

Syria

17/3 – 28/3
2011

18/3

We arrived at Damascus International Airport at 2.30 pm and took a taxi to Sultan hotel. After breakfast and a very, very short sightseeing around the neighbourhood with *Laughing Doves*, *Pallid Swifts* and *Kestrel*, we took the bus to Palmyra (3h / 4USD) as we were eager to do some serious birding in this exciting country. We checked in at a pretty nice hotel called Hotel Citadell, (although the traffic were making it a bit difficult to sleep at night).

We then headed off to the "White-valley dam" (in arabic called Wadi Abied) although the taxi-driver who spoke good English told us that the wadi was completely dried out.



White-valley dam or Wadi Abied, unfortunately it had been a very dry winter..

The wadi was located around 20 km from Palmyra. We arranged for the taxi to drop us off and pick us up in the sunset. We walked along the scrubs in the outskirts of the wadi and had a couple of *Graceful Prinias*, a female *Cyprus Wheatear*, two *Hoopoes*, and 150 *Spanish Sparrows*. We also got a nice view of a *Ruppells Sandfox*. From the dry lake bed we saw a couple of *Egyptian Vultures*, two *Hen Harriers* and a couple of *Choughs*. Pretty much all along the way back to Palmyra is good to stop and look for Larks and Wheatears. Back in Palmyra we had dinner (rice and chicken ~ 6 USD) and decided to go to Talila reserve in the morning with the same taxidriver. He told us that the reserve would not open until 8 am. We arranged so that we would be there as they opened.

19/3

We woke up before sunrise and walked to the impressive ruins in the SW part of Palmyra. Besides the abundant *Crested Larks* and *Hoopoes* we didn't spot anything of real interest. We walked along the maze of olive groves on our way back to the hotel resulting in nothing more than some *Chiffchaffs* and *Chaffinches*. Unfortunately we were a couple of weeks early for the real migratory peak. Back at the hotel for a quick breakfast before the driver picked us up at 7.30. Talila reserve is

located in the desert approx. 24 km from Palmyra on the road to Deir Ez-Zor. Taxi cost around 30USD go and back. The reserve holds a number of Arabian Oryx, Sand Gazelle as well as Ostriches and was established mainly for preserving animals and plants. There was also three *Bald Ibises* in a cage as a part of a breeding program for this threatened bird. We were shown a small visitor center with information about the reserve and animals and plants in the area.

Birdwatching was very good, especially for migrating birds. We saw several *Bluethroats*, loads of *Chiffchaffs*, one *Cyprus Pied Wheatear*, *Eastern Black-eared Wheatear*, *Isabelline Wheatear*, *Caspian Stonechat*, one *Great Grey Shrike* of the subsp. *Homeyeri*, some *Lesser Short-Toed Larks*, hundreds of *Short-Toed Larks* and *Crested Larks*, *Field Pipits*, *Short-Toed Snake-Eagle*, *Long-Legged Buzzard* and one *Stone Curlew*.

A good tip is to start birding a few hundred meters before the entrance to the reserve to spot many desert species and resting migratory passerines in the surrounding scrubs along the way.

We got back to Palmyra in time for lunch. Afterwards we headed straight back in the olive groves again where we spent the remainder of the afternoon.



Olive groves in the outskirts of Palmyra that covers a very large area. Many Chiffchaffs, songthrushes and chaffinches.

In our hotel reception we bought a map over Syria, not a very detailed one, but we discovered a large wetland/lake just a few kilometres outside Palmyra. We arranged for a taxi to drop us and pick us up again at sunset. This lake, called Sabkkath al Moh still held water, although a very large area was dried out here as well. The gravel road that passed along the side of the lake was very narrow and poor. We did our birding from the road which was good, although the distance to the birds in the far part of the lake was a bit long. The lake and area around held 25 *Greater Sandplovers*, 300 *Ruffs*, 150 *Kentish Plovers*, 20 *Garganey*, 60 *Shoveler ducks*, 40 *Pintailed Ducks*, 6 *Black-headed Gull*, 1 *Grey Wagtail*, 1 *Hoopoe Lark*, 2 *Dunlins*, 20 *Greenshanks*, 21 *Temminck's Stint*.



Sabkkath al Moh.

20/3

Early morning again at the olive groves and ruins. We didn't see many birds and after a late breakfast we took the bus to Deir Ez-Zor and Euphrates (2,5h / 3 USD). At arrival we had to register at the police station right next to the bus station. We took a taxi to the hotel we had planned to stay at, but it was quite expensive so we decided to find another place to stay. Eventually we found a cheaper hotel located right in the town square (a Double room 14 USD/night). It was hard to sleep in Palmyra- this turned out to be almost impossible due to the traffic and hustle around the square with its markets, souks and shops. Earplugs are highly recommended. We spent the afternoon at the old French suspension bridge over Euphrates watching large mixed flocks of *Slender-Billed Gulls* and *Black-Headed Gulls* while *Cetti Warblers* sang in the surrounding reeds and tamarisks and a single *Moustached Warbler* was briefly seen. *Little Bitterns* and *Pied Kingfishers* feasted on the fishes in the dirty waters of the river.

We definitely drew some attention as we stood with telescopes, binoculars and cameras. Lots of people were curious and stopped to take a look in the scopes and talk for a while. Later in the evening we had the best chicken we had ever tasted served in a nice restaurant for only 4 USD/person.

