

ISRAEL
15TH – 22ND
MARCH 2009



TRIP REPORT

TOUR LEADERS

Neil Donaghy
Ashley Saunders
Jonathan Merav

PARTICIPANTS

Andrew Dodd
Tim Farr
Christine Lindon
Andrew Little
Phil Royston

Sunday 15th March

Our flight from Heathrow arrived in Eilat via Tel-Aviv late this evening, and we were met by a driver who transferred our small birding group north along the Arava Valley to Kibbutz Qetura which would be our base for the first night of our stay. Under the cover of darkness, we enjoyed a quick beer before bed, wondering what delights would be in store at first light the next morning!

Monday 16th March Qetura, Lotan, K20 and Yotvata

We awoke to the blue skies and sunshine that would be a permanent feature of the week ahead, and our first bird was a Black-eared Wheatear perched on the rooftop. Once everyone had assembled, we took a stroll around the vegetated grounds noting many of the common species for the first time. These included Laughing Dove, Yellow-vented Bulbul, Spanish Sparrow, Brown-necked Raven, Crested Lark and Spur-winged Plover. Familiar migrants included eleven Common Chiffchaff, four Blackcap, four Common Redstart, twenty White Wagtails, over 100 Lesser Whitethroats, Northern Wheatear, House Martin, Common Whitethroat, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Marsh Harrier and an Osprey heading north. These were supplemented by one or two locally common but desirable species such as two **Palestine Sunbird**, three **Little Green Bee-eater**, two **Blackstart** and two **Rock Martin**. Many of the aforementioned migrants would be so numerous on the trip that space prevents them being listed throughout, particularly Lesser Whitethroat which we saw at every stop during the week, often hundreds strong. Three Hoopoe, Black Redstart, two Red-throated Pipits, Black Stork and ten Steppe Buzzards rounded off a successful pre-breakfast amble.

After breakfast we explored the derelict farm buildings on the western side of the kibbutz, where large concentrations of sparrows were feeding alongside our first flock of twenty Greater Short-toed Larks. Red-throated Pipit, two Isabelline Wheatear, Black-eared Wheatear, Black Redstart, Red-rumped Swallow, two Little Green Bee-eater, eleven Alpine Swifts, Blackstart and two **Sand Partridge** were also noted here, though a splendid **Bimaculated Lark** which gave great views was the highlight, and our only one of the trip.

We then transferred the two kilometres to Kibbutz Lotan after our minibus had been delivered, and after dropping off our luggage set about exploring the grounds whose irrigated lawns, flowering shrubs and crops act as a magnet to migrants travelling along the valley. Three Common Chiffchaff, three Blackcap, three Common Redstart [including a stunning 'samamiscus' male], five Hoopoe, fifteen Spur-winged Plover, ten Red-rumped Swallows, Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, Lesser Kestrel, Black-headed Wagtail, eight Cretzschmar's Bunting, two Ortolan Bunting, three Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Black-eared Wheatear, eight Red-throated Pipits, Bluethroat, Common Stonechat, Common Whitethroat and a Sardinian Warbler were noted. A Common Quail flushed twice gave great views and raptors included a Booted Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard over the parking lot. Best raptor though was the superb **Barbary Falcon** which caught a pigeon and despatched it on a nearby mast giving great scope views.

Following lunch, we headed south along route 90 to the KM20 salt pans just outside Eilat for our first selection of wetland birds. Black-winged Stilt numbered over fifty, and other species noted included thirty Kentish Plover, twenty Little Ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper, thirty Green Sandpiper, twenty Little Stint, twenty Dunlin, two hundred **Slender-billed Gulls**, three Caspian Gulls, five Pied Avocet, ten Common Shelduck, ten Northern Shoveler, seventy Northern Pintail, two hundred Greater Flamingo, Common Greenshank, two Marsh Sandpipers, Marsh Harrier, Woodchat Shrike, twenty Short-toed Larks, two Northern Wheatear, Grey Plover, White-winged Black Tern, two Little Gulls, 100+ Barn Swallows, 100+ White Wagtails, three Black-headed Wagtails, Black-necked Grebe, Water Pipit, fifteen Ruff, seven Grey Heron and a female Eurasian Wigeon! Phew! The male **Kittlitz's Plover** was amongst the large flock of Kentish as we arrived, though was only seen by two group members before the whole flock flew off and the bird never returned. This was to become our bogey bird of the week until the last day...

