

# BIRDS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

## ANNUAL REPORT – 2011



Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) – 1<sup>st</sup> record for the UAE found at Fujairah Port Beach in May 2011.  
(Photo © Mike Barth)

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**RECOMMENDED CITATION**

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## ANNUAL SUMMARY

### JANUARY

The year began as it then proceeded, in fine form, with the first record of **Cretzschmar's Bunting** from Al Ankah on 7<sup>th</sup> and, simultaneously, a small (and typically-timed) arrival of **Streak-throated Swallows** at Al Warsan Lakes and Kharran Pools. Lesser rarities included **Pied Kingfisher** at Sir Bani Yas (15<sup>th</sup>), **Eurasian Blackbird** at Dabb'ya Peninsula (17<sup>th</sup>), a **Spur-winged Plover**, present at a private site in Dubai from 2010 was recorded again and a **Common Gull** at Kalba on 28<sup>th</sup>. Over-wintering rarities from the end 2010 lingering into 2011 included **Lesser Flamingo** at Al Wathba Lake (remaining until mid January) and **Buff-bellied Pipit** and **Sociable Plover** at Dubai Pivot Fields, which remained until late February.

December 2010 had given indications that it was to be an excellent winter for Asian passerines that are erratic south of the Arabian Gulf and this continued throughout January (and February) 2011. For example, **Hume's Warblers** and, especially, **Black-throated Thrushes** were unusually widespread, **Ring Ouzels** numbered ten at Jebel Hafit (a record count), another **Eversmann's Redstart** was found in Dubai on 4<sup>th</sup> (joining the female on Jebel Hafit, which remained into February) and then, as, the culmination of this, a **Red-flanked Bluetail**, only the second record, was discovered in Mushrif Palace Gardens on 22<sup>nd</sup>; this remained until mid-March.

### FEBRUARY

February's highlight, following on the theme highlighted above, was a frustratingly elusive **Dusky Thrush** in Al Ain on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, with a **Eurasian Woodcock** found alongside on the latter date for good measure! A **Wire-tailed Swallow** appeared at Al Wathba Lake on 22<sup>nd</sup> (and remained into March) and, following on from records at the same site in spring 2010, a **Spur-winged Lapwing** was at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant from 5<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. The first stirrings of spring came with the second record of **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, at Wamm Farms on 16<sup>th</sup> and a **Caspian Stonechat** at Mirfa on 22<sup>nd</sup>, only the fourth record, but the start of what was to prove a notable influx.

### MARCH

Perhaps bird of the month was **Caspian Stonechat**, which re-wrote the record books when a total of five individuals were reported from four sites, up until 18<sup>th</sup>. Other notable records also reflected the onset of spring migration and included **White-throated Kingfisher** at Al Mamzar, Sharjah on 4<sup>th</sup> (ninth record), **Grey Phalarope** at Al Wathba Lake from 5<sup>th</sup> (fifth record), and **Great Snipe** at Al Warsan Lakes on 11<sup>th</sup> (ninth record). Two **Eurasian Scoops-Owls** and two **Semi-collared Flycatchers** were also reported, with one each at either end of the month.

### APRIL

Attention this month swung to the East coast, with Wamm Farms producing a particularly interesting series of records. This culminated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> when **Eastern Cattle Egret** (second record) and **Red-headed Bunting** (fifth record), **Amur Falcon** and **Hen Harrier** were all located. The summer seabirding season also got off to a spectacular start when trips from Kalba on 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> both located two **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** (third record), along with **Masked Booby** and **Black Tern**. Although we didn't realise it at the time, this was to prove merely a mild warm up for what was to come!

### MAY

An outrageous series of records along the East Coast was headlined by surprise of the year in the form of Arabia's first **Franklin's Gull** at Fujairah from 17<sup>th</sup>. An **Arctic Tern** (third UAE record) was there on 21<sup>st</sup> and records from boat trips offshore included two **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters** (7<sup>th</sup>; second record), a **Cory's Shearwater** (12<sup>th</sup>, first record) and **Red-footed Booby** (23<sup>rd</sup>, second record). The back-up cast included one **Flesh-footed** and 12 **Sooty Shearwaters**, **Masked Booby** and **Wilson's Petrel**. On land, migration continued strongly, especially in the first half of the month. Notable records included **Black-winged Pratincole** at Wamm Farms on 4<sup>th</sup> with **Bay-backed Shrike** there on 20<sup>th</sup>. **Two Oriental Turtle Dove** (first May records) were found including, less typically, one in Abu Dhabi, with 3 **Thrush Nightingales** there from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, **Baillon's Crake** in Dubai on 5<sup>th</sup> May and **Corncrake** in Jebel Dhanna on 6<sup>th</sup>.

### JUNE

Seabirding still proved extremely productive. Interesting records from boat trips off the East coast, mainly offshore from Kalba, continued with another **Cory's Shearwater** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** appearing again on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, **Sooty Terns** on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> (seventh and eighth records) and **Long-tailed Skua** on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A **Common Noddy** was recorded on 24<sup>th</sup>. On land, the first confirmed breeding record for **Yellow Wagtail** was made at Dubai Pivot Field and a survey of **Collared Kingfishers** at Kalba found 35-40 breeding pairs. This compares to 33-55 pairs found there during the last complete survey, carried out in 1995.

### JULY

A third **Cory's Shearwater** was seen again on an east coast boat trip on 1<sup>st</sup> along with 4 **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** and an excellent count of 40 **Wilson's Petrels**.

## AUGUST

Normal service resumed this month, with bouncing around on a boat off Kalba still far and away the easiest route to guaranteed fun. Finally answering quite a number of people's prayers, the inevitable happened and two **Swinhoe's Storm-Petrels** (first record) and one **Jouanin's Petrel** (second record) were logged on 15<sup>th</sup>. Then the same thing happened again on the 19<sup>th</sup>! **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** were still being regularly recorded, along with two **Sooty Terns**, a **Long-tailed Skua** and excellent maxima of up to 45 **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** and 19 **Brown Noddies**. Records from land included **Golden Eagle** at Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve on 16<sup>th</sup> and **Oriental Pratincole** at Wamm Farms from 24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> (fourth record).

## SEPTEMBER

East coast boat trips continued to deliver the goods as **Swinhoe's Petrels** were again logged on 2<sup>nd</sup> (two birds) and 9<sup>th</sup> with **Jouanin's Petrels** on 9<sup>th</sup> (three birds), 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (two birds). Up to 15 **Wilson's Petrels** were found per boat trip, plus a **Lesser Noddy** (4<sup>th</sup> record) and several **Brown Noddies** on 22<sup>nd</sup>. On land, an **Indian Pond Heron** in Abu Dhabi on 2<sup>nd</sup> (and again 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October) was exceptional being away from the East Coast or greater Dubai area. **Black-headed Buntings** were unusually frequent at Wamm Farms (up to 5) with a **Baillon's Crake** recorded in Al Ain on 27<sup>th</sup>. The crake, however, along with a **Caspian Plover** found in Abu Dhabi on the same day, was somewhat eclipsed by news the UAE's long-awaited first **Great Thick-Knee** at Musaffah. However, it was to take until 2012 before this was finally pinned down for local birders to catch up with.

## OCTOBER

With no let up in major surprises, October records culminated in the amazing simultaneous arrival **Asian Paradise-Flycatcher** (another Arabian first!) on Delma Island and **Ashy Drongo** in Safa Park, Dubai on 27<sup>th</sup>. Earlier there had been a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Mirfa (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>; fourth UAE record; three had arrived in Oman virtually simultaneously), **Sooty Tern** at Fujairah (12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>) and a very early **Common Gull** there on 22<sup>nd</sup> (virtually all other records are from January-March). Two **Oriental Turtle Doves** (Wamm Farms and Abu Dhabi) and a scattering of **Masked Wagtails**, **Common Rosefinches**, one or two **European** and several **Oriental Honey-Buzzards** were also recorded. A very early male **Hypocolius** was back on Lulu Island on 21<sup>st</sup>.