21/3

Just before sunrise we got a taxi to take us towards the small village Mheimide on the east side of Euphrates, around 30km from Deir ez-Zoir. We got dropped off by the wet meadows of Euphrates. Excellent birding! Lots of waders, thousands of *White-* and *Yellow Wagtails*, plenty of *Hoopoes*, *Red-Throated Pipits*, *Water Pipits*, a few *Corn Buntings* and two *Great Spotted Cuckoos*.

Moustached Warbler next to *Sedge Warblers* in the reeds, *Squacco Heron*, *Caspian Stonechat*, *Armenian Gull*, *Slender-bill Gull* and *Great Black-headed Gull*. This was the place to be!

We walked along the river upstream in an old fashioned agricultural landscape. This was one of the greatest experiences of the trip. Unfortunately after a while we met an angry farmer that wasn't happy to see us moving close to his crops so we decided to follow the small village road for a while. Heading towards the larger road a police jeep rolled up next to us. Five policemen jumped out of the car and started asking questions: "Who are you, what are you doing?"

We explained that we were birdwatchers, and even though they seemed sceptical, everything seemed alright until they asked to see our passport that we had left in the hotel reception and forgot to bring with us. They officers asked us if we wanted a ride to the main road, and we accepted because it was a long way to walk and the sun was starting to get very hot. It turned out that we got a ride to the police station instead, although this was located right by the mainroad. We were shown inside the station and asked to sit down while we were served a very good cinnamon tea and bread. The police chief made a few phone calls and after 2 cups of tea and half an hour later everything seemed to be in order and we were free to go. The kind officers (we never felt threaten or that we were in any serious trouble) showed us a wetland just outside the police station where we spent the rest of the morning. The wetland and surrounding area was also very good for birding. *Common Kingsfisher*, *White-Headed Duck*, *Ferruginous Duck*, *Marbled duck*, *Purple Gallinule*, *Great Crested Grebe*, *Spur-winged Lapwing* and the very good species *Iraq Babbler* was seen in this area. We also heard the song of a *Common Rosefinch*, which we learned after we got home to Sweden was a real rarity in Syria. No more than around 3-5 previous records had been made of this species.

White-tailed Lapwings in the Mheimide wetlands.

Eventually the sun got to hot and we headed back to the road to get some shadow and hopefully catch a taxi. Instead of a taxi we eventually got a lift with a man who was going to Deir Ez-Zor. After a nice ride with a very interesting conversation about Syria and its history we had lunch followed by a powernap at the hotel before we headed to the suspension bridge for the evening bird migration along the Euphrates. This time we didn't stay on the bridge, because of the attention we drew. Instead we sat down in a riverside cafe just next to the bridge where we ordered some tea and could focus on birdwatching, not chatting with curious locals. New species for the trip during the afternoon and evening was *Gull-billed Tern* and *White-cheeked Bulbul*. After dinner we got contacted by Ahmed who works with the Badia Commission, Syria's nature conservation agency. He asked us if we wanted to join tomorrow as he and a man from RSBP were going to Mheimide wetlands to discuss the possibilities of protecting the wetland from being turned in to farmland. Of course we accepted.

22/3

We met in the morning at Hotel Ziad and got a ride to the wetlands again. We started off with some birding in a different location than yesterday. The area was larger than we had realized the day before. *Spur-winged-* and *White-tailed lapwings*, *Squacco-*, *Little-* and *Great Egret*, *Black-winged Stilt*, *Cetti's Warbler*, *Water Rail* and a single *Black Frankolin* were observed during the morning. Also one female *Little Crake*, 2 singing *Savi's Warblers*, 1 *Short-toed Eagle* and one *Black-winged*

Pratincole was nice species to add to the list. After the birding we went to talk to some of the villagers to hear their thought about the wetland. Their complains where mainly that during the summer, the wetland gave rise to a large number of mosquitoes as well as a unpleasant smell as the surrounding soars went straight out in the wetlands without any form of filtration or purification. The villagers argued to drain the wetland and make it in to farmland and Badia commission with the help of RSPB argued to protect it, still making it worthwhile for the villagers in the way of a possible future income from example eco-tourism. A very interesting day with many cups of tea together with kind villagers discussing different alternatives for the future of this important wetland.

23/3

Early morning with taxi to Mari, close to the Iraqi border, to birdwatch along the way and to extend further to south-east and explore more of Syria. There was some heavy traffic along the way and almost the entire way from Deir to Mari was buildings and houses. In Mari we stopped at the archaeological site where it has been discovered ruins from 4000 B.C. Impressive! Inside a temple we saw a *Little Owl* (*Lillith Owl*), one *White-cheeked Bulbul*, a couple of *Northern Wheatears*, many *Black Kites*, *Housesparrows* and a few *Crested Larks*. Along the way back we stopped at a place called al Sahltiyeh where we had 3 *Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters* and 2 *Pied Kingsfishers*.

Back in Deir we got on the bus to Palmyra. Close to the busstation in Deir, there is supposed to be a colony of *Lesser Kestrels*, unfortunately we didn't see any.

