

ORIOLE BIRDING



SOUTHERN ISRAEL
TOUR REPORT 15TH —
22ND MARCH 2010

Monday 15th March

The tour met at Luton airport for the mid morning flight to Tel-Aviv, arriving on schedule around 1800. We collected our hire vehicles and hit the road for the long drive south to the Arava Valley and our accommodation at Kibbutz Lotan, arriving at 2330 for a light meal and beer before bed. Anticipation was high for the following morning though recent high winds had meant three days of dust storms had preceded our arrival and we were unsure how this would effect the migration.

Tuesday 16th March

We awoke early to total cloud cover and a brisk North-westerly breeze which was to become the norm for the first half of the week. Nevertheless our pre-breakfast walk around the Kibbutz provided a great introduction to birding in Southern Israel with many of the regular migrants as well as local specialities seen. The former were represented by one Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, one Isabelline Wheatear, ten Northern Wheatear, two 'Eastern' Stonechat, two Woodchat Shrike, four Common Chiffchaff, three Lesser Whitethroat, fifteen Red-throated Pipits, six White Wagtails, two Squacco Herons (flushed from a tree by the swimming pool!) and three Hoopoe. Local residents included the ubiquitous Spur-winged Plover and two Palestine Sunbird. Numbers of common migrants were clearly very low for the time of year, but we set out again after breakfast to explore the area around the organic garden, dairy barn and nature reserve. This was very productive and we had great views of a Barbary Falcon here which caught and ate a Feral Pigeon right in front of us. Raptors began to feature with Marsh Harrier, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, , Short-toed Eagle, Steppe Eagle and Black Kite soon added, though the highlight was a splendid adult male Pallid Harrier which ghosted in over the dunes and snatched a small bird near the dairy barn before dropping down out of sight. We subsequently flushed it again on the walk back, getting some brilliant close range views as it headed off into Jordan. Wheatears were represent by three Isabelline and two Black-eared, while a large flock of around three hundred Short-toed Larks were frequenting stony ground near the hay bales. Graceful Prinia and Desert Finch were further local specialities, and two Water Pipits flew over the nature reserve. Not a bad morning, and we felt hopeful that we would build successfully on this as the day progressed.

Kibbutz Qetura, just across the road, was our next stop and an enjoyable hour or so was spent here further getting to grips with the commoner species which also included our first Rock Martin, Steppe Buzzard, Brown-necked Raven and Blackstart, with two obliging individuals tail-fanning and calling down to a few feet. Another Barbary Falcon took a dove here, though fortunately it wasn't one of the two diminutive Namaqua Doves which flew in and gave great views!

Following a hearty lunch back on Lotan we headed north this afternoon to Yahel and first off visited the sewage pools by route 90. Large numbers of White Wagtails were present along with a single Grey Wagtail, and three Little Stints dropped in. A Booted Eagle also gave brilliant views as it drifted in low over the hills to circle above us. In a nearby Wadi, a game of cat and mouse with fleeting *sylvia* warblers eventually produced good views of two Eastern Orphean Warblers among ten Lesser Whiethroats and six Common Chiffchaffs, as well as two more Blackstarts and a Eurasian Sparrowhawk. Lastly today we visited the open area of stony desert at K76. Recent rains had produced a green flush to the valley here, and subsequently the whole area was literally seething with larks and wheatears. Five hundred Short-toed larks was a conservative estimate, and fifty Tawny Pipits was a really good count and included some lovely close views on the road. Probably one hundred Northern and thirty Isabelline Wheatears were seen, though three Desert Wheatears included one superb adult male. Raptors features again with three Pallid Harriers (one male) and ten Black Kites rounding off the day as they came to roost in the date palms.

Wednesday 17th March

Our usual pre-breakfast amble around the Kibbutz produced a small movement of swifts that included one Pallid Swift, and two Red-rumped Swallows were among the commoner hirundines. Twelve Hoopoe was an obvious increase and a family party of five Desert Finches showed well near the dairy barn. Otherwise things remained fairly quiet on the migrant front though some splendid Red-throated Pipits were observed at close range by the swimming pool.

