**88. Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

1 ind. Ras Mirbat 13/11.

**89. Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

5 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 11-12/11.



Red-wattled(left) and Spur-winged Lapwing, Raysut 18/11.  
Photo: Tobias Berger

**90. Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

2 ind. Raysut Sewage plant 18/11.

**91. Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Singles or small groups along the coastline, in total less than 20 individuals.

**92. Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

4 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**93. Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

25 ind. East Khawr 12/11, 15 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**94. Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

1 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**95. Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

10 ind. Raysut Sewage plant 18 & 21/11.

**96. Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

1 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 11/11, 3 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 12/11, 1 ind. East khawr 20/11.

**97. Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Singles or pairs along the coastline, also 1 Ayn Razat 12/11, 3 Wadi Darbat 13/11 and 6 Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**98. Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

3 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 12/11.

**99. Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

15 Ras Mirbat 13/11, 50+ Ras Janjari 19/11, 1 Raysut Sewage Plant 21/11.

**100. Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

1 2cy+ Ras Janjari 19/11.

**101. Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1 2cy East Khawr 18/11, 2 Ras Janjari 19/11.

**102. Antarctic Skua** *Stercorarius antarcticus*

1 ind. Ras Mirbat 13/11.



**103. Sooty Gull** *Ichthyaetus hemprichii*

Very common along the coastline, at most 600+ Khawr Taqah 20/11.

**104. Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

1 cy East Khawr 19/11.

**105. Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus gene*

Singles or small groups along the coastline, in total less than 100 during the trip.

**106. Common Gull** *Larus canus*

1 2cy Khawr Taqah 13/11.

**107. Siberian Gull** *Larus heuglini*

Very common along the coastline, at most 400+ Khawr Taqah 20/11.

**108. Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans ssp. barabensis(?)*

Singles observed along the coastline in the flocks of Siberian and Sooty Gulls, in total probably less than 30 individuals identified.

**109. Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

1 ind. East Khawr 14/11, 1 ind. West Khawr 18/11.

**110. Swift Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*

Common along the coastline, at most 140 ind. at Khawr Taqah 20/11.

**111. Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis*

Fairly common along the coastline, at most 25 ind. at Khawr Taqah 20/11.

**112. Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

2 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 11-12/11, 1 ind. Khawr Taqah 20/11.

**113. Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

1 ind. Khawr Taqah 13/11, 3 ind. East Khawr 14/11, 1 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11, 7 ind. Ras Janjari 19/11.

**114. Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Observed along the coastline Salalah - Ras Janjari, with usually 15-20 individuals per day.

**115. Saunder's Tern** *Sternula saundersi*

1 ind. East Khawr 12/11.

**Saunder's/Little Tern** *Sternula saundersi/albifrons*

In total 3-4 individuals observed at Salalah Beach Villas 11-12/11, East Khawr 12/11 & 14/11 and Khawr Taqah 13/11.



Whiskered Tern (next page) at East Khawr. Photo: Tobias Berger

**116. Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

Present at East Khawr daily in varying numbers, at most 4 individuals 12/11.

**117. White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Present at East Khawr daily in varying numbers, at most 20 individuals 12/11. Also 2 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11 & 21/11.

**118. Common Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

2 ind. Ras mirbat 13/11, 15 ind. East Khawr 18/11, 20 ind. Ras Janjari 19/11.

**119. Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse** *Pterocles lichtensteinii*

7 ind. Wadi Rabkut 18/11.

**120. Crowned Sandgrouse** *Pterocles coronatus*

6 ind. Qitbit Oasis 17/11.

**121. Spotted Sandgrouse** *Pterocles senegallus*

23 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11, 50+ ind. Qitbit Oasis 17/11, 600+ ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11.

**122. Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus*

60 ind. Ayn Hamran 14/11, 10 ind. Wadi Rabkut 18/11, 10 ind. Ayn Hamran 21/11.

**123. Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

Small groups observed at Al Mughsayl, Ayn Hamran, Tawi Atayr etc.

**124. Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common everywhere, at most 500+ at Sahnawt Farm 13/11.

**125. Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*

Singles or pairs observed in Salalah.

**126. Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

1 male Dawkah Farms 17/11.

**127. Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*

2 ind. Ayn Razat 14/11, 6 ind. Ad Dahariz Park 14/11, 15+ ind. Ayn Hamran 19/11, 30+ ind. Wadi Darbat 20/11.

