

BIRDS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ANNUAL REPORT – 2015



Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) – Al Wathba Camel Racetrack. One of two birds at this site during a minor influx in the later months of 2015.
(Photo © Kinan Echtay)

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

For reference to this report in peer-reviewed literature, please use this citation:

Smiles, M., T. Pedersen & O. Campbell. 2017. Birds of the United Arab Emirates Annual Report 2015. Available from <http://www.uaebirding.com/uaechecklist.html>

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been adopted in this report:

AD	Abu Dhabi
CRT	Camel Race Track
GC	Golf Club
NP	National Park
PEGM	Private estate near Green Mubazzarah
WR	Wetland Reserve
WTP	Water Treatment Plant

EBRC REVIEW OF RECORDS, 2015–2016.

During the course of 2015–2016, EBRC carried out a review of archived records and categorisation. The main aspects and conclusions of this review are briefly outlined below.

All records available for eleven species where recent submissions of the same or similar species had either raised potential identification issues or where there were a number of historical records of species known to be very difficult to identify and apparently now much rarer than in the past were fully reviewed and reassessed. The species involved were:

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*
 Swinhoe's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis*
 Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina*
 Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*
 Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola*
 Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
 Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*
 Hume's Whitethroat *Sylvia althaea*
 Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*
 Blackstart *Oenanthe melanura*
 European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

This aspect of the review resulted in a significant change to the known status of several of these species in the UAE. EBRC wishes to stress that the outcomes from this review in no way reflect adversely on the observers involved or on previous decisions made by the committee. In the vast majority of cases, it was considered that the evidence available was simply insufficient to be certain that the species was indeed what was claimed; only in very few cases was there evidence that misidentification was likely. Some of the species involved were believed, at the time of observation, to be scarce rather than rare and thus, observers may have been required to provide less detail than they might otherwise have done. Further, in some cases, records were not documented at all. Almost all of the species involved in this review are difficult or extremely difficult to identify in a vagrant context and require extremely detailed documentation. Unfortunately, this was not always available and, in those circumstances, it was deemed that, regrettably, the record had to be considered not proven. EBRC would be delighted to reconsider any of the records involved in the light of additional evidence being forthcoming. Observers are encouraged to submit any such evidence directly to the Chairman. Such evidence will be filed and, if appropriate, the record reviewed again.

As a consequence of this review, EBRC added a new category, Category F, as defined below. Two species considered in the recent review are now in Category F, along with a number of other species, all of which are very difficult to identify, that predate systematic ornithological recording in the UAE. The species in Category F are as follows:

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*
 Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*
 Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*
 Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*
 Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

Furthermore, a review of the archived data also revealed a number of historical records for which no documentary evidence exists. However, given the distinctiveness of the species involved and the credentials of the observers, it was considered highly unlikely that these records could be the result of mis-identification or confusion with similar species. Since many of the records concerned predate the formation of a systematic documentation process, and given the potential difficulties in acquiring further information from observers who no longer reside in the UAE, the decision was taken to retain these records on the UAE Bird List but to place them in Category B (see definition below). These species are listed below and the relevant records marked as undocumented with a double asterisk ** in the species accountsof the EBRC Annotated Checklist, available at <http://www.uaebirding.com/uaechecklist.html>.

The species assigned to Category B are:

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*
 Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*
 Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*
 Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*
 Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Finally, the designation of species in Categories C, D and E was reviewed, resulting in four changes. The 1969 record of a Leach's Petrel found dying at Sharjah airfield was considered very likely to be aeroplane-assisted and was moved from Category A to D.

As of 1 Jan 2016, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* and Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* were elevated from Category E to C following evidence of breeding and sustained or increasing population, whilst all future Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* records are now to be classed as Category E on evidence of a declining population and an absence of records over the preceding two years.

Category A - Species occurring in an apparently natural, wild state on at least one occasion. Category A species are included in the total UAE List.

Category B - Species recorded in to the UAE prior to or during the earliest years of systematic bird recording in the country for which no supporting documentation exists, but, based on the distinctiveness of the species and the credentials of the observers responsible, are considered extremely unlikely to be the result of mis-identification or confusion with similar species.

Category B species are included in the UAE List.

Category C - Species introduced (or probably introduced) by man and have subsequently established breeding populations that are now deemed self-sustaining.

Category C species are included in the UAE List.

Category D - Species that would otherwise appear in Category A, except that there is reasonable doubt that they have occurred naturally.

Category D species are not included in the UAE list.

Category E - Species that have been recorded as introductions or escapees from captivity, with breeding populations, if any, that are thought not to be self-sustaining. Category E species are not included in the UAE list.

Category F - Species that either:

- were reported prior to the establishment of systematic ornithological record keeping in the UAE, or
- were reported and initially accepted, but which, following a review of the record(s), are no longer deemed to be sufficiently documented for a certain identification to be upheld.

Unlike species in Category B, species in Category F are invariably ones that are very difficult to identify, needing detailed and precise documentation and, in many cases, are species in which identification criteria have evolved in recent years. Whilst it is likely that some or all Category F species have indeed occurred in a natural, wild state at least once, there is insufficient evidence to admit them to Category A.

Category F species are not included in the UAE List.

ANNUAL SUMMARY

January The only surprise to a quiet start to the year was an elusive **Ashy Drongo** (9th record), the second of the winter, in Mamzar Park found on the 4th but reported by a non-birder at least one week prior to this. Presumably the same was still present on 13th February. A **European Bee-eater** was most unseasonal at Dubai Pivot Fields on 3rd when a dark phase **Booted Eagle** was also present; several **Black-eared Kites** remained here into February and nearby at Ras al Khor a plethora of raptors included up to 21 **Great Spotted Eagles** (including one *fulvescens* morph on 30th). Up to three individual **Eastern Imperial Eagles** were seen at Al Qudra until mid-month. A **Forest Wagtail** was present at Mushrif Palace Gardens, Abu Dhabi, on 16th but vanished after just a few days. A **Buff-bellied Pipit** was seen at Wamm on 16th with another at the Pivot Fields on 30th; birds from December 2014 were reported again at Hamranyah on 2nd. A **Ring Ouzel** on Jebel Hafit on 10th remained until 22nd, when a **Mourning Wheatear**, found in December, was also seen. A visit to Dalma Island on 30th-31st produced two further **Mourning Wheatears** and two **Little Swifts**; the latter possibly present since late December. Long-stayers included **Pied Stonechat** in Abu Dhabi (remaining until March), **Water Rail** near Green Mubazzarah, Al Ain (along with **Spotted Crane** at the same site!) and **Sociable Lapwing** at Hamranyah fields, reported on 3rd only.

February Dalma Island on 6th yielded two **Mourning Wheatears** again, plus a **Merlin**, although no **Little Swift**. A **Red-billed Tropicbird** was seen from the ferry on 7th, although Dubai was the place to be that day with two **Wire-tailed Swallows** found at Warsan (one remaining until 27th), along with **Steppe Eagle** at Ras al Khor and **Asian Koel** at Mamzar Park. Another Koel had already been found on 5th at Safa Park, the first of several good birds here – two **Siskins** and **Brambling** followed on 11th and an elusive **European Robin** was seen again on 13th. Other interesting finds during the month included a *caniceps*-type **Goldfinch** near Green Mubazzarah from 17th to 23rd (not accepted as wild) and a **Sociable Plover** at Ras al Khor on 23rd. The first migrants of the spring started moving from 24th with, amongst other species, **Pied Wheatears** scattered round the Gulf coast, including a *vittata* individual at Lulu Island on 27th with a **Short-eared Owl** recorded in Sharjah on the same day. **Hypocolius** flocks remained at Yas (up to 61) and Lulu Island (up to 130) throughout, with smaller numbers on Dalma Island.

March A **Mesopotamian Crow** (2nd record) was photographed at Khor al Beida on 1st; although not seen last winter, this may be the original bird from 2012-13. A sudden and marked rush of migrants at the very start of the month included no less than four **Caspian Stonechats**, from 4th to 7th including 3 males at Sila'a on 6th. Other than this, things ticked over slowly rather than spectacularly; up to seven **Crested Honey Buzzards** were seen together in Abu Dhabi at the start of the month, a **Lappet-faced Vulture** was at Jebel Hafit (5th), a **Little Swift** was nearby over Al Ain (lucky Friday 13th for one observer!) and a **Steppe Eagle** was near Al Dhaid on 15th, followed by a **Cinereous Bunting** at Mamzar on 17th. Things picked up further the following weekend, despite a general paucity of migrants on the ground. **Asian Koel** (Jebel Dhanna), **Black-shouldered Kite** (Dubai Pivot Fields), **Little Crane** (Al Wathba Lake) and **Short-eared Owl** (Balghelam Island) were all discovered on 20th – 21st, along with several scattered **Eurasian Scops-Owls**. Also, an **Eastern Cattle Egret**, presumably a returning bird, was found at Wamm Farms, with a **Savi's Warbler** there on 28th. A **Taiga Flycatcher** (7th record) glimpsed at Mamzar on 21st was finally pinned down on 31st.

April After a very slow second half of March, migrants suddenly arrived in force from 3rd, precipitated, in part, by a massive dust storm. Amongst commoner species, **Semi-collared Flycatchers** (at Sila'a and Mamzar), **White-throated Robins** (including up to 4 at Mamzar), **Grasshopper Warbler** and a few **Cinereous Buntings** appeared, whilst a total of four **Montagu's Harriers** grounded at Sila'a, along with **Savi's Warbler**, were impressive. **Lappet-faced Vultures** were seen at Al Qudra on 6th (with one still there on 18th) and a **Steppe Buzzard** was found at Ghantoot on 7th, with a **Black Drongo** in Dubai on 8th – this bird had likely been glimpsed back in February! Another **Eastern Cattle Egret** had joined the March bird at Wamm on 11th, where nine **Steppe Grey Shrikes** was a significant total. A **Short-eared Owl** was noted in flight over Abu Dhabi on 18th while another excellent count from Wamm Farms was 140 **Lesser Kestrels** on 24th; of these 110 were still present on 8th May.

May A rather quiet month with disappointingly few migrants and no big arrivals. Rarities as well as common migrants, were at a premium with a **Sooty Falcon** over Jebel Hafit on 7th more notable than one (but possibly as many as three!) **Corncrakes** seen at Al Qudra on several dates until 9th. **Red-headed Bunting** (8th record) at Mamzar and the latest ever **Calandra Lark** (9th record) at Wamm Farms on 9th were an unexpected punctuation in the slow descent into the summer doldrums. A visit to Dubai Pivot Fields produced a juvenile **Yellow Wagtail** photographed, with at least a male (*feldegg*) still present into early June; the species has bred intermittently at this site since 2008.

June A pair of **Ferruginous Ducks** in Al Ain on 4th hinted at the possibility of breeding; this species has overwintered and been suspected of breeding in the UAE in previous years. With regard to rarities, a boat trip off Kalba on 2nd yielded **Masked Booby** and **Sooty Shearwater** and then Wamm got in on the act with two **Amur Falcons** (13th) and a **Bay-backed Shrike** on the 20th; different individuals of both species were to feature again

from this site in July. Another perplexing **Black Drongo** record surfaced, this time at Mushrif Park from 10th; it was reported again in July, October and into November!

July & August The best place to be for most of July was Wamm Farms; the month began there with **Bay-backed Shrike**, a new **Amur Falcon** and **Eastern Cattle Egret** all found on the 3rd, with the UAE's fourth **Pied Cuckoo** located the next afternoon, by which point three more **Amur Falcons** had also arrived! This unexpectedly explosive start precipitated, amongst the local birders unlucky enough to be stuck in the UAE all July, a herculean effort to round up as many species as possible for the month, with the list finishing on 161 after the final addition of **Broad-billed Sandpiper** on the 31st. The list included a few unseasonal visitors, such as **Indian Pond Heron** at Kalba from 23rd, **Montagu's Harrier** (17th – 18th at Al Qudra), **Eurasian Scops Owl** and **Woodchat** and **Turkestan Shrikes** all on several dates at Wamm, two reports of **Upcher's Warbler** and, perhaps most bizarrely, a **Red-tailed Wheatear** at Green Mubazzarah on 4th. Boat trips produced 72 **Wilson's Petrels** on 11th and 15 **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** and a **Masked Booby** on 25th.

In contrast, very little birding was carried out in August, although boat trips produced a **Red-billed Tropicbird** on 1st and a **Cory's / Scopoli's Shearwater**, plus **Flesh-footed Shearwater** and **Masked Booby** on 30th.

September This month was steady rather than spectacular, although there was a sprinkling of migrants from early in the month onwards. The most notable records were **Blyth's Reed Warbler** at Mamzar on 4th, **Green Warbler** at Dubai Pivot Fields on 12th, and a **Masked Booby** frequenting a buoy off Dibba Harbour from 20th to 26th. Other records included **Crested Honey Buzzard** (Abu Dhabi, 11th and Sila'a, 23rd), **Lappet-faced Vulture** (up to 5, Al Qudra 18th to 25th at least), **Caspian Plover** (at Hamraniyah from 4th to 26th, with three there on 12th), **Oriental Turtle Dove** (Wamm, 26th, into October) and the first fully documented record of **Hume's Whitethroat** (Dalma, 24th). One other notable visitor was Noah Stryker, in the UAE for 36hrs from 11th as part of his attempt to break the World Year List record; he wasn't complaining about the birding here as he added 39 species to his haul and left on 4244 for the year!

October The month started (and ended) in spectacular fashion with an elusive black and white *Ficedula* glimpsed at Mamzar on 3rd pinned down by 6th as the UAE's first ever **Collared Flycatcher**. It remained until 9th although never became less than recalcitrant. A boat trip out of Kalba on the latter date produced an excellent haul of rare seabirds, albeit all 30km or more offshore. Counts comprised 90 **Jouanin's** and two **Swinhoe's Petrels** (8th record) amongst many **Wilson's Petrels**, plus two **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**. An arrival of **Pied Kingfishers** began on 15th, with two birds at Al Wathba Camel Race track from this date onwards (with possibly a different bird at nearby Al Wathba Lake on 25th) and one at Ajban Farms found several days later; these are the first UAE records since 2011. The last weekend of the month saw a **White-crowned Black Wheatear** (13th record but first since 2002!) at Jebel Hafit and the UAE's third **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** at Al Qudra, both on 29th with the jacana seen until 31st (with up to 8 Lappet-faced Vultures around at the same time). The 31st was a remarkable day with a **Black-shouldered Kite** at Al Wathba, **Ashy Drongo** (10th record) found at Mamzar (still present December), **Dusky Thrush** (4th record) at Wamm Farms and a *Locustella* glimpsed at Emirates Palace that, had fate been kinder, just might have been the country's first Lanceolated Warbler. Other notable records included **Corncrakes** (Abu Dhabi, 11th and Al Ain, 16th), **Oriental Turtle Dove** (Wamm, 17th) and several reports of **Great Reed Warblers**. By 23rd, the first **Hypocolius** was back on Lulu Island and the first **Hume's Warbler** at Emirates Palace on 31st.

November Another good month for rarities in the UAE, although, unusually, not as good as October! A boat trip out of Kalba on the 7th yielded **Masked Booby** and a good number of **Jouanin's Petrels** remaining from October, whilst a marked arrival of stonechats at Wamm Farms produced both **Pied Bushchat** and **Caspian Stonechat** on the 7th; the latter was only the second autumn record and remained into 2016. An **Amur Falcon** followed on the 13th and a **Little Gull** was found at Fujairah on 15th. The next good record was a **Spur-winged Plover** (7th record and the first since 2011) at Mafrq on 21st, staying into 2016. Finally, an **Asian Koel** was photographed at Green Mubazzarah, Al Ain, on 27th.

Other notable records included **Eastern Imperial Eagle** at Green Mubazzarah on 2nd (into December) with another at Ras al Khor later in the month; two further **Hume's Warblers** were found on 7th-8th. A **Masked Wagtail** was at Hamraniyah on 13th with the first **Buff-bellied Pipit** and **Eurasian Golden Plover** reported from there on 21st, both remaining until the following weekend when the first **Bimaculated Lark** was seen. A Siskin was in Dubai on 28th and up to 55 **Hypocolius** were on Lulu Island; a whopping 180 counted going to roost at Yas on 14th.

December The key event occurred mid-month, with two juvenile **Great White Pelicans** seen briefly at Ajman Water Treatment Plant on 12th, with one relocated on 26th at Ras al Khor, Dubai (and the other found eventually in Oman!). A stunning *fulvescens* **Greater Spotted Eagle** was also at this location. Other than this, it was rather quiet, although two **Pied Kingfishers** were still present at Ajban on 18th, an **Egyptian Nightjar** was seen near Green Mubazzarah towards the end of the month on several dates and two **European Robins** were found at Saadiyat Island on 9th. A **Blyth's Pipit** at the unusual location of Mushrif Palace Gardens was destined to remain into 2016.

Annual totals

327 species, plus another 61 deemed to be of captive origin, were recorded during the year. Three new species was admitted to the national list in the year, which now stands at 461* species at the end of 2015.