## NOVEMBER

Outstanding for this month were two **Pied Cuckoos** at Wamm Farms on 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> (third record; again, there was a large concurrent influx into southern Oman); a **White-throated Kingfisher** was also found there on the same day and remained all month. The autumn's second **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Mirfa on 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, a **Mediterranean Gull** was on Lulu Island on 19<sup>th</sup> (eighth record and first ever adult) and two **Alpine Swifts** were over Dubai on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Predictable arriving winter visitors included a widespread arrival of **Hypocolius** flocks (up to 30) from 5<sup>th</sup> on Dalma and Lulu Islands and at Sila'a, **Sociable Plover** in Dubai, **Spur-winged Plover** at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (third successive winter at this site) and widespread **White-fronted Geese**. Up to 10 **Lappet-faced Vultures** at were reported from Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve.

## DECEMBER

As usual, December was a busy month. Sila'a struck a purple patch on 9<sup>th</sup> when **Redwing** (8<sup>th</sup> record), **Asian Koel**, **Eurasian Woodcock** and **European Robin** were all found. A **Calandra Lark** was located at Al Qua'a on the same day, remaining to the following morning when a **Buff-bellied Pipit** was found at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi. The pipit, along with the Redwing, was to remain into 2012. Not to be outdone, Zakher Pools came good with **Eurasian Bittern** from 14<sup>th</sup> (first since 2008) and then **Marbled Duck** from 23<sup>rd</sup> into early January. **Long-eared Owls** were located Mushrif National Park on 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>; there are now several records from this site for this wonderful species. The final twist in this splendid year came from Jebel Dhanna on 27<sup>th</sup> when a **Black Redstart** showing characters of the western (sub)species *gibraltariensis* was found for the first time in the UAE.

## ANNUAL TOTALS

346 species (+ 38 deemed to be of captive origin) recorded during the year. 6 new species admitted to the UAE national list which now stands at 449 species at the end of 2011. New species:

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*)  
 Swinhoe's Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma monorhis*)  
 Great Stone-curlew (*Esacus recurvirostris*)  
 Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)  
 Asian Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)  
 Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*)

## **SPECIES ACCOUNTS**

Key: PM: passage migrant, R: resident, SV: summer visitor, UC: uncommon, V: vagrant, WV: winter visitor.

### **Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) WV**

2011 saw several records of long-staying single birds of this irregular winter visitor, with an over-wintering flock of 11 at Ain al-Fayda (AD) that remained until 5<sup>th</sup> Feb being the only record from the first half of the year. Later in the year, the first reported birds were of 42 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov, with 45 there the following day. Elsewhere, the only other sizeable groups were 6 at Sadiyaat Island (AD) and 4 at Ghantoot (AD) and Zakher Lake (AD). A bird reported from Ruwais (AD) throughout the year was presumably of feral origin.

### **Eastern Greylag Goose (*Anser anser rubrirostris*) WV**

The only records this year were of 5 over-wintering birds that remained at Zakher Lake (AD) until 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, one at Sir Bani Yas (AD) from 28<sup>th</sup> Feb to 10<sup>th</sup> Mar, and 4 at the same site on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### **Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) R**

Resident breeder recorded every month, with breeding confirmed at Ruwais (AD) and Al Wathba Lake (AD). Highest count: 25 at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

### **Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) WV**

There were only four records of this scarce winter visitor during the year. A flock of 9 were reported from the Godolphin stables in Al Quoz (DUB) on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan, whilst sightings of single birds at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) the following day may have referred to the same individual and possibly one of the Godolphin flock. Meanwhile, 3 over-wintering birds remained at Al Wathba Lake (AD) until 16<sup>th</sup> Mar.

### **Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) WV**

Mostly reported from Al Wathba Lake (AD), from where 243 were counted on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, and, to a lesser extent, from Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) where 76 was the largest count on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. Latest sighting was on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar, with returning birds first seen on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct.

### **Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) WV**

Uncommon winter visitor recorded in low numbers up to 5<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 9<sup>th</sup> Sep to the year end from most of the major wetland sites. Highest recorded number was at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD), where 6 were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar.

### **Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) WV**

Relatively scarce winter visitor reported from a number of sites until 25<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 20<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards. A maximum count of 8 was recorded from Zakher Lake (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar.

### **Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) WV**

Common in winter, with small numbers reported throughout the year, except August. Largest number recorded was 300 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) WV**

Very common during the winter months, with up to 1200 counted between 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Jan at Al Wathba Lake (AD). Smaller numbers from mid-March to the end of June; no records during July & August.

### **Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) WV**

Recorded regularly during winter until the end of March, with one bird remaining at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) until 18<sup>th</sup> Jun. The first returning bird was recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep at Al Wathba Lake (AD), from where the highest count of the year, 38, was made on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) WV**

Scarce in winter and on passage, with birds reported until 25<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 31<sup>st</sup> Aug onwards. 16 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct was the highest count.

### **Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*) WV**

Common winter visitor, with a few birds remaining until early summer, notably up to 12 moulting birds at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Jun. First returning birds were recorded at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep, where 530 were counted between 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Jan; the maximum count reported during the year.

**Marbled Duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) V**

One was at Zakher Lake (AD) from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, being seen again in January 2012. 5<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) WV**

Fairly common, especially at Zakher Lake (AD), where 50 on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec was the highest count, Ajman Water Treatment Plant (AJM) and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB). Not recorded after 19<sup>th</sup> Mar or before 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) WV**

Mostly recorded at Zakher Lake (AD) and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), with up to 17 present at the former site between 17<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. Not reported after the end of January, apart from one individual that was present at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) from 28<sup>th</sup> Feb to 11<sup>th</sup> Mar. The first returning bird was seen at Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) WV**

Almost exclusively reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), where numbers peaked at 35 on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Very few records from elsewhere. Not recorded between 5<sup>th</sup> Mar and 24<sup>th</sup> Oct.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Greater White-fronted Goose	11	11									45	6
Eastern Greylag Goose	5	5	1									4
Egyptian Goose	29	3	9	20	13	15	17	2	7	15	12	15
Ruddy Shelduck	9	3										
Common Shelduck	286	198	12							6	58	23
Gadwall	3	3	6						3	1	3	1
Eurasian Wigeon	9	8	8							1	2	5
Mallard	372	300	85	14	6	10	9		11	14	65	128
Northern Shoveler	1244	1350	200	3		6			90	410	550	500
Northern Pintail	30	41	32			1			1	21	12	2
Garganey	5		1					5	12	18	4	
Eurasian Teal	1020	885	365	1		7			10	46	128	314
Marbled Duck												3
Common Pochard	23	25	27							25	48	50
Ferruginous Duck	8	1	1							6	5	17
Tufted Duck	7	19	4							3	11	35

Table 1. Maximum daily wildfowl counts by month.

**Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) R**

Only 6 records of wild birds during the year, all from Wadi Bih (RAK), from where 40 on 8<sup>th</sup> April was the highest number counted. There were many records from Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Jebel Hafit (AD) which relate to birds of captive origin.

**Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) R**

Common and widespread resident recorded throughout the year. 144 on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb was the highest number reported.

**Sand Partridge (*Ammoperdix heyi*) R**

Uncommon resident of the wadis and mountains, mostly reported from Jebel Hafit (AD) and Green Mubazzarah (AD), where the highest count of the year, 26, was recorded on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. Breeding was confirmed at this site, with young reported on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) WV & PM**

Recorded from 18<sup>th</sup> Mar to 18<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul to the end of the year. Most regularly seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ), where up to 3 were counted on 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 3 also reported from Lulu Island (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.

**Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) R**

Commonly reported throughout the year, with up to 300 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) between 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Jun, with many young birds noted. Breeding also recorded at Zakher Lake (AD), Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD).

**Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) WV**

Winter visitor recorded up to 25<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 26<sup>th</sup> Sep, with largest concentrations at Nad Al Sheba Ponds (DUB) and Al Wathba Lake (AD) where counts of 80 and 82 were recorded on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and 26<sup>th</sup> Feb respectively.

**Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) R**

Common resident recorded throughout the year, with counts of 3031 and 2925 made on the same day, 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) and Al Wathba Lake (AD). Up to 100 nests were also noted at the latter site, with as many as 18 juvenile birds there on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*) V**

One bird, found in Nov 2010, over-wintered at Al Wathba Lake (AD) and was last reported on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Jouanin's Petrel (*Bulweria fallax*) V**

Having only been recorded once previously in the UAE, a series of deep-water pelagic trips approximately 35-50km offshore from Kalba (SHJ) reported single birds on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Aug and 2 birds on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug and 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*) V**

Single birds were seen during deep-water pelagics off Fujairah (FUJ) and Kalba (SHJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun and 1<sup>st</sup> Jul. Examination of photographs suggests that at least 2 different individuals were involved, representing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> records for the UAE. The records are also the first documented examples of this subspecies in eastern Arabia, as most previous sightings in the region are presumed to refer to Scopoli's Shearwater *C.diomedea diomedea*.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*) V**

Following on from the second UAE record in 2010, there were 12 records of this species during deepwater pelagic trips out of Kalba (SHJ) between the dates of 15<sup>th</sup> Apr and 26<sup>th</sup> Aug, reflecting the intensity of coverage of pelagic trips during the year. Although counts were mainly in low single figures, records of at least 35 on 28<sup>th</sup> Jun and 21 on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug were exceptional.

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) V**

Two birds were seen during Kalba (SHJ) deepwater pelagics on 7<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, with a single bird on 28<sup>th</sup> June. These represent the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> records for the UAE.

**Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) PM**

Seen regularly off the east coast between Fujairah (FUJ) and Kalba (SHJ) from 15<sup>th</sup> Apr to 25<sup>th</sup> May, with a record count of 12 during a pelagic trip on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**Persian Shearwater (*Puffinus persicus*) R**

Regularly recorded from 6<sup>th</sup> Apr to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec on the east coast, with counts in excess of 1000 birds between April and early July, peaking at an estimated 3000 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr.

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

Seen during pelagics off the east coast from 20<sup>th</sup> May to 7<sup>th</sup> Oct, with numbers increasing from the end of June, culminating in the highest count of 60 birds on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Swinhoe's Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma monorhis*) V**

Having never been previously seen in UAE waters, an amazing sequence of deepwater pelagics offshore from Kalba (SHJ) between 12<sup>th</sup> Aug and 9<sup>th</sup> Sep recorded this species 5 times in successive weeks. Two birds were seen on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Aug, 5 on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug, 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep and a single bird on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Most were in an area roughly 35-40km from land, although one bird on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug was as close as 11km offshore.

**White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) PM**

Four records during autumn and early winter. One was at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep, with 6 there on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. Two birds seen flying over the road near Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct were presumably the same as those found at the fields on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. An individual found at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 6<sup>th</sup> Sep raised suspicions over its origins by staying until to 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) UC**

An immature was seen during a pelagic out of Kalba (SHJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> May, with another bird in the same area on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) V**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> record for the UAE was found during a fishing trip offshore from Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and photographed with an i-Phone!

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

Common during the winter, being regularly reported until 7<sup>th</sup> May and after 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) and the nearby Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) were the main sites, where numbers were often in the hundreds, reaching 428 at the former site on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Socotra Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*) R**

Regularly recorded throughout the year from both east and west coasts, although huge numbers only reported from the west coast, with counts of 50,000 at Al Jazirah Khor (RAK) on 8<sup>th</sup> Jun and 45,000 at Umm al-Qaiwain breakwater (UAQ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. These are exceptional numbers when considered against an estimated world population of 330-500,000 birds. [IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2.]

**Eurasian Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) V**

A bird at Zakher Lake (AD) from 14<sup>th</sup> Dec until the new year was often seen out in the open near the inflow.

**Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) UC**

Recorded from 6 sites during the year, between 20<sup>th</sup> Apr to 30<sup>th</sup> Sep and from 15<sup>th</sup> Dec onwards. A pair was at Zakher Lake (AD) during the summer, with sightings from 6<sup>th</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> Sep, usually in the same area, from which a third unseen, suspected young, bird was heard calling. This strongly suggests successful breeding.

**Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) R & WV**

Recorded throughout the year, with numbers increasing during the winter months, peaking at 184 birds at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan; a day when a total of 349 birds was reported from 10 sites.

**Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) R & PM**

Reported in low numbers throughout the year, most regularly at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), where up to 20 were noted on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr and 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. Other notable counts came from Wamm Farms (FUJ) where 18 were reported on 17<sup>th</sup> Sep and 15 on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) R & WV**

Present all year, with numbers increasing markedly between November and February. Highest numbers recorded at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), with highs of 60 on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov and 21 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan respectively.

**Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) R**

Scarce, but present year-round, with a maximum of 12 at Kharran Water Treatment Plant (RAK) on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Indian Reef Heron (*Egretta gularis schistacea*) R**

Recorded all year, mainly from coastal sites, although Zakher Lake (AD) proved an exception, with several being recorded at this inland site during the year, peaking at 15 on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. Elsewhere, a maximum of 96 was counted at Umm Amim Island (AD) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.

**Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) R**

Present all year, with large flocks in excess of 100 birds recorded at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant (DUB), with 216 at the latter site on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct being the highest number reported.

**Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*) V**

Two birds were reported from Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr, with one there on 24<sup>th</sup> Jun.

**Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) R**

Scarce resident, most commonly reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), where a peak of 25 was counted on 17<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) WV**

Scarce winter visitor, recorded up to 13<sup>th</sup> May and from 17<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards, with 22 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) being the highest count by some margin. An adult in breeding plumage was at Wamm Farms (FUJ) from 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Striated Heron (*Butorides striata [atricapilla-group]*) R**

Widespread and regularly reported in small numbers, with 6 on Sir Bani Yas on 30<sup>th</sup> Jun the highest single count. Singles at Zakher Lake (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr and 24<sup>th</sup> Sep were the only inland records and presumably passage birds.

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

Recorded year-round, with numbers increasing in September, reaching a maximum of 100 on 9<sup>th</sup> Sep at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), from where the majority of sightings were reported.

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

Recorded every month except July, with numbers increasing between November to February, reaching a high of 20 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

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

Recorded up to 17<sup>th</sup> Jun and from 7<sup>th</sup> Oct, mainly at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), from where a high of 83 was reported on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. Inland, a single bird was at Zakher Lake (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr.

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

Reported throughout the year, with several breeding records on offshore Abu Dhabi islands. Highest counts were 10 at Futaisi Island (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct and 9 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) V**

A juvenile was seen and photographed at Safa Park (DUB) from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, with another immature at Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Regularly recorded during winter and spring passage, with birds seen up to 10<sup>th</sup> June and from 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. Most commonly seen at known wintering sites including the area around Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) where 3 were often seen and at Mushrif National Park (DUB) where 5 were counted on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

There were 13 records of unspecified honey buzzards; two singles in Dubai (DUB) on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Mar and 11 records between 9<sup>th</sup> Sep and 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Fairly scarce, with most records in the Dubai area, especially at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) where as many as 3 birds were seen on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan and 12<sup>th</sup> Mar respectively. Latest spring sightings on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May at Jebel Dhanna (AD) and Wamm Farms (FUJ) were presumably birds on passage, as were 2 at Kharran Water Treatment Plant (RAK) on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug.

**Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) R**

Seen every month, except July, in the Al Ain (AD) area, with a high count of 65 on 27<sup>th</sup> Aug at Jebel Hafit (AD).

**Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*) UC**

A good year for this species, with up to 10 birds attracted to a camel carcass at the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DUB) between 10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. Elsewhere, single birds were reported flying over the Hili district in Al Ain (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> May and the Dubai – Al Ain road (DUB) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

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

Only 6 records during the year, all relating to single birds, including individuals at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan and 7<sup>th</sup> May and at Sharjah Ruler's Palace (SHJ) on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar. Sightings at Ain al-Fayda (AD), Zakher Lake (AD) and Green Mubazzarah (AD) between 26<sup>th</sup> Nov and 21<sup>st</sup> Dec may possibly all refer to the same wintering bird.

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

Widely reported until 7<sup>th</sup> May and from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep, with a maximum count of 25 in the winter roost at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) WV**

A long-staying female seen at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) between 27<sup>th</sup> Oct and 7<sup>th</sup> Dec was the only record.

**Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) WV & PM**

Widely recorded up to 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and from 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep, with a maximum count of 8 at Sila'a (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) PM**

Mostly recorded during autumn passage, with birds seen from 31<sup>st</sup> Aug onwards. A bird seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr was the only bird seen in the first half of the month. Two males overwintered at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) from 26<sup>th</sup> Oct to the year end.

**Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) R**

There were 36 records of this species during the year, all from the Dubai (DUB) area, especially Safa Park, from where 3 were seen on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) WV**

Regularly seen during winter and on passage up to 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. Most records were of long-staying birds, e.g. at Sila'a (AD) from 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan to 19<sup>th</sup> Apr, Wamm Farms (FUJ) from 14<sup>th</sup> Oct and Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) from 7<sup>th</sup> Nov onwards. 4 seen at Sila'a on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov was the highest count, with at least one bird remaining in the area until the year end.

**Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo [vulpinus-group]*) V**

One was seen at Wamm Farms on 7<sup>th</sup> May, with another there on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

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

Only 12 records during the year, mostly single birds, although 2 were seen on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB). Other wintering birds were seen between 8<sup>th</sup> Oct and 26<sup>th</sup> Dec at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), Dubai Pivot Fields (again), Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD), Al Ain (AD) and Nahel (AD). Summer sightings were at Jebel Dhanna on 14<sup>th</sup> May, Jebel Hafit (AD) on 17<sup>th</sup> Jun and Al Ruwayyah (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Aug. The Jebel Dhanna bird was a fresh juvenile, suggesting probable local breeding.

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

Commonly recorded during winter, with birds seen up to 30<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 20<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards. There were regular sightings of multiple birds at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), peaking at 14 attracted to a carcass on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

**Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) WV**

A total of 16 sightings during the year, 5 of which related to a long-staying immature at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) from 14<sup>th</sup> Jan to 15<sup>th</sup> Mar. Two different birds were at Zakher Lake (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, with one or both seen around Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) several times until 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Other records involved singles at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar, Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr, Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) from 29<sup>th</sup> Nov to 5<sup>th</sup> Dec and Hili, Al Ain (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) WV**

A total of 7 birds reported. Up to 2 were at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) from 14<sup>th</sup> Jan to 28<sup>th</sup> Mar, with 3 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr. Singles were at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and over the Dubai – Al Ain road (DUB) on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) V**

A sub-adult was seen in the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DUB) on 16<sup>th</sup> Aug, whilst single birds were reported from Remah Reserve (AD) on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec and Liwa Oasis-Mezaira'a (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) R & WV**

A total of 34 records during the year; but none 19<sup>th</sup> May until 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. Many records relate to birds seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ) between 19<sup>th</sup> Aug and 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, where 4 birds, including an adult, were seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep.

**Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*) WV**

Single birds seen occasionally during the winter months up to 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and from 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. A total of 13 records, probably relating to 9 individuals, including 2 individuals that frequented Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) between 29<sup>th</sup> Oct and 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.

***Aquila* sp. (*Aquila* sp.)**

An unidentified *Aquila* eagle was reported from Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) PM**

An excellent year for this species, with birds recorded from 2<sup>nd</sup> April until 18<sup>th</sup> Nov, mostly at Wamm Farms (FUJ), where several remained throughout this period, their numbers increasing during late spring and finally reaching a maximum of 96 on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

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

Recorded year-round from many sites, with up to 10 noted at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct and Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct and 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*) V**

A male at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr was the 12<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) UC**

An adult male was at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, whilst another male was seen flying through Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) PM**

There were 7 birds reported in spring between 6<sup>th</sup> Apr and 1<sup>st</sup> May and 9 in the autumn from 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep to 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) WV**

Four birds were reported between 6<sup>th</sup> Jan and 13<sup>th</sup> Mar, with 5 the following winter from 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*) R**

Reported erratically throughout the year, mainly from Green Mubazzarah (AD), where 2 adults and 2 juveniles were seen on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Corncrake (*Crex crex*) PM**

Two records. One was on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> May, with another at Jebel Dhanna (AD) the following day.

**Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) WV**

One was photographed on the mudflats at Khor Zawra (AJM) on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) WV**

One bird was present at Sharjah University City (SHJ) on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, approximately 100m from the spot favoured by presumably the same bird in 2010.

**Baillon's Crake (*Porzana pusilla*) V**

Only 3 records this year. One was at Dubai Internet City (DUB) from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May, whilst one was at Wadi Al Ain (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Sep, with a different bird at this site on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*) WV & PM**

Eight birds reported between 24<sup>th</sup> Sep and 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. Of these, a few stayed several days, including birds at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) where 2 were seen on 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Sep, with one remaining until 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, and at Wadi Al Ain (AD) on from 27<sup>th</sup> Sep until 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, with 2 there on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) RB**

Up to 4 birds were regularly reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB).

**Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio [poliocephalus-group]*) R**

One was seen at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) R & WV**

Common and widespread all year, with the highest counts being 100 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Jun, including many young of varying ages.

**Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) R & WV**

Reported year-round, mostly at Zakher Lake (AD), Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), with the former site hosting the largest flock, 63, on the 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Breeding also confirmed at this site, with several juveniles noted during June and July.

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

Recorded from 28<sup>th</sup> Feb to 30<sup>th</sup> Jun and from 11<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards. Highest count of 3 birds at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, with 2 at Dabb'iyah Peninsula on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar.

**Great Stone-curlew (*Esacus recurvirostris*) V**

The first record for the UAE was found and photographed at Bu al Siaief Marine Protected Area (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) WV**

Four records during the year. Up to 3 birds remained at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, relocating to Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, having over-wintered from 2010. A bird seen at Mafrag Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan was presumably the same bird later found at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, whilst 4 birds were at Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. At the end of the year, Dubai Pivot Fields again hosted a bird from 9<sup>th</sup> Nov until at 20<sup>th</sup> Dec when it was joined by a further, exceptional 28 birds; at least 18 remained on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

**Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*) V**

There were 3 intriguing records during the year. The long-staying bird at the Godolphin stables in Al Quoz (DUB) was last reported on 5<sup>th</sup> May, having been present since 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010! Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) held a bird from 5<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Feb and again from 4<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, prompting speculation that the records referred to the same bird, and possibly a returning individual from 2010.

**Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) R**

Widely and regularly recorded common resident, with 380 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan the highest reported number.

**Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) WV**

Only recorded at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), with up to 2 birds remaining there until 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, having arrived the previous November. At the other end of the year, one arrived on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov and was joined by a second bird on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, both remaining until into 2012.

**White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*) R**

This highly localised breeding resident was mainly recorded at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), where numbers reached 60 birds on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), Al Wathba Lake (AD) & Mafrag Water Treatment Plant (AD). A count of 26 at the latter site on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep was the highest ever recorded outside of Dubai.

**Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) WV & PM**

Recorded throughout the year with smaller numbers during summer. Highest count was 200 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Eurasian Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) WV**

Only 4 records of this uncommon winter visitor. Singles were at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 1<sup>st</sup> to at least 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, whilst 2 were at Ghantoot (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

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

Mainly reported in low numbers until 17<sup>th</sup> May and from 18<sup>th</sup> Aug. Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), with 95 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and 35 on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, and Ghantoot (AD), with 18 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, were the only sites to register double-figure counts.

**Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus [atrifrons-group]*) WV & PM**

Recorded year-round, with numbers increasing during passage and winter months. 1500 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov and 900 at Futaisi Island (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct were the highest counts reported.

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

Mostly reported during winter and on passage, with low numbers from mid-March to early September, increasing to a maximum of 500 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus*) V**

Two records: one was at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) from 28<sup>th</sup> Sep until 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, whilst another was at Wamm Farms (FUJ) from 30<sup>th</sup> Sep to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.

**Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) R & WV**

Recorded throughout the year, with a highest count of 500 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 10<sup>th</sup> Sep and Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, 4<sup>th</sup> Mar and 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. Breeding noted during April to June at Zakher Lake (AD), Nad al-Sheba Ponds (DUB) and Sir Bani Yas (AD).

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

Reported most months, except July and August, with numbers reaching 400 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan at Khor al-Beida (UAQ).