24/3

In the morning we took a taxi to the Citadel and walked down and back towards the hotel. A nice walk although a very cold and windy morning. The best birding was around the slopes of the Citadel where we had 30 *Rock Sparrows*, *Eastern Black-eared Wheatear*, *Pied Wheatear*, *Cyprus Pied Wheatear*, *Red-rumped Swallows* and our first *Skylark* of the trip. It was clear that in only a few days away from Palmyra, it had arrived more migrant birds. Back at the hotel in time for a late breakfast and with our telescopes next to us, we enjoyed our breakfast with nice views of migrating *Long-legged Buzzards*. We got in contact with Tomas Haraldsson, the leader of a birdwatching tour from Sweden who were on their way to Palmyra and kindly asked us if we wanted to do some birding with them in the afternoon. Of course! (Read their tripreport [here](#).)

We started walking towards the restaurant outside Palmyra where we had decided to meet. It turned out to be a really long walk, but we managed to get there ahead of the group. While we waited we birdwatched around the parkinglot and scrubs around the restaurant. After a short while we located a small flock of *Desert Finches* in a bush. Unfortunately the flock didn't stay and flew away before the group had arrived. We had a nice lunch together and decided to go to the Talila reserve afterwards. With this many eyes we were bound to spot some new species. A *Temmnick's Horned Lark* was the first bird we saw when we stepped out of the bus. *Cream-coloured Courser*, *Ménétries' Warbler*, *Rüppel's Warbler*, *Pharaoh Eagle-owl* and *Lesser Kestrel* where all new species. Afterwards we were dropped off at our hotel and arranged meeting and birdwatching again tomorrow morning. We had a late dinner and came to the conclusion that the food was both tastier and cheaper in Deir ez-Zor.

25/3

This morning we headed to Sabkkath al Moh with the group since our last visit here was good. This morning was also very cold and windy and a lot of the waders and ducks had disappeared since our last visit. Fortunately there was still a few *Greater Sand Plover* here and we also saw a *Montagu's Harrier*, a *Lesser Black-backed Gull*, *Little stint* and an *Osprey*. A local guide had been here earlier in the morning to find a suitable way for the bus, and he told us as he came along the way he spotted a wolf crossing the road and showed us the paw prints in the sand. We also visited Wadi Abied again and saw one new species - a *Purple Heron*. After lunch the group headed on towards Deir ez-Zor as we took a taxi to the Valley of tombs and walked to a couple of farms close by. In a landscape consisting of nothing much but sand and rocks, these farms must attract lots of migrating

birds looking for a rest. Although today the farms were quite empty. In the evening we took yet another trip to Wadi Abied and hoped for some luck and maybe see the Bald Ibises passing towards their roosting sites. No such luck but a Lesser Spotted Eagle was new for the trip.



Back in Palmyra.

26/3

Svante had problem with his stomach during the night and decided to stay in the hotel to get some rest before we headed back to Damascus. Göran took a taxi to Talila which he had to share with 9 (!) other persons including the driver. 3 persons in the trunk of the car, 5 in the back and Göran and the driver in the front. In Talila several new birds had arrived since our last visit. A *Long-eared Owl* was sitting in the pine trees at the entrance gates. A female *Pallid Harrier*, *Wryneck*, *Desert Finch* and *Corn Bunting* were all seen close to the entrance. A giant powergrid passes Talila and below it a dead Quail and a dead Hoopoe was found. The afternoon was spent on the bus to Damascus. We had one last day tomorrow to birdwatch. During the evening at Sultan hotel we met with a young student who works with eco-tourism in Syria and we had a nice chat about Syria's possibilities to develop a sustainable and thriving tourism. We made plans to birdwatch together the following morning.

27/3

Early morning as usual as we jumped in a rented minivan with driver and headed to Bloudan slopes, close to the border of Lebanon. As we got to the altitude where no trees grow we started birdwatching. *Chukar*, *Black Redstart* (ssp. *Semirufus*) were new species and as we slowly descended by car and by foot we soon got to see the Bloudan specialitys -*Syrian Woodpecker* and *Syrian Serin*. We also saw a 2 *Jays*, 3 *Woodlarks*, *Coal Tit* and *Linnet*. Back in Damascus we spent the remainder of the day walking around in the city watching beautiful mosques and shopping in the souks. Our flight with Turkish airlines departed 5 am on the 28/3 and we left Syria determined to come back for some more birding. Preferably in mid-April – mid-May for the peak of the migratory season.



Landscape of Bloudan slopes. Beyond the snowy mountains is Lebanon.

For further information regarding birdwatching in Syria, check out Tomas Haraldsson's webpage:
www.tomasharaldsson.se

Summary observations

Damascus 18/3

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*) ~100

Common Swift (*Apus apus*) ~100

Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone*) ~10

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~100

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) 1 female

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) ~50

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) ~500

Wadi Abied 18/3

Cyprus Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) 1 female

Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) ~5

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 2
Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*) 2
Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) ~150

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) 2-3 ad.
Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) 2
Raven (*Corvus corax*) 1
Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) 1
Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) 1
Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) 1 male, 1 female

Rüppels fox (*Vulpes rueppellii*) 1

Palmyra 19/3

Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*) 2
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) ~15
Indet. Wheatear (*Oenanthe sp.*) 1
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) 5
Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) 3
Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) 4
White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) 2
Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) 1
Sing Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) 3
Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) ~20
Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) ~50
Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) 1
Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) ~10
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~50
Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) 1
Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) 10
Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) 1 just south of Palmyra, hunting in front of the car