(* total after 2015/16 EBRC review of records)

Species recorded for the first time in 2015:

Omani Owl (*Strix butleri*)

Collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*)

Hume's Whitethroat (*Sylvia althaea*) (following a review of historical records in 2015/16)



Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*, Mamzar Park. Above © Mark Smiles, Below © Simon Lloyd





Left: Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus*, Green Mubazzarah, © Vipin Sharma
Centre: European Scops Owl *Otus scops*, Mamzar Park, © Mark Smiles
Right: Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, Dubai Pivot Fields © Sanalkumar Sreevalsan



Left: Jacobin Cuckoo *Oxylophus jacobinus*, Wamm Farms © Mark Smiles
Right: Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*, Al Qudra © Mike Barth



Left: Corncrake *Crex crex*, Al Qudra, © Mark Smiles
Centre: Black Drongo *Dicurus macrocercus*, Mushrif Park, © Mark Smiles
Right: Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*, Wamm Farms © Mark Smiles



Left: Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*, Mamzar Park, © Mark Smiles
 Right: Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, Al Qudra, © John Johnston



White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*, Jebel Hafeet, © Steffen Boehner



Left: Great White Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Ajman Water Treatment Plant, © Ahmed Al Ali
 Right: Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*, Mafraq Pools, © Oscar Campbell

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

English names and taxonomic order are based on IOC World Bird List 5.2 (2015).

Key to status within the UAE: **PM**: passage migrant, **R**: resident, **SV**: summer visitor, **UC**: uncommon, **V**: vagrant, **WV**: winter visitor.

IUCN Red List Status is provided for all species that have a categorization of Near-threatened or greater. All other species are categorized as Least Concern or, in a few cases, as Not Evaluated. For more information see <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country/united-arab-emirates/species>.

Eurasian White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) WV

Scarce; recorded from three sites and only in the first half of the year, up to 27th Feb. 7 at Ghantoot on 26th Jan was the highest count.

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) R

Very common resident regularly reported during the year from wetland areas across the country, usually in pairs and small groups. Counts of 150 at Sir Bani Yas Island and up to 80 at PEGM demonstrate how this species can achieve near-pest status if unchecked.

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) WV

Recorded from 4 sites up to 28th Feb and from 20th Nov. Up to 177 at Al Wathba WR in the first half of the year was the only substantial flock; in the second half of the year numbers remained low (max 18, 17th Dec, also at Al Wathba WR).

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) WV

Three records, with a maximum of two birds at Al Wathba WR until 28th Feb. In the second half of the year, there was just one record: 4 at Al Qudra on 6th Nov.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) WV

Present in very low numbers at a small number of sites until 12th Mar and from 30th Oct. Al Wathba WR held the largest numbers, with up to 13 there in Feb and 10 in Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) WV

Present in low numbers from a small number of sites until 9th Apr and from 13th Oct onwards. The peak count was 20 at Al Warsan Lakes on 13th Mar, presumably involving passage rather than wintering birds. Up to 13 at Zakher Lake throughout Jan was the only other double-figure count.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) WV

Common during winter with small numbers reported throughout the year, though some records may relate to released birds. Winter counts in excess of 200 were recorded at the Al Ain sites of Zakher Lake, Ain al Fayda and PEGM, suggesting that the flocks probably regularly move between these neighbouring bodies of water.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) WV

Overwintering and passage birds present until early Apr and from early Sept, with a few birds present all summer at PEGM. The main site, by some margin, was Al Wathba WR: up to 440 remained throughout Jan and 650 were present there by 28 Nov. Otherwise, the main sites were Zakher Lake and PEGM, where up to 100 were present in the second half of the year.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) WV

Present until 6th Apr and from 3rd Oct although counts exceeding 10 were only made from until mid Feb and from mid Nov. An exceptional count of 200 was made at Al Qudra on 15th Jan but otherwise numbers were much smaller, with up to 50 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary on 13th Feb and 60 there on 13th Nov the maxima.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) WV & PM

As typical, very scarce in the first half of the year, with up to 2 reported at five sites until 10th Mar. Then absent until 27th Aug, from whence 79 records until the year end, mainly Sept and early Oct. The peak counts were 20 at Al Qudra Lake and 17 at PEGM, both in mid-Feb.

Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*) WV

Present until 30th Apr and from 27th Aug. 800 at Zakher Lake on 10th Jan was the peak count by some margin with up to 460 at PEGM Jan–Feb and Nov–Dec the next best count.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)

Two records, with females at Palm Sports Resort 18th–20th Jan and Al Wathba WR 28th Nov–21st Dec.

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) WV**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Apart from birds that summered at Al Warsan Lake (single) and Ajman WTP (two birds), recorded until 9th Apr and from 31st Oct. Main site was Zakher Lake, with up to 247 present there in Jan and 132 from Nov with 118 at Ajman WTP Dec.

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) WV**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Two birds oversummered at PEGM with birds present at Al Wathba Lake until 18th May. Otherwise, wintering birds had departed by 6th Mar and were back from 3rd Oct. Main site was Al Wathba WR, where 25 on 11th Feb presumably included some passage birds.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) WV

Much scarcer than the preceeding two species and recorded from only six sites. Most records from Zakher Lake where up to 5 in Jan was the highest number logged.

Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) R

Very localised, with all 10 records coming from Wadi Bih. An exception count of 50 there on 24th Jul presumably included young birds of the year.

Sand Partridge (*Ammoperdix heyi*) R

Regularly reported from the Al Ain area, particularly PEGM, where nesting was confirmed, with scattered reports from other montane sites. Most counts small, with high counts of 19 at the former site on 31st Aug and 15 in Wadi Helo on 24th Jan.

Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) R

Widespread and common, especially in urban or semi-urban areas. Up to 300 reported on single date at PEGM and a maximum of 73 at any other single site.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) PM & WV

One record at Wamm Farms on 2nd Jan but no others until 20th Mar. Then 9 scattered records until 1st May (maximum 3, Wamm 27th) but no further records until autumn passage began on 23rd Sept. In all 19 autumn records until 3rd Dec; again the maximum was at Wamm with 4 on 13th Nov.

Wilson's Storm Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) UC

Seven records 2nd Jun to 6th Nov, including 5 from land off Bidiyah on 29th – 30th Jul. Other records from boat trips off the east coast, with 72 on 11th Jul and 60 on 9th Oct.

Swinhoe's Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma monorhis*) V**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Only one record, that of a single from a boat trip out of Kalba on 9th Oct.

Unidentified Shearwater (*Calonectris* sp.)

A Cory's-type shearwater photographed offshore from Kalba on 30th Aug could not be definitely assigned to species.

Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) PM**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

The only record this year was of a single bird seen during a Kalba pelagic on 2nd Jun.

Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*) UC**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Four records, all on east coast boat trips 25th Jul–9th Oct with 15 on the former date the only count other than singles.

Persian Shearwater (*Puffinus persicus*) SV & R

A very poor year with only 11 records scattered Jan–Nov, all from the east coast. The maximum was 120 on 11th Jul on a boat out of Kalba; 25 of Luoluayah Beach on 20th Jun was the highest from land.

Jouanin's Petrel (*Bulweria fallax*) UC**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Four records, all on boat trips off the east coast. One was seen on 11th May, with the other 3 records from 5th Oct to 9th Nov, with 91 on 9th Oct the best count.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) R

Common resident in appropriate habitat all year with juveniles reported quite widely. 230 at Zakher Lake on 3rd Jul was the peak count; counts of 100 or more also reported from Al Wathba WR and Sharjah Tip.

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) WV

Present in rather low numbers and at a small number of sites until 21st Mar and from 23rd Sept onwards. Up to 15 were at Al Wathba WR on 7th Mar and 28th Nov; no other site held more than five.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) R

Common and conspicuous at several standard sites with 6000 at Khor Qirqishan on 14th Feb the peak count. Otherwise, Al Wathba WR had up to 2500 and successful breeding was confirmed there on 17th May. 500 nests were reported on 11th May but doubtless many were not successful. Small numbers reported from a large number of sites, as far inland as Zakher Lake.

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) UC

Two records of singles: Dalma Island ferry on 7th Feb and on a boat off Khor Kalba on 1st Aug.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) PM

Two present at Wamm Farms throughout Jan but all other records 14th Sep to 7th Nov. 8 arrived at PEGM on the former date, with 2 remaining until 26th Oct. One remained at Wamm until 2nd Oct and, interestingly, three singles were recorded at three novel sites (Al Wathba WR, Al Ain zoo and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary) between 28th Oct and 7th Nov.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) WV & R, PM

Present at scattered wetland sites, mainly in low numbers, all year. 70 were at Al Wathba WR in January, the highest count by some margin (but most counts from that site were less than 20). 40 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary on 13th Dec and up to 26 at PEGM on dates at either end of the year.

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) WV & R, PM

Recorded virtually all year, though only one record from Jun to Sep inclusive, mainly at Gulf coast estuarine sites. Up to 46 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (26th Dec) and 22 at Khor al-Beida (6th Feb) were the highest counts. One at Hatta Dam on 22nd May was an unusual record.

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) PM & R

Recorded 8th Apr until 14th Nov (mainly May until end of Jul) most frequently from PEGM where a sickly juvenile was taken into care on 10th Sep and finally released on 14th Nov. Up to 4 were recorded at Al Warsan Lakes, where breeding was deemed possible.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) WV, PM & R

Present all year, with breeding confirmed in the Zabeel area of Dubai. The vast majority of records, as usual, were from the greater Dubai and Al Ain areas. Al Warsan Lakes was the only site that exceeded a count of 25 (60 there 28th Sept was the highest).

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) R

Present all year and widespread on suitable estuarine sites with 25 at Khor al-Beida on 29th July the maximum by a substantial margin. Recorded erratically at Wasit NR and Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club but otherwise strictly coastal.

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) PM & R

Present all year, although the total number of birds involved was small and mainly reported as long-stayers at several favoured sites. Apart from a novel record of 6 at Zakher on 4th July (reported as possibly a family group), no other evidence of breeding and no counts exceeding three, save for at Al Warsan Lakes where up to 10 were present in July.

Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) WV

Mainly reported at Khor Kalba where one bird seemed to over-summer and the highest count was 11 on 15th Mar. One bird remained at Wamm Farms until mid May (and it, or another, returned in Oct) and there were scattered records from the Al Ain area as well.

Unidentified Pond Heron (*Ardeola* sp)

Three records of singles; one spring and two in autumn.

Western Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) R

Present all year but much less widespread and low numbers only from May–Aug; no reports of breeding. Highest counts were 150 at Al Warsan Lakes on 28th Sept and 140 at Al Wathba WR on 28th Jan, both flocks at roost.

Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) V

One present at Wamm Farms 11th Mar–11th Jul with two there, 7th & 11th Apr.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) WV & R

Widespread in small numbers all year, but many fewer May–Aug and mainly coastal (save for Zakher Lake, where up to 37 were reported). Highest counts were 50 at Khor Qirquishan (14th Feb), 50 at Al Qudra (3rd Jan) and 60 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (13th Dec).

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) R & PM

Present in small numbers all year, and juvenile at Al Warsan Lakes on 4th Jul likely indicates local breeding. Up to 10 were reported from this site in the autumn whilst clear evidence of passage came from a flock of 23 at Kalba on 7th Sep and 6 at PEGM on 20th Sep, where one remained to overwinter.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) R & WV

Present all year, but no records Jun or Aug. Up to 61 reported from Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary and 30 at Al Warsan Lake throughout Nov–Dec were by far the highest counts.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) R & WV

Present all year, but few records Jun–Aug. 30 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary and 15 at Al Warsan Lakes, both on 13th Dec were the highest counts by far. Most other reports comprised four or less, but up to 9 at a temporary flood at Al Wathba CRT 24th Oct–14th Nov was notable.

Western Reef-Heron (*Egretta gularis schistacea*) R

Common resident along the Gulf coast littoral and regularly present at Khor Kalba on the east coast and, in small numbers at selected inland sites such as Zakher Lake. Peak counts were 100 at both Eastern Lagoon, AD and Khor al-Beida on 24th Jan and 3rd Nov respectively, with numerous counts exceeding 25 at the latter site. No records of breeding, but this is surely overlooked.

Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus oncorhynchus*) V

One of the highlights of the year was the arrival of two immature birds at Ajman WTP on 15th Dec, with one later relocating to Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary from 26th Dec into 2016. The other was found on the Batinah Coast of Oman in early January.

Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) UC

Four records totalling five birds were reported from boat trips out of Kalba between 2nd Jun and 30th Aug with one further record on 5th Nov. In addition, one was present of Dibba port 20th to 26th Sep.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) V

One at Zubara Beach on 1st Jan was the 16th national record.

Unidentified booby (*Sula* sp)

Three individuals were seen poorly on a boat trip from Kalba on 11th May.

Eurasian Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis/hanedae*) WV

Common and widespread until late March, with scattered records until 15th May. Then one, Warsan Lakes, 15th Jul but no others until widespread reports from 5th Nov onwards. Maximum counts were 400 on 3rd Jan at Al Qudra with counts exceeding 100 at numbers of sites, mainly in the Dubai area (although 150 far inland at Ain Al-Fayda on 12th Dec was notable).

Socotra Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*) R

IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

Exclusively coastal and scarce along the east coast, although 250 on 3rd Jul at Fujairah Port Beach was a good count. With no records from the large, but essentially inaccessible, colonies in the Western Region, the highest count was 5000 at Umm al Qawain breakwater on 26th Dec; no other counts exceeded 600.

Western Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) R, WV & PM

Present at low densities along the Arabian Gulf coast, mainly around and to the west of Abu Dhabi island. Counts of 14 and 9 at Khor Qirquishan, west of Abu Dhabi on 14th Feb and 16th Oct were by far the largest numbers; the only inland migrants were at Zakher Lake on 30th Apr and 17th Oct, although what was possibly

the latter was still present on 4th Dec.

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) V

A good year, with one at Dubai Pivot Fields on 20th Mar followed by others at Al Wathba WR (31st Oct), Dubai Investment Park (29th Nov) and one at Al Qudra on 3rd-4th Dec.

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) R

IUCN Red List Status: Endangered

Almost exclusively recorded from Jebel Hafit and sites nearby with a count of 30 on 29th Oct the highest reported. An immature photographed near Nakhli on 31st May was an exceptional record for Dubai.

Crested Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) WV & PM (& R?)

Reported all year, mainly in urban areas, but only 6 records, probably involving 4 individuals Jun – Sep inclusive. In the first half of the year, up to four were reported in both Al Ain and Abu Dhabi but most other records were of singles.

European/Crested Honey Buzzard (*Pernis* sp.)

Three records of two individuals, with one on 2nd Jun at Nakhli, Dubai deemed probably European. Another individual was at Mushrif Palace Gardens on 2nd and 11th Nov.

Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*) UC

IUCN Red List Status: Endangered

Up to three in the area south of Dubai as far south east as Jebel Hafit from 28th Jan to 18th Apr with 11 reports in all. Present again at Al Qudra from 16th Sep when five were reported two still present on 23rd Oct. Later records came from PEGM (25th Nov) followed by 3 at Nakhli on 20th Dec.

Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) WV & PM

Ten records to 30th April, then 24 from 5th Oct, although the vast majority of those were from PEGM, where up to two birds were reported. Otherwise all singles, and from only six sites.

Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) WV & PM

IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

Present until 19th Apr and from 10th Oct. The only site exceeding three birds was Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, which saw a peak count of 21 on 16th Jan; up to 12 were here in Feb but counts were rather lower at the end of the year (maximum 6). Elsewhere, scattered reports from the usual sites, mainly coastal, although, as usual, a few in the Al Ain area as well.

Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) UC

Eleven records from seven sites but the number of individuals is likely to be less than that. Two in Jan, then 6 records from the 15th Oct. However, one seen at PEGM on three dates in Aug was most decidedly unseasonal.

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) WV

IUCN Red List Status: Endangered

Seven records, totalling five individuals, all before 9th Apr bar one on 1st Dec. The latter was interesting in that it was reported on Sir Bani Yas island; most other records were from the greater Dubai area.

Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) WV

IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

Eight records (four individuals) up until 18th Mar and then six (two individuals) from 2nd Nov; all singles. As usual, most records came from the greater Dubai area and Al Ain.

Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) R

Present all year (no May–June records) with records from nine sites, the majority at the well-watched PEGM, where up to four (a pair and two juveniles) were present on 5th Dec. No other evidence of possible breeding.

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) R

Away from the Dubai area, where long established, this species was reported from Mushrif Palace Gardens and, less frequently, in the Al Ain area. Evidence of possible breeding came from several Dubai sites and from Mushrif Palace Gardens.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) WV

Reported until 14th Apr and from 2nd Oct. Rather scarce and in low numbers throughout; 38 records in all.

Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) WV & PM

Widely and commonly reported until 19th Apr and from 4th Sep with one overwintering at PEGM. Largest numbers were seen at roost at Al Wathba WR (up to 32; 28th Oct) and Al Warsan Lakes (up to 22, 9th Feb).

Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) PM & WV**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Reported in very low numbers (maximum count 3, Wamm Farms, 4th Apr) until 2nd Apr and from 4th Sept onwards. A mixture of scattered passage birds and handful of overwinterers accounted for all records; 60 records in all but doubtless some duplication.

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) PM

22 records with five in spring (all 28th Mar – 14th Apr) and remainder 11th Sept to 30th Oct, bar one at Al Qudra 17th – 25th July (possibly same there on 11th Sep). Maximum three, Sila'a, 4th Apr.

Black-eared Kite (*Milvus migrans lineatus/formosanus*) WV & PM

Seventeen records, as usual mainly from the Ras al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary-Al Warsan area but possibly as few as seven individuals. All records until 20th Mar and from 14th Oct, but one Wamm 9th May and one Al Qudra 23rd Sept, which is rather early for *lineatus*.