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

Seen throughout the year, with numbers increasing during the summer and on passage. Breeding reported between April and June from Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DUB), Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) and Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD). The highest number reported was 75 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jun.

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

Recorded most months, except July, with very low numbers during May and June. Mostly seen at Khor al-Beida (UAQ), where numbers reached 450 on 21<sup>st</sup> Sep. There were a few records from the east coast, with 4 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 25<sup>th</sup> May and 1 there on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, and 2 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 10<sup>th</sup> Jun.

**Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) WV & PM**

Recorded virtually all year, although scarce from late March to late September and absent in July. The highest recorded number was 200 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, whilst a count of 27 at Eastern Lagoon (AD) on 25<sup>th</sup> Jun was exceptional for the time of year.

**Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) R**

Common and widespread all year, with 575 at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Jan the highest reported count. Breeding confirmed from several sites.

**Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) WV & R**

Recorded up to 1<sup>st</sup> Jun and from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep, mainly at Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), where high counts of 155 on 13<sup>th</sup> Mar and 41 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan respectively were reported. Breeding attempted at Al Wathba, but no juveniles noted.

**Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) WV & PM**

Recorded throughout the year, although virtually absent during the summer, with a single bird at Wamm Farms (FUJ) being the only record in August. Highest count: 100 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) WV & PM**

Recorded every month except June, with numbers much reduced between early May and September. A count of 20 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Sep was the highest number reported.

**Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) WV & PM**

Reported in low numbers throughout the year, with double figure counts logged at only 3 sites: Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD), Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) and the adjacent Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant (DUB); the latter having high counts of 35 and 32 on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov and 24<sup>th</sup> Oct respectively.

**Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) WV & PM**

Rather scarce this year, with perhaps a total of only 17 recorded all year. Seen up to 4<sup>th</sup> May and from 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, with the largest count being 6 at Al Wathba Lake (AD) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) WV & PM**

Seen up to 11<sup>th</sup> May and from 31<sup>st</sup> July onwards, with the highest number reported being 150 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 21<sup>st</sup> Sep.

**Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) WV & PM**

Recorded every month, with numbers greatest January to March and December, peaking at 35 on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb at Al Wathba Lake (AD), from where the species was most reliably to be found.

**Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) WV & PM**

Seen every month, except June, with numbers increasing during winter and passage months. Maximum number reported was 50 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) WV & PM**

Recorded year-round, with numbers increasing during the winter, reaching 1000 birds at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep and 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) WV & PM**

Mainly seen on passage during the months of March, September and October, with lesser numbers during the rest of the year. A peak spring count of 50 was recorded on 19<sup>th</sup> Mar at Ram Han Island (AD), with 100 logged in the autumn on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep at Khor al-Beida (UAQ).

**Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) WV & PM**

Present in low numbers, increasing during passage in March and September. Highs of 100 reported from Ram Han Island (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Mar and Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Highest counts reported during winter at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), with 110 on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and 400 on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Recorded in much lower numbers from many sites during the year, with counts below 30 between March and late October.

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

Virtually absent from mid-April to September, with numbers peaking between October to March. Highest count was 450 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) WV & PM**

Widely reported during the year, with low numbers during the summer months. Highest count was 100 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) WV & PM**

Only 14 records during the year, all but one from Khor al-Beida (UAQ), where 88 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Dec was the highest number counted. Away from this site, 21 were at Mirfa (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) WV & PM**

Relatively uncommon, although recorded every month, with numbers lowest mid-March to the end of July. 100 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 16<sup>th</sup> Sep was the highest recorded number.

**Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) WV & PM**

Extremely common and numerous during winter and on passage, with numbers dropping significantly from mid-May to September. Large concentrations noted at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD), Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), the latter reaching 4000 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Absent from mid-May to early August, with the latest spring record on 14<sup>th</sup> May and first returning bird on 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. Highest count was 160 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) V**

An adult, at Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, was the 4<sup>th</sup> recorded in the UAE. Incredibly, a juvenile was found at the same site 5 weeks later, staying from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) WV & PM**

Common and numerous at coastal sites from October to March, with much small numbers recorded outside that period; absent 18<sup>th</sup> Jun to 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. Highest number: 2000 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) WV & PM**

Recorded virtually all year, though sightings between mid-May and mid-August limited to a single bird at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The largest number reported was 800 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

Only 9 records of this winter visitor during the year. 22 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan was one of only two records above single figures, the other being 3 at Khor Zawra (AJM) on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. Last recorded on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, with returning birds seen from 21<sup>st</sup> Aug. This species has historically regularly wintered, sometimes in very big numbers, at Ras al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary and presumably still does so; access issues probably means it is rarely reported there nowadays.

**Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) WV & PM**

Seen year-round, though numbers reduced June to August, with a high of 300 recorded at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) WV**

There were 7 records of this scarce winter visitor, with long-staying individuals at Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD) from 17<sup>th</sup> Sep to 29<sup>th</sup> Oct and at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD), where the over-wintering bird from 2010 remained until 5<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*) V**

One was seen flying into the reedbed at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) in the company of 3 Common Snipe on 11<sup>th</sup> Mar. The 11<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) WV & PM**

Widely recorded up to 27<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 18<sup>th</sup> Aug onwards, with a maximum of 100 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Only recorded from 14<sup>th</sup> Oct until the year end, with most sightings coming from Wamm Farms (FUJ), where 3 were seen on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. One bird was regularly seen and photographed at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) from 7<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) V**

There were 2 records during the year. One was photographed at Hili Oasis, Al Ain (AD) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb whilst another was at Sila'a on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. The latter bird, presumably injured or sick, was found in the orchard and allowed approach to within 1-2 metres.

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

Recorded most months except July and October, mainly at Al Wathba Lake (AD) and off the east coast, from where the highest count of 240 was recorded during a pelagic out of Kalba (SHJ) on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) V**

The 5<sup>th</sup> record for the UAE was found at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar and remained until 9<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*) R**

Uncommon resident recorded on only 3 dates between Jan-Apr, with no records May to July. Regularly seen from 11<sup>th</sup> Aug onwards, with long-staying birds including up to 14 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), 2 at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) and up to 20 at Ghantoot (AD); the latter, on 16<sup>th</sup> Sep, was the highest count reported.

**Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) PM**

Regularly reported from 20<sup>th</sup> Mar until 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, with 8 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) being the highest number recorded.

**Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) V**

The 4<sup>th</sup> UAE record of this species was present at Wamm Farms (FUJ) from 24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*) V**

There were 3 records during the year of this scarce migrant, all of them at Wamm Farms (FUJ). Single birds were present from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May and from 30<sup>th</sup> Sep to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, whilst a flock of 11 were observed on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug.

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

Mainly recorded during the winter months, with a small number of birds reported during summer. Maximum counts of 3000 birds recorded at Dalma Island (AD) on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb and at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

Very common during winter, with only a few staying through the summer. Many huge flocks reported, often in excess of 1000 birds, with an estimated 5000 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan being the largest.

**Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) V**

The 1<sup>st</sup> record of this American vagrant was found on 17<sup>th</sup> May at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) and remained until the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*) V**

One found on Lulu Island (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov was the 8<sup>th</sup> UAE record and the first record of an adult.

**Sooty Gull (*Ichthyaetus hemprichii*) PM**

Recorded every month with numbers increasing significantly late January to May and during late July. Largest flocks recorded mainly on the east coast, where counts of 3000 were logged at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr and Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 20<sup>th</sup> May. In the west, a breeding colony of 2400 birds was reported from Qarnein Island (AD).

**Great Black-headed Gull (*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*) WV**

Mainly recorded from the west coast, with sightings up to 26<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 19<sup>th</sup> Nov onwards. An impressive count of 350 on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan from Daiynah Island (AD) was the highest by far, with birds noted stealing eggs from Socotra Cormorant nests.

**Common Gull (*Larus canus*) WV**

There were 2 records during the year. A 1<sup>st</sup> winter was seen at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan and 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, with a 1<sup>st</sup> summer bird being found later in the year at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct and 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Steppe/Caspian/Heuglin's Gull (*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, the highest single count reported being 2000 at Judayrah (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*) WV**

Only 12 records, with sightings up to 9<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 19<sup>th</sup> Aug onwards. 10 at Ram Han Island (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Mar and 3 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec were the only multiple sightings.

