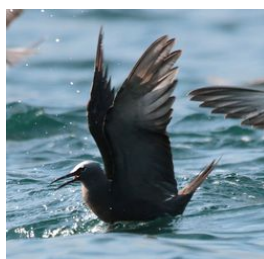


OMAN 2012

november 7 - 14



Oscar (oscar_xwise@yahoo.se) and Kent Jönsson (kent_xwise@yahoo.se) +46 708 264 210

A trip to Oman november 8-14 2012

Itinerary

- We booked a 2 wheel drive car via Argushire website for pick up at Salalah Airport, to make sure that we should not miss the important morning hours the first day in Oman
- Train to Stockholm Arlanda
- We landed at Salalah Airport 6 pm after an 9 hour air trip, and had our car at 8 pm after a short waiting period for Europecars representative to show up (we had to call him).
- Next... Lulu Hypermarket to fill up water, juice, fruit and nut storage...
- Crowne Plaza Hotel.

We stayed at Crowne Plaza Hotel, were all service we asked for was perfectly delivered. The breakfast was served between 06.30 to 10.30, but I'm sure I sure that if we had asked them to put together an omelette, some beef bacon and little fruit in a box for us to pick up around 12, they had done so. Since many nice birding sites are close we could schedule our birding so we could eat around 10.15, most days.

Day 1.) East Khawr, Khawr Taqua, Khawr Rawri.

Day 2.) Ain Razat, Raysut Waste Disposal (RWD), Raysut Sewage Treatment Plant (RSTP), West Khawr (Awqdayn)

Day 3.) Ain Hamran, Wadi Darbat, Tawi Atayr, Jabal Samhan

Day 4.) East Khawr, Raysut Circulation, West Khawr (Awqdayn), Haylat Ar Rakah, Al Balid "other farms", Dawkah (whats left of it), Qatbit

Day 5.) Qatbit, Qatbit Oasis, Muntasar, Al Balid farm, Salalah

Day 6.) Khawr Al Mughsayl, Wadi Ashawq, Jabal Al Qamar, Al Mughsayl by sea

Day 7.) Ras Mirbat, Wadi Hanna, Sahnawt Farm, Ain Razat, East Khawr, Salalah Airport.

Day to day birding:

Day 1.)

Birding Day! East Khawr, Khawr Taqua, Khawr Rawri. 0500 Bzz... bzz... BZZZ!

Yes! We drank some tea and water and then away!

ON our way out from the hotel some Shining sunbirds, Rüppels Weavers, Laughing Doves, Common Munia was seen. Towards our first stop Eurasian Collared Doves, Tristams Starling, House Crows, a Sooty Gull and other gulls, and Swifts caught our interest.

The First Stop: East Khawr.

As soon as we approached the khawr, with open windows, we were striked with the "familiar" sound of Citrine Wagtails, and this sound should turn out to be a surprisingly common sound during the week.



Glossy Ibis



Orientalis

We counted about 20 Citrine's around the Khawr alone that morning as we took a walk around its shores! About 30 Glossy Ibises took a bath together with 30 Black-winged Stints, 4 Black-tailed Godwits, 2 Bar-tailed Godwit and 1 Eurasian Curlew of orientalis race with its unbelievable long bill flew away with a strange scream.

Even a Whimbrel showed up after awile. Five Belgian birders where there and after awile two Swedish birders (Jan and Åke) came by.

A Pacific Golden Plover was flying around but Kent thought that this should be a common sighting so he did not say anything. But this was the only one we saw during our trip. Others we spoke to had seen several, hundreds, around Salalah. Suddenly a white and grey bird perched in a shrub...



Purple Heron, Khawr Taqua

Martin's(2+), Pale Crag Martin(>5), Barn Swallow(uncounted), African Silverbills(4+). And Red Sea Weavers!!! They are all over and everywhere!

10.10... back to Crowne for breakfast... We made it! What a breakfast! Only lots of water was needed for rest of the day. Stuffed we took of against Taqah. Some eagles at far distance was seen on our trip to Taqah. We stopped at a little khawr a few kilometers east of Taqah and saw some herons there. Crested Larks together with Desert Warblers was setting a trend for what to expect at road side. Crested Larks are a common sight and not so much more mentioned in this report.

Khawr Taqua was a little bit of disappointment. When humans interfers with nature.... yes this is a good (bad?) example of how wrong it can get. Much of the Khawr is destroyed with steep slopes around, and a planned paved path around most of the lake is soon ready. The result can already be seen in absens of waders around the lake. The only nice thing is the new outlook point wich is soon ready aswell. The waders where insted to be found at the shoreline. But Desert Wheatears, Crested Larks, Green Bee-eaters, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, 2-4 Purple Herons, Squacco Herons, Western Reef Herons(2-4), Pale Crag Martin were all seen. As for Western Marsh Harrier we saw two or three at Taqua, 1 hungry one looking at 2 Greater Spotted Eagles who tossed a big bird into pieces. The raptors did not care about the khawr! Steppe Eagles. Two Crested Honey Buzzards or maybe one of them were a European Honey Buzzard.



Squacco Heron, East Khawr

PIED KINGFISHER!

AND... below a Indian Pond Heron. Later two Scaly-bellied Munia's sat at the north part of the khawr.

Some of the other birds at East Khawr was Eurasian Oystercatchers (31 passed by), Terek Sandpiper(1), >150 Kentish Sandpipers scattered around the shore, 1 Lesser Sand Plover, Gull-billed Terns (a few), Lesser Crested Tern(1+), Saunders Tern(2), White Winged Tern(1), Common Tern(5+), Whiskered Tern(e few), FrustratingUnid'd Swifts (10+), Sand



Greater Spotted Eagle, Taqua



Greater Spotted Eagle, Taqua

A Yellow-billed Kite came close to us, probably interested in our cameras. A Greater Spotted Eagle with an unusual plumage showed up. Extremely bright underparts and whitish above. We got some nice photos. It was quite hot, about 32°C and we saw the beautiful shore, with nice waves... no people, so Kents boxershirts and Oscars more tight underwear had to do. A good guess: - water temp 27°C!



Yellow-billed Kite, Taqua

There was a lot of birds at the shore and Lesser Crested Terns flew a few meters from us. As we had somewhat cooled down we let the waves bring us to shore... slowly... because there was a lot of seabirds! We came as close as 3 meters from Sooty Gulls, a Marsh Sandpiper, Bridled Terns and lots of Gulls. But no camera... just sandy underwears.

We then went of towards Khawr Rawri.

A fantastic place! Unfortunately we only had time to go to the northern, inner part.

About 100 Forbes-Watson's Swift's, hundreds of weavers, a serenade of African Silverbills, a

Rose-collared Starling, three Calamorous Warblers, Sunbirds, welcomed us.



Green Bee-eater

A European Bittern scared Oscar as it took off. A pair of Bluethroats was seen, and a Egyptian Nightjar was helping us against the mosquitos. Though with little success!

Next day we bought some nice Djungle Oil!

A good start of the week and our expectations was more than fulfilled. After cleaning ourselves up... DINNER! At the hotell. The service was perfect. But a bit expensive. After backing up cameras to a hard disc. ZZZZ.

Day 2.)

The Eagle Day! We started our day at Ain Razat in more or less darkness 0550. When we came there it was quite a bit hard winds and *no birds*. Just the very first Blackstart. As the sun rose the wind slowed down and the birds came out from their hides. Cinnamon-breasted Bunting in bunches, Striolated Bunting (?... no...or?), Grey Wagtail, Palestine- and Shining Sunbirds.



Shining Sunbird - a common sight in southern Oman

nice wadi, even though they humanized the little stream with cement.

A brave Hoopoe landed about 20 meters from us, unlikely those (very few) in Sweden, who seldom accepts to be approached in any way.



Hoopoe



Blackstart

Soon we had seen African Paradise Flycatchers, Abessinian Whiteeyes, Black-crowned Tchagras and lots of other birds there. Ain Razat is a very



African Paradise Flycatcher

Break for breakfast at the hotel 1015, reviewing plans, and away...

Raysut Waste Disposal and Raysut Sewage Treatment Plant (here after most called RWD and RSTP) on schedule!



Steppe Eagles in different plumages & 15 eagles + 2 White Storks, RWD



Three Young birds, Raysut Waste Disposal

The 500 + Steppe Eagles were evrywhere! In all possible plumages for the time of year.

And remember: - Go there fridays since Omani people don't work fridays, just some bangladeshians! So there are not so much dust in the air.

Also the dust like things high in the air at Raysut Waste Disposal are either eagles or storks high up, not just dust! A Baden Baden-type lounger should have been nice, for some laidback birdwatching in the skies!



Short-toed Snake Eagle 1cy

juvenile Eastern Imperial Eagle. And as we stood there next species came by and I immediately took some pictures, that was an even brighter Eagle! A Short-toed Snake Eagle. What a beauty!