Yotvata is an excellent area of farmland habitat about ten kilometres to the south of Lotan, and provided our first stop this morning. A tip off about a Menetries Warbler being faithful to a particular tamarisk bush here proved good gen, as we quickly located the bird and

spent the best part of an hour enjoying very good views of this rare and distinctive *sylvia*, an adult male probably of the eastern race. Fifty Yellow Wagtails in the corn field here included some splendid *feldegg* and one *flava*, and a steady stream of hirundines included at least twenty Red-rumped Swallows. Graceful Prinia, Long-legged Buzzard, two hundred Short-toed Larks and a Tawny Pipit were also seen, though the highlight other than the warbler was probably the seven Lesser Kestrels sat in the ploughed field and views at close range from the vehicles. Two Tristram's Grackles by the service station were welcome list additions as we headed south towards Eilat and the excellent K20 salt pans. The spread of common waders here included hundreds of Black-winged Stilts, Little Stints and Kentish Plovers along with smaller numbers of Ruff, Common Redshank, Common Greenshank, Spotted Redshank, Common Ringed, Little-ringed and Grey Plovers and two Marsh Sandpipers. Hundreds of Greater Flamingo were present and ducks were represented by Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail. Osprey and Pallid Harrier were among the raptors noted and our first White Storks drifted overhead. The highlight though apart from the two hundred or so Slender-billed Gulls was probably the seven Collared Pratincoles which flew in and landed on the bank no more than thirty metres away.

Moving on towards Eilat we stopped next at Holland Park on the city outskirts, a good place to seek tired migrants. The persistent wind made looking for passerines difficult but we did manage Eastern Orphean and Graceful Warblers as well as a superb male Sand Partridge and two Arabian Babblers. A small overhead raptor movement included about fifty Steppe Buzzards, fifty Black Kites and single Egyptian Vulture and Booted Eagle, all drifting high off towards Jordan. Nearby North Beach is always a great way to end the day and our target species was White-eyed Gull which comes in off the Red Sea to roost near Eilat. Seven were seen, though the views weren't great, and in fact the highlight was the four Pied Kingfishers which gave brilliant views fishing along the beach. Twenty Yellow-legged Gulls, fifty Slender-billed Gulls, Caspian Gull, Caspian Tern, two Sandwich Terns, Little Egret and six Cattle Egret rounded off another rewarding day.

Thursday 18th March

A very long day in the field today as an 0400 start was required to head up to Nizzana in the Western Negev Desert. Light was just breaking as we crossed the Ramon Crater and met our local guide Eran Banker who would show us the special birds of this fascinating area. Incredibly, rain showers were a feature of the day in an area where precipitation is very rare, and at ten centigrade even a hailstorm was encountered! The cool conditions did make for some excellent light and viewing however, and it didn't take us long to locate a displaying male MacQueens Bustard performing his improbable 'headless chicken' dance to attract a mate. Four of these rare birds were seen during the morning and we really did get some great views of the displaying bird to a backdrop of local Dorca's Gazelles. Twenty Cream-coloured Coursers was a brilliant total and included a pair feeding two recently hatched chicks right by the side of the road, viewed at close range from our vehicles. Other typical birds of this area included small flocks of Corn Bunting, several Southern Grey Shrikes and a male Desert Wheatear. Temporary pools meant drinking sandgrouse could have been totally off the menu today, though we did get good flight views of eight Spotted Sandgrouse which flew over us a couple of times. Walking across the desert towards the drinking pools did produce two Scrub Warblers, two Little Green Bee-eaters, four Short-toed Eagles and a splendid dark morph Long-legged Buzzard as well as three Common Teal. The highlight however was the migrating flock of seventy five Common Cranes, bugling overhead as they rode a thermal high into the sky and drifted northward, on their way from their Ethiopian wintering grounds to the forested bogs of Scandinavia.

A change of scenery then followed as we had lunch in a small wooded park near Nizzana and it was here that a hailstorm appeared to ground many migrants seeking shelter in this pocket of greenery. Three Common Redstarts included a male of the eastern race 'samamiscus' and twenty Common Chiffchaff included around ten Eastern Bonelli's Warblers. Other common migrants were fifteen Song Thrush, two Tree Pipits, seven Blackcap and a Eurasian Wryneck which flitted among the trees giving tantalising views.