Talila Reserve 19/3

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~50
Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) 1
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) ~20
Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) ~10
Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*) ~10
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 3
Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) 1 male
Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) 2
Great Gray Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) 1 ssp. *Homeyri*

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 2
Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 3 male ssp *samiscus*
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) ~30
Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) 1 male 3 female ssp indet.
Caspian Stonechat (*Saxicola (torquatus) variegatus*) 1 male

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) ~50
Lesser Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella rufescens*) 3-5
Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) 3
Cyprus Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) 1
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe (hispanica) melanoleuca*) 1 male
White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) 2
Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) 2
Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oeduncnemus*) 1
Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) 2
Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) 2
Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) 1
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~20
Willow Warbler (*Pyloscopus trochilus*) ~3

Rüppels fox (*Vulpes rueppellii*) 1
Wagner's Gerbil (*Gerbillus dasyurus*) 2

Sabkkath al Moh 19/3

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) ~300
Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) ~15
Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) 21
Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) 25 (18+7)
Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) ~20
Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) 1
Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) ~20
Shovler (*Anas clypeata*) ~60
Pintail (*Anas acuta*) ~40
Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) ~150
Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) 6
Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) ~10
Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) 1
Hoopoe Lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*) 1
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) 2
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 2
Common Swift (*Apus apus*) 1
Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) 1

Palmyra 20/3

Common Swift (*Apus apus*) 6
Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) 5
Sing Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) ~75
Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) 1 female
Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 1
Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) ~10
Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) 1 ssp. indet.
Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) 1 male
Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) ~50
Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe plechanka*) 2 male
Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) 1
Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*) 1
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~100

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) 5

Suspension Bridge over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) ~10

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettiia cetti*) 3

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) 5

Magpie (*Pica pica*) 5

Common Swift (*Apus apus*) ~50

Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone*) 5

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~50

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) ~50

Slender-bill Gull (*Larus genei*) 110

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) 28

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) 2

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) 2

Teal (*Anas crecca*) 2

Coot (*Fulica atra*) ~20

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) ~10

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) 2

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) 1 male ssp indet.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) 3

Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*) 4

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 5

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) 1 female

Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) 1

Common Gull (*Larus canus*) 1 ad

Moustached Warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*) 1

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 1 male

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) ~20

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) 1 male

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) 1

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) 5

Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*) 3

Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichthyæetus*) 1 3cy+

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~20

Along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3

Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*) ~15

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) 10

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) ~15

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) 5

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) ~30n

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) ~300

Magpie (*Pica pica*) ~10

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) 3

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 5

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) 1

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) 1

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) 2 male ssp indet.

Caspian Stonechat (*Saxicola (torquatus) variegatus*) 2 male, 1 female

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) 1

Coot (*Fulica atra*) ~20

Slender-bill Gull (*Larus genei*) 36

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) 1

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) 1

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) 15

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) ~10

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) ~20

Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*) 2 ad.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) 1 male

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 2

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) 2

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) ~10

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) 2

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) ~400 Mostly ssp. *felldge*, a few ssp. *flava* and two males of 'superciliarus'-type

Corn Bunting (*Embriza calandra*) 1

Little Grebe (*Tachybatus ruficollis*) 3
Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) ~100
Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) ~20
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~20
Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichtyaetus*) 1 3cy+
Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*) 3
Great White Egret (*Egretta alba*) 2
Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 7
Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) 35 (25 migr, 10 roosting)
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) ~20
Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) ~10
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) ~20
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) 8 (4 migr. 4 roost.)
Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) 4
Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) 1 female
Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichtyaetus*) 1 3cy+
Moustached Warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*) 5
Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) 5

Mheimideh wetland 21/3

Western stonechat (*Saxicola (torquatus) rubicola*) 1 female
Caspian Stonechat (*Saxicola (torquatus) variegatus*) 1 male
Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) ~15
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) ~10
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) ~10
Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) ~10
White-cheeked Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) 1 singing
Magpie (*Pica pica*) ~10
Pied/Cyprus Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka/cypriaca*) 1
Siberian Stonchat (*Saxicola (torquatus) maurus*)) 2 female
Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) 8
Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) 4
Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) 1
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~20
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 3

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) ~20
Iraq Babbler (*Turdoides altirostris*) 10
Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) 1
Marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) 15
Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) 2 (1 pair displaying)
Teal (*Anas crecca*) 30
Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) 2
White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) 2 male, 3 female
Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) 10
Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 5
Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 1
Little Crake (*Porzana parva*) 1 female
Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) 1
Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) 1
Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) 1 singing
Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) ~40
Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) 15
Pintail (*Anas acuta*) 1
Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*) 3

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) 4
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 20
Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) 1 female
Coot (*Fulica atra*) ~10
Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) ~15
Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone*) 3
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) ~20
Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) ~30n
Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) 2
Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) 1
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) 4
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) 2
Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) 1 male

Deir ez-Zor, suspension bridge 21/3

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) 1
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 13
Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) 1
Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*) 2
Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) 1 2cy
Slender-bill Gull (*Larus genei*) 18
Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) 1
Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) 8
Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) 25
Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) 1
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~20
White-cheeked Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) 1
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) 2
Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) 1
Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) 1

Deir Ez-Zor, outside hotel Ziad 22/3

House Martin (*Delicon urbicum*) 10
Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) 1
Common Swift (*Apus apus*) 50
Barn Swallow (*Hirundu rustica*) 30