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) R & WV

Only five records of a mere three individuals: singles Sharjah to Dhaid road 24th Jan; one PEGM 16th–18th May and finally one at the semi-traditional site of Zakher Lake on 7th Nov. A very poor showing.

Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) UC

Just one record; Ghantoot on 7th Apr.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) WV

One was present at PEGM from 2014 until 12th Mar; two birds were possibly present on 22nd Jan.

Corn Crane (*Crex crex*) PM

Four individuals; a male was found at Al Qudra 2nd May, whilst a female was found 100m away on 8th & 9th May, one was at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club on 11th Oct and one at PEGM from 16th – 21st Oct.

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) V

Just one record, Emirates GC on 10th Mar.

Little Crane (*Porzana pusilla*) V

One at Al Wathba WR on 21st Mar was the only record.

Baillon's Crane (*Porzana pusilla*) PM

Reported only from PEGM, where one 24th–25th Aug and presumably a different bird seen virtually daily 5th–7th Oct.

Spotted Crane (*Porzana porzana*) WV & PM

One at PEGM from 2014 until 15th Mar was the only record in the first half of the year. In autumn, four records from three sites, 18th Sept to 17th Nov.

Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*) R

Regularly reported at Al Wathba WR (maximum 5 on 5th Nov) where now established and breeding; 2 juveniles were seen on 12th Jun. Otherwise, reported erratically from the only other established site for this species, Al Warsan Lakes (up to two) with one at Emirates GC on 9th May. More notably, the first record for the Al Ain area was one at Ain Al-Fayda on 12th–15th Dec.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) R & WV

Common resident in suitable habitat with up to 80 at Ajman WTP and 60 at PEGM, both late autumn and early winter, the highest counts. Breeding confirmed at various sites, mainly Jun to Aug, including the small stagnating drainage channel at Fujairah Port Beach.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) R & WV

Present all year, with breeding confirmed at Al Wathba WR and Zakher Lake. Highest counts were 80 at the former and 68 at the latter (both Jan). Otherwise very scarce; reported from only seven sites and in very low numbers, mainly in autumn and winter.

Eurasian Stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*) WV & PM

Only five records, all 23rd Sep – 30th Nov and all singles bar a remarkable count of 120 at on the outskirts of Al Ain on the latter date. Apparently, locals told the observer the flock had been present for some time, with chicks reported earlier in the year (date not specified).

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) WV & PM IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

Recorded in mostly small numbers at favoured sites on the Arabian Gulf coast; as usual Khor al-Beida held the largest numbers (up to 64) save for an unprecedented count of 300 at the difficult to access Khor Qirqishan on 14th Feb. A handful were present at a few sites throughout the summer.

Crab-Plover (*Dromas ardeola*) R & WV.

Present all year, but very hard to come by Apr to mid-Jul, save for four records from Khor Kalba where up to 10 were present on 10th Apr and a few lingered into the summer. Khor al-Beida was the only site where counts exceeded 50, with a maximum of 250 on 23rd Oct. The only high counts at other sites were 40 at both Rafa'a (6th Feb) and near Saadiyat (10th Oct).

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) R

Widespread and common in suitable habitat, with breeding confirmed at a number of sites Apr–Jul. The highest count was 300 at Sharjah Tip throughout Jul with almost as many at Wasit NR in Feb and Dec. Other sites hosting 100 or more were Al Wathba WR, Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, Ajman and Mirfa WTPs and Zakher Lake.

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) WV & R

Present all year, but no Jun or Aug records and breeding only confirmed at Al Wathba WR. At the latter site, highest counts were 75 there (28th Jan) and 65 (15th Oct). Reported from 12 other sites as far west as Mirfa; maximum four and all coastal bar one at Zakher Lake 14th Nov to 11th Dec.

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) WV**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Only one record, a single at Wamm Farms, 2nd Jan–13th Feb.

Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*) V

One was found at Mafraq WTP on 21st Nov and remained into 2016.

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) R

Widespread and common resident and essentially only not recorded in the deep desert. Breeding reported from many sites with over 200 reported from three sites, mainly in Jul where presumably many fledged juveniles were involved.

Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) WV**IUCN Red List Status: Critically endangered**

As usual, very rare and no long-term wintering birds. Three records; one Hamranyah, 3rd Jan then two, Dubai Pivot Fields, 14th Feb. Most remarkable was one photographed on 31st May at Khor Kalba.

White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*) R

Highly localised resident with the vast majority of records at Al Warsan Lakes (maximum 35, Feb) and Al Wathba WR (22, 18th May). Breeding was confirmed at both sites. Otherwise, reported in very low numbers and very erratically from Zakher Lake and several sites in the greater Dubai area.

European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) WV

Two records; one Abu al-Abyadh 26th Jan and 2 Hamranyah 20th–27th Nov.

Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) WV & PM

Present at localised sites until 6th May and from 29th Aug. 120 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary on 23rd Oct was an exceptional count and there were no comparable records from that site. 60 were at Yas on 24th Feb but the most favoured site was Wasit NR, where up to 55 were present Feb to early May and 43 from 10th Oct onwards, rising to 80 on 31st Dec. Otherwise very small numbers at just a few sites, including 23 at Ghantoot on 26th Jan.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) WV & PM

Present all year (but only one Jun record) and much more common on passage and over-wintering, with all substantial counts at the larger estuarine sites along the Arabian Gulf coastline. Khor al-Beida was the only site where counts exceeded 80, with a maximum of 200 there on 23 Oct. Balghelam Island was the only other site with counts over 50. Several records were received away from estuarine sites, including at Wasit NR and Dubai Creekside Park but none far inland.

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) WV & P

No records mid-May to mid-Jul but otherwise widespread at many estuarine sites, and localised at several inland ones. Numbers generally rather small, although Wasit NR had 120 (23rd Dec) and 110 (30th Mar). 60 at Khor al-Beida on 16th Oct was perhaps not reflective of the numbers utilising that site.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) SV & PM

Present all year, but relatively few in Nov and Dec. 50 at Hamraniyah Fields on 27th Nov was exceptional with 40 at Al Qudra on 24th July the only comparable count, and perhaps including locally bred juveniles. No other count exceeded 20 and most were much lower. Evidence of breeding was obtained at four sites, including Rufaysah Dam.

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) R & WV

Common resident with breeding confirmed from five sites and doubtless occurring at many more. Khor al-Beida was the main site, with four counts exceeding 400 (maximum 500) there in Oct–Nov. Counts of 250 or more came from Wasit NR, Abu Dhabi Officer's Club, Al Wathba WR and Balghelam Island.

Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) WV & PM

Present in at least small numbers all year, although only two Jun records. Highest counts came from Balghelam Island (1800, 18th Feb), Khor al-Beida (1000, 23rd Oct) and Saadiyat Island (750, 15th Sept). Virtually all records coastal, bar one at PEGM, from 28th–30th Aug.

Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) WV & PM

Present all year, although as usual in apparently much lower numbers than the preceding species. Khor al-Beida hosted the largest numbers, with 250 there (9th Oct) and 200 on 6th Feb and 13th Jul, the latter an impressive number for so early in the autumn. Singles Wasit NR (1st July) and Ghantoot (13th Dec) were the only (marginally) inland records.

Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus*) PM

One Ghantoot, 26th Jan was an unusual, but not unprecedented, winter record. Otherwise, all records from Hamraniyah, where up to three were seen 4th Sep – 10th Oct, with one late record on 3 Dec.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) V

One, the third national record, was at Al Qudra Lake from 29th Oct to 6th Nov.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) WV

Six records, with one at the atypical location of Wadi Wurayah (18th Jan) the only one in the first half of the year. Then five records, probably of four individuals, from 31st Oct to 7th Dec.

Pin-tailed Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*) PM & WV

Two wintered at Wamm Farms until 7th Mar, with only two other sites hosting birds in first half of the year. More widespread, and many more records, from mid-Sep with records from five sites, mainly from PEGM, where up to three remained for the winter.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) WV & PM

Widespread until late Apr and from early Sep, with two May and one Aug record, plus a single in mid-summer (Zakher Lake, 3rd Jul). A high count of 80 came from Dubai Pivot Fields on 20th Mar with counts exceeding 30 from six other sites.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) WV & PM

IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

Present until late Feb and from early Sep, with only seven records from three sites between those extremes. Most important site by far was Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, where four counts exceeded 100, including 300 there on 13th Nov. Up to 42 were recorded at Yas Island, where they regularly fed on the golf course, with Al Wathba WR the only other regular site (up to 15 present in Dec) and where at least probably overwintered.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) WV & PM

IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

Recorded every month of the year, including up to 80 non-breeders at Khor al-Beida in late July. Up to 400 reported from that site on several dates with 550 at Khor Qirqishan and 320 at Balghelam Island indicative of the large numbers using the extensive intertidal areas around Abu Dhabi island. Widely reported in smaller numbers from other estuarine sites on the Arabian Gulf coast, and from Kalba. No inland records.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) WV & PM

Present all year (although only four Jun records) and at rather low density at many sites and no inland records. Khor al-Beida was the only site to exceed 40 (maximum 60, 4th Nov) apart from 42 at Balghelam Island on 24th Jan.

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) WV & PM**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

As for the preceding species, present all year but generally absent May – Jun save from Khor Kalba where a small group there had risen to 21 by 28th Jun. Highest count was 120 Khor Qirqishan 14th Feb; otherwise up to 70 at Khor al-Beida (Dec) and up to 46 at Khor Kalba (Nov). No inland records.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) WV & PM

Only 17 records at the start of year until mid-May, nearly all from regular wintering sites of Al Wathba WR and Zakher Lake (where 5, 16th Jan). Highest count was 7 at the former site on 25th Apr, some of which were undoubtedly passage birds; four remained until 18th May. No further records until two back at Zakher on 14th Aug with only nine further records until the end of the year.

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) WV & PM

Recorded every month of the year but scarce May–Jun and scarce inland. All counts exceeding 200 came from Khor Al-Beida, where 500 were noted on 16th Oct. Only two other sites had counts exceeding 100.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) WV & PM

Present virtually all year, but only five records between late Feb and mid-Aug. Al Wathba WR was by far the most important site where 40 were logged on 28th Jan and three further counts in Jan-Feb exceeded 15; otherwise almost all other counts were less than 10.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) WV & PM

Present all year, with the usual significant fall-off of records in the summer, although recorded every month. Most important site, by some margin, was Khor al-Beida where 150 on 26th Sep presumably included some migrants. Up to 50 there in Jan indicated the number of wintering birds with 75 at Balghelam on 24th Jan another significant count.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) WV & PM

Fairly common in low numbers much of year, but absent May to mid-Jul. Apart from 6 at Warsan Lakes on 7th Feb, all five other highest counts all Aug – Sep ie during autumn passage. Maximum was 8 at Dubai Pivot Fields on 18th Sept; the vast majority of records concerned single birds.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) WV & PM

Present almost all year (no records between 18th May and 11th Jul). Hamraniyah Fields held largest numbers with up to 25 present there in Nov; 22 at Al Wathba WR on 3rd Oct was the next highest count. Most counts were less than 11 and most frequent reports were during autumn migration in Sep–Oct.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) WV & PM

Present all year but very small numbers late Apr to late July. The largest count was 25 at Balghelam Island on 24th Jan; Khor al-Beida had up to 40 on 14 Nov and 14 counts in all that exceeded 15 birds. Scarce away from intertidal areas of the Arabian Gulf coast; three records in the Al Wathba WR area in late Apr and early May but none further inland.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) WV & PM

Present almost all year, but no records between 15th May and 9th Jul. As usual, widely scattered but at low densities; 10 at Saih al Salam on 17th Jan was the peak count.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) WV & PM

Recorded every month, but only one June record. 60 at Khor al-Beida on 27th Mar was the highest count, and eight other counts from that site exceeded 30. Numbers elsewhere were much lower and no inland records, bar four at Mafraq WTP on 2nd May.

Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) WV & PM**IUCN Red List Status: Endangered**

Eleven records, all from the usual wintering ground of Khor al-Beida, apart from 3 at Balghelam on 21st Mar. Recorded at the former site until 27th Mar (when 6 were present, the highest for the start of the year) and from 12th Sept, with 30 on 4th Nov the highest count for the end of the year.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) WV & PM

Present all year, but only three records Jun-Jul. Numbers generally small, especially for over-wintering birds; highest counts were mainly from the east coast at Fujairah Port Beach and Khor al-Beida in both spring and autumn. Maxima at Khor Kalba were 75 (10th May) and 36 (10th Aug) whilst Fujairah Port Beach hosted 70 (21st Aug) and 30 (5th Sep). Numbers on the Gulf coast were much lower; 37 were at Al Zorah (9th Jan) and 9 at Umm al Qaiwain 21st Feb were the highest counts there.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) WV & PM

Present all year, but only one Jun record. Highest counts came from Al Wathba WR and adjacent Mafraq WTP, where 1500 were present on 24th Oct and 1270 on 23rd Jan. Other sites hosting counts of more than 300 were Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (500, 16th Jan), Al Zorah (400, 24th Oct), Al Qudra (300, 16th Sept) and Ajman WTP (300, 19th Dec).

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) WV & PM

Present almost all year, but only three records between 9th May and 21st Aug; all in Jul and none in Jun. In small numbers at most sites; highest counts came from Mafraq WTP in both spring and autumn (85, 18th Apr; 50, 22nd Sept) whilst 65 were at Hamranyah on 27th Nov. Only two other sites (Mirfa WTP and Al Wathba WR) had counts exceeding 20 (nearly all in autumn).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) WV & PM**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Present almost all year, but few records and very small numbers between 18th May and 29th Jul; none in Jun. Highest counts came from Al Wathba WR in late spring (maximum 650, 2nd May) and then 300 back at Khor al-Beida by 29th Jul. Otherwise numbers rather small, although this species is easily overlooked in large, distant flocks of the next species on extensive estuarine sites.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) WV & PM

Recorded all year, but no counts exceeding four from 11th May to 9th Sep. Numbers largest at Khor al-Beida where three counts exceeding 1000 (maximum 2000) 26th Sep – 23rd Oct. Elsewhere, 960 at Balghelam Island on 24th Jan and 500 at Habel al-Abyadh (19th Jan) and Khor Qirqishan (14th Feb). Scarce away from Arabian Gulf sites, but up to 30 reported from both Al Wathba WR and Zakher Lake.

Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) WV & PM

Only two records (Jan, Feb) of this rather elusive species in the first half of the year and most records Aug to early Nov; none in Dec. Only 21 records in all. Highest count by far was 97 at Yas Island on 4th Nov; it is possible that this count is typical of numbers at this difficult to access site. Elsewhere, 36 at Al Zorah on 21st Nov was a very good count; otherwise up to 20 were at Saadiyat Island in late Sept and all other counts were less than five.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) WV & PM

Present all year, but no counts exceeding 10 between 18th May and 14th Aug. Highest counts came from Sharjah Tip (250, 31st Oct) and Al Wathba WR (160, 3rd Oct) with up to 157 at PEGM in Dec; otherwise most substantial counts were made in autumn.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) PM & WV

Seven Jan records, mainly from the east coast where 1400 were present off Dibba Port on 2nd. Otherwise, one Mar record and then spring passage from 21st Apr–18th May, mainly at Al Wathba WR, where a maximum of 57 was recorded on 25th Apr. Autumn passage from 12th Sep–6th Nov, although numbers small (maximum 10, Kalba pelagic on 9th Oct).

Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*) R

Regular in the deserts east of Dubai, where up to 20 were occasionally seen. Larger flocks noted at Dubai Polo & Equestrian club (22 on 12th Jan) and Ghantoot (28 on 26th Jan), both totally eclipsed by an impressive 72 seen flying to roost in the desert around Ajban Farms on 19th Nov.

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) PM

Recorded from seven sites during the year from 31st Mar to 3rd Dec. A flock of 11 birds at Hamranyah Nursery on 4th Jul contained five juveniles, followed by 3 at Al Qudra Lake on 20th Jul. Half of all reports came from Wamm Farms where singles were seen sporadically throughout the year, with two present 25th Apr, 9th May, 19th Sep and 17th Oct. One there on 3rd Dec was particularly late.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) SV

Presumably owing to very few pelagic trips in 2015, one seen during a rare trip offshore from Kalba on 25th Jul was the only record this year.

Slender-billed Gull (*Chroicocephalus genei*) WV & PM

Recorded throughout the year, often in large flocks, with flocks of over 1000 reported from Dalma island (30th Jan), Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (16th Jan) and Fujairah Port Beach (7th Nov).

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) WV & PM

Abundant and widespread in winter with counts reaching an estimated 2000 at Al Warsan Lakes (13th Feb) and Dubai Pivot Fields (4th Mar). Recorded every month except Aug.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) V

An immature photographed on Fujairah Port Beach on 21st Nov was the 16th UAE record.

Pallas's Gull (*Ichthyaelus ichthyaelus*) WV

Recorded in winter until the end of Mar, with a lone record of two on 18th Apr. A late returning species, there were just 2 records in the latter part of the year, with the first birds seen on 22nd Nov. Significant flocks included 84 at Kalba on 15th Jan, 55 at Khor Qirqishan on 14th Feb, with 50 on Habitat Island the same day.

Sooty Gull (*Ichthyaelus hemprichii*) PM & R

Seen most months, exclusively on the east coast, though very few reports from May until Oct and none in Aug. Counts of 272 at Kalba on 12th Apr and 200 at Fujairah Port Beach on 27th Mar were the only reports of 200 or more.

Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*) WV

There were just five records, though presumably often over-looked. Singles were seen at Mafraq Rubbish Tip (23rd Jan), Al Warsan Lakes (7th Feb), Khor Qirqishan (14th Feb), Fujairah Port Beach (19th Sep) and from the Dalma Island ferry (24th Sep).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Heuglin's*) (*Larus fuscus heuglini*) WV

Much scarcer than the following species, with only 23 records, half of which were of single birds, though it is likely many are not reported due to the difficulties in identifying immature birds. Dates ranged up to 27th Mar and from 9th Oct, with 30 at Al Warsan Lakes on 13th Mar the only count exceeding five.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Steppe*) (*Larus fuscus barabensis*) WV

Regularly reported during winter up to 2nd May, with the first returning bird seen on 21st Aug. Numbers much reduced from previous years, possibly due to local restrictions on fishermen drying their catches and on fewer accessible beaches for observing gulls. Only two records exceeded 100 birds, both from the Kalba area on 15th Jan; 170 were seen in Kalba harbour with another 160 at the local rubbish tip.

Large white-headed gull sp. (*Larus* sp.)

Large white-headed gulls, of any taxon, are generally scarce in the UAE between the end of March and mid-August, with numbers down to single figures through the summer. Identification difficulties obscure the true status of all three taxa involved although it is generally believed that a large majority of records refer to *Steppe* Gull *L.f.barabensis*. Hence, many records relating to unspecified (sub)species were received. Reported until 10th Apr and from 14th Aug, counts of 100 or more were made at Khor Qirishan, Mafraq Rubbish Tip & Abu Dhabi Officers' Club.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) WV, PM & R

Present throughout the year almost exclusively in the west, though very few records through the summer. One at Fujairah Port Beach on 30th Oct was the only east coast record. Regularly seen at Khor al-Beida, from where many larger gatherings were noted, reaching 40 on 16th Oct, bettered only by 55 at Yas Links GC on 4th Nov.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) WV, PM & R

Year round resident especially numerous at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, where groups in double figures regularly observed, reaching 34 on 21st Mar. Six seen on Balghelam Island on the same day included several juveniles.

Greater Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*) WV, PM & R

Like the following species, recorded every month, usually in low numbers. Roosting birds reported regularly from Dibba Port where 200 on 26th Sep was the largest number by far.

Lesser Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bengalensis*) R & PM

Present year round, though more regular on the east coast. Display and mating observed on Abu Dhabi offshore islands in May. Numbers increasing during autumn, with a huge count of over 1200 birds made on Dalma Island on 24th Sep.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) WV & P

Seen throughout the year in low numbers, though increasing during spring passage, reaching a maximum of 150 on 27th Mar at Fujairah Port Beach. Two off Al Mamzar Park on 7th Feb was the only west coast record.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) PM

Recorded with confidence (see below) from 11th Mar to 30th Oct, mostly on the east coast from where 134 on 6th Apr was the maximum noted. There were a few records from inland waterbodies: Zakher Lake (up to 10 on 13th Mar and two on 3rd Oct) and Al Qudra Lake (six on 6th Apr and two on 9th May).

Saunders's Tern (*Sternula saundersi*) R

Just 22 records prescribed to this species, mainly due to the difficulties in confidently identifying them out of breeding plumage (see below). Most records came from the west coast, with breeding reported from islands offshore from Abu Dhabi during May to Jul. On the east coast, counts of 25 and 10 were made by experienced observers on 5th & 12th Sep, with only sporadic single records at other times. Larger counts included 150 around Dalma Island (including from the ferry) on 24th Sep and 70 there on 2nd Feb, with 80 on Balghelam Island on 18th Feb.

Little/Saunders's Tern (*Sternula albifrons/saundersi*)

There were 71 records of unspecified *Sternula* terns throughout the year. It should be noted that accurate identification of *Sternula* terns is often difficult, even with full breeding-plumaged adults, with many birds showing inconclusive features, e.g. ambiguous forehead pattern or inconsistent combinations of black outer primaries and rump colour. Identification of juveniles and winter birds is generally impossible. Reported (by cautious observers) all year and in much larger numbers than either of the above two entries. Eleven counts, all from the east coast, exceeded 100, with 300 at Fujairah Port Beach on 9th Oct.

Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) SV & PM

Recorded from 8th May until 6th Nov, mainly from the east coast. Western records referred mostly to breeding birds during May to Jul, with counts of 50 and 250 offshore from Abu Dhabi and an estimated 300-500 breeding pairs on Ussh Island in late Jul. On the east coast, 260 off Dibba Port on 31st Jul was the highest count.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) WV & PM

Present all year, except for a curious lack of records for Dec, along the east coast. The majority of larger counts came from Fujairah Port Beach, where over 1500 were located on 9th Apr and 7th Nov. One at PEGM for 3 days from 23rd Feb was a lone inland record, presumably an early spring migrant, whilst there were just five records from the Gulf coast, including 60 offshore from Al Mamzar Park on 9th May and a total of 80 seen around Dalma Island (including from the ferry) on 24th Sep. The majority of records were unattributed to subspecies, with just one record pertaining to *S. h. minussensis* was received.

White-cheeked Tern (*Sterna repressa*) SV & PM

Seen throughout the year, with reports from both east and west coasts. A breeding colony on Ussh island on 28th Jul was estimated at around 2000 breeding pairs. Birds were also seen incubating on other islands offshore from Abu Dhabi as early as 15th May. On the east coast, 350 at Fujairah Port Beach on 10th Apr was the highest count recorded.

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) WV & PM

Recorded almost every month except Jul and Aug, often in reasonable numbers. High counts included 33 at Sharjah Rubbish Tip on 31st Oct, 27 at Wasit NR on 28th Jan and 20 at Al Warsan Lakes on 9th Oct.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) PM

Seen all months except Jul and Aug, with 16 at Al Wathba WR on 24th Oct and up to 15 at Mafraq Rubbish Tip Pools on 2nd Oct (and into Nov) the only counts in double figures.

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) PM

A single bird seen at Al Bidiyah on 5th Sep was the only report this year.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) PM

There were 12 reports, all from the east coast, except for a single bird seen from the Dalma Island ferry on 31st Jan. On the east coast, dates ranged from 26th Jun to 7th Nov. Three seen offshore from Dibba Port on 26th Sep was the largest number noted.

Unidentified Skua (*Stercorarius* sp)

There were six reports of unidentified *Stercorarius* skuas from the east coast during Jan and Sep to Dec.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*) R

Regularly seen around Saih al Salam and Bab al Shams, where 60 and 72 respectively were counted in Feb. Other notable sites included Dubai Pivot Fields (max 60) and Wamm Farms (max 40).

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (*Pterocles lichtensteinii*) R

Recorded every month at PEGM; typically scarce and hard to find elsewhere. An amazing 68 were at the former site on 31st Jul and breeding confirmed there with several pairs hatching chicks during late May – early Aug.

Feral Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) R

Common and widespread with up to 500 at PEGM on 31st Jan the highest number reported.

European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) PM & SV

IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

Regularly seen in small numbers in localised areas from 7th Apr to 7th Nov, especially around the Saih al Salam area outside Dubai, from where a maximum count of 80 was recorded on 19th Sep. Sixty were also at Madinat Zayed WTP pond on 10th Jul.

Oriental Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*) UC

One frequented Wamm Farms from 26th Sep until 30th Oct, but was rather elusive, being seen on only three occasions.

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) R

Abundant and widespread, with estimated counts of 500 received from Dubai Pivot Fields, Al Qudra Lake and Dalma Island the highest submitted.

Laughing Dove (*Spilopelia senegalensis*) R

Extremely common and widespread resident, with counts often in triple figures and an estimated 300 at PEGM and Wamm Farms the most reported.

Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*) R

Only 18 sightings, with multiple-scoring sites including Sila'a (where 12 on 23rd Sep), Wamm Farms (max two), the Ruwais area (max two) and PEGM (one only).

Jacobin Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) V

The 4th national record was found on 4th Jul and was still present on the 7th.

Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) PM

Eight were seen this year. Early (or wintering?) birds were at Dubai Golf City (20th Jan) and Wamm Farms (23rd & 24th Jan), with ones following in spring at Sila'a (6th Mar), Al Mamzar Park (9th-10th Apr), Wadi Wurayah NP (5th May) and Wamm again (15th May). In winter, yet another was at Wamm on 7th Nov and one at Khor al Beida on 20th Dec.

Western Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) R

One at PEGM on 10th Aug was the only record of this typically scarce and elusive species.

Pallid Scops Owl (*Otus brupei*) R

A mere 10 records from just four sites. Away from the well-known day roost in Al Jimi, individuals were seen at Sharjah university on 20th Mar and 10th Apr, Mushrif NP on 6th Jul and 5th Nov, whilst one was accidentally caught in a mist-net during a bat trapping exercise in Wadi Wurayah NP on 9th Nov.

Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) PM

Six birds were recorded from five sites. Birds at Mushrif Palace gardens and Al Mamzar Park on 20th and 21st Mar respectively were perfectly-timed spring migrants. One was at Wamm Farms on the surprising dates of 23rd-27th Jul, followed by another at Green Mubazzarah on 19th Sep and one at PEGM 26th Sep, joined by another four days later. Al Mamzar Park hosted its second of the year on 16th Oct.

Unidentified Scops Owl (*Otus sp*)

Scops owls found at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve on 5th Nov and at PEGM on 17th Nov were not assigned to species.

Pharaoh Eagle-owl (*Bubo ascalaphus*) R

Scarce and elusive resident; mainly reported from a few well-known sites. Reported from seven sites in all, with breeding confirmed or believed likely at two of these between Jan and May.

Omani Owl (*Strix butleri*) R?

IUCN Red List Status: Data deficient

The first evidence of this recently rediscovered species occurring in the UAE was obtained during nocturnal surveys in Wadi Wurayah NP, with a bird heard and sound-recorded responding to playback on five evenings between 8th and 20th Mar. However, it was not actually seen!

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) R

The majority of records came from PEGM where a family group were regularly seen. Reported from 10 other sites across the emirates.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) WV

There were just three one-day records of this scarce winter visitor. Singles were in the Al Batayeh area of the Sharjah Desert on 27th Feb, on Balghelam Island on 21st Mar and at Mushrif Palace gardens on 18th Apr.

European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) PM

Only eight spring records of up to three birds at just three sites was surprisingly poor, with dates between 24th Apr and 24th May. In contrast, 48 records from 11th Sep to 9th Nov, though many refer to presumably long-staying birds. Seven at PEGM on 29th Oct was the largest number seen.

Egyptian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*) WV, PM & R

A suspected summer breeder (and confirmed as such in 2016) at one site in Abu Dhabi Emirate, where present late Mar to late Sep, peaking at 30 on 16th Jul with at least 2 juveniles seen. Also regularly seen at PEGM during the winter from late Oct, though records of one or two in Mar and Apr are rather interesting, as is a record of three from Palm Sports Resort on 5th Jul.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*) PM

Nine recorded at five sites, with four seen on Jebel Hafit on 28th Mar. Singles were at Wadi Bih (28th Feb), Wamm Farms (7th May and 4th Sep), Mushrif Palace Gardens (11th Sep) and Al Qudra Lake (12th Sep).

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*) WV & PM

Seen almost throughout the year but scarce in Jul and absent Aug and Sep; numbers increasing from 9th Oct. Counts of 2000 at Wamm Farms on 2nd May and 1000 at Al Warsan Lakes on 28th Feb and 13th Mar were the highest.

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) UC

Up to two were at Dalma Island until 3rd Feb, one likely to have been present since at least 20th Dec 2014. Coincidentally, at the other end of the year, one was seen at the Danat Al Ain Resort, also on 20th Dec.

Unidentified Swift (*Apus sp.*)

There were three reports of possible Common Swifts, including a flock of 85 at Wamm Farms on 24th Apr.

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) R

Regularly and widely reported throughout the year north and eastwards from the greater Abu Dhabi area, from where a single observation at Abu Dhabi Marina Mall breakwater on 13th Feb was a rare record. Following a single Abu Dhabi record in 2014, this may suggest that the species' range is slowly moving westwards. Largest estimated counts of 45 were recorded at Wamm Farms on 17th Jul and 17th Oct.

European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) PM

Mainly seen in low numbers during spring (from 4th Apr) and autumn passage, with a small number staying until early/mid-Nov. One remained at Wamm Farms throughout Jul, and may well have remained all summer. A count of 13 at Al Qurm Protected Area, Kalba on 26th Apr was the highest noted.

Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris kalbaensis*) R

Exclusively recorded at Al Qurm Protected Area at Khor Kalba, a systematic survey of the mangroves during Jun revealed a population of 128 individuals, including 52 pairs.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) WV

Reported until 8th Apr and from 9th Oct, with regular sightings at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary and Al Qurm Protected Area, Kalba; three at the latter site on 11th Jan was the joint highest noted, matched by Sir Bani Yas on 21st Oct.

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) UC

An influx in mid-October saw up to nine birds reported from seven sites. One at Al Wathba CRT on 15th Oct was joined by a second bird the following day, one of which remained until the 25th. One stayed at Ajban Farms from 19th Oct until the year end, with two seen there on 18th Dec. Elsewhere, singles were at Sir Bani Yas Island (21st Oct), Saadiyat Beach GC (6th–8th Nov), Al Wathba WR (25th Nov; possibly one relocating from the camel track) and Khor al-Beida (28th Nov–2nd Dec).

Arabian Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis cyanophrys/muscatensis*) R

Widely and commonly reported from Abu Dhabi eastwards and northwards with breeding confirmed at PEGM and Dubai Pivot Fields. Most counts less than 20, though 22 at PEGM and 30 at Wamm Farms.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (*Merops persicus*) SV & PM

Present from 6th Mar until 12th Nov, with, as usual, most records from Aug to Sept on autumn passage. Peak counts in autumn included 150 at Wamm Farms on 12th Sep and 70 at PEGM on 29th Aug. One was seen flying over Dubai Pivot Fields on 2nd Jan, though this record may have referred to the unseasonal European Bee-eater mentioned below.

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) PM

Regularly seen from 3rd Apr until 21st Oct, though one found in late 2014 at Dubai Pivot Fields remained until at least 7th Feb. Recorded regularly around Wamm farms throughout summer, with several juveniles observed, suggesting that breeding may have occurred locally. This post-breeding flock reached 60 birds on 3rd Jul and was the largest flock by far, with 38 at Emirates Palace (24th Apr) and 35 at Wamm Farms on 10th Apr the best in spring.

Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) R & PM

Common and widespread, with a high count of 54 at Sila'a Public Park on 23rd Mar. Breeding confirmed at Wamm Farms and PEGM.

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) PM & WV

There were 24 scattered records, all of single birds, up to 27th Apr and from 4th Sep onwards.

Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) PM

Only seen at Wamm Farms (and almost ever-present) between 7th Mar and 14th Nov; an exceptionally good year peaked at 110 on 8th May. Most birds that stayed throughout the summer were moulting 2nd calendar years.

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) R, WV & PM

Recorded throughout the year with double-figure counts from Al Qua'a Fodder Field on 10th Jan (17) and Wamm Farms on 4th Jul (12).

Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*) V

An amazing year for such a rare bird (only 17 prior records). Also highly unusual was the timing, with mostly mid-summer records and only one in autumn/winter. A male and female were at Wamm Farms from 13th–18th Jun, the female lingering until 26th. Another male was at the same site on 3rd Jul, joined by three females the next day, one of which remained until 7th Jul. A young male flew through the same site on 13th Nov to complete a total of 7 birds for the year.

Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*) UC

IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

There were just two records. One was photographed flying over PEGM on 7th May, whilst another was reported from Fazia'a Island on 14th Jul.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) UC

One on Dalma Island on 6th Feb was the only record.

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) PM

Scarce, with only six reported. Singles were at Wadi Bih on 1st Jan, Sila'a (14th Apr), Wamm Farms (18th Jun), Sila'a (23rd Sep & 15th Oct) and PEGM (10th Nov).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) WV

Just six records, probably referring to three individuals. One was at Al Wathba WR on 15th Jan, with another seen at PEGM on 24th Jan and presumably then same at Al Ain WTP six days later. A first winter *calidus* was found at Al Wathba CRT on 24th Oct, remaining in the area until at least the 28th.

Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*) R

There were 46 reports during the year, all but three of which came from the Al Ain area and many of those referred to at least one bird with jesses. Away from here, one seen in the Bab al-Shams desert on 1st Feb, with a juvenile photographed further north at Al Qudra Lake on 19th Jul. A presumed adult was at Al Bidiyah on 29th Jul.

Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) R**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Only 30 reports this year, with 20 coming from Wamm Farms from where the largest flock (26) was noted. Surprisingly few records from the traditional hotspots of Abu Dhabi.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) R

Many more records than the previous species, including up to 35 recorded at Mushrif Palace Gardens and Wamm Farms on several dates.

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) PM

A poor spring showing, with only nine records, totalling 10 individuals, between 22nd Apr and 16th May. Autumn fared better, with 25 records from 15th Aug through to 27th Nov although many of these records referred to a male that lingered at PEGM from 17th Oct for 6 weeks.

Daurian Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) WV & PM

Reported widely until 28th Apr and then from 11th Sep to the year end. Counts of nine from Sila'a on 6th Mar and Wamm Farms on 4th Apr were the highest reported.