Heading back south our next port of call was the Ben Gurion monument overlooking a valley gorge just north of Mizpe Ramon. Griffon Vulture drifted over with a Steppe Eagle at the petrol station here and on arriving at the monument car park, Mourning Wheatear was quickly added as it gave distant though good scope views down on the rocks. Five Egyptian Vultures and some Nubian Ibex were also noted here before we headed onto Mizpe Ramon itself to have a brief look for Syrian Serin. We didn't find our quarry, but instead flushed a

Eurasian Wryneck which gave remarkable views and posed for photographs. Saying bye to Eran we continued south-east arriving back on Lotan in plenty of time for dinner.

Friday 19th March

Things were very quiet around Lotan this morning though our pre-breakfast walk around the swimming pool area did produce a new trip bird in the form of a male Cretzschmar's Bunting on the fence line briefly. A male 'samamiscus' Redstart and twelve Red-throated Pipits added a splash of colour but numbers of migrants were generally low. So after breakfast we headed to Yotvata Northern circular fields and enjoyed some time scanning through the large flocks of Short-toed Larks and feeding Lesser Kestrels, which had now increased to around fifty and accompanied by many Common Kestrels. A Lesser Spotted Eagle gave a brilliant fly past, as did a Booted Eagle complete with 'landing lights' and five White Storks were feeding in the corn fields. Around the irrigation boom, four Water Pipits showed well and Tawny Pipit was also noted.

News of a Cyprus Wheatear had us heading back to Qetura, and we had very good views of the bird feeding among rusty barbed wire near the entrance. Around the barns and nearby sewage pools Rock Martin, twenty Red-rumped Swallows, Yellow Wagtail and Graceful Prinia were also noted before we headed back to Lotan for lunch. A long drive north for our Dead Sea trip followed in the afternoon, though once again bird news caused a short detour on route to Ovda where a green patch in the desert was reportedly providing temporary home to two Thick-billed Larks, a highly desirable and nomadic desert species. The lark did not disappoint and we spent around half an hour enjoying improbably close views of the male right by the side of the road! A male Desert Wheatear also present received scant attention by comparison, and we headed northwards feeling pretty pleased with our days work so far. On reaching En Gedi on the shores of the Dead Sea, some people went for a swim while others scanned the ridge for raptors. Eight Short-toed Eagles, three Griffon and one Egyptian Vulture and a Common Raven were seen, though once everyone was again assembled we all enjoyed good views of the localised Fan-tailed Raven. Eran met us again and took us up to a nearby kibbutz where we would position ourselves for nightfall in the hope of connecting with Hume's Tawny Owl. A dusk raptor passage included around two hundred Steppe Buzzards, joined by our only Black Stork of the trip circling the last thermals of the day before dropping down to roost on the cliffs. An hour after dark and we had heard the Hume's Owl calling many times, though we eventually decided that it wasn't getting any closer despite our efforts and decided to move south to Neot Hakikar and our final target bird of the day.

Here unfolded one of the most amazing events not only of this tour but of a lifetime's birding as we sought the localised and rare Nubian Nightjar in the arable fields bordering the tamarisk saltmarsh. With a flashlight, we picked up eyeshine from a bird resting on the track and approached for closer views. By gradually creeping closer we ended up crouched next to the bird, securing some magnificent photographs as it sat motionless, quite confident that its camouflage was rendering it impossible to see! Elated, we crept away and made the long journey back south to Lotan arriving around 2330.

Saturday 20th March

A short walk around Lotan this morning as we had such a late night the previous evening, though we noted a slight increase in common migrants with seven Lesser Whitethroats, three Blackcaps, three Common Chiffchaffs, thirty Pallid Swifts, female 'Eastern' Stonechat and three Hoopoe around. After a quick breakfast we set off for k20 sewage pools after a tip off about some good birds seen there yesterday afternoon. We arrived as the northerly winds increased and dust was starting to blow around strongly. As we drove up to the pools, it was clear that these conditions were grounding migrants including raptors and over the course of the morning here we estimated fifty Marsh Harriers, one hundred Black Kites, Steppe Eagle, Short-toed Eagle and fifty Steppe Buzzards, many of which past very low as they battled into the wind and some indeed dropped down to rest. Two Alpine Swifts battled past our vehicles only feet above the ground and as we parked up a cracking male Citrine Wagtail was spotted in the rushes around the waters edge. Jumping out for better views, we walked onto a cracking White-tailed Plover sitting on the bank and it soon became clear that something rather special was happening. One group member inadvertently then flushed a colossal Northern Goshawk which made off across the wire into Jordan, and this was quickly followed by a Glossy Ibis though fortunately this bird dropped into one of the small pools giving stunning views. Five Green and three Wood Sandpipers were feeding on the muddy margins and twenty Yellow Wagtails included many nice Black-headed males. Twenty Pallid Swifts and one hundred Red-