Mheimideh wetland 22/3

Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*) 3
Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) 3
Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) 4
Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) 4
Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) 1
Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) 8
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) 3
Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) ~40

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) ~20
Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) ~20
Marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) 10
Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) ~75
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) 17
Great White Egrett (*Egretta alba*) 2
Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*) 5
Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) 1
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) ~20
Coot (*Fulica atra*) ~30
Gadwell (*Anas strepera*) 1 male, 2 female)
Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) 8
Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) 10
Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) 20
Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) 20
White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*) 2
Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*) 1 male
'Steppe' Buzzard (*Buteo Buteo ssp vulpinus*) 32
Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) 4
Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) 3
Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) 5
Teal (*Anas crecca*) ~40
Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) 20
Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) 3
Black-winged Pratincole (*Glarola nordmanni*) 1
White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) 50
Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) 4 (1 pair displaying, 1 pair building nest)
White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) 1 male, 2 female
Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) 1 female
Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) 2 (1 pair)
Savi's Warbler (*Lucostella luscinioides*) 2 singing
Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) 1
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 10
Gargeney (*Anas querquedula*) ~15
Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) 2
White-cheeked Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) 1
Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) 1

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) 1
Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone*) 20
Magpie (*Pica pica*) 5
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~10
Little Crake (*Porzana parva*) 1 female
Iraq Babbler (*Turdoides altirostris*) 5
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 10
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~20
Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) ~15

Deir Ez-Zor 22/3

Little stint (*Calidris minuta*) 1
Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) 10
Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*) 3
Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichtyaetus*) 1 3cy+
Iraq Babbler (*Turdoides altirostris*) 8
Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) 1 2cy
Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) 1
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~75
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~10

Mari 23/3

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) 1 male, 1 female
Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) 1 ssp *lilith*
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~50
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) 3
White-cheeked Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) 1
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 10
Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) 1
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~10

al Sahlyeh 23/3

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (*Merops persicus*) 3

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) 2



Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*) 2

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) 2

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) 1

Palmyra 23/3

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) 1

Palmyra 24/3

Wryneck (*Jynx turquilla*) 1

Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*) 4

Rock Sparrow (*Pretonia pretonia*) ~30

Mourning Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens*) ~10

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 3

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe (hipanica) melanoleuca*) 2 male

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) ~30

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) 1

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) 10

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) 2

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) 1

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) ~50

Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe plechanka*) 2

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 10

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) 2
Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) 3
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~10
Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) 1
Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) ~10
Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) ~20
Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) 5
Desert Finch (*Rhodopechys sanguineus*) 10

Cyprus Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) 1
Caspian Stonechat (*Saxicola (torquatus) variegatus*) 1 male

Talila Reserve 24/3

Temmnick's Horned Lark (*Eremophila bilopha*) 1
Hoopoe Lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*) 2
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 10
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) 10
Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) 3
Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*) 2
Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) 1 ad
Ménétries' Warbler (*Sylvia mystacea*) 2
Cyprus Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) 3
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe (hipanica) melanoleuca*) 10
Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 3
Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) 2
Rüppel's Warbler (*Sylvia ruepelli*) 1
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) ~25
Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) 1
Korn Bunting (*Embriza calandra*) 2
White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) 2
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) ~10
Pharaoh Eagle-owl (*Bubo ascalaphus*) 1
Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) 5
Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) 2
Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) 1

Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) 1
Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) 1
Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) 2
Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) 3
Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 1 female ssp. *samiscus*

Sabkhat al-Moh 25/3

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) 1 ad
Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) 1 female
Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) 1 ad ssp. *fuscus*
Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) 3
Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) ~30
Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) 8
Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) ~40
Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) 6
Little stint (*Calidris minuta*) 2
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) 1
Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) 1
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 2

Wadi Abied 25/3

Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) 1
Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) 1
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 25
Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) 2
Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) 3 ad
'Steppe' Buzzard (*Buteo Buteo* ssp. *vulpinus*) 10
House Martin (*Delicon urbicum*) 7
Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) 1
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 10
Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) 3

Bloudan 27/3

Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) 3
Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) 3
Syrian Serin (*Serinus syriacus*) 7
Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*) 5
Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) 3
Syrian Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*) 3
Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) 1 male ssp. *semirufus*
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) 30
Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) 2 ssp. *atricapillus*
Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) 1
Serin (*Serinus serinus*) 2
Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*) 1
Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) 1
Great Tit (*Parus major*) 3
Hooded crow (*Corvus corone*) 3
Korn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) 2

Species List

1. **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 3 seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3.
2. **Gadwell** (*Anas strepera*) 1 male and 2 females seen at Mheimideh wetland 22/3.
3. **Pintail** (*Anas acuta*) about 40 seen at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3.
4. **Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) 15 seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 and 10 22/3.
5. **Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*) 1 male seen from the suspension bridge over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3, 7 seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 5 at Mheimideh wetland 21/3.
6. **Marbled duck** (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 with 15 individuals and 22/3 with 10 individuals.
7. **Teal** (*Anas crecca*) 2 seen from the suspension Bridge over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3 and at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 with 30 individuals and 22/3 with 40 individuals.
8. **Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*) 20 at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3, and at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 with 40 individuals and 22/3 with 15 individuals.
9. **Pochard** (*Aythya ferina*) 1 female seen in Mheimideh wetland 22/3.
10. **Ferruginous Duck** (*Aythya nyroca*) seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 with 10 individuals and 22/3 with 8 individuals.
11. **Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*) 1 male seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 and a pair seen in this place 22/3.
12. **White-headed duck** (*Oxyura leucocephala*) seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 with 2 males and 3 female and 22/3 with 1 male and 2 females.
13. **Black Francolin** (*Francolinus francolinus*) 1 male seen at Mheimideh wetland 22/3.
14. **Chukar** (*Alectoris chukar*) 3 seen at Bloudan 27/3.
15. **Quail** (*Cortunix cortunix*) 1 found dead at Talila Reserve 26/3.