**128. Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Small groups observed in Salalah daily. Also observed every evening (Beach Villas, East Khawr etc) before sunset when flying in groups of 10-25 individuals towards roosting sites/colonies.

**129. Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 1 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 16/11, 1 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11.

**130. Asian Koel** *Eudynamys scolopacea*

1 1cy/fem. Al Balid Farm 16/11.



Asian Koel at Al Balid Farm 16/11. Photo: Tobias Berger



**131. African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*  
3 ind. at dusk Ayn Hamran 17/11.

**132. Common Swift** *Apus apus*  
1 ind. Khawr Taqah 13/11.

**133. Forbes-Watson's Swift** *Apus berliozi*  
1 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**Swift sp.** *Apus apus/berliozi/pallidus*

5 ind. Salalah Beach Villas 12/11, 10 ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11, 1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 10 ind. Ayn Hamran 19/11.

**134. Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*  
1 ad Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**135. Little Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis ssp. cyanophrys*  
4 ind. Ayn Razat 12/11, 1 ind. Sahnawt Farm 13/11, 3 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**136. Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus*  
7 ind. East Khawr 14/11, 4 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 1 ind. Khawr W Mirbat 19/11.



Malachite Kingfisher at Al Mughsayl 15/11.  
Photo: Tobias Berger

**137. European Roller** *Coracias garrulus*  
1 ind. Jarziz Farm 21/11.

**138. Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*  
4 ind. Muscat International Airport 11/11.

**139. Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*  
Common everywhere in Dhofar region, at most 10+ ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11. Also 1 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11.

**140. Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*  
1 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 17/11.

**141. Singing Bush Lark** *Mirafra cantillans*  
1 ind. Jarziz Farm 21/11.

**142. Black-crowned Finch Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps*  
3 ind. Ayn Razat 12/11, 30 ind. Ayn Hamran 14/11, 10 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11.

**143. Desert Lark** *Ammomanes deserti*  
6 ind. Wadi Rabkut 18/11.

**144. Hoopoe Lark** *Alaemon alaudipes*  
1 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11, 1 ind. Qitbit 16/11, 1 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11.

**145. Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*  
450 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11.

**146. Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*  
Very common everywhere.

**147. Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*  
1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 1 ind. Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**148. African Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*  
Singles observed at Salalah Beach Villas, Ayn Razat, Ayn Hamran, Wadi Darbat and Al Mughsayl.

**149. Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*  
2 ind. Muscat International Airport 11/11.

**150. Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 1 ind.  
Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**151. House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*  
1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**152. Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*  
1 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11, 1 ind.  
Dawkah Farms 17/11, 1 ind. Khawr  
Rawri 20/11.

**153. Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*  
Fairly common and observed daily in  
small numbers at the mainly the  
khawrs and farms.

**154. Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis*  
1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**155. Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

1 ind. Ayn Razat 12/11, 15 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11, 1 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 16/11, 6 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11, 5 Wadi Darbat 20/11.

**156. Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*  
1 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11.

**157. Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*  
4 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11, 2 ind. Khawr Rawri 20/11.

**158. Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*  
2 ind. Qitbit Oasis 16-17/11, 1 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11, 2 ind. East Khawr 21/11.



**159. Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Observed in small numbers at Wadi Darbat and the farms in the desert. Mainly ssp. thunbergi and some ssp. beema.

**160. Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

Singles or groups of 2-5 ind. observed along the coastline Mughsayl-Mirbat as well as everywhere in the Dhofar region with water (Wadi Darbat, Raysut Sewage Plant etc) .

**161. Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

1 ind. Ayn Razat 12/11, 4 ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11, 1 ind. Ayn Hamran 14/11.

**162. White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Observed in small numbers at Wadi Darbat and the farms in the desert. At most 50+ ind. Dawkah Frms 17/11.

**163. Yellow-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthopygus*

Common in Dhofar-region and observed at the desert farms and at Qitbit.

**164. Grey Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus*

1 male Qitbit Motel Garden 17/11.

**165. Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos ssp. golzii*

1 ind. Wadi Darbat 13/11.

**166. Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*

5 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11, 1 ind. Qitbit Moel Garden 16/11, 2 ind. Wadi Darbat 20/11.