A young bird with white tips at all secondaries, and with a white throat.

At the disposal we were overwhelmed by all Steppe Eagles and White Storks, and a falcon came closer to us... Peregrine no... to small and light in its jizz. Oscar suddenly said: "Pappa det är ju en Amurfalk!" ("Dad it's a Amur Falcon!"). After a short discussion of all characters we were sure! Amur Falcon. But we had no time to rest! A small "eagle"... No... a Black-eared Kite. And then another one. Quite different!



Eastern Imperial Eagle, juvenile, Raysut Waste Disposal



"- Do You think we can eat them!"

At the Waste Disposal we met Conny x 2, Tina and Sverker in their way out. We discussed herons and plumages of all the eagles. They had not seen any Bonellis Eagle or Imperial Eagle at the site, but suddenly Tina pointed at one of all the birds in the sky: "That one looks different!" And for sure it was an adult Bonellis, and directly after Tina pointed again "There is another very bright eagle!" And yes it was quite bright, an

We saw only one more Bonellis Eagle and probably only two Imperial Eagles, both juveniles at the waste disposal.



Gigantic Heron, bill about 50% higher and 25% longer than directly compared Grey Heron. RWD

At the entrance to the disposal site Cattle Herons, Grey Herons, Little Herons and a giant heron... probably an unusually big 1cy Grey Heron was chilling out.

One of the 0, two Black-eared Kites showed up at the Raysut Sewage Treatment Plant (RSTP) and showed a totally different pattern so we understood that we had 1 adult and 1 juvenile in the neighborhood.

On our way to the sewage treatment plant we saw our first Black-crowned Sparrow Larks, a pair.

After a little chat with the personell at the plant it was no problem to drive in. Inside a Red-backed Shrike took some time to pin down.

At least 3 Daurian Shrikes, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, G arganey, Eurasian Teal, Northern Pintail, Little Grebe, Red-wattled Lapwing, a lot of wagtails and waders. The Amur Falcon, probably the same as the one at the waste disposal past by rapidly. An Imperial Eagle, aswell as an Greater Spotted were soring in the air. At the inner most ponds there was a lot of ducks, moorhens and waders.



Black-eared Kite - differences in plumages. Left juv. Right adult



Red-back Shrike



Black-winged Stints

When having enjoyed all waders and ducks we had about 2 hours to darkness! We had to leave! Our next goal was to go to West Khawr, which wasn't so easy as we thought.



Pheasant-tailed Jacana, West Khawr



Phaesant-tailed Jacana

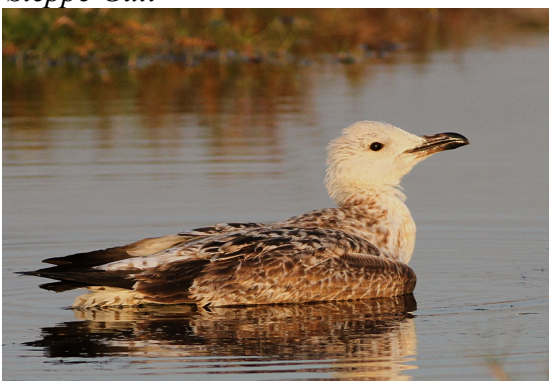
We first found a smaller pond closer to Raysut, which we actually left directly (a pity)... because of West Khawr (you have to take of before Hilton to get to West Khawr when travelling from Raysut).

At last! Lots of waders, Grey Plover, Black-winged Stints, Redshanks, Ruffs, Black-tailed Godwits, Little Grebes, Flamingos, Common Moorhens, Intermediate Heron, Lesser Heron, Purpel Heron, Sqacco Heron, Eurasian Coot, and lots of duck... And Whao!!! PHEASANT TAILED JACANA! It came flying and landed about 50 meters out from the shore on a floating mass of grass.

A young guy saw a sick Steppe Gull(Or c.c.?) and started to run after it in the water. He got it! We told him to get out of the water and wash his hands carefully in the sea, not easy since he spoke nothing but Bangladesian. Nice views of terns passing by at sunset and a irritating unidentified wader in the other end of the pond (se end of this paper) concluded that day.



Steppe Gull



Saunders Tern

Day 3.)

Ain Hamran! With a good chance for Golden Winged Bunting.... which turned out to be a fat dip during our birding week in Oman. We came at same time as four other Swedish birders (Tina, Conny x 2 and Sverker), and we joined our forces. The day started good with a few singing Arabian Warblers and a Long-billed Pipit little north of the parking lot. We heard the Arabian Partridges at distance but couldn't see them. Two Black Crowned Tchagras were feeding on the hillside. And later on two more close to us but difficult to get on picture.



Red-legged Golden Orb-web Spider, Ain Hamran



The Man Talking with Birds

Two African Paradise Flycatcher was feeding in the trees. The five Belgian birders, from yesterday told us about a Grey-headed Kingsfisher and as we were looking for it we were attacked from above with figs. Two Bruce's Green Pigeon fig-bombed us by cutting figs loose. A nice way to find them! And this giant spider showed up! The body itself is about 4,5cm. And in the extremely strong net he (she) had caught a Abyssinian White-eye. The scared little bird touched our week swedish hearts, so we saved him from the spider.



Entangled! (Abyssinian White-eye)



Eastern Imperial Eagle



*Eastern Nighthale, golzii,
Ain Hamran*

The Belgians also told us about the Thrush Nighthale which we just had seen minutes before. Good, because it is a rare bird in Oman! When looking for the Kingfisher we found another bird... rather "big" and extremely sculcy. We discussed a lot of options from Nighthales, White-throated Nighthale and Eastern Orphee Warbler to even Upcher's Warbler.

We got some photos but so far we have no final solution. Most think it is a Eastern Nighthale and some thoughts have been risen that it can be a Common Whitethroat of some eastern race. But they have all white sides on the tail (?), this does not. Kent is "sure", Oscar is still a bit hesitant. But the mystery will be settled!

We had to leave Ain Hamran! Without the Verraux Eagle and the Grey-headed Kingfisher! A kilometer down we decided to take a last look over the slopes for THE EAGLE... but no, just Steppe, Eastern Imperial eagles... and The Belgian birders heading down and they stopped and said that they just saw the Verraux! And that it had landed! And after turning back we finally found the bird high up at the ridge sitting in the shadow, and then suddenly BANG! BANG! A hunter! And good for us the EAGLE was scared, got on his wings, and EUREKA! What a sight!

At the entrance to Wadi Darbat there was a grand show in the air:

- Greater Spotted Eagle's 2-4
- Eurasian Griffon at least 4
- Lappet faced Vulture at least 4 maybe up to 8
- Steppe Eagle uncounted
- Bonelli's Eagle
- Honey Buzzards
- Sooty Falcon ??? Far away! Adult???
- Amur??? No. What was it??? Probably it was a Sooty Falcon.

In the valley Abdims Stork's, about 200, seemed to have a nice time at the shore to the water.

We did not find the Didric who have been feed up close to the parking place by a pair of Weavers.

We were told that a young male should sit there and sing. It didn't. When we were there, at least.

Two – four Arabian Wheatars and lots of Laughing Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves were seen in the "Valley of Camels", and on the way down there. Laughing Doves and Eurasian Collared Dove was two of the most commonly seen species (maybe because of size and behaviour) and seen in large numbers each day. Or as Lars Peter Jansson another Swedish birder at the hotel said: "So



South Arabian Wheatear, Wadi darbat

common that you could eat them for lunch and dinner each day”.



Vultures at Wadi Darbat

After coming home, writing this report... this came up: Two or three species? The bird on the pics at top is far more darker than the Lappet-faced, and the Eurasian Griffon. But is it a Lappet-faced??? Or is it a Cinereous Vulture? After putting it out on Facebook, it was a discussion but finally, and after checking original photos all agreed that it is a Cinereous Vulture! A rare bird in Oman.

On our way to the sinkhole:
Several Steppe Eagles, Greater Spotted Eagles,
Common Kestrels, Booted Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle,
Berber Falcon, were soaring in the skies.
And another Lappet-faced Vulture.

Tawi Atayr finally after a "Umleitung" for about 4 km on unpaved road (you really get spoiled with the high quality of the roads in Oman). Bonellis Eagles, Barbary Falcon, Steppe Eagle, hundreds of Rüppell's Weavers.



Barbary Falcon



Booted Eagle, plains towards Tawi Atyar

It took some time to find The Serins. Oscar went away from the sinkhole and came back after awhile and said "It's one up there" and pointed up at the hill. And away he went... Kent took it a little bit of ease and not far up he suddenly saw a small flock of weavers and got the thought how easily they could be taken for Yemen Serins!