**Heuglin's Gull (*Larus fuscus heuglini*) WV**

Recorded up to 20<sup>th</sup> May and from 8<sup>th</sup> Oct, with several large flocks reported from Khor Kalba (SHJ) and Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) between 4<sup>th</sup> Feb and 12<sup>th</sup> Mar when up to 100 joined the large roosts of gulls attracted to fish-drying areas.

**Steppe Gull (*Larus fuscus barabensis*) WV**

Present during the winter and passage months, often in large numbers. Seen up to 27<sup>th</sup> May and from 12<sup>th</sup> Aug, with numbers reaching 2000 on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb at Khor Kalba (SHJ).

**Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) SV**

Recorded 13 times between 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, mostly during pelagic trips from Kalba (SHJ) or Fujairah (FUJ). A count of 19 on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug was the largest number ever recorded.

**Lesser Noddy (*Anous tenuirostris*) V**

The 4<sup>th</sup> record for the UAE was photographed at sea off Kalba (SHJ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep.

**Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) V**

A good year for this species, with 7 records between 10<sup>th</sup> Jun and 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, all offshore from the Kalba (SHJ) – Fujairah (FUJ) area. An incredible 7 were recorded during a pelagic on 28<sup>th</sup> Jun.

**Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) SV & PM**

Recorded from 1<sup>st</sup> Apr to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, with numbers peaking in June, with up to 1500 recorded during a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun. Away from the east coast, 200 off Abu Dhabi on 4<sup>th</sup> Jun was the highest count.

**Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) PM**

Seen from 6<sup>th</sup> Apr to 31<sup>st</sup> Jul and from 16<sup>th</sup> Sep to 7<sup>th</sup> Oct, with numbers reaching 200 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 1<sup>st</sup> May. A single bird at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> May was the only record away from the east coast.

**Saunders's Tern (*Sternula saundersi*) R**

Recorded year-round, mainly from Abu Dhabi coastal sites, with a maximum of 181 counted at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep. Away from Abu Dhabi emirate, 23 at Al Jazirah Khor (Khor Muzahmi) (RAK) on 8<sup>th</sup> Jun, was the highest recorded.

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

Records of unspecified *Sternula* terns were received throughout the year with up to 330 being counted at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 17<sup>th</sup> May. 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, eg ambiguous forehead pattern or inconsistent combinations of black outer primaries and rump colour. Identification of juveniles and winter birds is generally impossible.

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

Reported every month, except July and August, on the west coast, with numbers reaching 110 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. Not recorded on the east coast.

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

Regularly reported during the year from west coast sites; absent July and August. Highest count was 60 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) V**

An immature was reported several times from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) between 6<sup>th</sup> Apr and 1<sup>st</sup> May. During this period, an adult was photographed offshore from Fujairah during a pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr. The 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> UAE records.

**White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) PM**

Regularly seen throughout the year at Al Wathba Lake (AD) and nearby Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD), where numbers at the former reached 25 on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep. Away from these sites, 3 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct was the best count reported. A 1<sup>st</sup> summer found well offshore during a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 17<sup>th</sup> Jun was an exceptional observation. Not recorded during July.

**Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) WV & PM**

Seen every month except July, with peak numbers in autumn, when a maximum of 40 was noted at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 9<sup>th</sup> Sep. Al Wathba Lake (AD) also saw good numbers of early/late migrants, with 20 present on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan and 32 on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) WV & PM**

Recorded from 16<sup>th</sup> Feb until 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, with almost all records coming from the east coast, where up to 3000 were reported at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 1<sup>st</sup> May. There were only 6 reports in the west, with 40 at Dalma Island (AD) the largest, whilst a single bird at Zakher Lake (AD) on 20<sup>th</sup> Jun was a remarkable find.

**Eastern Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo minussensis*)**

There were only 9 records of this presumably under-reported subspecies, all between the dates of 6<sup>th</sup> Apr to 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. Highest count: 75 at Fujairah Port Beach on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr.

**Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) V**

Single adults found at Al Ghurfa (FUJ) on 21<sup>st</sup> May and at sea during a Khor Kalba (SHJ) deepwater pelagic on 28<sup>th</sup> Jun constituted the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> UAE records.

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

Recorded throughout the year, with numbers peaking at 250 during the passage months of April and September to October on the east coast. In the west, large numbers counted on Sir Bani Yas (AD) with 1291 recorded on 31<sup>st</sup> Jul, 977 on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep and 944 on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Swift Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*) WV & PM**

Seen in low numbers from both east and west coasts throughout the year, with only 3 records in excess of 30 birds: 150 at Dalma Island (AD) on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep, 70 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Sep and 40 at Khor Kalba harbour (FUJ) on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) PM**

Mainly recorded on the east coast, with numbers increasing February to May, reaching a maximum of 100 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr. In the west, only 5 records, with 4 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar the highest.

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

Regularly recorded during the year, with 250 at Dalma Island (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov the highest recorded count.

**Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) WV & PM**

11 records of mostly single birds, with dates 5<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, 14<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> Jul, and 4<sup>th</sup> Nov; the latter date being an exceptional west coast record from Jebel Dhanna (AD). Two birds were recorded during Kalba (SHJ) pelagics on 25<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> Jun.

**Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) PM**

Recorded most months, although no reports during January or March. The maximum count was 8 seen during east coast pelagics on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr and 1<sup>st</sup> Jul. There were 3 west coast records, with 1 bird from the Dalma Island (AD) ferry on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb and 2 from there on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, plus 1 seen from Umm al-Qaiwain breakwater (UAQ) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

**Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) UC**

There were 2 accepted records during the year, both from east coast pelagics. A 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar-year was seen and photographed on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, whilst a different bird of a similar age was also photographed on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*) R**

Fairly common resident recorded year-round, with a several counts in excess of 100 birds, the largest of which was 400 at the Bab al-Shams desert (DUB) on 16<sup>th</sup> Sep. The only record of breeding was from Sir Bani Yas (AD), when a female was found with 3 small chicks on 5<sup>th</sup> Jul.

**Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (*Pterocles lichtensteinii*) R**

Only 8 records during the year, mostly in low numbers, with an exceptional 150 reported from Wadi Helo (FUJ) on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) R**

Common and widespread resident. Counts of 400 - 500 were regularly reported from Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) during the year.

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

Recorded from 29<sup>th</sup> Mar to 13<sup>th</sup> May and from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep to 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. Highest numbers reported from Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Sep and Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, with 30 counted at both sites.

**Oriental Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*) PM**

Single birds were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, with possibly the same bird on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. Lulu Island (AD) held one on 13<sup>th</sup> May and another on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.

**Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) R**

Abundant and widespread. Maximum count: 1300 at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) R**

Common and widespread resident, with the highest count being 450 on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb at Wamm Farms (FUJ).

**Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*) R**

Not recorded June or July, presumably due to reduced observer coverage. Highest count: 76 at Sila'a (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) R**

Regularly recorded on Abu Dhabi island (AD) throughout the year, with a maximum count of 21 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. A record of 2 birds in the Bab al Shams desert on 20<sup>th</sup> Mar was especially notable.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) R**

Widely reported through the year, with a high count of 70 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Pied Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) V**

Two birds were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, with one remaining on 6<sup>th</sup>. The 3<sup>rd</sup> UAE record.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*) V**

A 1<sup>st</sup> summer bird seen and photographed at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb was the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for the UAE.

**Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) PM**

There were 9 records from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April, with a further 3 records between 24<sup>th</sup> Aug to 9<sup>th</sup> Nov; all were of single birds, with three of the spring birds being hepatic-phase females.

**Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*) V**

A typically elusive, female-coloured individual was in the harbour marsh plantation at Sila'a (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) R**

There were 11 records of single birds throughout the year, all Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec. The only summer record was of a recently dead bird at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Jun.