**167. Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus (ochruros) phoenicuroides*

1 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11, 10 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11.

**168. Blackstart** *Cercomela melanura*

Fairly common in the Dhofar mountains, such as Ayn Hamran and Wadi Darbat.

**169. Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus ssp. variegatus*

1 1cy male Al Balid Farm 16/11.



Desert (left) and Pied Weathar, Al Balid Farm 16/11. Photo: Tobias Berger

**170. Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*

2 ind. Ras Mirbat 13/11, 2 ind. Sahnawt Farm 13/11, 1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**171. Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

1 Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11.

**172. Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*

1 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11, 1 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11, 1 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11.

**173. Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*

Present more or less everywhere, prob. >100 ind. during the period.

**174. Red-tailed Wheatear** *Oenanthe chrysopygia*

1 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11.

**175. South Arabian Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugentoides*

3 males & 2 females Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**176. Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*

1 ind. 1cy male Ayn Razat 12/11, 1 ad male Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**177. Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis*

1 ind. prob. 1 cy male Qitbit Motel Garden 16/11.

**178. Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

1 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11.

**179. Graceful Prinia** *Prinia gracilis*

Common in Salalah and in the Dhofar mountains.

**180. Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

Single individuals observed at East Khawr 12/11, Al Mughsayl 15/11, Qitbit Oasis 16/11 and Raysut Sewage Plant 18/11.

**181. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*

1 ind. Ayn Hamran 14/11.

**182. Ménériés's Warbler** *Sylvia mystacea*

1 1cy fem. Qitbit Oasis 17/11, 1 2cy+ fem. Dawkah 17/11.

**183. Asian Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*

3 ind. Qitbit Oasis 17/11, 2 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11, 3 ind. Wadi Rabkut 18/11.

**184. Arabian Warbler** *Sylvia leucomelaena*

Ayn Hamran: 2 ind. 14/11, 1 ind. 19-20/11 and 3 ind. 21/11.

**185. Orphean Warbler** *Sylvia hortensis*

1 Ayn Hamran 19/11.

**186. Lesser Whitethroat incl. Desert Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca/minula*  
Fairly common in the mountains of Dhofar and at the farms in the desert.

**187. Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*  
1 1cy Ayn Hamran 21/11.

**188. Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*  
1 ind. Qitbit Oasis 17/11.

**189. Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
1 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11.

**190. Dusky warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*  
1 ind. Qitbit Oasis 17/11. 1<sup>st</sup> for Oman if accepted.

**191. Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita/c. tristis*  
2 ind. Ayn Hamran 14/11, 15+ (several ssp. *tristis*) ind. Qitbit Motel Garden and Oasis 16-17/11.

**192. Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*  
2 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11. Ssp.?

**193. Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*  
1 1cy Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11, 1 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11.

**Red breasted-/ Taiga Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva/albicilla*  
1 2cy+ male Qitbit Oasis 16/11, presumed *albicilla*. The bird had a small, rectangular (thin and broad) and well-defined orange (in the bright color of an adult male in summer) patch at the lower part of the throat. Above and below greyish/whitish (to short observation time for more detailed description). Is this possible for 2cy male *parva* in mid-Nov? It moved fast and low (<1m) in the bushes at the edge of the Qitbit oasis. We once heard a call that probably came from this bird, strongly resembling of *albicilla*.

**194. African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*  
Observed at Ayn Hamran and Wadi Darbat, at most 10+ ind. at Wadi Darbat 20/11.

**195. Nile Valley Sunbird** *Anthreptes metallicus*  
1 male Qitbit Motel Garden and 1 male Qitbit Oasis 17/11.

**196. Shining Sunbird** *Nectarinia habessinica*  
Fairly common in the Dhofar mountains, such as Ayn Hamran and Ayn Razat.

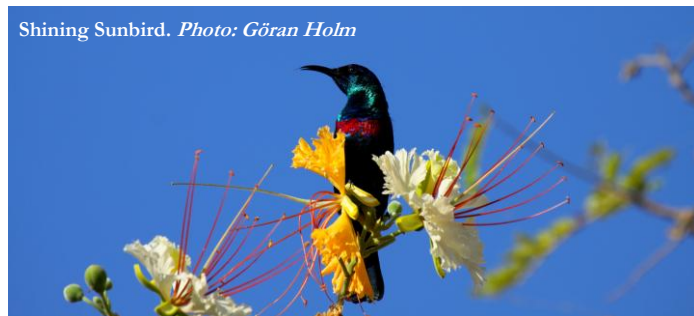
**197. Palestine Sunbird** *Cinnyris oseus*  
Fairly common in Salalah and in the valleys of the Dhofar mountains, such as Ayn Hamran and Ayn Razat.