Turkestan Shrike (*Lanius phoenicuroides*) PM

Singles reported in Jan and early Feb from a small number of locations but otherwise common on spring passage from 28th Feb until 17th May and in autumn from as early as 4th Jul until late Oct with a scattering of Nov records. 39 at Sila'a on 6th Mar was by far the highest count; most other records less referring to less than 10.

Daurian/Turkestan Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*)

There were 81 records of unspecified Isabelline Shrikes during the year, including an unusual summer record of a bird on Ussh Island on 28th Jul.

Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) UC

There were two records of this now near-annual former rarity, both at Wamm Farms. One was seen on 4th Apr, whilst an adult present from 20th Jun to 10th Jul was a nice reward for anyone braving the summer heat.

Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*) PM

One at Wadi Wurayah NP on 12th Apr was the only spring record. In autumn, one was at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club from 1st to 4th Sep, whilst up to five were seen at Wamm Farms between 4th and 26th Sep.

Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) R

Common and widespread, and especially so at PEGM, from where there were many double-figure counts, reaching a maximum of 18 on 30th Dec.

Steppe Grey Shrike (*Lanius pallidirostris*) WV & PM

An excellent year, with records until as late as 8th May, with returning birds seen from 11th Sep onwards. Wamm Farms was especially good for this species in late Mar/mid-Apr, with 12 recorded on 10th Apr.

Eastern Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator niloticus*) PM

Widely recorded in ones and twos from 26th Feb through to 12th Sep, peaking with seven at Wamm Farms on 7th Mar, a day when a total of 15 were recorded nationwide. Up to five birds spent the summer at Wamm, though no evidence of breeding was observed.

Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) PM & WV

A good year for this species, with regular sightings up to 25th Apr and from 30th Sep. One long-staying individual remained at PEGM from 22nd Oct until the year end at least. There were four records of multiple birds, with two seen at Al Mamzar Park (9th-10th Apr), Lulu Island (25th Apr), Nissan Park, Abu Dhabi (18th-22nd Dec) and an impressive four at Sila'a on 14th Apr.

Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) PM

Fairly uncommon late spring/early autumn passage migrant with a total of 29 observations during the year. Spring birds seen from 24th Apr until 20th May, with returning birds passing through 31st Aug to 3rd Oct. Mostly seen in ones and twos; counts of three came Wamm Farms (15th May), Bab Oilfield (1st Sep) and Al Mamzar Park (18th Sep), whilst a flock of 13 female/juvenile-plumaged birds were seen in the trees outside the hospital on Dalma Island on 24th Sep.

Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) V

The 6th record for the UAE was seen at Discovery Gardens on 7th Apr and may have been present for some time earlier after a drongo species was fleetingly glimpsed in the same area over a month earlier. With recent years busting this species' status as an extreme rarity, the 7th record soon followed, with a long-staying bird at Mushrif NP found on 9th Jun and remaining until Mar 2016! One was also seen at Za'abeel Park South on 10th Dec and presumed to have remained in the area (as two were found there in Feb 2016).

Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) V

There were two records of this increasingly regular rarity, with long-staying individuals at Mamzar Park from 1st Jan to 13th Feb and again from 31st Oct to 13th Dec. The 8th and 9th UAE records, though the possibility of the autumn bird being the same individual returning from the previous winter should not be overlooked.

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) R

Widespread and very common in cities and coastal locations, with four counts in excess of 100 from scattered locations.

Mesopotamian (Hooded) Crow (*Corvus cornix capellanus*) V

The UAE's second record of this attractive corvid was photographed at Al Rafa'a bridge 1st Mar, approximately 10 km north of the 2013 bird's location, prompting speculation that it was a returning individual.

Brown-necked Raven (*Corvus ruficollis*) R

Regularly seen in inland areas, especially dune deserts, with 140 seen on Jebel Hafit on 4th Oct the most reported.

Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) WV & PM

This much sought-after and enigmatic species was reported from five sites during the year, only three of which provided reliable and regular sightings. Two at Sila'a on 4th Apr and one at Jebel Ali Hotel on 7th Nov were one-day migrants, the former being the last recorded during the first half of the year. Returning birds first seen on Lulu Island on 23rd Oct, from where a high count of 130 on 27th Feb was noted. The two other regular locations of Yas Links GC and Dalma Island had up to 106 (21st Nov) and 25 (31st Jan) respectively.

Greater Hoopoe-lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*) R

Recorded 22 times throughout the year, with most sightings coming from the Saih al Salam / Bab al Shams area, with 3 there on 1st and 2nd Feb. Three were also recorded in the Saih as Sidirah desert on 17th Jan. Elsewhere, singles were also seen on Balghelam Island (18th Feb, 21st Mar), Madinat Zayed (11th Jul), Khor Al-Beida (24th Jul, 26th Sep), with an adult and juvenile at Ajban Farms on 13th May.

Desert Lark (*Ammomanes deserti*) R

Widely reported and fairly common in mountain areas. Maximum counts were 31 at Jebel Hafit on 11th Dec and 30 at Wamm Farms on 20th Feb, the latter site now seemingly reliable for this species in winter.

Black-crowned Sparrow-lark (*Eremopterix nigriceps*) R

Seen throughout the year, with the majority of sightings from the Saih al Salam area. Numbers greatest in summer and early autumn as post-breeding flocks formed, with over 100 at Nakhli on 21st Jul.

Oriental Skylark (*Alda gulgula*) WV

Reported from just three sites during the year with a total of only 10 observations. Wamm Farms was the primary site, with single birds seen on 16th Jan and 27th Mar and up to four between the dates of 12th Sep and 27th Nov. Elsewhere, singles were at Dubai Pivot Fields on 20th Feb and Sila'a on 15th Oct.

Eurasian Skylark (*Alda arvensis*) WV

Regular winter visitor reported until 13th Mar and from 26th Sep, with 105 recorded on 10th Dec at Wamm Farms the maximum.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) R

Common and widespread with the highest count being 60 at Al Qudra Lake on 6th Jul.

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) PM

Recorded from the start of the year until 8th May and from 12th Sep onwards, with numbers increasing during passage Mar/early Apr and late Sep. A flock of 76 at Wamm Farms on 4th Apr was the largest recorded by far, with 40 at Sila'a on 23rd Sep also significant.

Bimaculated Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) WV

One at Hamranyah Fields on 27th Nov was the only record this year.

Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*) V

The 9th record for the UAE was found at Wamm Farms on 9th May.

Lesser Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella rufescens*) WV & PM

A single, yet impressive, record of 60 at Bida al-Mutawa on 28th Dec was the only report of this scarce species.

White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) R

Very common widespread resident with estimates of 100 at Balghelam Island and Sila'a, on 21st Mar and 4th Apr respectively, the largest gatherings noted.

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) R

Common resident, mainly seen in city parks, especially Al Mamzar Park, from where counts of up to 50 were reported. Also fairly numerous around PEGM, with counts regularly reaching double-figures.

White-spectacled Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*) R

Fairly common resident of the mountains and immediately adjacent plains, with 27 at PEGM on 30th Sep the maxima.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) PM & WV

Recorded throughout the year, though scarce in late spring and summer, but increasingly numerous through the autumn, especially over inland bodies of water. High counts included 100 at Al Qudra Lake and Mafraq WTP on 11th Sep and 2nd Oct respectively.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) PM & WV

Recorded every month, with numbers swelling during spring and especially autumn. Large gatherings of 100 or more were observed on several dates during the Sep-Oct period, though an estimated 200 at Wamm Farms on 3rd Apr was the largest number reported.

Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) V

An adult and immature were at Al Warsan Lakes from 7th to 9th Feb. 14th UAE record.

Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) UC

A flock of 10 at Zakher Lake on 28th Nov was the only report of this species during the year.

Pale Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*) R

Locally common and reported every month with 100 at Zakher Lake on 23rd Jan the highest number recorded.

Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) PM & WV

There were 30 records in total, with 21 sightings up to 10th Apr and nine from 11th Sep. Most reports were of one or two birds, but a count of 10 at Green Mubazzarah on 4th Apr was the only one to reach double figures.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) PM & WV

Seen predominantly in early spring, with 22 records from 7th Feb to 4th Apr. Very scarce in autumn and winter, with just two records, both of singles, at PEGM (2nd Oct) and Al Wathba WR (21st Dec). Significant counts were made at Jebel Dhanna (21 on 26th Feb & 11 on 4th Mar) and Sila'a (40 on 6th Mar).

Streaked Scrub Warbler (*Scotocerca inquieta*) R

Almost certainly under-recorded, with only 21 records during the year, all but three of which emanated from the mountain wadis of Masafi from where up to six were counted on 28th Feb, 5th Sep and 30th Oct. Away from here, one was reported from Wadi Wurayah NP on 4th Jan and 24th Aug, and from Wadi Helo on 24th Jul.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) PM

Common during spring passage, with 39 records from 28th Mar up to 16th May peaking around 5th Apr when a total of 41 was amassed from just three sites, though 35 were logged from Al Mamzar Park on the 7th Apr. In contrast, there was a single autumn record of a juvenile on Dalma Island on 24th Sep.

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) WV & PM

Very common in winter and on passage, being recorded up to 14th Apr and from 15th Oct onwards, with a maximum estimated count of 45 coming from Sila'a on 6th Mar. A bird reported on 20th Sep was an unusually early record.

Unidentified warbler (*Phylloscopus* sp)

A Chiffchaff heard at Wamm Farms on 3rd Dec showed characteristics of Siberian Chiffchaff *P.c.tristis*, but could not be conclusively confirmed.

Plain Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus neglectus*) WV

Regularly seen in low numbers (four max) during winter at various mountain wadi locations, with dates up to 13th Mar and from 6th Oct. Newly-arrived birds were recorded from early October from the coastal sites of Al Mamzar Park (one on 10th–16th Oct) and Lulu Island (four on 23rd Oct).

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) PM

There was just one recorded this year, with one at Al Mamzar Park on 15th Oct.

Hume's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*) WV

There were seven found during the year with singles at Safa Park (21st Jan), Mirfa (30th Jan), Emirates Palace (31st Oct), Khor Kalba (6th Nov), Jebel Hafit (7th Nov), Al Ghaf Wood, Abu Dhabi (22nd Dec) and Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital (31st Dec).

Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*) V

One found at Dubai Pivot Fields on 12th Sep was the 14th UAE record and the earliest recorded in autumn.

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) PM

A total of eight were seen during the year. One at Abu al-Abyadh Island on 26th Jan was the only record in the first half of the year. In autumn, singles were at Jebel Dhanna (14th Sep), Warsan Lakes (15th Oct), Wamm Farms (17th Oct), with up to three seen at PEGM between 14th Sep and 11th Oct. One was also at PEGM on 3rd Dec.

Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus brunescens*) R

Seen and readily heard throughout the year with 15 at the harbour marsh in Sila'a on 4th Apr the highest counted. Ten at Al Wathba WR on 28th Feb was the only other count in double figures. Parents were observed feeding chicks at PEGM on 14th May.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) PM

The only record of this elusive scarce migrant as at Sila'a harbour marsh on 4th Apr.

Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) V

One was at Al Mamzar Park from 4th–11th Sep. The 11th national record.

Caspian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus*) R

Reported every month of the year with breeding confirmed at Al Wathba WR and Al Warsan Lakes. More often heard than seen, the highest counts were of 10 at the same two sites on 30th Apr and 24th Jul respectively.

Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) PM

In typical fashion, almost exclusively recorded during late Apr and May, with 43 sightings between 20th Apr and 23rd May, reaching a climax on 15th May with 55 at Wamm Farms contributing to a day total of 63 across four sites. Five at Mushrif Palace Gardens on 11th Sep were the only ones reported in autumn.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*) PM & localised R (Abu Dhabi island)

Recorded every month except June with records equally distributed between spring and autumn during passage, though late Sep saw a huge movement on Dalma Island, with an estimated 100 birds on the 24th.

Upcher's Warbler (*Hippolais languida*) PM

Predominantly a spring migrant, with 40 records between 9th Mar and 24th May, and a peak in mid-Apr when 14 were seen at Wadi Tarabat on 9th. In early autumn, there were six records of single birds from 10th Jul to 13th Sep.

Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*) PM

One at Mushrif Palace Gardens on 5th Apr was the only record.

Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*) V

There were just 2 records of this skulking species. One was flushed from long grass at Wamm Farms on 27th Mar whilst another flew across the road at the northern end of Sila'a town and hid in a low hedge on 4th Apr.

Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) R

Very common and widespread, with 18 at Hili Oasis on 23rd Jan the highest logged.

Arabian Babbler (*Turdoides squamiceps*) R

Fairly widely reported, mainly north and east of a line from Al Ain (AD) to Dubai (DUB) although also reported from Ajban on several dates, and, notably, at Al Wathba CRT (two on 10th Feb). A count of 32 at PEGM on 13th May was the highest, with three juveniles noted amongst them.

Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) PM

There were 15 records, with most occurring in spring between 5th Apr and 15th May; four at Al Mamzar Park on 10th Apr being the highest counted. There were three records in the latter half of the year with single birds on 24th Sep, 20th Nov and 18th Dec.

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) PM

Very scarce this year, with as few as 16 individuals. Spring birds were seen between 4th Apr and 13th May, with five at Al Mamzar Park on 9th Apr, the same day as three were recorded at Wadi Tarabat. Only singles were seen elsewhere, with three autumn records from 18th Sep to 24th Oct.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) PM & WV

This species has been subject to much confusion in the past. In the light of recent publications, based on genetic and isotopic analysis which incorporated birds sampled from the UAE, the formerly widely held assumption that *Sylvia minula* was the default taxon is now believed to be incorrect. Currently, there is no compelling evidence that *S. minula* has actually occurred in the UAE. The current understanding of the status of this species is as follows:

- *Sylvia curruca curruca/blythi*; apparently a regular (possibly fairly common) migrant mid-February to mid-May and September to November. Uncommon in winter.
- *Sylvia curruca halimodendri*, apparently a common winter visitor (and presumed migrant) mid-September to mid-April. Most records referring to "Desert Lesser Whitethroat" *S. minula* in previous reports presumably refer to this subspecies.

As a result of the confusion over taxonomy and the difficulty in confidently attributing birds to subspecies there were 53 records left unassigned.

European/Siberian Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca curruca/blythi*) PM & WV

Reported in low numbers and not always very conclusively, up until 17th Apr and from 8th Sep.

Central Asian Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca halimodendri*) WV

Widespread in low numbers until 5th Apr and then from 16th Sep to the year end. Seven counts between 10 and 18, all Jan and Oct to Dec.

Hume's Whitethroat (*Sylvia althaea*) V

One found on Dalma Island on 24th Sep was the first one to be photographed in the UAE and, following a review of all previous records by EBRC, became the first accepted national record.

Eastern Orphee Warbler (*Sylvia crassirostris*) WV

There were 12 individuals during the year. A male was at Al Rahba Farms on 1st Jan and up to three males at Mushrif Palace Gardens on 3rd Jan. One frequented Masafi Wadi from 24th Jan until 21st Feb, with one seen at Wamm Farms also on the 21st and one at Ruwais on the 24th Feb. Two were at Sila'a on 6th Mar, one Al Mamzar Park on 15th Mar and one at Jebel Dhanna for two days from 6th Apr. One at Al Mamzar Park on 13th Dec was the only record in the second half of the year.

Asian Desert Warbler (*Sylvia nana*) WV

Regular winter visitor seen up to 3rd Apr and from 12th Sep, with seven on Lulu Island on 20th Nov the highest site count.

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) PM

Uncommon passage migrant recorded in ones and twos from 28th Feb to 16th May and from 4th Sep to 30th Oct, though one individual was found in Sharjah on 22nd Dec. Four at Green Mubazzarah on 17th Oct was the highest number seen.

Menetries's Warbler (*Sylvia mystacea*) PM & WV

Fairly common migrant recorded in single-figure numbers until 1st May and from 11th Sep, with six at Al Mamzar Park on 17th Mar and 8th Oct.

Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) R

Locally common resident, restricted mainly to the northern emirates, forming large flocks especially during the late summer and autumn. Large counts were made at Hamraniyah Fields and Wamm Farms, where 400 and 300 were recorded on 27th Nov and 10th Jul respectively. Away from the regular sites, birds were also reported from the Ajban area. Ras al Khaimah Khor and Al Jimi Oasis.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) R

Very common and widespread, with a highest count of over 900 at Wamm Farms on 14th Aug.

Pied Myna (*Gracupica contra*) R

Very common at regular localities in Dubai, especially in the Al Mamzar area, from where 25 were noted on 4th Jan. Four birds at Sharjah University City on 22nd Jul were the only ones seen outside of Dubai.

Brahminy Starling (*Sturnia pagodarum*) R

Typically very scarce and reported from just 2 sites up to the end of July. Up to 3 were seen in the Jumeirah area of Dubai, whilst 2 frequented the Al Goaz district of Sharjah.

Rose-coloured Starling (*Pastor roseus*) PM & WV

Scarce, with only 15 records during the year, half of which came from Wamm Farms, where 22 were counted on 24th Jan. Records were sporadic throughout the year, with an interesting summer record from Nad al-Sheba of one on 5th Jun.

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) WV & R

Highly localised, with the Hamraniyah area providing the majority of records, with 35 counted there on 3rd Jan. Away from this hotspot, seven on Dalma Island on 12th Dec was the first record for the island. Other sites reported were Wamm Farms, Mafraq WTP, Yas Links GC and Jebel Dhanna.

Caucasian Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus amicornum*) UC

Two were around the Mercure Hotel on Jebel Hafit from 10th to 28th Jan, whilst another was photographed on Abu al-Abyadh Island on 26th Jan.