But it was not only weavers in the flock, a good number of African Cinnamon-breasted Buntings joined them and a Yemen Serin! And another one, and after awhile we had counted to 6-8. Probably as many as 10!



Bonellie's Eagle



Yemen Serin, Tawi Atayr

More eagles and falcons were seen as we left the Sinkhole for a drive up to Jabal Samhan. Arabian Partridges and South Arabian Wheatears.

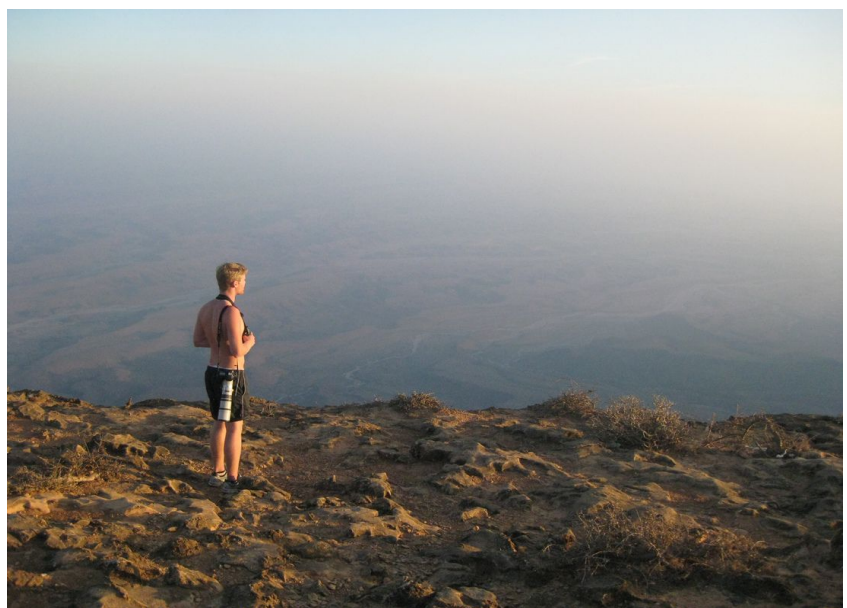


Bonellis Eagle, Tawi Atayr

The breathtaking view over the coastal plains of Mirbat is a fantastic scenery! It should probably be a perfect start point for paragliders... a flight with eagles! The end of the day was near. But first Wadi Darbat and the Owls.

We heard three Arabian Scops Owl. On our way home we made a few (to few) stops. And we had just one more target for the day, DINNER... and the Spotted Thick-knee's at the hotel. Yepp! Three of them at the driving range at Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Well, forgot to mention the Fan-tailed Ravens but You will not miss them. (>15).



View from Jabal Samhan, go there if you possibly can!

Day 4.)

The Desert! But first East Khawr, Raysut Circulation and West Khawr (Awqdayn).

We started our day early 0500. The Belgian birding team talked about Pin-tailed Snipe at East Khawr so we started there. No... only four Common Snipes there.

Back at the hotel to eat breakfast, and to take a quick look in the hotel garden for the Grey Headed Kingfisher. Yepp, we found him quickly, outside of Lars-Peter Janssons hotel room.

Oscar: ”-Siiibirbeck!!! Kolla!” A snipe flew over the cars at the circulation place at Raysut.

No white trailing edge at secondaries. All dark under wing, with brownish.... HONK! HONK! (we were standing still in Raysut roundabout...)... axillaries. As it landed in the roundabout. We saw the bird good but decided to take some pictures of it. But after had parked the car and walked out between the increasingly intense traffic we couldn't find it. Well we HAD to go!

The Desert... but first a quick stop at West Khawr. Yes!!! Just as we had heard and read in reports... Red-Knobbed Coot! And the Jacana were seen also. We both got our feet wet again! Not good, since the water is probably a good place for Bilharzia-snails! NOW finally away to the desert.

But first a couple of European Roller's, unfortunately we didn't get our eyes at any Indian Roller



Southern Grey Shrike, Haylat Ar Rakah "-Hey whats up?"



Grey-headed Kingfisher



European Roller, Salalah

though they should be rather common. But Rollers are cool in any way you get them.

We didn't have a plan yet, but decided to pick some of the sites breathly and maybe go back on our way home. Haylat Ar Rakah was the first site: On our trip to the farm 5 or 6 Greater Hoopoe Larks, and Desert Wheatears stood in the shadows of what they found. Poles for phone and electricity was a favorite.

At Haylat Ar Rakah we found:
 Spotted Flycatcher, Lesser Whitethroat,
 Common Chiffchaff, Red-tailed Wheatear (1),
 Pied Wheatear, Desert Wheatears, a lot of
 ouse Sparrows, and beautiful Aucherii's
 (Southern Grey Shrike's).

After that we drove to Al Balid Farm, but
 passed by to the farms behind. It was kind of
 2pm so we did not have so much time to
 spend there (not good!).

But immediately a black and white bird
 caught our interest! And no doubt *Motacilla
 alba personata*, or as it is called Masked
 Wagtail!



Persian Wheatear, Haylat Ar Rakah



*Masked Wagtail, Motacilla Alba Personata,
 Other Farms, AL Balid Farm*

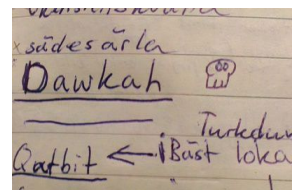
A not so common visitor in the desert and
 southern region.

There was also some White Wagtails, Common
 Chiffchaffs or more so Tristis, at least 10.

We thought we should have a good time at
 Dawkah, the

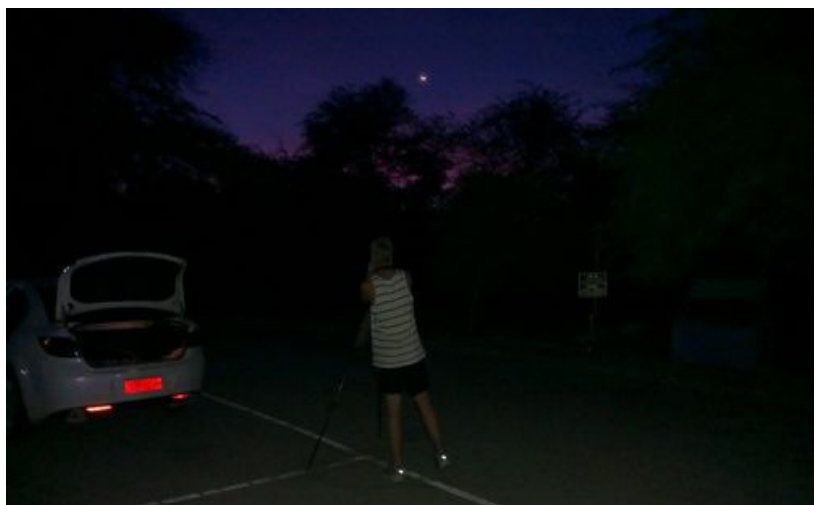
well...well it was
 covered up and not a
 singel little puddle!

Well Oscars note in the
 the notebook explains
 the feeling...



The motell at Qatbit is not... well let's leave this part out. The place is breathing: "Here can every
 bird Western Palearctic, Asia and
 Africa been seen! LOOK
 CAREFULLY! DON'T CLOSE
 YOUR EYES!"

Red Breasted FlyCatcher,
 Bluethroat, Black Redstarts,
 Ménétries's Warblers, and at
 dinner an possible Scops Owl,
 and if so an European Scops Owl.
 In any case it got us on our legs!
 But we couldn't hear anything in
 the darkness, just DESERT
 SILENCE! And the moon smiling
 at us. And then bedtime.



Moon watching

Day 5.)

The nervous morning at Qatbit...
WHERE IS HYPOCOLIUS???
A lot of interesting birds showed up.

3-4 Black Redstarts, between 100 - 200 Spotted Sandgrouses in small flocks passed by.

A lot of Common Ciffchaff's had found their way to Qatbit, most of them tristis type. A Clamorous Reed Warbler sang in a... tree!
The five-seven Ménériés's Warblers from yesterday was still around.



Black Redstart Semirufus



Ménériés's Warbler, Qatbit

Kent and Mikael Wikström went to the north east part of the motell garden to look for the Phylloscopus from yesterday looking as an Two-barred Warbler (*Phylloscopus viridanus plumbeitarsus*) and yes it was there but we discussed other alternatives but after looking at photos we were "sure" about what species it was. Two-barred Warbler. But home... diving deeper in litterature... It is now finally a Hume Warbler with help of Magnus Hellström. Actually it had to be two at the place.

In the corner of the garden we found a few Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) as well as a Desert Whitethroat. (*Sylvia minula*).

Kent and Mikael Wikström frightened an Asian Koel who swiftly disapered in the motell garden. Kent send a SMS to Oscar "Koal" and he ran towards the crime scen... but to late.