16. **Little Grebe (*Tachybatus ruficollis*)** around 5 was seen and heard along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3.
17. **Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)** seen at Mheimideh wetland with one pair displaying 21/3 and two pairs seen 22/3, one displaying and the other building nest.
18. **Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)** around 20 was seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3.
19. **Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*)** 2 seen from the suspension bridge over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3 and 1 on the 21/3. 1 was seen in Mheimideh wetland 21/3.
20. **Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)** 1 seen from the suspension Bridge over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3 and 21/3, 1 along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 4 at Mheimideh wetland 22/3.
21. **Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)** 8 seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3, at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 (10 ind.) and 22/3 (17 ind.), 2 seen from the suspension bridge at Der el-Zor 21/3.
22. **Great White Egret (*Egretta alba*)** 2 seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 2 seen at Mheimideh wetland 22/3.
23. **Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)** 2 seen from the suspension Bridge at Der El-Zor 20/3 and 3 along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3.
24. **Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)** 1 seen at Wadi Abied 25/3.
25. **Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)** 2-3 ad. seen at Wadi Abied 18/3, 1 at Talila Reserve 24/3, 1 at Sabkhat al-Moh 25/3 and 3 at Wadi Abied 24/3.
26. **Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)** 1 at Sabkhat al-Moh 25/3.
27. **Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*)** 1 migrating at Wadi Abied 25/3.
28. **Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)** 1 migr. over Mheimideh wetland 22/3 and 2 at Wadi Abied 25/3.
29. **Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*)** 1 seen at the road between Palmyra and Damascus 26/3.

30. **Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)** common seen most days.
31. **Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)** quite common seen most days.
32. **Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)** 1 male and 1 female seen at Wadi Abied 18/3.
33. **Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)** 1 female at Sabkhat al-Moh 25/3.
34. **Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)** 1 2cy seen outside Der El-Zor 20/3 and 1 seen from the suspension bridge 21/3.
35. **Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*)** 2 seen at Talila Reserve 19/3 and 3 over Palmyra 24/3.
36. **'Steppe' Buzzard (*Buteo Buteo ssp vulpinus*)** 32 migr. over Mheimideh wetland 22/3 and 10 over Wadi Abied 25/3.
37. **Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)** seen in low numbers both around Palmyra and Der el-Zor.
38. **Goshawk (*Accipiter gentillis*)** 1 seen from the suspension bridge, Der El-Zor 20/3.
39. **Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)** quite common around Palmyra seen with a few individuals most days we spend in the area, also seen in Damascus 18/3.
40. **Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*)** 1 seen at Talila Reserve 24/3.
41. **Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)** seen and heard at Mheimideh 21/3 (1 ind.) and 22/3 (3 ind.).
42. **Little Crane (*Porzana parva*)** seen at Mheimideh 21/3 (1 female.) and 22/3 (1 female).
43. **Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)** about 10 seen from the Suspension Bridge at Der El-Zor 20/3, 10 seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3, 15 in Mheimideh wetland 21/3 and 5 ind. 22/3.
44. **Coot (*Fulica atra*)** 20 seen from the suspension Bridge at Der El-Zor 20/3, 20 seen Along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3, 10 seen in Mheimideh wetland 21/3 and 30 seen 22/3.

45. **Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)** seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 with 2 ind and 22/3 with 4 ind.
46. **Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)** 35 seen Along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 20 seen at Mheimideh wetland 22/3.
47. **Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oeduncnemus*)** 1 seen at Talila Reserve 19/3
48. **Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*)** 2 seen at Talila Reserve 24/3 and a few seen from the bus between Palmyra and Der El-Zor 20/3 and 23/3
49. **Black-winged Pratincole (*Glarola nordmanni*)** 1 at Mheimideh 22/3
50. **Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)** 15 seen Along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 10 seen from the suspension bridge at Der El-Zor 22/3
51. **Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)** 150 seen at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3 and 40 seen 25/5
52. **Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)** 25 seen at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3 and 8 seen 25/5
53. **Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)** 1 at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3
54. **Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*)** Seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 (3 ind.) and 22/3 (16)
55. **White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*)** 2 at Mheimideh 22/3
56. **Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)** 2 at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3
57. **Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)** 21 at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3 and 3 at Mheimideh 22/3.
58. **Little stint (*Calidris minuta*)** 1 at Der El-Zor 22/3 and 2 at Sabkkath al Moh 25/3
59. **Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)** 2 seen from the suspension sridge over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3