Dusky Thrush (*Turdus eunomus*) V

One was briefly seen and photographed at Wamm Farms on 31st Oct. The 4th UAE record.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) WV

Very common in winter, with birds seen up to 25th Mar and from 7th Nov. A count of 12 on Dalma Island on 31st Jan was the only record in double figures.

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*) SV & PM

Recorded in single figure numbers from 3rd Mar until 23rd Sep, with seven at PEGM on 13th Apr the highest counted.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) PM

Common and widespread during both spring and autumn passage with birds regularly seen in small numbers from 3rd Apr to 27th May and from 29th Aug to 1st Nov. The only records in double figures were at PEGM with 11 on 12th Sep and Al Mamzar Park where 10 were noted on 3rd May.

European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) UC

Typically scarce, there were just 2 recorded this year. One was at Safa Park from 13th – 24th Feb and another at Saadiyat Beach Golf Club on 9th Dec.

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) WV & PM

Common in small numbers throughout the winter months up to 20th Mar and from 3rd Oct, with up to 5 counted at Wamm Farms, Abu al -Abyadh Island, Al Warsan Lakes and PEGM.

Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) PM

Rather common, though never numerous, during spring passage with 40 records between 7th Apr and 18th May, with three at Mushrif Palace Gardens the largest number seen. In contrast, there were just four autumn records of single birds from 30th Aug to 29th Sep.

White-throated Robin (*Irania gutturalis*) PM

Very scarce this year, with just nine records, most of which fell in a 10 day window from 5th to 14th Apr. Up to two were at Jebel Dhanna (5th–7th Apr), whilst Al Mamzar Park led the way with four on 7th Apr, two males on 9th and a male and a female on 10th. Single birds were at Nakhli on 8th Apr and Sila'a on 14th. A bird at Bab Oilfield on 26th Aug was a rare autumn record.

Collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*) V

A *Ficedula* flycatcher briefly seen at Al Mamzar Park on 3rd Oct was subsequently refound and identified as a winter male Collared Flycatcher on 6th Oct and remained until the 9th Oct. First UAE record.

Semi-collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*) UC

In contrast to the bumper year in 2014, there were just 2 individuals found this year. Both females, one was at Al Mamzar Park between 3rd–7th Apr, with another at Sila'a on 4th Apr.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) WV

There were 12 records between 4th Jan to 18th Apr and 24th Sep to 13th Nov. Al Mamzar Park hosted up to two birds on 4th–9th Jan and 13th Nov, with a male there on 8th Oct. Singles were also at Sila'a (8th Jan and 15th Oct), Dalma Island (7th Feb and 24th Sep), Wadi Bih (20th Feb), Lulu Island (18th Apr) and Emirates Palace (16th Oct).

Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) V

A male was at Al Mamzar Park from 21st to 31st Mar was the 7th record of this increasingly regular rarity, being annual since 2012 and the 5th since 2010.

Black Redstart ssp. (*Phoenicurus ochruros* ssp) V

A male showing characteristics of a western subspecies was found in Wadi Bih on 20th Nov.

Eastern Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*) WV & PM

Common during the winter months in rocky terrain with the last departing birds noted on 21st Mar. Returning birds appeared from 23rd Oct. The site of PEGM proved particularly attractive to this species as most of the significant counts emanated from there, peaking at 10 on 30th Dec.

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) PM

Fairly common and widespread during spring, especially in western locations, with 49 records from 17th Mar to 13th May. There were just six reports in autumn, probably relating to just two birds, between 3rd and 31st Oct. There were three counts in double figures, all from Al Mamzar Park, reaching 20 on 7th Apr.

Ehrenberg's Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamensis*) PM

There were 12 records of this early spring migrant, mainly of single birds. Larger counts comprised three at Sila'a on 6th Mar, two at Al Mamzar park on 17th Mar and two at Jebel Dhanna on 7th Apr. A male on Dalma island on 24th Sep was a scarce autumn sighting.

Common Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) PM

Mainly seen in spring, with 52 records between 19th Feb and 2nd May, mostly of one or two birds, though three were noted at Sila'a (6th Mar), Jebel Hafit (8th Mar) and Green Mubazzarah (9th Mar). By contrast, there were just five autumn records, all of singles, spanning 24th Sep to 3rd Nov.

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) WV & PM

Ones and twos regularly seen until 14th Apr, with returning birds typically from mid-Oct onwards. A bird at Bab Oilfield in Western Region on 14th Sep was the earliest returner by a month. Never particularly numerous, the highest number recorded was nine at Jebel Hafit on 8th Mar.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) PM

There were 17 records between 6th Apr and 6th May of mostly single birds, though three were at Sila'a on 14th Apr and at Emirates Palace on 24th Apr.

European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*) WV

Widely recorded in low numbers during the winter months up to 7th Mar and from 26th Oct. A count of four at Abu al-Abyadh Island on 26th Jan was the highest reported.

Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) PM

Scarce passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, recorded up to 11th Apr and from 26th Sep. Two or three spent both winters at Wamm Farms.

Caspian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus hemprichii*) V

A male was at Jebel Dhanna marsh from 3rd to 6th Mar, with three also being found at Sila'a on the latter date. A male found at Wamm Farms on the 7th Nov lingered until the new year and was an exceptional winter record.

Pied Bush Chat (*Saxicola caprata*) V

The 2014 wintering female remained faithful to its patch at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club until 17th Mar, being regularly seen during its stay. At the other end of the year, another female was seen at Wamm Farms on 7th Nov.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) PM

Almost exclusively seen in spring with 47 records from 27th Feb to 6th May, with 6 at Wamm Farms on 10th Apr the largest number seen. There were five autumn records, all of singles, between 4th Sep and 17th Oct.

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) WV & PM

Common in small numbers and recorded every month except Jun, with records throughout the winter until 2nd May and returning birds seen as early as 24th Jul. The largest number reported was 19 at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack on 28th Feb.

Hooded Wheatear (*Oenanthe monacha*) R

At over 40 records in the year, 2015 was a good year for this species, with one or two obliging individuals being regularly found at PEGM and Jebel Hafit. Recorded every month bar April, with 3 at the top of Jebel Hafit on 29th Oct being the highest number noted.

Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*) WV & PM

Regularly seen during winter, with late birds being noted up to 9th May and birds returning as early as 28th Aug. Counts of 13 at Saadiyat Beach Golf Course on 9th Dec and 11 at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields on 10th Jan were the only numbers in double figures.

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca*) PM

Only seven records this year, mostly falling within a four-week window in spring. Two were at Sila'a on 6th Mar, with singles at Jebel Dhanna (7th Mar, 13th Mar and 5th Apr), Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (15th Mar) and Al Mamzar Park (3rd Apr). One at Saih al Salam on 2nd Oct was a rare autumn record.

Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) PM

Widely reported during both spring and autumn passage, with a small number of birds remaining in winter. Recorded as late as 27th April and from 4th Sep until 21st Nov, with the largest numbers in the west, with Sila'a achieving double-figure counts on 6th Mar (17), 23rd Sep (20) and 15th Oct (17).

Variable Wheatear (*Oenanthe picata*) WV

Mainly recorded at Wamm Farms and Masafi Wadi, except for two records from the Hamraniyah area and one from Wadi Bih. A typically early returning and early departing migrant, birds were seen up to 7th Mar and from 22nd Aug, usually in ones and twos, with up to three at Wamm Farms on several dates.

White-crowned Wheatear (*Oenanthe leucopyga*) V

The 13th UAE record of this stunning wheatear was seen briefly near the top car park on Jebel Hafit late on 29th Oct.

Hume's Wheatear (*Oenanthe albonigra*) R

Regularly seen at various mountain sites and wadis throughout the year, with a maximum count of 18 recorded at Jebel Hafit on 11th Jan.

Mourning Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens*) UC

Reports were limited to just 10 sightings of as few as three birds. Two birds were present on Dalma Island on 30th Jan and 6th Feb, whilst the long-staying bird on Jebel Hafit was last seen on 31st Jan. A bird present in the same locality from 1st Nov into 2016 was presumably the same returning individual.

Red-tailed Wheatear (*Oenanthe chrysopygia*) WV

Common and regularly reported during the winter months from rockier areas up to 24th Apr and from 15th Sep onwards, with numbers reaching double figures at PEGM on several dates in mid-winter. Coastal records of arriving/departing birds were limited to just four reports: singles at Suweihat Rocks (24th Feb), Dalma Island (24th Sep) and Lulu Island (25th Sep), with three at the latter site on 3rd Oct. A bird found in mid-summer at Green Mubazzarah on 4th Jul was an extraordinary record.

Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) R

Common and widespread breeding resident across most of the country, although scarce in the Western Region with a single at Bab Oilfield on 9th Sep the only mainland record from the west. Numbers appear to be increasing on Dalma Island, from where 15 were reported on 24th Sep. Elsewhere, mainly seen in low numbers but counts up to 30 were recorded and breeding was confirmed at several locations.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) R

Extremely common and widespread, with estimated counts reaching 10,000 at PEGM on several dates in autumn and winter.

Pale Rockfinch (*Carpospiza brachydactyla*) PM

A typically early spring migrant, there were 36 records between 26th Feb and 17th Apr, with large flocks noted at Wadi Wurayah NP (70 on 19th Mar), Ajman WTP (72 on 3rd Apr) and an impressive 200 at Wadi Tarabat on 9th Apr.

Yellow-throated Sparrow (*Petronia xanthocollis*) SV & PM

Summer visitor recorded from 7th Apr to 24th Sep at a variety of sites. Transient birds were seen in ones and twos at coastal sites such as Al Mamzar Park and Lulu Island during Apr, whilst signs of breeding were noted at PEGM and Huwayalat Road. Ain al Ghamour held the highest number, with 18 there on 18th Jul.

Golden-backed Weaver (*Ploceus jacksoni*) UC

There were only two records of single birds from Emirates Palace (19th Jul) and Zabeel Park South (23rd Oct).

Streaked Weaver (*Ploceus manyar*) R

Only recorded at Dubai Pivot Fields and Al Warsan lakes, with nest building observed at the latter site and as many as 15 seen there on 9th Oct.

Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*) R

Widespread and locally common north and eastwards of Abu Dhabi, often in sizeable flocks, with up to 100 seen at PEGM at times.

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) R

Erratically reported throughout the year in ones and twos from a variety of sites. The highest counted was merely 3 at Wasit NR on 19th Feb and Hamraniyah Fields on 18th Dec.

Forest Wagtail (*Dendroanthus indicus*) V

The wintering bird from 2014 remained at Mushrif Palace Gardens until 23rd Jan. One seen at the neighbouring Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club on 17th Jan was presumably the same bird.

Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) WV & PM

Widespread and recorded every month except Jun & Jul, with 25 at Sila'a on 23rd Sep the highest count. Records referring to birds assigned to subspecies follow below.

Yellow-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava lutea*)

A total of seven birds were seen during the year. One was at Al Mamzar Park on 3rd Apr, with another at Sila'a the following day. Up to two were present at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club from 16th-22nd Apr, whilst three at Mafrq WTP on 22nd Sep were the only ones reported in the latter half of the year.

Blue-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava flava/beema*)

There were seven records totalling 33 individuals in spring between 3rd Apr and 1st May, 28 of which were counted on the 3rd-4th Apr, with 12 at Jebel Dhanna, 11 at Al Mamzar Park and five at Al Sufouh Beach.

Black-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava feldegg*)

Recorded regularly with 34 records up to 5th Jun, including evidence of a pair breeding at Dubai Pivot Fields in May. In the latter half of the year, there were just three records, with ones at Nakhli on 29th Jul, Mafrq WTP on 22nd Sep and two at Dubai Pivots Fields on 5th Nov.

Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*)

A total of eight were seen in late spring, with five at Jebel Dhanna on 4th Apr and singles at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (20th Apr), Mafrq WTP (2nd May) and PEGM (11th May).

Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) WV & PM

Widely reported until 20th Mar and from 21st Aug, with a maximum count of 20 at Mafrq WTP on 22nd Sep.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) WV & PM

Regularly recorded in ones and twos up to 6th Apr and from 4th Sep, especially at Safa Park, from where up to three were present on 6th Apr, and at Wamm Farms, where two were seen during Sep and Oct.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) WV & PM

Extremely common during the winter and on passage, with birds regularly seen up to 20th Apr and from 26th Sep. Especially numerous at Hamraniyah Nursery and Markaniyah Farm, where counts of around 150 were logged during January.

Masked Wagtail (*Motacilla alba personata*) WV

Remarkably few records this year, with only three individuals reported. One was at Wamm Farms from 4th Sep to the year end, whilst Hamraniyah Nursery (13th Nov) and Ajman WTP (12th Dec) also had one apiece.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*) WV & PM

Recorded up to 16th Apr and from 12th Sep, mainly at Wamm Farms and Dubai Pivot Fields, with a maximum of six birds recorded at the former site on 23rd Jan.

Blyth's Pipit (*Anthus godlewskii*) WV & PM

A total of seven reports from only two localities. Four were at Wamm Farms on 2nd Jan, with one also seen there on 14th Feb. At the end of the year, the site also hosted another single bird on 30th Oct, whilst a long-staying bird frequented the helipad area at Mushrif Palace Gardens from 11th Nov to at least 1st Dec.

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) WV & PM

Widespread and fairly common in winter and on passage, with records up to 17th Apr and from 4th Sep onwards and a maximum count of 45 at Wamm Farms on 16th Jan.

Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*) R

There were 28 records of mainly ones and twos throughout the year, all from mountain sites, with a peak of 10 at Wamm Farms on 3rd Dec.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) WV

IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

Fairly scarce and reported until 7th Mar and from 13th Nov, with a high count of seven at Wamm Farms on 16th Jan.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) PM

Widely reported outside of the summer months, with records up to 6th May and from 11th Sep onwards. The first week of Apr saw the peak of spring passage, with a total of 110 individuals recorded, 70 of which were logged on 7th and 8th Apr between Al Mamzar Park (30) and the Abu Dhabi sites of Nissan Park (25) and Mushrif Palace Gardens (15).

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) PM & WV

Fairly scarce in late winter and throughout spring, with birds being seen up to 3rd May and from 6th Nov. The peak day total, from various sites, was 69 on 3rd Apr.

Asian Buff-bellied Pipit (*Anthus rubescens japonicus*) WV

There were 12 records from four sites of this now annual scarce winter visitor, with four at Wamm Farms on 23rd Jan, the highest counted. Elsewhere, up to three were seen on several dates in Jan and early Feb at Hamraniyah Nursery, whilst singles were at Dubai Pivot Fields on 30th Jan and Al Wathba Camel Racetrack on 29th Dec.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) WV & PM

Winter visitor recorded up to 16th Apr and from 28th Oct, with a maximum count of 100 recorded at Hamraniyah Nursery on 8th Jan.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) V

A female was found feeding in the *Casuarinas* in the centre wood of Safa Park on 11th Feb and was seen again two days later.

Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus*) WV & R

There were just 10 reports, mostly from the Jebel Hafit area. Up to seven were at Ain al Waal on several dates between 6th and 28th Mar. A high count of 10 came from Wadi Tarabat on 9th Apr, with one at PEGM on 26th May being the last record of the spring. There were four records in the latter half of the year, with counts of 4 and 7 at Wadi Bih on 26th Sep and 25th Dec respectively being the only sightings away from Al Ain.

Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) UC

A female-type found in a private garden in the Al Mareed district of Ras al Khaimah on 9th Jun was a very unusual summer sighting and the only record of this species in the year.

Eurasian Siskin (*Spinus spinus*) UC

Up to four were at Safa Park from 11th-17th Feb, with at least one there the following winter, heard calling from the centre wood on 28th Nov. Coincidentally, a single bird was also seen and heard calling in flight at Dubai Creek Park, also on 28th Nov.

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) WV

11 records until 4th Apr, mainly from Wamm Farms were 20 on 20th Feb. From 7th Nov, 17 further records, with 30 at Wamm Farms on 20th Nov the highest count. Elsewhere, records from only five sites.

Eastern Cinereous Bunting (*Emberiza cineracea semenowi*) PM IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

There were just six records, as usual all in spring. Singles were seen at Al Mamzar scrubland on 17th Mar and Ain al Waal on 27th-28th Mar. Three were at Wadi Tarabat on 9th Apr, with two, possibly four, on Jebel Hafit on the 13th, the same day as one was at Mushrif Palace Gardens. A single bird was also at PEGM on 15th Apr.

Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) PM

Predominantly a spring passage migrant, with 39 records between 24th Mar and 15th May, including 17 seen at Jebel Dhanna on 5th Apr. There were just six autumn records, all of single birds, between 23rd Sep and 10th Oct.

Striolated Bunting (*Emberiza striolata*) R

Recorded throughout the year at, or close to, mountain sites, usually in low numbers, though counts of 60 recorded on 13th and 27th Mar at Ain al Waal were exceptional.

Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*) PM

There were just 3 records this year, all in September. Singles were at Wamm Farms on 12th and Sila'a on 23rd, followed by two at Wamm Farms on the 26th.

Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*) V

A male, the 8th national record, was found at Al Mamzar Park on 9th May.