Lennart Risberg suddenly shouted "Nilsolfågel" (Nile Valley Sunbird)! Everyone ran to him and there was the bird, unfortunately in eclips plumage.



Western Cattle Heron



Brown-necked Raven

Brown-necked Raven's (*Corvus ruficollis*) passed. After breakfast... most of us probably thought that it should be impossible to find "The bird"... But... *Hypocolius*!!! Suddenly a male *Hypocolius* sat in top of a tree! Everyone except of Conny from Värmland saw him! After a minute or so it took off towards the southeast of the garden, but was never found again. Kent stopped for a thickheaded shrike we saw, don't knowing what species it was. Oscar took a few pictures and so did Kent. To be investigated at home... Mikael did also take some pictures of the odd bird (see after text).



The COOL Koel at Qatbit

We should fuel up and go to Qatbit Oasis. Oscar went away together with Conny who did not see the *Hypocolius*. Oscar looking for the Asian Koel... PRYYYYYIII!!! PRYYYYYIII!!! The football type whistle sounded! Oscar! As we stood by the cars everyone jumped in drove up to the part Oscar where in. -"Koelen är här" (The Koel is here) he shouted. And what an amazing bird!

And all birders at Qatbit got to see it. After fueling up the car we went down to the oasis at Qatbit. Another place we just rushed by. But we went straight out in the desert towards some scrubs. A Desert Wheatear! And I shouted too Oscar who was about 50 meters from me: "-Look out for the Nana!". And exactly by the book! The Desert Warbler kept close to the Wheatear. Later on - the same scenario! And another Desert Warbler showed up.

After looking around quickly in the oasis we took off towards Muntasar! It took some time to get there because the southern road was closed. But Muntasar turned out to be a bit of disappointment, (for us).

A wader which has been discussed up to now with no conclusive settlement over which species it is. Some think Bairds Sandpiper, some have suggested Western Sandpiper, and some Little Stint, at site Oscar suggested Sanderling due to size and voice, but we soon excluded that. So if anyone know, tell us. It has no or very little webbing around toes. Kents guess is Bairds.



Check the long wings and bill



Size comparison, Wood Sandpiper



Tail in indirect sunshine, right colors, light brownish t1-6(??)



Pied Wheatear, Al Balid Farm

A couple of Desert Wheatears, a Siberian Stonchat which kept good distance from cameras, a Wood Sandpiper, some Common Chiffchaffs (tristis) was about all birds we saw at Muntasar.

Al Balid Farm! That's something or did we come just in the right time on day? Birds everywhere! Soon we have seen around 50(!) Tawny Pipit's, at least 10 Greater Hoopoe Lark's, Hoopoe, 3 Rose-coloured Starlings, a Pied Wheatear, and a Pallid Harrier got every little bird on there wings and another impossible shrike... Brown Shrike, Turkestan Shrike or something else...



Cream-coloured Courser, Al Balid Farm

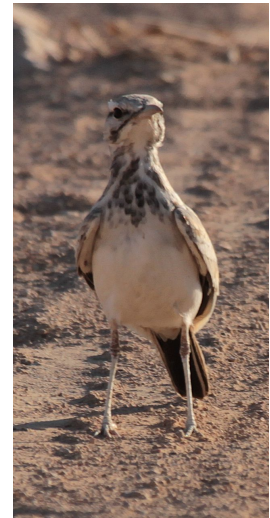
Common Kestrels and over 20 Greater Short-toed Lark's flew in into the first round field. On the east side of the field 1 or 2 Eurasian Skylarks. And on the right side 2 Cream-coloured Courser's.

The sun was going down and a day without food, since breakfast. We were hungry and had some canned vegetables and a very nice looking Meat Sauce! OK that should be nice if... we when opening the Meat Sauce saw it was just sauce! And when reading more carefully at the can we understood that meat was something you should mix this can with. But it Had To Do!

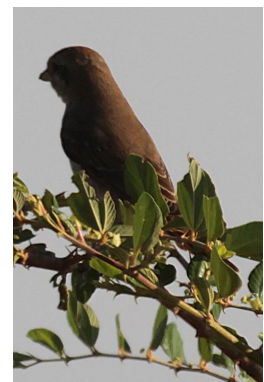
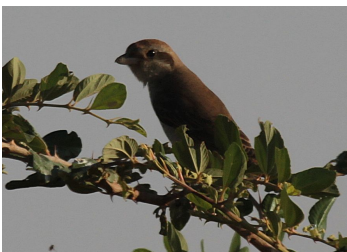
We also saw a lot of crested Larks,



Greater Hoopoe-Lark



2-3 Black-crowned Sparrow Larks. 1 Bluethroat, and as expected Desert Wheatears, Isabelline Wheatears, House Sparrows and the common pigeons. And when going out we met Tina, Sverker and Conny x 2 who told us about a Buzzard. And after lot of discussions a Long-legged Buzzard is the common sense.



Compare with [http://si.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E0%B6%9C%E0%B7%9C%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%94%E0%B7%80:Brown_Shrike_\(Lanius_cristatus\)-_Immature_in_Kolkata_I_IMG_0147.jpg](http://si.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E0%B6%9C%E0%B7%9C%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%94%E0%B7%80:Brown_Shrike_(Lanius_cristatus)-_Immature_in_Kolkata_I_IMG_0147.jpg)

Day 6.)

Khawr Al Mughsayl, Wadi Ashawq, Jabal Al Qamar, and the coastline of Mughsayl was the target for the day. As we approached Mughsayl we saw Great Egrett, Western Reef Heron, Little Egretts, Dhofar swifts, large numbers of gulls and terns. We



Brown Booby

went into Wadi Ashawq after a short stop at



Isabelline Wheatear, Al Mughsayl



Brown Noddy, Al Mughsayl

Khawr Al Mughsayl, and found a few Desert Larks, Arabian-, Desert- and Isabelline Wheatears and one Wheatear, probably Isabelline, but with some Red-breasted characters, a very dark crown and bright eye-stripe. About 10 Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters was searching food from a fence. In the Khawr and the small ponds we found 2 Eurasian Coots, 1 Northern Pintails, Eurasian Teals, 2 Little Grebes.

As we left Khawr Al Mughsayl Lars Peter Jansson saw the Sultan of Dhofar mountains over the ridge... Verreux's Eagle, a pity for us, but we saw them in Ain Hamran a few days before. Around the steep mountain tops several eagles soared together with a big falcon, either a Lanner or a Saker Falcon, probably Lanner.

We really wanted to get closer to the sea birds in Mughsayl, so we asked around and soon we got our ride! Hamed Mohad, a fisherman took us out



Bridled Tern, Al Mughsayl

in his boat for a few hours. The time on the day wasn't the best but we came close to Bridled Terns, Brown Noddy, Brown Booby and Swift Terns, beside Sooty Gulls, Saunders Terns.



Hamed Mohad

Hamed said that he can do this on a more regular basis if there is an interest from birders. I'm sure that with the proper payment he should be willing to drop fishing for a day :-)
+OMAN 99440717.



Persian Shearwater



Persian Shearwater



Swift Tern

We paid him 20 Oman Rial. The boat can fit up to five birders conveniently with cameras and binoculars (no spotting scopes). If you should have a guy to take care of the ...scrumming..... 4 persons is recommended. Use popcorn dipped in fish "sauce". It has to be something with floats. Just a lot of fish which after a few seconds are sinking out of reach for the gulls is not smart.



Al Mugsayl Beach, 6 Swift Tern 2 Black-tailed Godwits,



Heuglin's Gull (left) and Steppe Gull

After the boat trip... or handling the fish we **needed** to take a bath, and we did. The sun was going down fast, we were hungry so we went to Al Arab, a nice and cheap restaurant in Salalah with lots of alternatives. We went satisfied to bed. The last night at Crowne Plaza.

Day 7.)

Raz Mirbat, shearwater-time and shore birds... 0430 - Time to rise from the dead ones. The early morning hours... Hamed Mohad told us that birds joins him when he goes to sea 0500 in the mornings. So to be ready at Raz Mirbat at dawn we had to go 0515 at the latest.

It paid off. Around 25 (50?) Persian Shearwaters, >25 Jouanin's Petrels, 2 larger more stiff winged Petrels probably one of them is Wedge-tailed Shearwater but after long discussions more uncertainty than from beginning... The other was either a Fleshfooted or a Wedge-tailed, but it was far out and before the sunrise. When driving "home" from Mirbat, we went up to Shihayt and Wadi Hanna, beautiful Wadis in which we should have spend more time. Arabian Warbler, African Paradise Flycatcher, Bruce's Green Pigeon, several White-eyes, Ruppell's Weavers were all seen. Steppe Eagles and Greater Spotted Eagle soared around, and other birds of prey.