60. **Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)** 15 individuals seen at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3, 30 individuals along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3, also seen in Mheimideh wetland 21/3 (10 ind.) and 22/3 (20 ind.)
61. **Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)** 1 seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3, also seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 (4 ind.) and 22/3 (3 ind.)
62. **Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)** 1 at Mheimideh 22/3
63. **Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)** seen at Sabkkath al Moh both 19/3 (20 ind.) and 25/3 (6 ind.) also seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 (5 ind.) and in Mheimideh wetland 21/3 (1 ind.)
64. **Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)** 3 at Sabkkath al Moh 25/3
65. **Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)** 1 seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 2 at Mheimideh wetland 21/3,
66. **Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)** about 300 roosting at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3, 15 seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3, 20 at the wetland in Mheimideh 21/3 and 40 on this locality 22/3 and about 30 at Sabkhat al-Moh 25/3.
67. **Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)** 6 seen at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3, 28 migr. over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3 and 8 migr over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 21/3.
68. **Slender-bill Gull (*Larus genei*)** 110 migr over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3, 36 migr over Euphrates atnear Mheimideh 21/3 and 18 migr over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 21/3
69. **Common Gull (*Larus canus*)** 1 ad migrating over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3
70. **Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*)** a few mostly subadults seen over Euphrates 20-22/3
71. **Kaspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*)** a few subadults seen over Euphrates 20-22/3, rarer than Armenian Gull
72. **Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichtyaetus*)** seen daily over Euphrates 20-22/3 with single individuals.
73. **Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)** 1 ad ssp. *fuscus* seen at Sabkkath al Moh 25/3

74. **Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)** 1 migr. 21/3 and 1 migr. 22/3 over Euphrates at Der El-Zor
75. **Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*)** common, seen daily.
76. **Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)** 3 seen from the suspension bridge over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3 and 2 along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 1 at Mheimideh wetland 22/3
77. **Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)** common, seen daily.
78. **Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)** common, seen daily.
79. **Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*)** 2 ad. seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3
80. **Pharaoh Eagle-owl (*Bubo ascalaphus*)** 1 seen at Talila Reserve 24/3
81. **Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)** 1 just south of Palmyra 19/3, hunting in front of the car and at Talila Reserve 26/3
82. **Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)** 1 at the ruins in Palmyra 23/3 and 1 ssp. *lilith* at the ruins in Mari 23/3
83. **Common Swift (*Apus apus*)** common, seen most days.
84. **Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*)** large numbers (~100) seen in Damascus 18/3.
85. **Hoopoe (*Upopa epops*)** common, seen daily, with 1-20 ind. per day.
86. **Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)** 1 seen at Mheimideh 21/3.
87. **Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)** seen along Euphrates 20-22/3 with 3-8 ind per day.
88. **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (*Merops persicus*)** 3 seen at al Sahltiyeh 23/3.
89. **Syrian Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus syriacus*)** 3 seen at Bloudan 27/3.

90. **Wryneck (*Jynx turquilla*)** 1 at Palmyra, between the Citadel and the Roman ruins 24/3 and 1 at the tomb valley, Palmyra 25/3.
91. **Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)** 1 roosting on the sloops near the Citadel, Palmyra 24/3.
92. **Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)** common, seen nearly all days.
93. **Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*)** 3 singing at Bloudan 27/3.
94. **Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)** quite common around Palmyra, e.g. about 50 at Talila Reserve 19/3.
95. **Lesser Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella rufescens*)** 3-5 seen at Talila Reserve 19/3.
96. **Temmnick's Horned Lark (*Eremophila bilopha*)** 1 at Talila Reserve 24/3.
97. **Hoopoe Lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*)** 1 at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3 and 3 at Talila Reserve 24/3.
98. **Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)** 25 seen at Der El-Zor 21/3.
99. **House Martin (*Delicon urbicum*)** 10 at Der El-Zor 22/3 and 7 at Wadi Abied 25/3.
100. **Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)** the most common Swallow, seen most days.
101. **Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)** seen at Mheimideh 21-22/3 and 1 at Wadi Abied 25/3.
102. **Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)** seen around Palmyra most days we were there
103. **Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)** 10 along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 1 at Talila Reserve 24/3
104. **Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)** ~10 Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3
105. **Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)** 2 Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3
106. **Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)** heard on migration most days, a few also seen.

107. **White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)** common, seen daily

108. **Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)** ~400 Mostly ssp. *felldge*, a few ssp. *flava* and two males of '*superciliarus*'-type seen at Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3

109. **Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)** 1 seen at Sabkkath al Moh 19/3

110. **Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)** seen at Palmyra 19-20/3 with 3-5 individuals and 1 at Mheimideh wetland 22/3.

111. **Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)** 2 individuals 19/3 and 23/3 at Talila reserve, 1 along Euphrates and 2 in the wetland at Mheimideh 21/3

112. **Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)** 1 ssp indet. seen in Palmyra 20/3. Ssp. *samamisticus*, 3 males 19/3 and 1 female 24/3, at Talila Reserve.,

113. **Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)** seen in single individuals around Palmyra, e.g. 1 at Wadi Abied 18/3, 1 in Palmyra 20/3. 1 male ssp. *semirufus* singing from the slopes at Bloudan 27/3.

114. **Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)** the first was seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 then was 2 seen at Mare 23/3 and about 30 in Palmyra 24/3 and in low numbers around Palmyra the following days.

115. **Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*)** 2 was seen at Talila Reserve 19/3, 2 along Euphrates and 1 at the wetland at Mheimideh 21/3, 3 at Palmyra and 3 at Talila 24/3.

116. **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe (hispanica) melanoleuca*)** 1 male seen at Talila 19/3, 2 males at Palmyra and about 10 at Talila 24/3

117. **Cyprus Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*)** 1 female seen at Wadi Abied 18/3, 1 seen at Talila Reserve 19/3 and 1 seen in Palmyra 24/3.