Finally, in the fading light, we received news that a male **Caspian Plover** had been found at Yotvata in the southern circular field and we dashed there. Arriving just in time as the sun dipped below the Eilat mountains, we scoped this magical wader as it scurried about the cultivated field with a Kentish, only spooked momentarily when a splendid adult male **Pallid Harrier** drifted right past us! What an end to our first day, and a real taste of what this amazing country has to offer.

Tuesday 17th March Yahel, Holland Park, North Beach, K19 and K20

Our pre-breakfast trip this morning was to nearby Kibbutz Yahel, and firstly the small sewage works on its southern flank. Three Green Sandpipers departed noisily as we arrived, and a *superciliaris* Yellow Wagtail was noted among the throng of White and Yellow Wagtails present. Twenty Common and Pallid Swifts flew north and a Sardinian Warbler was in the scrub. The cold start was clearly keeping things in hiding, but as we skirted around the edge of the kibbutz our only Turtle Dove of the trip was sat in the road and both Ortolan and Cretzchmar's Buntings were noted. Jonathan assured us that the Rock Doves here were a good tick, and male Black Redstart, two Greater Short-toed Larks and five Chukar all gave great views by using the minibus as a hide. A wadi nearby proved more productive, and an Eastern Orphee Warbler gave good views here as it flitted between Acacia trees with Lesser Whitethroats, two Blackstart, Common Kestrel, male Blue Rock Thrush, Black Kite and Common Nightingale were also seen, though the highlight was a female **Cyprus Warbler** which eventually gave itself up as it dashed between the low bushes in the wadi.

After breakfast we headed down to Eilat and the delightful Holland Park, actually a small reserve of dense scrub opening out into a well vegetated wadi which provided a refuge for lots of migrants. Three **Arabian Babblers** were our first, and among the large numbers of commoner warblers three Ruppell's, six Eastern Bonelli's and Eastern Olivaceous were seen well. A Masked Shrike watched from a nearby tree and two Palestine Sunbirds were busy among the flowering shrubs. Overhead, as the mountains warmed up, large birds started appearing and these included Egyptian Vulture, three **Steppe Eagle**, fifty Steppe Buzzards and two hundred White Storks heading in low over the city. Our target bird here had eluded us so far though, and we split up to maximise our chances of success. This worked, and one half of the party flushed the bird from a clump of bushes and into the open where it paused and cocked its ridiculous long tail before scurrying behind an Acacia – male **Black Bush Robin**, one of the rarest species seen on this trip! A quick phone call assembled the other half of the group and with patience, we then enjoyed some unbelievable views of this rare African species, over wintering here well outside its normal range.

Elated, we moved on to the acclaimed North Beach though development of this area and the 'cleaning up' of the bay area has made it much less attractive to gulls and herons than it once was. Nevertheless, we notched up a **Western Reef Egret**, Little Egret, Caspian Gull, twenty Yellow-legged Gulls and Caspian Tern, while Short-toed Eagle, Osprey and Steppe Eagle headed in off the sea. A brief Gull-billed Tern which hurried in over the waves of the Red Sea was our only record of the trip. This was not the best time of day to visit this site in any case, so we decided to come back later in the week and in the meantime head to K19 sewage pools as a Little Crake had been reported. A wrong turn down a track produced our first three Desert Finch of the tour, along with European Greenfinch and Woodchat Shrike, and on arrival at the pools we located the right 'puddle' for the crake, though the bird appeared not to be present. Instead Sedge Warbler, Grey Wagtail, Bluethroat, Black-headed Wagtail, Osprey, Tawny Pipit, Water Pipit, Green Sandpiper and Common Snipe were noted. So on our way back, we called in again at K20 salt pans hoping for the Kittlitz's Plover.

As we arrived, a Dutch birder was watching the bird but once again by the time we'd got our scopes out the whole lot took off and the plover never reappeared despite extensive searching. Much of yesterday's species were still present, supplemented by two Ringed Plovers.