rumped Swallows were constantly trickling through and a flock of thirty Short-toed Larks dropped in to shelter from the winds. Two Ortolan Buntings were also found, feeding quietly in a sandy corner of one of the pools, though they quickly made off as we approached – fortunately the superb male White-spotted Bluethroat we located was less skittish, and gave prolonged close views amongst the reeds. Finally as we were preparing to move on our last new bird of the morning came along in the form of a smart breeding plumaged adult Whiskered Tern heading north.

News of a flock of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters near the Eilat ringing station reached us so we headed south along the 'birders highway' to the last spot they had been seen. There wasn't any sign of the birds though, but we decided to retrace our route and check the vineyards around k18 in case they had settled further along. This proved a good choice, and we were soon enjoying good views of ten Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters perching on the wires and hawking over the fields here. Lunch beckoned, so we returned to the ringing station and made the most of the shade as it was starting to warm up. A walk around the area produced a few trip ticks in the form of Common Moorhen, Common Coot and Little Grebe on the small pools, though we also noted Green Sandpiper, Pied Kingfisher, two Little Egrets and a Squacco Heron. The salt pans could also be conveniently viewed here and several Little Stint, Ruff, Common Redshank and Black-winged Stilt were observed, as well as a breeding plumaged Water Pipit. Best bird though, was a smart Red-necked Phalarope which showed well and it was while watching this bird that we had our best views of the trip of Long-legged Buzzard, a cracking individual passing low over our heads with a Booted Eagle. On the way back to the vehicles, we notched up our first Masked Shrike of the trip, a species which we had expected to see in reasonable numbers by this stage of the tour.

Due to the proximity of North Beach, we felt it worth checking this area again so made a quick stop though again it was very windy here. A Western Reef Egret was a useful list addition though and we also saw six Common Terns, Pied Kingfisher, Woodchat Shrike, Grey Heron, Baltic Gull and two Sandwich Terns. It was time to start heading back North and we called in again at k20 salt pans for a drive round to see if anything new had dropped in. If anything there were less birds though using the car as a hide we had superb close range views of many shorebird species, including our first Pied Avocet. Ten Common Teal and five Common Shelduck rounded off our visit here and as dusk was approaching we settled in at the nearby k19 sewage pools in the hope that we might see Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse coming to drink. Our vigil was unsuccessful, though we did catch up with the Whiskered Tern again and also noted two hundred Northern Shoveler, ten Northern Pintail, Sedge and European Reed Warblers and a White Stork.

Sunday 21st March

Today was largely spent 'mopping up' on a few missed species and improving on views already obtained of others, and these included both Masked Shrike and Cretzchmar's Bunting around Lotan before breakfast this morning. We knew that Yotvata still had the potential to produce us new birds, and with news that some other birders had seen Temmick's Horned Lark here yesterday, we decided to make this our first port of call. Much time spent scanning the open areas and checking the huge flocks of Short-toed Larks proved fruitless for this nomadic species, though a chance meeting with film maker Paul Doherty resulted in some quality gen, as a pair of Caspian Plovers was in the field behind us! We spent some time watching this most beautiful and charismatic wader, passing through on its way to the Asian steppe. The Lesser Kestrel flock was still present though we didn't check what proportion of the fifty or so birds were Common Kestrels. Raptors were passing through in small numbers again, with fifty Black Kites and singles of both Steppe and Booted Eagles noted, though our next good bird was again courtesy of good information from fellow birders as we managed to locate the male Pied Wheatear in the dunes near the border at the second attempt, eventually obtaining some very good close range views.