**198. White-breasted White-eye** *Zosterops abyssinica*  
Common in the Dhofar mountains, e.g. Ayn Hamran and Wadi Darbat.



Yellow-browed Warbler, Al Balid Farm 16/11. Photo: Tobias Berger

Shining Sunbird. Photo: Göran Holm



**199. Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegala*

1 ind. Al Mughsayl 15/11, 4 ind. Ayn Hamran 21/11.

**200. Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*

Observed single individuals at East Khawr, Al Mughsayl, Khawr Taqah, West Khawr, Al Balid Farm and Qitbit Motel Garden.

**201. Turkestan Shrike** *Lanius phoenicuroides*

1 ind. Ayn Hamran 14/11.

**202. Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis ssp. aucheri*

2 ind. Al Balid Farm 16/11, 1 ind. Wadi Rabkut 18/11.

**203. Steppe Grey Shrike** *Lanius pallidirostris*

1 1cy Khawr Taqah 13/11 and 19/11, 1 1cy Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**204. House Crow** *Corvus splendens*

Fairly common along the coastline Raysut-Mirbat, usually in groups of 5-10 individuals.

**205. Brown-necked Raven** *Corvus ruficollis*

1 ind. along the highway Al Balid-Qitbit 16/11, 2 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 17/11, 2 ind. Qitbit Oasis 17/11, 13 Dawkah Farms 17/11.

**206. Fan-tailed Raven** *Corvus rhipidurus*

Common in the Dhofar mountains. Also 1 Mirbat 13/11.

**207. Tristram's Grackle** *Onychognathus tristramii*

Common along the coast and in the Dhofar mountains.

**208. Brahminy Starling** *Sturnia pagodarum*

1 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11. **10<sup>th</sup>** record for Oman if accepted (found by us).

**209. Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*

17 ind. Dawkah Farms 17/11.



Brahminy Starling Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11. Photo: Tobias Berger

**210. Common Mynah** *Acridotheres tristis*

10 ind. Muscat International Airport 11/11 and single or pairs at Salalah Beach Villas.

**211. House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

15 ind. Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11.

**212. Rüppels Weaver** *Plocens galbula*

Common at the khawrs and in the Dhofar mountains.

**213. African Silverbill** *Lonchura cantans*

Common at the khawrs, Dhofar mountains and farms in central desert.

**214. Yemen Serin** *Serinus menachensis*  
2 ind. Tawi Atayr 13/11.

**215. Mountain Bunting** *Emberiza striolata*  
1 ind. Tawi Atayr 13/11, 2 Al Mughsayl 15/11.

**216. African Rock Bunting** *Emberiza tabapisi*  
Fairly common in the Dhofar mountains, such as at Wadi Darbat, Ayn Razat and Ayn Hamran.

**217. Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*  
1 cy Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11.

**218. Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*  
1 male Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11. **8<sup>th</sup>** for Oman if accepted (found by us).

**219. Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*  
1 (prob. 1cy) female Qitbit Motel Garden 16-17/11. **1<sup>st</sup>** for Oman if accepted (found by us).



Little Bunting (left) and Pine Bunting, Qitbit Motel Garden 17/11. Photo: Tobias Berger

**[Scaly Breasted Munia]** *Lonchura punctulata*  
1 ind. Jarziz Farm 14/11.

**Unidentified Duck** *Anas sp. (hybrid?)*

1 ind. Al Mughsayl (left) 15/11 and 1 ind. West Khawr (right) 18/11. Any comments on these birds are most welcome, please email: [embajas@hotmail.com](mailto:embajas@hotmail.com).





Could this be an (out of two in a pair) Arabian Wolf? Observed at dusk close to Ras Janjari 19/11. *Photo: Tobias Berger*



Rüppels Sand Fox at Qitbit oasis 17/11. *Photo: Tobias Berger*