Sinai Agama in Mirbat

At breakfast we heard: - Golden-winged Bunting sighted! At Ain Razat. So a quick re-schedule was made. But no Golden-winged Bunting there, but we recognized many of the birds from our last visit. We made a much to short visit at Sahnawt Farm. 2 Booted Eagles were sighted, about 40 Glossy Ibises high in the sky, 9 Demoiselle Cranes and at least 4 Namaqua Doves in huge flocks of Laughing - and Eurasian Collared Dove on the fields.

East Khawr, the last stop, and cup of hot tea... herons and lots of waders just as earlier in the week, plus a new species for the week – one Eurasian Spoonbill! And that's it! 1430 and time for lunch and to turn back the car. We made it with a close call again... The representative from Budget Car was not there! So we had to call him. After some discussions our bags was also checked in, even though they closed the check in.

Then Stockholm and Växjö.



Bruce Green-pigeon, Wadi Hanna



Arabian Partridges, near Shihayt

Reflection:

- Smart move to pre hire car (Argushire) with delivery at airport.
- Should have changed car from 2WD to 4WD after 4 days before going to the desert. And we could have gone further into Wadi Ashawq for the Humes... and could have driven to Ras Janjari (but we saved some 2000:-SEK by driving 2WD)

- We had two regular communication radios with us. Fast and distinct and very good when "working" an area with some distance between us.

- The most birds are seen early in mornings and late afternoons, so no lazy mornings! Better to take a power nap during the day... we didn't

- 14 days in southern part should be perfect. So what should we have done with the extra time?
 - Should have spent away more time at Wadi Darbat, Wadi Hanna, and the Coast. Qatbit!!! And Al Balid Farm!!! These places are the two prime sites we visited and they require 2 Days, read two sunrises, at least to cover them better. Muntasar was a big disappointment with very few birds We came around noon which might have big impact. The well in Dakwah is covered up and not a bird in sight, more truckers pumping water than birds. It felt that we did not have time to visit the desert sites.
 - A two day tour to south east coast sites
 - Visit to Khawr Rawri's coastal part
 - Visit to Salalah Nature Reserve
 - A visit to the Arceological site and Salalah Farms
 - We should have listened for Humes and other Owls in mountains when travelling home and also taken one more night tour. But we (Kent) ran out of power...

- There is a lot of places not mentioned in the very good and helpful book Birdwatching in Oman which should be checked more frequently. What about Wadi Shlyun, Ras Tihar, Wadi Amdat, Ras Muntajib all east of Ras Janjari? And west of Salalah, Dalkut and Ras Darbat Ali?

- We should have brought a Ultra Violet Lamp, went out in the desert and looked at the spectacular scenery all scorpions should be

- We should have looked more carefully after the Arabian Leopards in Dhofar mountains.

Species Checklist:

1. **Arabian Partridge** (*Alectoris melanocephala*) 8-15/11 several heard Ain Hamran, 10/11 Jabal Samhan 6+, 13/11 west of Mugsayl 2, 14/11 wadi east Wadi Hanna (close to Shihayt) 7, Wadi Hanna 2+, and some others heard from Dhofar mountains
2. **Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*) 8/11 East Khawr, 11/11 East Khawr 1
3. **Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) 1♀ 8/11 East Khawr, 11/11 East Khawr >3, but rather common and seen at West Khawr with large numbers
4. **Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*) 9/11 RSTP 2,
5. **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*) a few seen, but is missing in all small notes...
6. **Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*) 13/11 Mugsayl 2
7. **Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*) a few (uncounted) 8/11 East Khawr, 11/11 East Khawr, 8/11 Taqah
8. **Eurasian Teal** (*Anas crecca*) Common in region in Khawr's, ex 8/11 Taqah, 9/11 RSTP >2, 11/11 East Khawr, 13/11 Mugsayl 1
9. **Little Grebe** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) 9/11 small Khawr west of West Khawr, 13/11 Mugsayl 3
10. **Wedge tailed Shearwater** (*Puffinus pacificus*) 14/11 (or Flesh-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus Carnipes*) Ras Mirbat 1?
11. **Persian Shearwater** (*Puffinus persicus*) 13/11 Al Mughsayl >10 14/11 Ras Mirbat >20
12. **Jouanin's Petrel** (*Bulweria fallax*) 13/11 Al Mughsayl 1, 14/11 Ras Mirbat 25-50
13. **Masked Booby** (*Sula dactylatra*), 14/11 Ras Mirbat >10 (9ad 1juv),
14. **Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) 13/11 Mugsayl 2+2 (probably 4),
15. **Greater Flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) 15+ 8/11 East Khawr, 9/11 West Khawr 20, 13/11 Al Mugsayl 2
16. **Abdim's Stork** (*Ciconia abdimii*) 10/11 Wadi Darbat about 200
17. **White Stork** (*Ciconia ciconia*) Raysut Waste Disposal >150, seen on a few occasions beside of this site
18. **Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) 8/11 >28 East Khawr, 11/11 East Khawr 25+, 14/11 >20 flying over Salalahs east parts hunted by peregrine falcon, and about 20 East Khawr at same time.
19. **Spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*) 15/11 East Khawr 1
20. **Eurasian Bittern** (*Boyaorus stellaris*) 8/11 Taqah 1
21. **Western Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) 9/11 Raysut W D 8+, 9/11 West Khawr 1,
22. **Squacco Heron** (*Ardeola ralloides*) 8/11 East Khawr >15!, 11/11 East Khawr 10+, 8/11 Taqah 1 extremely bright. 9/11 West Khawr 1. Seen in many of the small lakes (uncounted but around 50 seen during the week)
23. **Indian Pond-heron** (*Ardeola grayii*) 1+1 (surely identified) 8/11 East Khawr
24. **Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*) >100 Abundant in Dhofar region at the Khawr's and farm lands, 8/11 Khawr Rawri several, and 9/11 Raysut Waste Disposal, RSTP, 13/11 coast line by Al Mugsayl and Al Mugsayl uncounted >5
25. **Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*) 8-15/11 East Khawr 2+, and 2-4 at Taqah, 9/11 West Khawr 2, 13/11 Al Mugsayl 2+, and seen every day around the coastline.
26. **Western Great Egret** (*Egretta alba*) 13/11 Al Mugsayl 1
27. **Intermediate Egret** (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) 9/11 West Khawr 2 13/11 Al Mugsayl 1
28. **Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*) 8-15/11 East Khawr 1-4, 9/11 Raysut WD 2, 9/11 Ain Razat 1, 9/11 West Khawr 1, 10/11 Ain Darbat 1, 13/11 Al Mugsayl 3, seen around most ponds and Khawrs