Wednesday 18th March Nizzana, Negev Desert, Ramon Crater, Meishar and Shizafon

We assembled in the dark at 04.00 for our long drive up to Nizzana in the western Negev Desert, a Barn Owl seen by some floating over the Kibbutz. Jonathan joined us for the whole day, and his expertise in this remote area was vital in locating our target species. Our first stop produced a displaying **McQueen's Bustard**, the male bird fluffing out its chest feathers before performing the most ridiculous dance to a nearby hidden female. What an amazing bird to start the day! Five **Cream-coloured Coursers** were also seen well here, and a splendid male Desert Wheatear was our only one of the week. Flight views of both **Crowned and Spotted Sandgrouse** were obtained, with about twenty birds in total, and at the drinking pools good views of Black-bellied Sandgrouse included two at close range on the ground. **Graceful Warbler** were singing in the scrub here and two unexpected species were a late Merlin and hunting female Hen Harrier over the fields. Twenty Little Grebe, Common Coot, Masked Shrike, Brown-necked Raven, two Little Owls of the desert form, twenty Isabelline Wheatear, ten Black-eared Wheatear, Arabian Babbler, Common Redshank and Bluethroat were also noted, with a superb Long-legged Buzzard circling close by. Driving various tracks in the area produced another two McQueen's Bustard including very nice close views of a flying bird. A **Lesser Spotted Eagle** also drifted overhead as the sun warmed things up, and all agreed we had enjoyed a very successful morning here. A nearby Spa complex provided cover in the form of tamarisk trees and scrub and this in turn provided shelter for a large arrival of Common Chiffchaffs with over fifty noted, along with Orphean Warbler, four Common Redstarts, Masked Shrike and Little Owl. A tricky female *Sylvia* warbler skulking among the trees proved to be Subalpine on closer scrutiny.

Retracing our route back, we made a couple of stops around the rim of the spectacular Ramon Crater, including one roadside halt for a Great Spotted Cuckoo skulking in the back of a bush which Jonathan somehow spotted at 60mph!! The best views across this amazing geological feature were had from the burial spot of Israeli president Ben Gurion, and our first **Tristram's Grackles** flew over as we enjoyed lunch here. 220 Common Cranes called high overhead as they migrated north and five Egyptian Vultures followed suit. Single Griffon Vulture was also noted and around the gardens Graceful Warbler, Common Blackbird, Chaffinch, Common Nightingale, Black Redstart, three Common Redstart, ten Common Chiffchaff and more Tristram's Grackle were noted. Nearby, we added our first Mourning Wheatear with two birds at the roadside, and as we descended into the Crater itself a superb White-crowned Black Wheatear was on a rock by the side of the road. We took this opportunity to grab some photos of the scenery before continuing towards our next stop in open stony desert at Meishar. Two Bar-tailed Larks were not seen well but a female Trumpeter Finch fed right by the minibus and a male Spotted Sandgrouse gave lovely views as it flew past calling. A male Ruppell's Warbler was seen in a nearby wadi while searching unsuccessfully for Scrub Warbler, and then we headed back towards Lotan making our last stop at Shizafon sewage. Ten Dead Sea Sparrows were among the large flock of Spanish, and both Wood and Green Sandpipers came off the pools. Finally around Lotan ten Corn Buntings, Bluethroat and seven Red-throated Pipits were noted. After informing Jonathan that a dead cow was lying round by the dairy barns, he took us on a nighttime 'game drive' hoping a Hyena might have smelt the carcass! Not only did we not find any Hyenas, but we also failed to find the cow and had to settle with a Southern Red Fox instead! At least it provided a laugh for all concerned!

Thursday 19th March Lotan, Shizafon, Yabel, K76, K152, Southern Dead Sea & Neot Hakikar

Some time spent birding around Lotan this morning produced a nice range of species, with overhead passage more productive today. 100+ Steppe Buzzards included two kettles of thirty plus a few nice low birds, and among this lot were six Black Kites, Steppe Eagle and White and Black Storks. Also around the kibbutz were Common Nightingale, three Bluethroat [including a white-spotted male], Desert Finch, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Song Thrush, Ruppell's Warbler and eight Red-throated Pipits.