BIRDS OF PRESUMED CAPTIVE ORIGIN

The following birds were recorded during the year and presumed to be of captive origin, including domestic wildfowl, falconers' birds and birds thought to originate from captive-breeding programs or private collections:

Common Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*)
 Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)
 White-faced Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*)
 Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)
 Cape Barren Goose (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*)
 Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)
 Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)
 Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*)
 Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*)
 Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)
 Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*)
 Greater White-fronted Goose (Eurasian) (*Anser albifrons albifrons*)
 Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)
 Black-necked Swan (*Cygnus melancoryphus*)
 Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)
 Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)
 Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)
 Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)
 Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)
 Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*)
 Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)
 Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)
 Maned Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*)
 Chiloe Wigeon (*Anas sibilatrix*)
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
 White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)
 Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)
 Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)
 Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*)**
 Arabian Partridge (*Alectoris melanocephala*)
 Sand Partridge (*Ammoperdix heyi*)
 Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*)
 Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)
 Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)
 African Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)
 Hadada Ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*)
 Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*)**
 African Swamphen (*Porphyrio madagascariensis*)
 Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*)
 Common Crane (*Grus grus*)
 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (*Pterocles alchata*) †
 Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*)
 African Collared Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*)
 Common Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)
 Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*)
 Bruce's Green Pigeon (*Treron waalia*)
 Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*)
 Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
 Senegal Parrot (*Poicephalus senegalus*)
 Nanday Parakeet (*Aratinga nenday*)
 Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)
 Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*) †
 White-headed Buffalo Weaver (*Dinemellia dinemelli*)

Taveta Weaver (*Ploceus castaneiceps*)
Vitelline Masked Weaver (*Ploceus vitellinus*)
Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*)
Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)
Yellow-crowned Bishop (*Euplectes afer*)
Southern Red Bishop (*Euplectes orix*)**
Crimson-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda rhodopyga*)
Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)
European Goldfinch (Grey-capped) (*Carduelis carduelis* [caniceps-group])

**** These species, in particular, are released from captive-breeding programs and presumed to be breeding, though their populations are not considered to be self-sustaining at present.**

† Following a review by the EBRC in 2016, these species have been reclassified as having self-sustaining populations and have been subsequently assigned to Category C from January 1st 2016.

MONTHLY MAXIMUM COUNTS BY SPECIES	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Greater White-fronted Goose (Eurasian) (<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>)	12	7	3										
Egyptian Goose (<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>)	204	43	43	12	64	65	2	68	66	79	150	70	80
Common Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	17	177	156									12	18
Ruddy Shelduck (<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>)	4	1	2									4	
Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera strepera</i>)	31	8	13	1							4	10	5
Eurasian Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>)	77	13	2	20	2						6	7	5
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	214	500	500	70	16		3	20		1	32	170	260
Northern Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)	206	440	460	200	5	1		2	3	45	120	650	120
Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	126	200	50	9	3						8	60	11
Garganey (<i>Anas querquedula</i>)	89	2	1	1					2	20	10	1	2
Eurasian Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	207	800	300	100	6				2	44	200	350	460
Red-crested Pochard (<i>Netta rufina</i>)	6	1										1	1
Common Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>)	66	247	60	34	2	2		2		1	18	132	118
Ferruginous Duck (<i>Aythya nyroca</i>)	101	18	25	5		2	2	4	2	3	13	15	4
Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)	12	5		1								2	3
Chukar Partridge (<i>Alectoris chukar</i>)	10	25	4					50		25	25	11	
Sand Partridge (<i>Ammoperdix heyi</i>)	56	15	5	5	14	12	4	12	19	6	12	13	14
Grey Francolin (<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>)	251	300	200	43	200	200	32	200	200	200	200	200	250
Common Quail (<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>)	29	1		3	2	1				2	3	4	2
Wilson's Storm Petrel (<i>Oceanites oceanicus oceanicus/exasperatus</i>)	7						1	72			60	2	
Swinhoe's Storm Petrel (<i>Oceanodroma monorhis</i>)	1										1		
Cory's/Scopoli's Shearwater sp. (<i>Calonectris diomedea/borealis</i>)	1								1				
Sooty Shearwater (<i>Ardenna grisea</i>)	1						1						
Flesh-footed Shearwater (<i>Ardenna carneipes</i>)	4							15	1		2		
Persian Shearwater (<i>Puffinus persicus</i>)	11	2					25	120			20	40	
Jouanin's Petrel (<i>Bulweria fallax</i>)	4					1					91	60	
Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)	279	150	35	25	36	111	25	230	32	100	85	110	90
Black-necked Grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>)	45	14	11	15						1	4	15	8
Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>)	281	2400	6000	2000	1000	1500	500	800	42	1000	1000	2500	800
Red-billed Tropicbird (<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>)	2		1						1				
White Stork (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>)	43	2								8	2	1	
Glossy Ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>)	171	70	26	26	18	19	5	7	11	32	31	40	40
Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>)	29	42	22	1	1	1		2			7	6	46

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Little Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i>)	45				2	2	1	4		1	2	1	
Black-crowned Night Heron (Eurasian) (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax</i>)	85	5	2	6	2	11	1	25		60	50	15	2
Striated Heron (Old World) (<i>Butorides striata [atricapilla-group]</i>)	80	1	2	2	3	2	4	25	3	2	3	1	1
Squacco Heron (<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>)	124	3	2	1	2	3	2	10	3	6	4	3	4
Indian Pond Heron (<i>Ardeola grayii</i>)	30	8	1	11	1	6		1			3	1	1
Unidentified Pond Heron (<i>Ardeola sp.</i>)	3				1					1	1		
Western Cattle Egret (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>)	193	140	60	70	53	7	5	10	12	150	80	120	29
Eastern Cattle Egret (<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>)	11			1	2			1					
Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea [cinerea-group]</i>)	382	50	50	18	37	7	2	12	4	40	37	30	60
Purple Heron (<i>Ardea purpurea [purpurea-group]</i>)	86	3	5	2	2	3	1	4	1	23	10	3	2
Great Egret (<i>Ardea alba</i>)	176	13	9	3	8	3		15		1	6	61	40
Little Egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	194	11	3	3	6	3	1	3	3	7	12	10	30
Western Reef Heron (Eastern) (<i>Egretta gularis schistacea</i>)	270	100	75	46	40	8	7	80	9	33	40	100	40
Great White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>)	5												2
Masked Booby (<i>Sula dactylatra</i>)	8						1	1	2	1		1	
Brown Booby (Forster's) (<i>Sula leucogaster plotus</i>)	1	1											
Unidentified Booby (<i>Sula sp.</i>)	1					3							
Great Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo [carbo-group]</i>)	194	400	250	50	15	1		1				100	300
Socotra Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>)	110	500	100	50	263	25	120	500	33	40	150	600	5000
Western Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus haliaetus</i>)	79	4	14	1	2	2	1	4	2	2	9	1	1
Black-winged Kite (<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>)	5			1							1	1	1
Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>)	187	23	6	20	10	11	8	9	8	12	30	17	26
Crested Honey Buzzard (Northern) (<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis</i>)	54	4	2	4	2	2	1	1		1	1	2	1
European/Crested Honey Buzzard (<i>Pernis apivorus/ptilorhynchus</i>)	3						1					1	
Lappet-faced Vulture (<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>)	19	1	3	2	3					5	2	1	3
Short-toed Snake Eagle (<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>)	33	1	1	1	2						2	1	2
Greater Spotted Eagle (<i>Clanga clanga</i>)	95	21	12	2	2						3	8	6
Booted Eagle (<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>)	11	1							1		1	1	1
Steppe Eagle (<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>)	7	1	1	1	1								1
Eastern Imperial Eagle (<i>Aquila heliaca</i>)	14	1	1	1								1	1
Bonelli's Eagle (<i>Aquila fasciata</i>)	74	2	1		2			2	2	3	3	2	4
Shikra (<i>Accipiter badius</i>)	37	2	1	2	1	1	1	2		2	2	3	1
Eurasian Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>)	37	2	1	3	3						2	1	2

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Western Marsh Harrier (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>)	341	12	22	16	2			1	1	9	32	22	12
Pallid Harrier (<i>Circus macrourus</i>)	60	2	2	1	3	1				2	1	2	2
Montagu's Harrier (<i>Circus pygargus</i>)	22			1	3			1		2	2		
Black Kite (Black-eared) (<i>Milvus migrans lineatus/formosanus</i>)	17	2	2	2		1				1	1	1	1
Long-legged Buzzard (<i>Buteo rufinus</i>)	5	1				1						1	
Common Buzzard (Steppe) (<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus/menetriesi</i>)	1				1								
Water Rail (<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>)	37	1	1	1									
Corn Crake (<i>Crex crex</i>)	10					1					1		
White-breasted Waterhen (<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>)	1			1									
Little Crake (<i>Porzana parva</i>)	1			1									
Baillon's Crake (Western) (<i>Porzana pusilla intermedia</i>)	13								1		1		
Spotted Crake (<i>Porzana porzana</i>)	19	1	1	1						1	1	1	
Grey-headed Swampphen (<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>)	30	3	4	3	3	2	4	1		1	2	5	3
Common Moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>)	209	50	22	6	27	18	15	50	48	56	50	60	80
Eurasian Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>)	105	80	41	30	20	15	20	21	7	8	45	70	30
Eurasian Stone-curlew (<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>)	5									1	1	120	
Eurasian Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus [ostralegus-group]</i>)	99	50	300	35	20	4	4	16	3	60	60	64	4
Crab-plover (<i>Dromas ardeola</i>)	45	44	40	5	10	2	1	4		200	250	152	
Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>)	406	206	268	292	106	91	83	300	112	210	250	150	278
Pied Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>)	63	75	3	1	3	9		4		2	65	40	4
Northern Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	4	1	1										
Spur-winged Lapwing (<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>)	2											1	
Red-wattled Lapwing (<i>Vanellus indicus [indicus-group]</i>)	586	150	120	100	100	200	120	250	190	200	180	250	150
Sociable Lapwing (<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>)	3	1	2			1							
White-tailed Lapwing (<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>)	93	30	35	6	9	22	8	6		6	14	12	5
European Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	3	1										2	
Pacific Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>)	34	43	60	49	55	54			34	15	120	1	81
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	131	65	61	50	60	1	1	6	6	80	200	90	8
Common Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	178	50	21	110	57	10		3	2	36	60	50	120
Little Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i>)	146	8	8	4	8	6	5	40	8	15	8	50	4
Kentish Plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus</i>)	328	300	400	250	200	200	100	150	65	168	500	400	250
Lesser Sand Plover (Tibetan) (<i>Charadrius mongolus [atrifrons-group]</i>)	138	950	1800	500	112	25	7	150	69	750	1000	300	8
Greater Sand Plover (<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>)	104	80	200	150	18	34	16	200	107	150	250	150	1

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Caspian Plover (<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>)	8	1								3	1		1
Pheasant-tailed Jacana (<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>)	4										1	1	
Jack Snipe (<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>)	6	1									1	1	1
Pin-tailed Snipe (<i>Gallinago stenura</i>)	76	2	1	1		1				1	1	3	2
Great Snipe (<i>Gallinago media</i>)	1									1			
Common Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>)	240	54	30	80	12	2		1	1	55	23	35	56
Black-tailed Godwit (European) (<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>)	63	30	100	2	1		1	40		3	100	300	120
Bar-tailed Godwit (European) (<i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i>)	99	320	300	200	50	20	3	80	300	250	550	300	
Whimbrel (Eurasian) (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i> [phaeopus-group])	176	50	20	32	20	12	7	20	25	22	40	60	3
Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	179	50	120	12	7	7	21	35	25	30	20	70	2
Spotted Redshank (<i>Tringa erythropus</i>)	27	5	2		7	4			2		1	1	1
Common Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	236	199	200	100	15	8	8	120	18	300	500	250	40
Marsh Sandpiper (<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>)	73	40	20	1		1		4	4	7	10	15	8
Common Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	204	75	30	30	9	5	1	25	2	150	30	30	4
Green Sandpiper (<i>Tringa ochropus</i>)	122	4	6	2	1			4	5	8	4	3	3
Wood Sandpiper (<i>Tringa glareola</i>)	138	11	3	3	4	5		4	4	11	22	25	5
Terek Sandpiper (<i>Xenus cinereus</i>)	87	65	33	10	30	5	1	25	18	30	35	40	2
Common Sandpiper (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>)	333	10	4	4	7	6		4	5	8	6	9	6
Ruddy Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	84	31	50	60	30	25	4	8	40	40	40	40	
Great Knot (<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>)	11	1	5	6						1		30	
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)	56	37	9	17	37	75	1	2	70	30	20	9	
Little Stint (<i>Calidris minuta</i>)	283	1270	300	150	600	500	1	250	80	300	1500	1000	300
Temminck's Stint (<i>Calidris temminckii</i>)	145	40	5	7	85	40		6	3	50	30	65	6
Curlew Sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	97	50	100	50	400	650		300	2	150	100	60	3
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)	169	960	500	300	20	30	3	1	2	1000	2000	800	50
Broad-billed Sandpiper (<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>)	21	3	1					3	1	20	10	97	
Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>)	241	63	36	37	18	15		8	15	120	250	130	157
Red-necked Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)	35	1400		2	57	15				8	10	9	
Cream-colored Courser (<i>Cursorius cursor</i>)	39	28	1	3	2	2	1	20		2	9	72	14
Collared Pratincole (<i>Glareola pratincola</i>)	20			1	2	2	1	11		2	2		1
Brown Noddy (<i>Anous stolidus</i>)	1							1					
Slender-billed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>)	151	2000	750	500	120	40	4	90	2	250	150	1000	81
Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	259	1392	2000	2000	15	15	4	1		2	250	1000	400

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Little Gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>)	1											1	
Pallas's Gull (<i>Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus</i>)	47	84	55	14	2							1	2
Sooty Gull (<i>Ichthyaeetus hemprichii</i>)	65	87	106	200	272	8	3	1		1	20	5	8
Caspian Gull (<i>Larus cachinnans</i>)	5	1	1							1			
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Heuglin's) (<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>)	23	4	5	30	5						2	1	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Steppe) (<i>Larus fuscus barabensis</i>)	76	170	30	81	10	1			1	6	47	25	3
Large white-headed gull sp. (<i>Larus sp.</i>)	83	100	200	30	23				1	75	100	30	40
Gull-billed Tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> [nilotica-group])	97	30	30	20	6	1	1	22		35	40	55	11
Caspian Tern (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)	93	28	6	34	6	10		22	2	6	15	15	6
Greater Crested Tern (<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>)	67	57	20	20	15	40	12	41	12	200	13	10	9
Lesser Crested Tern (<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>)	111	52	75	50	200	175	65	80	35	1200	100	25	5
Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>)	50	22	15	150	30	4	3	2	15	3	4	20	1
Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>)	35			20	134	46	30	20	14	3	3		
Saunders's Tern (<i>Sternula saundersi</i>)	22	9	80	6	5	20	10	10	1	100	23		
Little/Saunders's Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons/saundersi</i>)	71	200	100	200	20	40	45	20	12	233	300	100	4
Bridled Tern (<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>)	36					50	250	260	130	50	15	200	
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	94	30	375	1000	1600	214	200	30	60	188	1000	1500	
Common Tern (hirundo) (<i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i>)	0							2					
Common Tern [minussensis] (<i>Sterna hirundo minussensis</i>)	0							6					
White-cheeked Tern (<i>Sterna repressa</i>)	71	50	10	70	350	100	500	1000	30	20	50	100	4
Whiskered Tern (<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>)	120	27	14	8	6	6	2			8	33	8	22
White-winged Tern (<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>)	56	2	1	5	4	2	1			7	16	14	1
Pomarine Skua (<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>)	1									1			
Arctic Skua (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>)	12	1					2	2		3	2	2	
Pomarine/Arctic Skua (<i>Stercorarius pomarinus/parasiticus</i>)	6	2								2	1	1	1
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (Arabian) (<i>Pterocles exustus erlangeri</i>)	93	26	72	35	25	25	10	15	10	25	17	50	10
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>)	136	5	7	3	4	31	11	68	51	27	26	11	24
Rock Dove (Feral) (<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>)	191	500	200	14	300	200	13	300	300	300	300	300	300
European Turtle Dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>)	46				8	6		60	8	80	50	1	
Oriental Turtle Dove (<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>)	3									1	1		
Eurasian Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)	350	500	200	100	300	300	61	500	200	500	300	300	200
Laughing Dove (<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>)	456	300	200	300	250	250	150	300	100	100	200	200	200
Namaqua Dove (<i>Oena capensis</i>)	18			3	3	1	1	3		12	1	1	2