29. **Western Reef Heron** (*Egretta gularis*) 8-15/11 East Khawr 2+, 8/11 Taqah 1-3, 13/11 Al Mugsayl 2, and seen in more or less each Khawr.
About 10 seen during the week.
30. **Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) 8-15/11 seen in small numbers at coast line
31. **Socotra Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*) 8-15/11 Fairly common in whole area along coast line around 300 identified, 13/11 Al Mugsayl >200, 14/11 few! at Raz Mirbat 3
32. **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) 14/11 Raz Mirbat 1
33. **European Honey Buzzard** (*Pernis apivorus*) 10/11 Wadi Darbat 1, 12/11 Qatbit 1?
34. **Crested Honey Buzzard** (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) 8/11 Taqah 2, 12/11 Qatbit 1(2?)
35. **Yellow Billed Kite** (*Milvus aegyptuis*) 8/11 Taqah 2
36. **Black-eared Kite** (*Milvus [migrans] lineatus*) Raysut waste disposal 2, RSTP 1(2?)
37. **Cinereous Vulture** (*Aegytus monachus*) 10/11 Wadi Darbat 1 see photo
38. **Eurasian Griffon Vulture** (*Gyps fulvus*) 10/11 Wadi Darbat 4
39. **Lappet-faced Vulture** (*Torgos tracheliotus tracheliotus*) 10/11 Wadi Darbat 3+(4?), 10/11 road side to Tawi Atyar 1,
40. **Short-toed Snake Eagle** (*Circaetus gallicus*) 9/11 RWD 1juv, 10/11 Ain Hamran 2+2+1+1+1, 10/11 Wadi Darbat 2++, 10/11 Tawi Atayar 2+
41. **Western Marsh-harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*) East Khawr 8-15/11 4+, Taqah 2+, 9/11 West Khawr 1
42. **Pallid Harrier** (*Circus macrourus*) 12/11 Al Balid Farm 1 (1cy)
43. **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter nisus*) 9/11 Ain Razat 1, 10/11 Ain Hamran 2, 10/11 Tawi Atyar 1, 12/11 Qatbit 1+1
44. **Common Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*) 12/11 Qatbit 1
45. **Long-legged Buzzard** (*Buteo rufinus*) Al Balid Farm 1
46. **Greater Spotted Eagle** (*Aquila clanga*) Abundant in Dhofar Region, Taqah 3 (1ad), EastKhawr 1, Ain Hamran several, Wadi Darbat 2++, Tawi Atyar 2++, Salalah several sightings, Raysut Waste Disposal 2 (1 ad 1 juv), seen each day
47. **Steppe Eagle** (*Aquila nipalensis*) 9/11 Raysut waste disposal >500, 13/11 Mugsayl 10, abundant in Dhofar region, the eagle-signum of Dhofar!
48. **Eastern Imperial Eagle** (*Aquila heliaca*) >25 seen around Dhofar region from Mugsayl to Mirbat, 8/11 Taqah 1, 9/11 Ain Razat 1juv+1ad, 9/11, Raysut Waste Disposal 2 juv+, 10/11 Ain Hamran 3+ (1 subad 6cy), 10/11 Ain Darbat 2++
49. **Verreaux's Eagle** (*Aquila verreauxii*) 10/11 Ain Hamran 1 (2?)
50. **Booted Eagle** (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) 10/11 Wadi Darbat 1, 10/11 road side to Tawi Atayar 2 (dark), 15/11 Salalah, Sahnwat Farms 2 (1dark),
51. **Bonelli's Eagle** (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*) Dohfar region >10, 9/11 RWD 2 (1ad 1juv), 10/11 Ain Hamran 1ad +, 10/11 Wadi Darbat 2+, 10/11 Tawi Atayar 3
52. **Common Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*) 8/11 East Khawr 2, 8/11 Khawr Rawri 1, 9/11 Ain Razat 3, 10/11 Ain Hamran 2, 10/11 Wadi Darbat >2, 10/11 Tawi Atyar and road side >4, 10 Jabal Samhan 2, 12/11 Al Balid farm 2, 15/11 Ain Razat 2, Rather common in Dhofar region, seen all days
53. **Amur Falcon** (*Falco amurensis*) 9/11 Raysyt waste disposal 1, Raysut sewage plant 1 (probably same bird)
54. **Sooty Falcon** (*Falco concolor*) / Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) Wadi Darbat 1 prob 1ad Sooty (late at the year)
55. **Lanner Falcon** (*Falco biarmicus*) [90%]/Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) 13/11 Mugsayl 1
56. **Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*) 14/11 Salalah 1 hunting Glossy Ibises!
57. **Barbary Falcon** (*Falco pelegrinoides*) 10/11 Tawi Atyar 1 ad, and 1 more (? check)
58. **Demoniselle Crane** (*Anthropoides virgo*) 14/11 Salalah, Sahnwat Farm 5

59. **Common Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*) common and present at most pond and lakes, often several, uncounted, ex 8/11 Taqah 20++, 9/11 RWTP 30++, 9/11 West Khawr 20++, Mugsayl
60. **Red-knobbed coot** (*Fulica cristata*) 11/11 West Khawr 1
61. **Eurasian Coot** (*Fulica atra*) 8/11 Taqah 1, 9/11 West Khawr 2, 11/11 West Khawr 1, 13/11 Mugsayl 2
62. **Spotted Thick-knee** (*Burhinus capensis*) 10/11 21.00 Crowne Palace Hotel, driving range 3
63. **Cream-coloured Courser** (*Cursorius cursor*) 12/11 Al Balid Farm 2 (3?)
64. **Eurasian Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus ostralegus*) 8/11 East Khawr >30
65. **Black-winged Stilt** (*Himantopus himantopus*) 8/11 East Khawr 31+
66. **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) 11/11 West Khawr 1
67. **Red-wattled Lapwing** (*Vanellus indicus*) 11/11 Raysut Sewage Treatment Plant 3,
68. **Grey Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*) 8/11 East Khawr 1, 11/11 West Khawr 3, 13/11 Mugsayl 1
69. **Pacific Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis fulva*) 8/11 East Khawr 1
70. **Common ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*) 8,11/11 East Khawr >5 + uncounted around the Khawr
71. **Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*) 8/11 Taqah 1, 9/11 RSTP about 10
72. **Kentish Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) 8,11,14/11 around the beach at East Khawr >150!, seen every day when close to coast, ex Taqah, Mirbat
73. **Lesser Sand Plover** (*Charadrius mongolus*) 8/11 East Khawr 1+1, 13/11 Al Mygsayl
74. **Greater Sand Plover** (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) 16/11 Mirbat 1
75. **Pin-tailed Snipe** (*Gallinago stenura*) 13/11 Raysut Turnabout 1
76. **Common Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*) 8/11 East Khawr 4-5, West Khawr (uncounted), 11/11 East Khawr 3
77. **Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa*) 8,11/11 East Khawr 4, 9/11 West Khawr >8
78. **Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*) 8/11 East Khawr 2, 9/11 West Khawr 1
79. **Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*) 8/11 East Khawr 1
80. **Eurasian Curlew** (*Numenius arquata orientalis*) 8/11 East Khawr 2, 9/11 West Khawr ?
81. **Spotted Redshank** (*Tringa erythropus*) 8/11 East Khawr 2 (Kent), 9/11 RSTP 2+
82. **Common Redshank** (*Tringa totanus*) 8/11 East Khawr >100! 9/11 West Khawr several, 11/11 East Khawr >20
83. **Marsh Sandpiper** (*Tringa stagnatilis*) 9/11 Taqah 1+ , 9/11 RSTP >4, 9/11 West Khawr 2+, 13/11 Mugsayl 1,
84. **Common Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*) 8/11 East Khawr >30, 10/11 Ain Darbat 1 11/11 East Khawr about 50,
85. **Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*) 9/11 Ayn Razat 1, 10/11 Ayn Hamran 1,
86. **Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*) 9/11 RSTP 1, 12/11 Muntasar 1, more sightings were done...
87. **Terek Sandpiper** (*Tringa cinerea*) 8/11 East Khawr 1, 13/11 East Khawr 1
88. **Common Sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) 8/11 East Khawr 3+, 9/11 West Khawr ... uncounted several, 9/11 Ain Razat 2+, 10/11 Ayn Hamran 1, 10/11 Ain Darbat 1, 11/11 .East Khawr >2, 13/11 Al Mugsayl uncounted
89. **Little Stint** (*Calidris minuta*) 11/11 East Khawr 3+,
90. **Temminck's Stint** (*Calidris temminckii*) 9/11 West Khawr uncounted several. 11/11 East Khawr 1(more?)
91. **Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*) 8/11 East Khawr 2, 11/11 East Khawr 2+
92. **Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*) 8/11 East Khawr Uncounted around 10 (small flocks flew on and off),

93. **Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*) 8/11 East Khawr >20, 9/11 West Khawr >20, 11/11 East Khawr ca. 100, and seen most days at coastal locations
94. **Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*) 13/11 Al Mugsayl 30+, 14/11 Mirbat 30+
95. **Sooty Gull** (*Larus hemprichii*) abundant in area, seen every day in numbers, more than 500
96. **Slender-billed Gull** (*Larus genei*) 8/11 East Khawr, 8/11 Taqah, Crowne, West Khawr, Al Mugsayl, Mirbat in total of about 100
97. **Caspian Gull** (*Larus cachinnans cachinnans*) 13/11 Mugsayl 1?????CHECK???????
98. **Heuglin's Gull** (*Larus heuglini*) (uncounted) abundant from Mirbat to Al Mugasayl probably about the same as for Steppe Gull
99. **Steppe Gull** (*Larus barabensis*) (uncounted) abundant from Mirbat to Al Mugsayl, 8/11 the beach of Taqah about 10 identified,
100. **Baltic Gull** (*Larus fuscus fuscus*) **13/11 Mugsayl 1!!!!!!!!!!!!CHECK!!!!!!!!?**
101. **Gull-billed Tern** (*Sterna nilotica*) 8/11 East Khawr 3+, 8/11 Taqah >1, 9/11 West Khawr 1+ and seen in small numbers rest of the week
102. **Lesser Crested-tern** (*Sterna bengalensis*) (uncounted) 8/11 Taqah closup at bath, seen each day in small numbers, 9/11 West Khawr >20, 13/11 Al Mugsayl several >20 (at boat trip)
103. **Swift Tern** [Great Crested-tern] (*Sterna bergii*) uncounted, seen at Mugsayl with more than 10
104. **Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*) (uncounted) 8/11 East Khawr 2+, seen on and of around coast line
105. **White-cheeked Tern** (*Sterna repressa*) (uncounted) probably rather common, 13/11 Al Mugsayl 2+
106. **Bridled Tern** (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) (uncounted) seen all days close to the shore, ex. 8/11 East Khawr >5, 8/11 Closeup Taqah 1, high numbers at Al Mugsayl >200 west towards Yemen
107. **Saunders' Tern** (*Sterna saundersi* [albifrons]) 8/11 East Khawr 1+, 9/11 West Khawr 1+, 13/11 Mugsayl several but uncounted (50?)
108. **Whiskered Tern** (*Chlidonias hybrida*) 8/11 East Khawr uncounted, rather common around the coast
109. **White-winged Black Tern** (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) 8/11 East Khawr 1
110. **Brown Noddy** (*Anous stolidus*) 13/11 Al Mygsayl 1 (boat trip)
111. **Arctic Skua** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) 15/11 Raz Mirbat 1
112. **Spotted Sandgrouse** (*Pterocles senegallus*) 12/11 Qatbit Oasis 1, 12/11 Qatbit 8+20+40+60+20
113. **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** (*Pterocles exustus*) 12/11 Al Balid Farms 15+
114. **Rock Dove** (*Columba livia*) (uncounted) beside Eurasian Collared Dove and Laughing Dove abundant
115. **Bruce's Green-pigeon** (*Treron waalia*) 9/11 Ain Razat 3, 10/11 Ain Hamran 3 15/11 Wadi Hanna 1
116. **Eurasian Collared Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) uncounted, 15/11 Sahnwat Farms >250, abundant in the area
117. **Laughing Dove** (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) uncounted, seen everywhere except in the extrens of the desert, 15/11 Sahnwat Farms >250
118. **Namaqua Dove** (*Oena capensis*) 15/11 Salalah, Sahnwat Farms 2+
119. **Rose Ringed** [Ring-Necked] Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) 8-13/11 East Khawr and Salalah area small flocks
120. **Asian Koel** (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*) 12/11 Qatbit 1 juv or ♀
121. **Arabian Scops Owl** (*Otus* [senegalensis] pamela) 10/11 Wadi Darbat 3