- Pied/Cyprus Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka/cypriaca*)** 1 seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 and 3 seen at Talila Reserve 24/3

118. **Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*)** 2 seen at Palmyra 24/3

119. **Mourning Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens*)** 10 seen in Palmyra 24/3, on the slopes from the Citadel.

120. **Western stonechat (*Saxicola (torquatus) rubicola*)** 1 female at Talila 19/3 and 1 female at Mheimideh wetland 21/3.
121. **Caspian Stonechat (*Saxicola (torquatus) variegatus*)** 1 male at Talila 19/3, 2 males and 1 female along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3, 1 male at the wetland in Mheimideh 21/3 and one male seen just outside Palmyra 24/3
122. **Siberian Stonchat (*Saxicola (torquatus) maurus*)** 2 females at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 and 1 male at Palmyra on the slopes from the citadel 24/3
- Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) ssp. indet.** 1 male 2 female at Talila 19/3, 1 male seen from the suspension bridge over Euphrates at Der El-Zor 20/3, 2 males seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3
123. **Sing Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)** seen and heard in Palmyra 19/3 with 3 individuals and 20/ with at least 75 individuals, 2 also seen at Talila Reserve 24/3
124. **Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)** seen and heard in Palmyra 19/3 with 1 individuals and 20/3 with 5 individuals, 2 also seen at Bloudan 27/3
125. **Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)** 2 seen at Talila Reserve 19/3, 1 seen at the ruins in Palmyra 20/3 and 1 seen at Talila Reserve 24/3
126. **Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*)** very common along Euphrates and at Mheimideh, also seen at Wadi Abied 18/3 (5 ind.), Palmyra 19/3 (1 ind.), Talila Reserve 24/3 (1 ind.) and Wadi Abied 25/3 with 3 individuals.
127. **Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)** 1 female seen in Palmyra 20/3.
128. **Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)** 2 seen at Talila Reserve 19/3, 3 seen at Talila Reserve 24/3 and 1 seen at Bloudan 27/3.
129. **Ménétries' Warbler (*Sylvia mystacea*)** 2 seen at Talila 24/3 and 1 at Wadi Abied 25/3
130. **Rüppel's Warbler (*Sylvia ruepelli*)** 1 male seen at Talila 24/3
131. **Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)** 5 seen and heard along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 1 seen at Mheimideh wetland 22/3.
132. **Moustached Warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*)** 1 seen from the suspension bridge at Der El-Zor 20/3 and 5 seen and heard along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3

133. **Savi's Warbler (*Lucostella luscinoides*)** 2 singing at Mheimideh wetland 22/3.
134. **Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*)** 3 singing at the suspension bridge at Der El-Zor 20/3, 4 singing at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 and 22/3.
135. **Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)** very common and seen in large numbers must days, except in 27/3 in Bloudan.
136. **Willow Warbler (*Pyloscopus trochilus*)** 3 seen at Talila Reserve 19/3
137. **Coal Tit (*Parus ater*)** 1 at Bloudan 27/3
138. **Great Tit (*Parus major*)** 3 at Bloudan 27/3
139. **Great Gray Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)** 1 ssp. *homeyri* seen at Talila 19/3
140. **Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)** 1 seen along the road between Mari and Der El-Zor 23/3 and 1 seen outside Palmyra on the road to Sabkhat al-Moh 25/3.
141. **White-cheeked Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*)** observed with single individuals at Mheimideh 21-22/3, Der El-Zor 21/3 and Mari 23/3.
142. **Iraq Babbler (*Turdoides altirostris*)** 10 seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3, 5 seen on this locality 22/3 and 8 seen about 200 m east the suspension bridge 22/3
143. **Magpie (*Pica pica*)** 5 seen from the Suspension Bridge 20/3, 10 seen along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3, 10 seen at Mheimideh wetland 21/3 and 5 seen at this locality 22/3.
144. **Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)** 2 ssp. *atricapillus* was seen at Bloudan 27/3
145. **Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)** 2 was seen at Wadi Abied 18/3
146. **Hooded crow (*Corvus (corone) cornix*)** quite common in Damascus and along Euphrates near Der El-Zor
147. **Raven (*Corvus corax*)** 1 seen at Wadi Abied 18/3
148. **House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)** very common seen in large numbers in all towns

149. **Spanish Sparrow** (*Passer hispaniolensis*) common, seems to prefer more vegetation and moisture than House Sparrow
150. **Rock Sparrow** (*Pretonia pretonia*) 30 seen in Palmyra 24/3
151. **Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*) 10 seen in Palmyra 19/3 and 20 along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3
152. **Greenfinch** (*Carduelis chloris*) 1 seen at Bloudan 27/3
153. **Serin** (*Serinus serinus*) 2 seen at Bloudan 27/3.
154. **Syrian Serin** (*Serinus syriacus*) 7 seen at Bloudan 27/3.
155. **Linnet** (*Carduelis cannabina*) 5 seen at Bloudan 27/3.
156. **Desert Finch** (*Rhodopechys sanguineus*) 10 seen just outside Palmyra 24/3
157. **Common Rosefinch** (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) 1 singing Mheimideh wetland 21/3.
158. **Corn Bunting** (*Embriza calandra*) 1 singing along Euphrates near Mheimideh 21/3 and 2 seen at Talila Reserve 24/3, 26/3.