**Pallid Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*) R**

Seen up to 26<sup>th</sup> Mar and after 12<sup>th</sup> Sep at only 4 sites. The pair found at Al Jimi Oasis (AD) in 2010 remained until at least 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, whilst birds continued to be seen at Mushrif National Park (DUB) on various dates. One was found at a daytime roost in Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Sep, whilst another was at Ain al-Fayda (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) PM**

Seven birds were reported; 5 in spring and 2 later in the year. Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) had single birds on 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr and 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, whilst Sir Bani Yas (AD) had one on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and another on 8<sup>th</sup> Sep. The only other records were of singles at Khalidiyah (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar and Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr.

***Otus sp. (Otus sp.)***

There was a single report of an unidentified *Otus* owl in Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Pharaoh Eagle-owl (*Bubo ascalaphus*) R**

Recorded 21 times throughout the year at a total of 9 sites, with 8 records of up to 2 birds from Qarn Nazwa (DUB) and single birds reported on 5 dates at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD). 2 birds at Bida Bin Saud (AD) on 28<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2 in the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DUB) on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov and 3 at Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec were the only other records of more than one bird.

**Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) R**

Reported from five sites throughout the year, with regular sightings from Masafi Wadi (FUJ) and Ajban (AD); the latter site regularly holding between 2 – 5 birds. Other sightings were of 2 in the Bab al-Shams desert (DUB) on 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, Rumaitha desert (DUB) on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar, and Jebel Yanas (RAK) on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) V**

One bird was found and photographed in Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, and relocated with a second bird found in the same area on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) WV**

Up to 2 birds remained on Dabb'iya Peninsula (AD) from 2010, being seen from 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (2010) to 8<sup>th</sup> Mar. One was also at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) PM**

Recorded on passage from 4<sup>th</sup> Apr to 20<sup>th</sup> May, and from 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep to 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. In spring, 6 on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr was the highest count during that period, whilst large counts in autumn included 6 on Lulu Island (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> Sep and 8 in the apparently regular late-autumn roost at Emirates Palace (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, with one bird staying until 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

**Egyptian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*) WV**

Mainly seen at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) up to 5<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep onwards, with a maximum of 3 noted on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. Other birds were seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb (2 birds) and 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, Dubai Airport (DUB) on 1<sup>st</sup> Mar and Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*) UC**

There were two records of this uncommon migrant. Two birds were seen over the Samaya Hotel in Deira (DUB) on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov, whilst a single bird flew over Emirates Road near Arabian Ranches (DUB) on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Common Swift (*Apus apus*) PM**

Three single birds were seen; all during spring. One was at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar, with others seen at Sila'a on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar and at Al Jimi Oasis (AD) on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*) WV & PM**

Widely and regularly recorded up to 25<sup>th</sup> May, with returning birds from 19<sup>th</sup> Aug onwards. Major counts included an estimated 2000 in the pre-roost gatherings at Dubai Museum (DUB) on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Nov, and 1000 at Kharran Water Treatment Plant (RAK) on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) WV**

An impressive 16 were recorded at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, with other sightings from many wetland sites up to 6<sup>th</sup> May and from 13<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards.

**White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) V**

One was found at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar and proved very elusive, as did another at Wamm Farms (FUJ) which visited the water troughs in the dairy farm between 5<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Nov and appeared to spend most of its time in an area just over the Oman border fence.

**Arabian Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris kalbaensis*) R**

Recorded monthly at Khor Kalba (SHJ). Visits to survey the population logged counts of up to 42 birds on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, with 28 on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan and 37 on 21<sup>st</sup> May. In all, the breeding population was estimated to be 35-40 pairs.

**Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) V**

A bird was found on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan on Sir Bani Yas (AD), with presumably the same bird seen on 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) R**

Widely recorded throughout the year, with 13 at Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec the highest count logged. A bird found at Sila'a (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb was a notable record for being so far west.

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

Recorded from 11<sup>th</sup> Mar until 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, mostly in low numbers, with post-breeding gatherings in July to September often achieving three-figure counts and reaching a peak of 245 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. Breeding confirmed at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB).

**European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) PM**

Regularly recorded 18<sup>th</sup> Mar to 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, with the highest count being 120 on Dalma Island (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr. Evidence of breeding was recorded at Wamm Farms (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Aug, when an adult was observed feeding recently-fledged young amongst a flock of some 40 birds that summered at the site.

**European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) PM**

Regularly seen, especially during passage periods, from 12<sup>th</sup> Apr to 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. Three birds over-summered at Wamm Farms (FUJ), the same site retaining birds well into winter with 2 there on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec and hosting the largest count of 29 on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) R**

Regularly and widely reported throughout the year eastwards from south Dubai. Not recorded from Abu Dhabi or areas westwards. Breeding confirmed from Green Mubazzarah (AD) in late April/early May. Highest counts were reported from Wamm Farms (FUJ), from where up to 50 were seen on several dates from 31<sup>st</sup> Jul to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) R**

Common and widespread, with a high count of 30 reported from Safa Park (DUB) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct.

**Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) PM**

Recorded from 11<sup>th</sup> Feb until 26<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 17<sup>th</sup> Sep to 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, with 4 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr the highest count reported.

**Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) PM**

Recorded mainly in spring from 30<sup>th</sup> Apr to 11<sup>th</sup> Jun with fewer records on return passage from 15<sup>th</sup> Sep to 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. Highest count was 12 birds at Emirates Palace (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**Daurian Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) WV & PM**

Reported until 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 16<sup>th</sup> Sep to the year end. The highest count reported was of 25 at Sila'a (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr.

**Turkestan Shrike (*Lanius phoenicuroides*) PM**

Recorded from 17<sup>th</sup> Feb to 22<sup>nd</sup> May and from 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul to 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. A count of 40 at Sila'a (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr was the highest number reported.

**Un-identified Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*)**

There were 59 records of unspecified Isabelline Shrikes. A hybrid shrike, probably Turkestan x Red-backed, resembling a Long-tailed Shrike *L. schach* was at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) UC**

There were 3 records of this former vagrant, probably now better described as a scarce, erratic migrant. Single birds were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Aug and at Masafi Wadi (FUJ) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jun. The latter record is especially interesting as this site held breeding birds in June & July 2010.

**Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) R**

Common and widespread, with a maximum count of 21 birds recorded at Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Regularly reported during winter and on passage, with sightings up to 9<sup>th</sup> May and from 7<sup>th</sup> Sep. The highest count was of 5 birds at Al Qua'a Fodder fields (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

**Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*) PM**

A good year for this migrant, with 20 spring records from 28<sup>th</sup> Apr to 10<sup>th</sup> May and 30 autumn records between 26<sup>th</sup> Aug and 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. Wamm Farms (FUJ) held the highest single count of 5 birds on 9<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) PM**

There were 47 sightings during the year, many of which were repeat records of long-staying birds. Sightings were as late as 10<sup>th</sup> June, with returning birds seen from 15<sup>th</sup> Sep. Presumed long-stayers included birds at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 15<sup>th</sup> Jan to 21<sup>st</sup> Apr, and again 12<sup>th</sup> Nov to 10<sup>th</sup> Dec and at Ain Al Fayda (AD) from 4<sup>th</sup> Feb to 25<sup>th</sup> Mar. Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) held at least one bird from 4<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Apr, with 3 birds present on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr; the highest count during the year.

**Eastern Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator niloticus*) PM**

There were 38 sightings between 17<sup>th</sup> Feb and 20<sup>th</sup> May, with up to 4 recorded at Mirfa (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Apr. In autumn, a single bird on 8<sup>th</sup> Sep at Sir Bani Yas (AD) was the only record.

**Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) PM**

Seen from 19<sup>th</sup> Apr to 25<sup>th</sup> May and from 1<sup>st</sup> Sep to 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. Highest count: 3 birds at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 9<sup>th</sup> Sep and Mafrag Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Eurasian/Indian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus/kundoo*)**

A male at Sila'a on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar, an exceptionally early date for European, was not seen well enough to confirm its identity. A female-type oriole was seen briefly in Safa Park (DUB) on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, but, again, could not be positively identified.

**Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) V**

One was found in Safa Park (DUB) on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, remaining until the following day. 5<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Asian Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) V**

An incredible find and a first record from the UAE and Arabia. One was photographed in the grounds of the water treatment plant on Dalma Island (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) R**

Commonly recorded in coastal towns and cities as far south as Abu Dhabi (AD), and on Dalma Island (AD); not recorded at inland sites. Largest counts: 250 at Wamm Farms (FUJ), 200 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) and up to 150 at Safa Park (DUB).