Feeling pleased with the mornings birding, we moved on to k19 in order to try and improve on the brief views we had so far achieved of Desert Lark. With the help of the iPod, this was a straightforward exercise, and a pair gave great views as they fed in the road here. The wind had finally dropped a bit and it was starting to get hot, so while not the best conditions to look for passerine migrants we decided to give Holland Park another bash in the hope we might connect with something new. This we did in the form of a Common Quail flushed from the undergrowth, and we noted a reasonable selection of other species including Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, Bluethroat, 'Eastern' Stonechat, Arabian Babbler, Eastern Orphean Warbler and Common Redstart, with a brilliant immature Steppe Eagle drifting low overhead

as we were leaving the site. We continued with our 'mopping up' exercise in the nearby Eilat mountains, where we succeeded in finding White-crowned Black Wheatear. The bird was surprisingly skittish, constantly moving away from us whenever we tried to approach, so we had to settle for fairly distant scope views. Then it was down to North Beach again for an ice cream and half an hours seawatching. Three White-eyed Gulls vastly improved on our previous views of this species, and twenty Common Terns passed by. Back on Lotan we had half an hour of light before dusk in which we located a Bluethroat and two Namaqua Doves at the dairy barn.

Monday 22nd March

Our last day and we had to plan our birding around the long drive back north to Tel-Aviv and our 1930 flight back to Luton. So it was our last chance to do some early morning birding, and with the winds finally eased we decided to give the open stony desert at k76 another bash. The light was superb at this time of day, though as we didn't have much time we decided to split to cover as much ground as possible as this is a huge area. While Neil and the group headed North Ashley made off across the southern section and both parties noted huge numbers of Short-toed Larks, Northern, Isabelline and Desert Wheatears, Black Kites and Steppe Buzzards. There were large numbers of both the latter species sat on the ground, in bushes and on the nearby ridge and it was clear that we would have some good raptor passage to look forward to later on. Our quarry for now was larks though, and one of the trip highlights revealed itself to Ashley in the form of a splendid Temminck's Horned Lark, feeding alone on a patch of green about 500 metres south of the road. A quick call and the rest of the group were on their way, but the calls of Sandgrouse soon punctuated the air and a flock of about thirty Spotted Sandgrouse flew in and landed close by. These had to wait though, as a frustrating moment followed with the lark out of sight. Thankfully, it reappeared and the group was now assembled to enjoy this magnificent bird in the beautiful morning light. There was just time to relocate the sandgrouse flock which we scoped up on the ground before it was time to head back to Lotan for breakfast.

It was now time to pack and load the vehicles, say goodbye to Daphna and set off for the journey north, but we had time to make a few birding stops en route and try for one or two final species. Shizzafon sewage and Neot Semadar were our first locations, and we enjoyed some great birding here. Raptors had started to move as predicted, and the 10km drive was punctuated by stops to scan kettle after kettle of thermalling raptors, mainly Steppe Buzzards, which were estimated to be passing at around three thousand birds per hour. We probably saw about one thousand, as well as many Black Kites spiralling upwards. This was perhaps surprisingly our first real taste of the incredible passage of raptors during spring in Israel, as the winds had simply not been conducive to their movement earlier in the week. The small landscaped sewage compound at Shizzafon proved a refuge for Yellow and Grey Wagtails, Northern, Isabelline and Black-eared Wheatears and in the stunted bushes growing in the stony desert behind, our first Common Whitethroat was skulking about. Two birds then flew in and landed, and a quick response with the scopes revealed two smart Trumpeter Finches, which we had good views of before they flew and landed a little nearer. A large Acacia tree here is often a good place to find Dead Sea Sparrow, but despite a thorough search we couldn't find any. We did however find a cracking male Ruppells Warbler, and enjoyed some brilliant views of the bird as it caught insects around the margins of the tree before dropping down to feed amongst the dry grasses around a small pool just feet in front of us. A Masked Shrike posed for good views as well, and an Eastern Bonelli's Warbler finally gave the sort of views required to see the dazzling lemon rump as it hovered to catch insects.

We headed North and put some distance under the belt, stopping again at km152 on route 90 where we had lunch before exploring the wadi for Arabian Warbler. Unfortunately this expert skulker was only glimpsed by Neil and Ashley and there was little else in this hot and dry environment to keep us any longer so we made off for Tel-Aviv. Check in for our flight was far from straight forward, as we couldn't find the hire car drop off (which turned out to be at a different terminal than the flight!) and while the rest of the group managed to pass the rigours of Israeli airport security without any problems, Ashley was detained and caught the plane with about ten seconds to spare! Nevertheless we all made it back to Luton only thirty minutes later than scheduled and it was only now that we had time to take a breath and reflect on the week that we realised just what spectacular birding this fascinating country had offered us.