On the Shizafon road we spent some time birding the wadi to the south as the road climbed into the mountains, and this produced Eastern Orphean Warbler, Ruppell's Warbler, Cretzchmar's Bunting, two Mourning Wheatear, three Blackcap and an Eastern Bonelli's Warbler. The sewage at Shizafon gave us three Black-eared, five Isabelline and two Northern Wheatear, Wood Sandpiper, three Green Sandpiper, two Water Pipit, five Yellow Wagtails, Black Redstart, Common Redstart, Bluethroat, Desert Lark and Sardinian Warbler, though somehow we still felt as though we were having a quiet morning!

After lunch on Lotan we headed northwards, and stopped briefly on the way at Yahel sewage where Chukar, Common Snipe, Green Sandpiper, Common Stonechat and two Black-headed Wagtails were seen. Nearby K76 finally gave us good views of a **Bar-tailed Lark** feeding on the stony desert here, and other species noted included two Greater Short-toed Larks, ten Crested Larks, Southern Grey Shrike, ten Isabelline and five Black-eared Wheatears. A Short-toed Eagle circled and hovered low overhead in superb light, giving our best views so far of this species.

About an hour to the north we met Jonathan at K152 and spent some time birding in a beautiful quiet wadi in the edge of the nature reserve here. Our two target species fell in style here, with the highlight a splendid male **Arabian Warbler** which after initially showing well in a large acacia, then flew into a small tree just 20ft away to see off a Palestine Sunbird! We all had amazing views of this rare bird, before lining up our next 'tick' in the form of two **Scrub Warblers**, a species we had so far missed at several other locations. Sand Partridge, Long-legged Buzzard, Steppe Eagle, seven Steppe Buzzards, Sardinian Warbler and six Little Green Bee-eaters rounded off an excellent hour.

Moving north again, our next stop was the salt marsh at the southern edge of the Dead Sea where a brief stop at a reed bed site gave us a couple of brief flight views of two **Clamorous Reed Warblers** as well as European Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Graceful Warbler and 100+ Pallid Swifts. Finally, at a site near Neot Hakikar we enjoyed one of the tour highlights as Jonathan located three **Nubian Nightjars** in the fields, allowing us to get great views of the birds on the ground and in flight with the aid of a flash light. The long drive back to Lotan gave us time to reflect on what a privilege it had been to see this bird, with only fifteen pairs estimated to remain here.

Friday 20th March Neot Smadar, Shizafon, Yotvata, Elifaz, Amrams Pillars, K20 and Night Tour

Our pre breakfast amble this morning took us to the Kibbutz at Neot Smadar, and though fairly quiet in terms of migrants our highlight was the superb **Smyrna Kingfisher** which flew in and landed on the wires long enough for us all to get great views. Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, three Blackcap and Common Redstart were also noted here. Nearby at the Shizafon sewage, an Osprey passed low overhead and we had better views of twenty **Dead Sea Sparrows** in the scrub. Our only Eurasian Wryneck of the trip gave great views and we also noted two Isabelline and two Black-eared Wheatear, seven Green Sandpiper, a Wood Sandpiper, five Black Storks, Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrike, Eurasian Sparrowhawk and a Little Stint.

Our first stop after breakfast was the Yotvata area, and with the help of Eyal a local birder staying on Lotan, we had superb views of two **Hoopoe Larks** holding territory in the buffer zone between the Israeli and Jordanian Borders. Watched by the border guards on the other side, we enjoyed these enigmatic larks feeding among the sand dunes, quite oblivious of the fact their territory straddled two countries! Raptor passage picked up dramatically as the sun warmed the earth, and from the southern fields we notched over 700 Steppe Buzzards, five Steppe Eagles [including one sitting in the field!], Egyptian Vulture, Black and White Storks, male Pallid Harrier, three Booted Eagles, two Eurasian Sparrowhawk, five Short-toed Eagles and twenty Black Kites. Around the fields and tamarisk plantations we also noted Graceful Warbler, Bluethroat, ten Red-throated Pipits, two Common Sky Larks, Meadow Pipit, Water Pipit, two Common Quail, 100 Short-toed Larks, ten Yellow Wagtails, Cattle Egret and relocated the male **Caspian Plover** again in the northern field.