122. **Egyptian Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*) 8/11 Khawr Rawri 1
123. **Swift** (unidentified) 8-13/11 East Khawr 10+, several sightings around Salalah
124. **Common Swift** (*Apus apus*) 8/11 Salalah 1
125. **Pallid Swift** (*Apus pallidus*) 8/11 Khawr Rawri 1
126. **Forbes-Watson's Swift** (*Apus berliozi*) Khawr Rawri (inner part) 40+ (probably over 100 in wide flock at hill side), 9/11 RSTP >20, several sightings but Pallid swift and Common Swifts make it time-consuming during the week so most unidentified
127. **European Roller** (*Coracias garrulus*) 11/11 Salalah 3, seen a few times, 9/11 RSTP 1?
128. **Hoopoe** (*Upupa epops*) 9/11 Ain Razat 2, 12/11 Al Balid Farm 1
129. **Grey-headed Kingfisher** (*Halcyon leucocephala*) Crowne Plaza 1 present in mornings close to the driving range
130. **Pied Kingfisher** (*Ceryle rudis*) 8-13/11 East Khawr 1
131. **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** (*Merops persicus*) 8/11 Taqah 10+, 13/11 Mugasayl >4
132. **Little Green Bee-eater** (*Merops orientalis*) 8/11 East Khawr 2, 8/11 Taqah 4+, 9/11 RSTP >2, 13/11 Mugasayl >6
133. **Black-crowned Tchagra** (*Tchagra senegalus*) 9/11 Ain Razat 1, 10/11 Ain Hamran 3+1
134. **Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius collurio*) 9/11 RSTP 1, 10/11 Ain Hamran 1
135. **Daurian [Isabelline] Shrike** (*Lanius isabellinus*) 8/11 Taqah 1, 8/11 Khawr Rawri 1, 9/11 RSTP 1, 10/11 Ain Hamran 1+, 12/11 Muntasar 2, 12/11 Qatbit >1, 12/11 Al Balid Farm 1+, 13/11 Mugasayl 1
136. **Turkestan Shrike** (*Lanius Phoenicuriodes*) 10/11 Ain Hamran 1
137. **Southern Grey Shrike** (*Lanius meridionalis aucheri*) 11/11 Haylat Ar Rakah 2, 12/11 Al Balid Farm 1, seen at more occasions but not noted
138. **African Paradise-flycatcher** (*Terpsiphone viridis*) 9/11 Ain Razat 2+, 10/11 Ain Hamran 3+, 10/11 Tawi Atayr 1, 14/11 Wadi Hanna 3+
139. **House Crow** (*Corvus splendens*) 8/11 On the way to East Khawr and a common sight in Salalah, 9/11 Raysut Waste Disposal
140. **Brown-necked Raven** (*Corvus ruficollis*) 11/11 on road side to Qatbit, 312/11 Qatbit >3
141. **Fan-tailed Raven** (*Corvus rhipidurus*) 10/11 Ain Hamran 2, 10/11 Tawi Atyar about 10, 10/11 on road side to Jabal Samhan >10, 13/11 Al Mugasayl and road towards Yemen >15
142. **Hypocolius** (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) 12/11 Qatbit 1♂
143. **White-spectacled [Yellow-vented] Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) 8/11 Taqah, Khawr Rawri >5, 9/11 Ain Razat, 10/11 Ain Hamran, Wadi Darbat, Tawi Atyar, 14/11 Wadi Hanna. And more places... not uncommon and hard to avoid, due to voice!
144. **Black-crowned Sparrow-lark** (*Eremopterix nigriceps*) 9/11 road side Raysu waste Disposal 1♀ 1♂, 12/11 Al Balid Farm 3(♀♀♂)+
145. **Greater Hoopoe Lark** (*Alaemon alaudipes*) 11/11 on road side to Haylat Ar Rakah 6, 12/11 Al Balid Farm >5 (probably >10 but uncounted),
146. **Bimaculated Lark** (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) 12/11 Qatbit 1? Oscar: Large. Rounded wings. White trailing edge. Big dark spot on throat
147. **Crested Lark** (*Galerida cristata*) common in whole region, 8/11 East Khawr >4, 8/11 Taqah >4, 9/11 Raysut WD 2, 9/11 RSTP >6, 12/11 Al Balid Farm >10, several seen along the roads during the week
148. **Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*) 12/11 Al Balid Farm uncounted >2 heard at other places, but uncounted
149. **Greater Short-toed Lark** (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) 12/11 Al Balid Farms 20+ in flock at sunset
150. **Desert Lark** (*Ammomanes deserti*) 13/11 Mugasayl 3+, 14 Mirbat

151. Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) (uncounted) seen 8/11 East Khawr >2
152. **Pale Rock Martin** (*Ptyonoprogne [fuligula] obsoleta*) seen in good numbers >100 ex 8/11 Taqah >10, 9/11 Ain Razat >6, 10/11 Ain Hamran >16, seen East Khawr, Raysut Waste Disposal, RSTP, Wadi Hanna, Salalah etc.
153. **Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*) 8-15/11, seen in good numbers each day when looking for them >100, ex. 9/11 RSTP >30
154. **Graceful [Warbler] Prinia** (*Prinia gracilis*) Common and one of the birds greeting us each morning at Crowne Plaza, 8/11 East Khawr 2, 8/11 Taqah, 8/11 Khawr Rawri uncounted (5?)
155. **Clamorous Reed-warbler** (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*) 8/11 Khawr Rawri 2-3 singing, Qatbit 12/11 1 singing in tree
156. **Eurasian Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) 13/11 Al Mugsayl 1 singing
157. **Common Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita collybita*) 11/11 Haylat Ar Rakah 1, 11,12/11 Qatbit >3, 12/11 Qatbit Oasis 1, 12/11 Al Balid Farm 3 (tristis?)
158. **Siberian Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*) 11/11 small farm behind Al Balid Farm 10+, 11,12/11 Qatbit probably >100!
159. **Arabian Warbler** (*Sylvia leucomelaena*) 10/11 Ain Hamran 5, 14/11 Wadi Hanna 2, some birds heard at other places
160. **Arabian Desert Warbler** (*Sylvia nana*) 12/11 Qatbit Oasis 2
161. **Humes Leaf Warbler** (*Phylloscopus humei*) 12/11 Qatbit 2 (seen and heard) see Two-barred Warbler
162. **Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia curruca*) 11/11 Haylat Ar Rakah 1, 11,12/11 Qatbit >3
163. **Desert Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia minula [curruca]*) 11,12/11 Qatbit 1
164. **Menetries's Warbler** (*Sylvia mystacea*) 11,12/11 Qatbit >4 1ad 3> juv
165. **Abyssinian [White-breasted] White-eye** (*Zosterops abyssinicus*) 9/11 Ain Razat >>10, 10 Ain Hamran >15, seen in many places, common
166. **Common Myna** (*Acridotheres tristis*) 8-15/11 at Crowne Palace and several other places, 9/11 West Khawr a huge colonie
167. **Rose-coloured Starling** (*Pastor roseus*) 8/11 Khawr Rawri 1 juv, 12/11 Al Balid farm 3+
168. **Tristram's Starling** (*Onychognathus tristramii*) uncounted, seen in small flocks each day, from the first sighting 300 meters from Crowne Palace the first day (8/11), 9/11 Ain Razat 25+, 9/11 Raysut Waste disposal about 30, 10/11 Tawi Atyar >100, common and seen in many occasions
169. **Bluethroat** (*Luscinia svecica*) 8/11 Khawr Rawri 2 (♀♂), 9/11 Ain Razat 1, 11,12/11 Qatbit >5, 12/11 Al Balid Farm
170. **Trush Nightingale** (*Luscinia luscinia*) 10/11 Ain Hamran 1!!! (Seen together with Belgian birders)
171. **Eastern Nightingale** (*Luscinia [megarhynchos] golzii*) 10/11 Ain Hamran 1 see photos
172. **Black Redstart** (*Phoenicurus ochruros semirufus*) 12/11 Qatbit 2 4+1? (mousegrey, and rufus at tail base)
173. **Siberian Stonechat** (*Saxicola maurus*) 12/11 Muntasar 1
174. **Isabelline Wheatear** (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 8/11 Taqah >3, 9/11 Raysut Waste Disposal 2, 12/11 Al Balid Farms >3, 13/11 Mugsayl >3
175. **Blackstart** (*Cercomela melanura*) Common in the area, uncounted, seen every day with at least 3 birds, ex) 9/11 Ain Razat 5++, 10/11 Ain Hamran >8, 10/11 Ain Darbat >8
176. **Pied Wheatear** (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) 11/11 Haylat Ar Rakah 1+, 12/11 Al Balid Farms 1, 13/11 Al Magsayl 1?