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Jacobin Cuckoo (<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>)	2							1					
Asian Koel (<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>)	6	1	1	1								1	
Common Cuckoo (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>)	10	1		1	1	1						1	1
Western Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i> [alba-group])	1								1				
Pallid Scops Owl (<i>Otus brucei</i>)	9	1	1	1	1			1				1	
Eurasian Scops Owl (<i>Otus scops</i>)	9			1				1		2	1		
Otus sp.	2											1	
Pharaoh Eagle-owl (<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>)	23	2	2	2		1		1		1	1	1	1
Omani Owl (<i>Strix butleri</i>)	5			1									
Little Owl (<i>Athene noctua</i>)	54	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	5	3	2	3	4
Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i> [flammeus-group])	3		1	1	1								
European Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>)	56				2	3				4	7	1	
Egyptian Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>)	36	3	2	4	6		20	30		5	3	2	2
Common Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)	6		1	4		1				1			
Pallid Swift (<i>Apus pallidus</i>)	245	900	1000	1000	160	2000	5	1			25	380	600
Little Swift (Little) (<i>Apus affinis</i> [affinis-group])	4	2	1										
Unidentified Swift (<i>Apus</i> sp.)	3				85	1				1			
Indian Roller (<i>Coracias benghalensis benghalensis/indicus</i>)	236	35	25	40	12	15	28	45	29	39	45	35	25
European Roller (<i>Coracias garrulus</i>)	123				13	8	4	1		5	5	2	
Collared Kingfisher (Arabian) (<i>Todiramphus chloris kalbaensis</i>)	22	5	6	10	1	9	128	1	1	2	2		
Common Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i> [atthis-group])	26	3	1	1	1						3	1	1
Pied Kingfisher (<i>Ceryle rudis</i>)	20										2	1	2
Green Bee-eater (Arabian) (<i>Merops orientalis cyanophrys/muscatensis</i>)	414	18	16	10	14	17	15	30	19	19	22	20	20
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (<i>Merops persicus</i>)	210	1		7	38	17	3	40	80	150	12	20	
European Bee-eater (<i>Merops apiaster</i>)	95	1	1		38	2	25	60	22	20	10		
Eurasian Hoopoe (<i>Upupa epops</i> [epops-group])	307	14	12	54	20	15	12	10	10	35	15	15	8
Eurasian Wryneck (<i>Jynx torquilla</i>)	24	1	1	1	1					1	1	1	1
Lesser Kestrel (<i>Falco naumanni</i>)	40			1	45	110	90	20	1	3		4	
Common Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> [tinnunculus-group])	260	17	5	3	9	9	3	12	5	5	5	5	6
Amur Falcon (<i>Falco amurensis</i>)	8						2	4				1	
Sooty Falcon (<i>Falco concolor</i>)	2					1		1					
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	1		1										
Eurasian Hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>)	6	1			1		1			1	1	1	

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	6	1									1	1	
Barbary Falcon (<i>Falco pelegrinoides pelegrinoides</i>)	46	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	
Alexandrine Parakeet (<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>)	30	15	1	5	6	1	6	1		20	26	15	25
Rose-ringed Parakeet (<i>Psittacula krameri</i>)	188	25	6	12	35	20	15	7	8	34	30	30	12
Red-backed Shrike (<i>Lanius collurio</i>)	34				1	2			1	1	2	1	
Daurian Shrike (<i>Lanius isabellinus isabellinus</i>)	241	5	8	9	9					1	4	8	3
Turkestan Shrike (<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>)	193	1	2	39	20	3		1	1	15	15	3	
Daurian/Turkestan Shrike (<i>Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides</i>)	81			3	5			1		10	17	4	1
Bay-backed Shrike (<i>Lanius vittatus</i>)	6				1		1	1					
Lesser Grey Shrike (<i>Lanius minor</i>)	7				1					5			
Southern Grey Shrike (<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>)	229	17	10	6	15	15	3	9	14	17	14	15	18
Steppe Grey Shrike (<i>Lanius pallidirostris</i>)	83	1	2	9	12	1				3	1	2	1
Woodchat Shrike (Eastern) (<i>Lanius senator niloticus</i>)	86		4	7	6	1	4	5	1	2			
Masked Shrike (<i>Lanius nubicus</i>)	73	1	1	1	4					1	1	1	2
Eurasian Golden Oriole (<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>)	29				1	3			1	13	2		
Black Drongo (<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>)	15				1		1	1			1	1	1
Ashy Drongo (Blackish) (<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus longicaudatus/nigrescens</i>)	11	1	1								1	1	1
House Crow (<i>Corvus splendens</i>)	284	114	60	60	61	60	80	44	31	100	120	100	80
Hooded Crow (Mesopotamian) (<i>Corvus cornix capellanus</i>)	1			1									
Brown-necked Raven (<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>)	192	60	30	4	6	8	6	4	2	12	140	9	10
Grey Hypocolius (<i>Hypocolius ampelinus</i>)	27	61	130	75	2						21	106	50
Greater Hoopoe-lark (<i>Alaemon alaudipes [alaudipes-group]</i>)	22	3	3	1		2		1		1		1	
Desert Lark (<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>)	131	24	30	20	8	8	17	10	1	12	25	10	31
Black-crowned Sparrow-lark (<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>)	42	8	10	12	10	50	1	100		40	40	1	
Oriental Skylark (<i>Alauda gulgula</i>)	10	1	1	1						2	1	4	
Eurasian Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	58	153	100	8						1		50	46
Crested Lark (<i>Galerida cristata</i>)	352	50	40	35	20	35	25	60	20	50	50	40	15
Greater Short-toed Lark (<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>)	48	8		21	76	3				40	2	15	
Bimaculated Lark (<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>)	1											1	
Calandra Lark (<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>)	1					1							
Lesser Short-toed Lark (<i>Aldadala rufescens</i>)	1												60
White-eared Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>)	386	78	52	100	100	39	50	50	46	75	40	30	60
Red-vented Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>)	151	50	36	40	16	20	5	24	16	23	30	20	20

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
White-spectacled Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>)	139	26	21	9	21	26	10	15	15	27	18	20	25
Sand Martin (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	107	6	4	6	75	1	3	2	2	100	100	6	5
Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	300	20	29	10	200	45	1	7	6	115	120	9	100
Wire-tailed Swallow (<i>Hirundo smithii</i>)	2		2										
Eurasian Crag Martin (<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>)	1											10	
Pale Crag Martin (<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>)	189	100	22	30	10	10	6	16	30	30	40	10	30
Common House Martin (<i>Delichon urbicum urbicum/meridionale</i>)	30	7	4	3	10					1	1		1
Red-rumped Swallow (<i>Cecropis daurica</i>)	24		21	40	2						1		1
Streaked Scrub Warbler (<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>)	21	4	6	3			4	4	1	6	6	2	
Willow Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>)	40			1	35	1				1			
Common Chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>)	125	35	9	45	1					1	6	15	20
Plain Leaf Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus neglectus</i>)	46	4	3	2							4	4	4
Wood Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>)	1										1		
Hume's Leaf Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus humei humei</i>)	7	1									1	1	1
Green Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>)	1									1			
Unidentified <i>Phylloscopus</i> (<i>Phylloscopus</i> sp.)	1												1
Great Reed Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>)	10	1								3	2		1
Clamorous Reed Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i> [brunnescens-group])	190	7	10	8	15	6	5	5	2	5	5	5	5
Sedge Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>)	1				1								
Blyth's Reed Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>)	2									1			
Eurasian Reed Warbler (Caspian) (<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus</i>)	39	1	5	4	10	8	7	10	1		1	1	1
Marsh Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>)	44				4	55				5			
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (<i>Iduna pallida</i>)	126	6	2	15	20	6		5	2	100	11	1	5
Upcher's Warbler (<i>Hippolais languida</i>)	46			2	14	3		1	1	1			
Common Grasshopper Warbler (<i>Locustella naevia</i>)	1				1								
Savi's Warbler (<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>)	2			1	1								
Graceful Prinia (<i>Prinia gracilis</i>)	258	18	14	14	15	12	11	8	6	9	8	8	10
Arabian Babbler (<i>Turdoides squamiceps</i>)	113	14	11	12	23	32	1	22	20	18	22	18	20
Eurasian Blackcap (<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>)	15				4	1				1		1	1
Barred Warbler (<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>)	14				5	1				1	1		
Lesser Whitethroat ssp. (<i>Sylvia curruca</i>)	53	6	8	3						1	8	7	5
Lesser Whitethroat (<i>curruca/blythi</i>) (<i>Sylvia curruca curruca/blythi</i>)	40	3	4	3	4					3	2	1	1
Lesser Whitethroat (<i>halimodendri</i>) (<i>Sylvia curruca halimodendri</i>)	123	15	8	6	1					9	18	9	18

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hume's Whitethroat (<i>Sylvia althaea</i>)	2									1			
Eastern Orphee Warbler (<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>)	13	3	1	2	1								1
Asian Desert Warbler (<i>Sylvia nana</i>)	50	1	5	3	2					2	2	7	2
Common Whitethroat (<i>Sylvia communis</i>)	40		1	1	1	2				3	4		1
Menetries's Warbler (<i>Sylvia mystacea</i>)	95	5	3	6	5	1				2	6	2	2
Bank Myna (<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>)	100	70	80	30	43	100	100	300	260	100	20	400	12
Common Myna (<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>)	398	300	200	100	200	200	300	500	939	500	200	300	400
Pied Myna (<i>Gracupica contra</i>)	35	25	16	15	20	10		4		1	15	20	
Brahminy Starling (<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>)	11	3	2	2	2	2		2					
Rose-coloured Starling (<i>Pastor roseus</i>)	15	22	15	11	20		1		3	1		4	1
Common Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	22	35	8	1				1		1	1	30	10
Ring Ouzel (Caucasian) (<i>Turdus torquatus amicornum</i>)	6	2											
Dusky Thrush (<i>Turdus eunomus</i>)	1										1		
Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	93	12	9	7								4	9
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>)	66			2	7	1		1	1	4			
Spotted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	203				5	10			1	11	7	3	
European Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>)	4		1										2
Bluethroat (<i>Luscinia svecica</i>)	2			1									
Bluethroat (Red-spotted) (<i>Luscinia svecica</i> [svecica-group])	116	5	5	4							1	5	5
Common Nightingale (<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>)	44				3	2			1	1			
White-throated Robin (<i>Irania gutturalis</i>)	9				4				1				
Collared Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>)	4										1		
Semicollared Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>)	3				1								
Red-breasted Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula parva</i>)	12	2	1	1	1					1	1	2	
Taiga Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>)	3			1	1								
Black Redstart (<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>)	1											1	
Black Redstart (Eastern) (<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> [ochruros-group])	143	6	5	5							2	6	10
Common Redstart ssp. (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>)	1				2								
Common Redstart (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>)	55			2	20	2					2		
Common Redstart (Ehrenberg's) (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamisisicus</i>)	12		1	3	2					1			
Common Rock Thrush (<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>)	57		1	3	2	1				1	1	1	
Blue Rock Thrush (<i>Monticola solitarius solitarius/longirostris</i>)	84	4	3	9	1					1	2	2	2
Whinchat (<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>)	17				3	1							

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
European Stonechat (<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>)	60	4	3	3							1	3	2
Siberian Stonechat (<i>Saxicola maurus</i>)	27	3	1	1	1					1	1	2	1
Caspian Stonechat (<i>Saxicola maurus hemprichii</i>)	5			3								1	
Pied Bush Chat (<i>Saxicola caprata</i>)	17	1	1	1								1	
Northern Wheatear (Eurasian) (<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe/libanotica</i>)	52		1	3	6	1				1	1		
Isabelline Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>)	294	7	19	14	10	2		1	1	12	12	12	12
Hooded Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe monacha</i>)	41	2	1	1		2	1	1	1	1	3	2	2
Desert Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>)	240	11	7	4	3	1			1	2	5	9	13
Black-eared Wheatear (Eastern) (<i>Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca</i>)	7			2	1						1		
Pied Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>)	138	2	7	17	9					20	17	2	
Variable Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe picata</i>)	36	3	2	1					1	3	2	3	3
White-crowned Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe leucopygia</i>)	1										1		
Hume's Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe albonigra</i>)	205	18	10	6	6	3	4	5	3	7	4	8	11
Mourning Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe lugens lugens/persica</i>)	10	2	2									1	1
Red-tailed Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe chrysopygia</i>)	141	5	6	5	1			1		2	5	12	12
Purple Sunbird (<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>)	272	30	30	26	27	21	16	15	15	25	30	18	11
House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	421	10000	10000	150	10000	10000	170	10000	12000	12000	12000	13000	12000
Pale Rockfinch (<i>Carpospiza brachydactyla</i>)	38		11	70	200						1		
Yellow-throated Sparrow (<i>Gymnoris xanthocolis</i>)	19				5	3	6	18		1			
Golden-backed Weaver (<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>)	2							1			1		
Streaked Weaver (<i>Ploceus manyar</i>)	20	2	3	1		4		8			15	3	
Indian Silverbill (<i>Euodice malabarica</i>)	146	41	30	40	30	26	8	19	100	50	35	100	80
Scaly-breasted Munia (<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>)	19	2	3	1		2	2			2		1	3
Forest Wagtail (<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>)	4	1											
Western Yellow Wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)	101	5	1	2	15	1			1	25	15	1	2
Western Yellow Wagtail (Yellow-headed) (<i>Motacilla flava lutea</i>)	7				2					3			
Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed) (<i>Motacilla flava flava/beema</i>)	7				12	1							
Western Yellow Wagtail (Black-headed) (<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>)	37	3	3	3	3	3	1	1		1		2	
Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed) (<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>)	5				5	1							
Citrine Wagtail (<i>Citrine</i>) (<i>Motacilla citreola citreola</i>)	182	7	5	2					1	20	15	14	4
Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)	36	2	2	1	3					2	2	2	
White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>)	312	150	50	30	4					1	35	75	25
Masked Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba personata</i>)	8									1	1	1	1

	Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Richard's Pipit (<i>Anthus richardi</i>)	34	6	1	3	3					3	3	4	2
Blyth's Pipit (<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>)	7	4	1								1	1	1
Tawny Pipit (<i>Anthus campestris</i>)	183	45	25	14	12					3	7	42	15
Long-billed Pipit (<i>Anthus similis</i>)	28	3	1	1	1	2		1		1	2	6	10
Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>)	23	7	4	2								2	1
Tree Pipit (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>)	83	2	16	12	30	1				2	6	3	1
Red-throated Pipit (<i>Anthus cervinus</i>)	72	6	21	15	25	1						14	4
Buff-bellied Pipit (Siberian) (<i>Anthus rubescens japonicus</i>)	12	4	3									1	2
Water Pipit (<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>)	138	100	40	31	3						1	80	50
Brambling (<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>)	2		1										
Trumpeter Finch (<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>)	10			7	10	1				4		1	7
Common Rosefinch (<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>)	1						1						
Eurasian Siskin (<i>Spinus spinus</i>)	4		4									1	
Corn Bunting (<i>Emberiza calandra</i>)	28	17	20	11	1							30	25
Cinereous Bunting (Eastern) (<i>Emberiza cineracea semenowi</i>)	7			1	3								
Ortolan Bunting (<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>)	45			1	14	2				1	1		
Striolated Bunting (<i>Emberiza striolata</i>)	172	12	25	60	5	14	11	6	2	11	6	20	4
Black-headed Bunting (<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>)	3									2			
Red-headed Bunting (<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>)	1					1							

Table 1. Total number of records received in the year and monthly maximum count per species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is based on sightings reported by both visiting and resident birders, submitted either via the UAE birding website (www.uaebirding.com) or directly to the UAE Bird Recorder, Tommy Pedersen. The authors would like to thank all who contributed records during the year (*listed below*).

LIST OF OBSERVERS

Records were received from the following observers during the year:

Abdallah Alzaabi	Huw Roberts	Peter Hellyer
Adam Hudson	Jacky Judas	PS Nistar
Ads Bowley	Jason Wild	Ramachandran Rajagopal
Ahmed Al Ali	Johan Wessels	Ravi Rajagopal
Aideen and Ian Cunningham	John C. Mittermeier	Renata Zalewska
Ajmal Hasan	John Johnston	Rex Bradshaw
Akhil Menon	John Pereira	Reza Khan
Aki Pesic Pedersen	Julie Mason	Richard Bishop
Alan Stephenson	Junaid Abbas	Richard Hornby
Alec Napier	Justin Ede	Robert Stein
Alexey Pavlushkin	Keith Nunes	Robert Tovey
Amy Worell	Khaled Al Sharhan	Robin Willbond
Andras Schmidt	Khalifa Al Dhaheri	Sahir Ismail
Andrew Bailey	Kinan Echtay	Sajeesh Aluparambil
Andrew Ward	Kohei Minami	Sanalkumar Sreevalsan
Andy Symes	Larry McGillewie	Sanzhar Abdikhalyk
Anjitha Senarath	Lars Olsson	Scott Young
Badder Al Qasimi	Laurent Esselen	Sh. Mohammed bin Nahyan
Bahar Bilgen	Leif Segelstrom	Shahid Bashir Khan
Balagopal VK	Lisa Hebbelman	Shareez Assan
Barry Jackson	Louise Smiles	Shyam Bhagra
Beverly McKay	Maarten Verhage	Simon Gorta
Biju Dominic	Maja Pesic Pedersen	Simon Peter Lloyd
Bruce Hansen	Mark Francis	Simon Tonge
Chandrashekhar Sardesai	Mark Smiles	Stefan Lindqvist
Cheryl Lumley	Markus Craig	Steffen Boehner
Clive Temple	Martin Clutterbuck	Stephen Taylor
David Gersten	Martin Hunnybun	Steve James
David Saxon	Michael Daubney	Stewart Kirkcaldy
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E.N.H.G.	Mike Pope	Svetlana V. Ashby
EAD	Mohamed Almazrouei	Tamilselvan Siva
Elvin Miller	Mostafa Hamid	Tamsin Carlisle
EPAA	Muthukumaran Balansubramanian	Thomas Brooks
Esmat E. M. Elhassan	Nick Chittenden	Tommy Pedersen
Fouad Itani	Nick P. Williams	Tony Pang
Gareth Tonen	Noah Strycker	Valery Schollaert
Gerry Dunne	Omar Alshaheen	Vaughan Ashby
Glenn Bowley	Oscar Cabalo	Vipin Sharma
Graham Langley	Oscar Campbell	Waleed Al Shohoomi
Greg Mandel	Pascal Eckhoff	Wes Carrington
Gregory Askew	Patricia Cabrera	Yousif Al Ali
Howard Heaton	Peter Arras	