Elifaz was our next destination, and the sewage works here gave us our first **Namaqua Doves** of the trip as well as Great Cormorant, Short-toed Eagle, 100+ Steppe Buzzards, Steppe and Short-toed Eagles, Wood Sandpiper and Masked Shrike.

Our next target species was Sinai Rosefinch, and so we headed to a known drinking spot near Amrams Pillars and spent some time waiting and listening but to no avail. Two Desert Larks, two Blackstart, Sand Partridge and over 100 Steppe Buzzards were logged and then a high pitched call revealed the presence of a dowdy female **Sinai Rosefinch** which landed on a rock just about long enough for everyone to see it. Feeling pleased that we'd found the bird, but a little hard done by that it wasn't a splendid male, we drove up to the car park at the end of the track for completeness. This proved to be a good call, as a **White-crowned Black Wheatear** greeted us on arrival and out from behind a rock shuffled two superb **male Sinai Rosefinch**! What a result! The birds were very photogenic and gave us good views for half an hour before it was time for us to move on once more.

K20 had been a great birding location all week, but imagine our dismay when as we pulled up at the north-west corner, the plover flock, containing the much wanted Kittlitz's, took flight and was not seen again for the rest of the afternoon! This bird almost seemed to know when we were coming!! Seven Garganey were new in, as were two **Ruddy Shelduck**, and we also noted ten Common Teal, Little Gull, Marsh Sandpiper and Baltic Gull. The Black-necked Grebe and White-winged Tern were also still present.

After an early dinner at Lotan we met local guide Noam Weiss at Yotvata for a six hour night tour in search of some specialties such as Hume's Tawny Owl and Egyptian Nightjar. This was a failure on both counts, and the long drive around in 4x4 vehicles was not only largely fruitless but also not particularly comfortable, especially when one of them got stuck in the sand and had to be pulled out! Two Stone Curlews, the Caspian Plover, two White Storks and a Hoopoe were seen roosting, and mammals were represented by Jerboa, Desert Hedgehog, Desert Hare, Southern Red Fox and Golden Jackal. Despite visiting the breeding wadi of the owls and playing calls, Noam could not get a response and we had to accept that it wasn't going to be. One to look forward to next time!

Saturday 21st March Neot Smadar, K20, Eilat Mountains, North Beach and K19

Following late news from yesterday evening that a Cyprus Pied Wheatear was near Neot Smadar we headed there first this morning to take a look. Clearly a fall of Yellow Wagtails had occurred with 150+ noted including several 'flava' and one 'flavissima' and 100+ White Wagtails. Ten Red-throated Pipits, Water Pipit, ten Corn Buntings, seventeen European Bee-eaters, Common Whitethroat, Woodchat Shrike, three Black-eared Wheatear, Booted Eagle, Eastern Bonelli's Warbler and Cattle Egret were also seen here.

Our last chance to see the now near mythical Kittlitz's Plover made K20 our next stop, and it was a laugh or cry moment as we watched the flock fly off again just as we arrived! Its timing was becoming impeccable, though as many of the plovers appeared to have landed on the far side of the north-east pan, we drove round for a better look. A roost of large gulls comprised mainly Baltic, but also a single *graelsii* Lesser Black-back, two Caspian and three Yellow-legged, 300 Slender-billed Gulls represented an increase, and other species included twenty Little Stints, 100 Kentish Plovers, two Common Greenshank, Garganey and two Marsh Harriers. A plover with white wing flashes then flew in and landed on the far bank, almost blending in unnoticed amongst the stones. Our first thought was White-tailed, though the bird eventually showed a little better and its clear supercilium denoted **Sociable Plover**! With less than two thousand left in the world, this was a good record even for here and the news was released for others to get the chance to connect. Calling in at K19 on our way past, we then caught up with the **Little Crane** which we had missed earlier in the week, the bird crouching under a rock less than 5ft away!!