177. **Desert Wheatear** (*Oenanthe deserti*) 8/11 East Khawr >6, Taqah >2, 9/11 Raysut Waste Disposal >4, 9/11 RSTP >2, 11/11 Haylat Ar Rakah 1+, 12/11 Qatbit Oasis >2, 11,12/11 Al Balid Farms >6, 13/11 Mugsayl >8 and found all over the area. The common Wheatear of Dhofar
178. **[South] Arabian Wheatear** (*Oenanthe [lugens] lugentoides*) 10/11 Ain Darbat 2, 10/11 road side to Jabal Samhan 4+, 13/11 Mugsayl 2++ seen in all mountainous areas with a little green shrubs (we noticed only ♂ males! Maybe 1 ♀ at Mugsayl. Lack of knowledge and eyes?)
179. **Red-tailed [Persian] Wheatear** (*Oenanthe xanthopyrma*) 11/11 Haylat Ar Rakah 1
180. **Spotted flycatcher** (*Muscicapa striata*) 10/11 Ain Hamran >2, 11/11 Haylat Ar Rakah 1, 11,12/11 Qatbit 3, 14/11 Ain Razat 1
181. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (*Ficedula parva*) 11,12/11 Qatbit >2
182. **Nile Valley Sunbird** (*Anthodiaeta metallica*) 12/11 Qatbit 1 eclipse
183. **Palestine Sunbird** (*Cinnyris osea*), 9/11 Ain Razat >4 (maybe >10)
184. **Shining Sunbird** (*Cinnyris habessinica*) The common color sparkling bird in the area, 8/11 Crowne Plaza >2, East Khawr 4+, Khawr Rawri >4, 9/11 Ain Razat >20 (maybe >40), 10/11 Ain Darbat several sightings
185. **House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) Abundant at the farms and around Qatbit
186. **Rüppell's Weaver** (*Ploceus galbula*) 8/11 East Khawr 4, 8/11 Khawr Rawri 200+ in large flocks, 9/11 Ain Razat uncounted, 10/11 Ain Hamran, uncounted, 10/11 Tawi Atyar 50+ (look out for Yemen Serin! Do not mess them up!), and an abundant species everywhere
187. **African Silverbill** (*Lonchura cantans [malabarica]*) 8/11 East Khawr, Taqah and Khawr Rawri uncounted 9/11 Ain Razat uncounted, 9/11 RSTP small flock, 10/11 Ain Haran uncounted, common, 10/11 Tawi Atyar about 10
188. **Scaly-breasted Munia** (*Lonchura punctulata*) 2 8/11 East Khawr
189. **Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*) 9/11 Ain Razat 2, 10/11 Ain Hamran 1,
190. **White Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba alba*) 8/11 Taqah, 9/11 Raysut Waste Disposal >2, 9/11 RSTP several, 10/11 Ain Hamran, 11/11 small farm behind Al Balid Farm >10 12/11 Qatbit uncounted, 12/11 Muntasar 2+, 13/11 Mugsayl uncounted
191. **Masked Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba personata*) 11/11 small farm behind Al Balid Farm 1
192. **Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla flava flava, thunbergi*) 8/11 East Khawr 1, 8/11 Taqah uncounted (flava and Thunbergi), 9/11 RSTP uncounted about 3
193. **Citrine Wagtail** (*Motacilla citreola*) 8-13/11 in neighbourhood of East Khawr 20+, 8/11 Taqah uncounted, 9/11 Raysut Waste Disposal >2, 9/11 RSTP several, 9/11 West Khawr 2, 13/11 Mugsayl 1, a very widespread species heard and seen all over the area
194. **Tawny Pipit** (*Anthus campestris*) 8/11 East Khawr 1, RSTP 1, Raysut 1, 12/11 Al Balid Farm's 30+, some at road side during the week
195. **Long-billed Pipit** (*Anthus similis*) 10/11 Ain Hamran 1
196. **Water Pipit** (*Anthus spinoletta*) 12/11 Muntasar 1 (heard and seen)
197. **Yemen Serine** (*Critagra menachensis*) 10/11 Tawi Atyar ca.10 (oscar 2++, Kent ca. 10)
198. **Striolated [House] Bunting** (*Emberiza striolata*) ? Look a like at Ain Razat, Ain Hamran, Wadi Hanna, Tawi Atyar
199. **Cinnamon-breasted [African Rock] Bunting** (*Emberiza tahapisi*) 9/11 Ain Razat and into the Wadi 70+(100?), 10/11 Ain Hamran many! 10/11 Tawi Atyar >20 Abundant in the green mountains of Dhofar

Other specimens:

8/11 Swifts (the two to left the same) at Taqua



9/11 Crowne Plaza, unidentified Lizzard (Agama?)



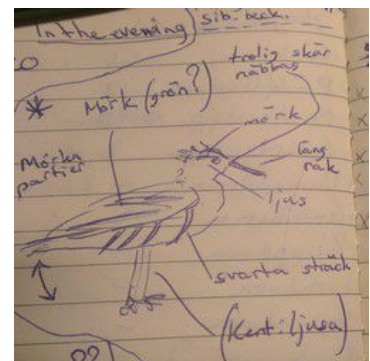
9/11 Unidentified Heron at Raysut Waste Disposal. Extremely large. Probably a 1cy Grey Heron

9/11 West Khawr, unidentified "wader", dark green on back, dark crown, pretty long, bill, bright medium long legs, bright cheek, pinkish(?) base of bill, Impression between Green Sandpiper and Snipe, dipping its tail down. The bird had dark broad bands on the side, 1cm each. See.



The one over Moorhen, even here you can see black banding

Oscars
hmmm...
drawing...



12/11 Qatbit, unidentified Shrike, very bright or absent mask, dark tail. Daurian, Turkestan or Brown. Maybe phoenicuroides is the best guess? Some photos exists.

The dark mask is missing on left side because there is no feathers.



photo Mikael Wikström

12/11 Qatbit unidentified Buzzard, Crested or not Crested that is the question

12/11 unidentified wader at Muntasar. Some say Bairds Sandpiper, some think it is a Little Stint, some Semipalmated Sandpiper, some Long-toed Stint...

12/11 Al Balid Farm, Sand Fox

12/11 Al Balid farm, Unidentified Shrike, very brownish and red tail, with all dark core in tertials

13/11 Mugsayl, Sterna? Fisk??? Kort näbb, ljus övergump..



14/11 Raz Mirbat, Sinai Agama

14/11 Wadi Hanna, unidentified Agama(?)



References:

Svensson L., Zetterström D.(2009) *Fågelguiden*
Malling Olsen K, Larsson H(2004) *Gulls of Europe, Asia and North America*
Porter, Aspinall (2010) *Birds of the Middle East*
Gensböl B (2006) *Rovfåglar i Europa*
Van Duivendijk (2011) *Advanced Bird ID Handbook, The Western Palearctic*
Chandler (2009) *Shorebirds of Northern Hemisphere*
Snow, Perrins (1998) *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*
Alström, Colston, Lewington (1993) *Sällsynta fåglar i Europa*
Sargeant Dave, Eriksen H&J (2008) *Birdwatching guide to Oman*

and www resources...
and lots of recordings...

This might need some correction!!!