Systematic List

1. Little Grebe
2. Great Cormorant
3. Cattle Egret
4. Little Egret
5. Western Reef Egret
6. Squacco Heron
7. Grey Heron
8. White Stork
9. Black Stork
10. Glossy Ibis
11. Greater Flamingo
12. Common Shelduck
13. Mallard
14. Northern Pintail
15. Northern Shoveler
16. Eurasian Wigeon
17. Common Teal
18. Garganey
19. Griffon Vulture
20. Egyptian Vulture
21. Osprey
22. Lesser Spotted Eagle
23. Steppe Eagle
24. Short-toed Eagle
25. Booted Eagle
26. Black Kite
27. Marsh Harrier
28. Pallid Harrier
29. Long-legged Buzzard
30. Steppe Buzzard
31. Eurasian Sparrowhawk
32. Northern Goshawk
33. Common Kestrel
34. Lesser Kestrel
35. Barbary Falcon
36. Chukar
37. Sand Partridge
38. Common Quail
39. MacQueens Bustard
40. Common Crane
41. Common Moorhen
42. Common Coot
43. Pied Avocet
44. Black-winged Stilt
45. Cream-coloured Courser
46. Ringed Plover
47. Little-ringed Plover
48. Kentish Plover
49. Spur-winged Plover
50. White-tailed Plover
51. Caspian Plover
52. Grey Plover
53. Little Stint
54. Wood Sandpiper
55. Green Sandpiper
56. Marsh Sandpiper
57. Common Redshank
58. Common Greenshank
59. Spotted Redshank
60. Common Snipe
61. Ruff

62. Red-necked Phalarope
63. Collared Pratincole
64. Black-headed Gull
65. Slender-billed Gull
66. Yellow-legged Gull
67. Lesser Black-backed Gull
68. Caspian Gull
69. White-eyed Gull
70. Caspian Tern
71. Whiskered Tern
72. Common Tern
73. Sandwich Tern
74. Spotted Sandgrouse
75. Rock Dove
76. Collared Dove
77. Laughing Dove
78. Namaqua Dove
79. Nubian Nightjar
80. Egyptian Nightjar
81. Humes Tawny Owl (H)
82. Common Swift
83. Pallid Swift
84. Alpine Swift
85. Eurasian Hoopoe
86. Pied Kingfisher
87. Little Green Bee-eater
88. Blue-cheeked Bee-eater
89. Eurasian Wryneck
90. Crested Lark
91. Short-toed Lark
92. Desert Lark
93. Thick-billed Lark
94. Temminck's Horned Lark
95. Sand Martin
96. Rock Martin
97. Barn Swallow
98. Red-rumped Swallow
99. House Martin
100. Tawny Pipit
101. Water Pipit
102. Red-throated Pipit
103. Tree Pipit
104. White Wagtail
105. Yellow Wagtail
106. Grey Wagtail
107. Citrine Wagtail
108. Spectacled Bulbul
109. Bluethroat
110. Common Redstart
111. Blackstart
112. Northern Wheatear
113. Isabelline Wheatear
114. Pied Wheatear
115. Cyprus Wheatear
116. Black-eared Wheatear
117. Desert Wheatear
118. White-crowned Black Wheatear
119. Mourning Wheatear
120. Siberian Stonechat
121. Song Thrush
122. Blackcap

123. Eastern Orphean Warbler
124. Lesser Whitethroat
125. Common Whitethroat
126. Spectacled Warbler
127. Ruppells Warbler
128. Menetries Warbler
129. Scrub Warbler
130. Graceful warbler
131. Sedge Warbler
132. European Reed Warbler
133. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler
134. Eastern Bonelli's Warbler
135. Common Chiffchaff
136. Woodchat Shrike
137. Masked Shrike
138. Southern Grey Shrike
139. Palestine Sunbird
140. Arabian Babbler
141. Brown-necked Raven
142. Fan-tailed Raven
143. Common Raven
144. Indian House Crow
145. Western Jackdaw
146. Hooded Crow
147. Tristram's Grackle
148. House Sparrow
149. Spanish Sparrow
150. Common Linnet
151. European Greenfinch
152. Trumpeter Finch
153. Desert Finch
154. Ortolan Bunting
155. Cretzchmar's Bunting
156. Corn Bunting