Down to Eilat next and we drove into the mountains in search of Hooded Wheatear, a species which was really proving difficult. En route a Black-crowned Night Heron flew alongside the road and Egyptian Vulture was seen. We failed to find any wheatears, though around Wadi Shlomo and the water pumping station, we noted a few good birds including female Blue Rock Thrush, Black Stork, Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, Blackstart, twenty Sand Partridge, two Palestine Sunbirds, Marsh Harrier and a female **Siberian Stonechat** of the race *maura*. We headed towards North Beach via the border crossing post north of the ringing centre, and two **Indian Silverbill** flew out of the palms here. We also flushed a Common Quail and saw our first **Indian House Crows**, as well as Greater Short-toed Lark, Booted Eagle, Osprey and five Eurasian Spoonbills flying north. From the beach, another Indian House Crow showed well and offshore Caspian Tern, thirty Garganey, thirty Baltic Gulls, Little Egret and finally a superb adult **White-eyed Gull** were seen, the latter at very close range.

Feeling our luck had changed, we had half an hour to spare before going back to K19 at dusk to look for sandgrouse, and we decided that surely this time, the Kittlitz's Plover would be there, wouldn't it? We pulled up at the north-west corner and there were huge numbers of Kentish Plovers on the mud. So up went the scopes for the last time, and there, hiding behind four Little Egrets, was the male **Kittlitz's Plover** in all its glory!!! At last it was in the bag, and ironically the bird sat in the same spot for about half an hour without moving! Only when the **Sociable Plover** flew in to the same patch of mud did the bird begin feeding revealing its distinctive streaked back and peach-washed underparts. Two of the western palearctics rarest waders, almost in the same scope view. Only in Israel!

So, finally, we went back to K19 hoping a few Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse might appear, though the gen from the locals was that none had been seen for over ten days. None did appear, so we had settle for the sight of 1500 Barn Swallows hawking the pools, a Black-crowned Night Heron, the five Eurasian Spoonbills flying north and Little Ringed Plover.

Sunday 22nd March Qetura, Yahel, Lotan and Shizafon

Our last morning and we headed down to Qetura pre-breakfast as an Asian Desert Warbler had been seen the day before. We found the right spot, but not the bird, though a good selection of other species included our first Squacco Heron, a splendid male Pallid Harrier and five Bluethroat around the sewage works. Barbary Falcon, two Sand Partridge, Eastern Olivaceous, Graceful, Eastern Bonelli's and Sardinian Warblers, Common Whitethroat and three Common Chiffchaff were also seen. At Yahel sewage, another Bluethroat, male Common Redstart, three Black-eared Wheatear, two Green Sandpipers, Cattle Egret and Hoopoe were seen, along with brief views of a lark which was not successfully identified before it disappeared.

Back on Lotan we spent some time around the organic garden, finding a splendid male *maura* **Siberian Stonechat** and seeing two more Bluethroat, Desert Finch, two Little Green Bee-eater, Masked Shrike, ten Pallid Swifts, Isabelline Wheatear and ten Short-toed Larks.

Finally, Jonathan took us up to Shizafon for one last try at **Hooded Wheatear**, and this time a male bird was perched on the fence in exactly the place it should have been on all the previous visits! A great bird to end with, and it was even supplemented by an Egyptian Spiny-tailed Lizard sunning itself on the rocks nearby! It was with great reluctance that we said our farewells and caught our lift to the airport, leaving behind an amazing country full of spectacular birds but taking away some lasting memories of some of the worlds greatest migration, most stunning scenery and once in a lifetime birding opportunities.

Systematic List

1. Little Grebe
2. Black-necked Grebe
3. Great Cormorant
4. Black-crowned Night Heron
5. Cattle Egret
6. Little Egret
7. Western Reef Egret
8. Squacco Heron
9. Grey Heron
10. White Stork
11. Black Stork
12. Eurasian Spoonbill
13. Greater Flamingo
14. Common Shelduck
15. Ruddy Shelduck
16. Mallard
17. Northern Pintail
18. Northern Shoveler
19. Eurasian Wigeon
20. Common Teal
21. Garganey
22. Griffon Vulture
23. Egyptian Vulture
24. Osprey

25. Lesser Spotted Eagle
26. Steppe Eagle
27. Short-toed Eagle
28. Booted Eagle
29. Black Kite
30. Marsh Harrier
31. Hen Harrier
32. Pallid Harrier
33. Long-legged Buzzard
34. Steppe Buzzard
35. Eurasian Sparrowhawk
36. Common Kestrel
37. Lesser Kestrel
38. Barbary Falcon
39. Peregrine
40. Merlin
41. Chukar
42. Sand Partridge
43. Common Quail
44. Little Crake
45. McQueen's Bustard
46. Pied Avocet
47. Black-winged Stilt
48. Stone Curlew
49. Cream-coloured Courser
50. Ringed Plover
51. Little Ringed Plover
52. Kentish Plover
53. Kittlitz's Plover
54. Spur-winged Plover
55. Caspian Plover
56. Sociable Plover
57. Grey Plover
58. Dunlin
59. Little Stint
60. Wood Sandpiper
61. Green Sandpiper
62. Marsh Sandpiper
63. Common Redshank
64. Common Greenshank
65. Common Snipe
66. Ruff
67. Little Gull
68. Black-headed Gull
69. Slender-billed Gull
70. Yellow-legged Gull
71. Lesser Black-backed Gull
72. Caspian Gull
73. White-eyed Gull
74. Caspian Tern
75. Gull-billed Tern
76. White-winged Tern
77. Black-bellied Sandgrouse
78. Crowned Sandgrouse
79. Spotted Sandgrouse
80. Rock Dove
81. Collared Dove
82. Turtle Dove
83. Laughing Dove
84. Namaqua Dove
85. Great Spotted Cuckoo

86. Barn Owl
87. Little Owl
88. Nubian Nightjar
89. Common Swift
90. Pallid Swift
91. Alpine Swift
92. Eurasian Hoopoe
93. Smyrna Kingfisher
94. European Bee-eater
95. Little Green Bee-eater
96. Eurasian Wryneck
97. Common Sky Lark
98. Crested Lark
99. Short-toed Lark
100. Desert Lark
101. Bar-tailed lark
102. Bimaculated Lark
103. Hoopoe Lark
104. Sand Martin
105. Rock Martin
106. Barn Swallow
107. Red-rumped Swallow
108. House Martin
109. Tawny Pipit
110. Water Pipit
111. Meadow Pipit
112. Red-throated Pipit
113. White Wagtail
114. Yellow Wagtail
115. Grey Wagtail
116. Spectacled Bulbul
117. Common Nightingale
118. Bluethroat
119. Common Redstart
120. Black Redstart
121. Blackstart
122. Northern Wheatear
123. Isabelline Wheatear
124. Black-eared Wheatear
125. Desert Wheatear
126. White-crowned Black Wheatear
127. Mourning Wheatear
128. Hooded Wheatear
129. Common Stonechat
130. Siberian Stonechat
131. Black Bush Robin
132. Blue Rock Thrush
133. Common Blackbird
134. Song Thrush
135. Blackcap
136. Eastern Orphean Warbler
137. Arabian Warbler
138. Lesser Whitethroat
139. Common Whitethroat
140. Sardinian Warbler
141. Ruppell's Warbler
142. Subalpine Warbler
143. Cyprus Warbler
144. Scrub Warbler
145. Graceful warbler
146. Sedge Warbler

147. European Reed Warbler
148. Clamorous Reed Warbler
149. Cetti's Warbler [H]
150. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler
151. Eastern Bonelli's Warbler
152. Common Chiffchaff
153. Woodchat Shrike
154. Masked Shrike
155. Southern Grey Shrike
156. Palestine Sunbird
157. Arabian Babbler
158. Brown-necked Raven
159. Indian House Crow
160. Hooded Crow
161. Tristram's Grackle
162. House Sparrow
163. Spanish Sparrow
164. Dead Sea Sparrow
165. Common Chaffinch
166. European Greenfinch
167. Common Linnet
168. Sinai Rosefinch
169. Trumpeter Finch
170. Desert Finch
171. Indian Silverbill
172. Ortolan Bunting
173. Cretzchmar's Bunting
174. Corn Bunting

OTHER WILDLIFE

Painted Lady
Egyptian Spiny-tailed Lizard
Southern Red Fox
Desert hare
Golden Jackal
Jerboa
Desert Hedgehog
Nubian Ibex
Dorcas Gazelle