**Brown-necked Raven (*Corvus ruficollis*) R**

Recorded virtually year-round, though no reports between 17<sup>th</sup> Jun and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep, surely due to reduced observer coverage. Highest count was of 30 birds at Wadi Wurayah (FUJ) on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Greater Hoopoe-lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*) R**

Seen every month except during July, with many records from the Bab al-Shams desert (DUB), where up to 8 were counted on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. A bird at Saadiyat Island (AD) from 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May was an unusual find.

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

Recorded up to 21<sup>st</sup> May and from 19<sup>th</sup> Aug onwards, with a huge count of over 200 from the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DUB) on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Bar-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes cinctura*) R**

Four birds seen in the Bab al-Shams desert (DUB) on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep was the only record of this scarce breeding resident.

**Desert Lark (*Ammomanes deserti*) R**

Common year-round in wadis and rocky areas, although not recorded in August. 35 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr was the largest count.

**Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*) V**

One was photographed at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec and was still present the following day. 6<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Bimaculated Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) WV**

Recorded from 4 sites until 18<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. Recorded at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) from 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan to 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb and on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan, Sila'a (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Mar, and at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) from 9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. Largest recorded flock was 5 at Al Wathba from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.

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

Recorded during winter and on passage up to 14<sup>th</sup> May and from 1<sup>st</sup> Sep onwards. Highest spring count was 600 at Sila'a (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar, with 150 at Al Qua'a Fodder fields (AD) on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct the best in autumn.

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

Very scarce this year, with only 4 records. One was at Al Ankah (AD) on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2 at Al Dhahra (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, with 1 at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields the same day. A flock of 14 were reported from the Madinat Zayed desert (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) R**

Common and widespread. Highest count: 60 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

**Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) WV**

Widely reported winter visitor seen up to 1<sup>st</sup> Apr and from 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. Highest count was 84 in the fodder field at Sila'a (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*) WV**

Only 2 records this year. One was seen and heard at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, whilst up to 8 were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) between 12<sup>th</sup> Nov and 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Brown-throated Martin (*Riparia paludicola*) V**

One reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan has yet to be formally assessed by the EBRC.

**Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) PM**

Reported throughout the year, except July, although in low numbers from mid-April to September. Highest counts in the period 20<sup>th</sup> Sep to 20<sup>th</sup> Oct, with numbers peaking at 250 on 17<sup>th</sup> Sep at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB).

**Pale Martin (*Riparia diluta*) UC**

There were 5 records this year. A single bird was at Ajban (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, with 2 at Kharran Water Treatment Plant (RAK) the same day, and one at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Mar. Later in the year, 2 were seen at Ajman Water Treatment Plant (AJM) on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) UC**

A single bird at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) for 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Jan was the only sighting of this scarce species.

**Pale Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*) R**

Recorded year-round, though rarely in large numbers. Counts of 50 at Jebel Hafit (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan and 25 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb were the only counts over 20. Nest building was observed on the Aramex building in Abu Dhabi (AD) in June.

**Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) WV & PM**

Records throughout the year, though only in low numbers during the summer months, with peak passage during October. Highest concentrations were noted at Al Wathba Lake (AD), where counts reached 1050 on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) V**

A bird found at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb was seen at nearby Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Mar before returning to the lake from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

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

Regular during winter and spring, with 31 records up to 20<sup>th</sup> May. Much scarcer during autumn, with only 3 records, one of which was of 10 birds in the Hili district of Al Ain (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep.

**Streak-throated Swallow (*Petrochelidon fluvicola*) V**

A good year for this species, with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> UAE records being found in early January: at Kharran Water Treatment Plant (RAK) where 3 were present from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, whilst a single bird was at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) from 10<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Recorded during winter and on passage, though much scarcer in autumn, with only 7 records after 19<sup>th</sup> Aug, compared to 25 prior to 1<sup>st</sup> May. The most recorded was 15 at Kharran Water Treatment Plant (RAK) on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) R**

Common resident mainly seen in city parks. Highest count was 50, reported from Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 9<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Mar.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) R**

There were only 2 sightings from Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) during the year; single birds on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**White-spectacled Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*) R**

Regularly seen in wadis and sites near the mountains. Highest count was 30 at Remah (AD) on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) R**

Commonly seen resident. Highest count was 421 at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Scrub Warbler (*Scotocerca inquieta*) R**

Recorded most months, almost exclusively from Masafi Wadi (FUJ), where 8 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr was the highest number reported. Also seen at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr and Wadi Helo archaeological site (FUJ) on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) PM**

Common in spring, with records from 1<sup>st</sup> Apr to 25<sup>th</sup> May, peaking at 19<sup>th</sup> Apr with 46 recorded, of which 40 were on Dalma Island (AD). Only 4 autumn records, all single birds, spanning 15<sup>th</sup> Sep to 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) WV & PM**

Common throughout winter and, in lesser numbers, on spring passage up to 14<sup>th</sup> May and from 15<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards. Highest count was 40 on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan at Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant (DUB).

**Siberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*)**

There were 2 records: one was reported singing on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Jan at Asab Oilfield (AD), whilst another was on Dabb'iya Peninsula (AD) on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Plain Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus neglectus*) WV**

Seen up to 24<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 8<sup>th</sup> Oct, most regularly in Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Masafi Wadi (FUJ). Largest count was 10 birds on Dabb'iya Peninsula on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) PM**

At least 8 different birds recorded between 24<sup>th</sup> Sep and 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, with 3 recorded at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. Two birds were reported from Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on the following day and at Safa Park from 9<sup>th</sup> Sep to 25<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

At least 7 birds recorded up to 1<sup>st</sup> Apr and from 15<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards. The bird seen on 1<sup>st</sup> Apr in Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) was also heard singing.

**Yellow-browed/Hume's Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus/humei*)**

One bird seen in Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) was not positively identified on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, but presumably this record relates to a *humei* reported from there from 19<sup>th</sup> Jan to 12<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Sykes's Warbler (*Iduna rama*) R**

There were only 5 records – all from Khor Kalba (SHJ). Five were counted on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan and 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr, with 3 on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct and 2 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr and 21<sup>st</sup> May.

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

Recorded virtually year-round, apart from July with peaks numbers Apr-May and early Oct and a small number over-wintering. Highest count was 15 at Sila'a (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.

**Upcher's Warbler (*Hippolais languida*) PM**

Common spring migrant with 91 records between 24<sup>th</sup> Mar and 25<sup>th</sup> May. Much scarcer in autumn, with only 6 records. There was also an intriguing report of a bird found in Masafi Wadi (FUJ) on 1<sup>st</sup> Jul. Highest count in spring was 30 at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr, with 10 on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep the best in autumn.

**Moustached Warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*) V**

One was seen in reeds at the inflow to Zakher Lake (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec, staying until mid-Jan 2012, when 2 were seen together. 16<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) PM**

Only 5 sightings in April and May. Single birds were seen at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 1<sup>st</sup> Apr, at Emirates Palace (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, and at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May; the latter bird being heard singing.

**Caspian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus*) R**

Recorded every month, though numbers much lower Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec. Breeding recorded at Zakher Lake (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jul, with several juveniles being noted in the highest count of the year: an estimated 50 birds.

**Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) PM**

Seen from 7<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, during which several hundreds of birds were recorded. The highest count of 334 was recorded at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 14<sup>th</sup> May; a day on which a total of 529 was logged across the country.

**Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) PM**

Eight records from 10<sup>th</sup> Apr to 17<sup>th</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> Sep to 11<sup>th</sup> Nov, with 2 birds seen at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> May and Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Indian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus brunescens*) R**

Common and widespread with a peak count of at least 25 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*) PM**

There were only 4 records during the year. Single birds were found at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr, Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr, Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr and Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*) UC**

One was seen briefly in reeds along the causeway at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) R**

Commonly seen resident, with 25 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) being the highest count.

**Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) PM**

Seen from 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr to 13<sup>th</sup> May and from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct to 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. Three birds were at Sila'a (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) PM**

Mostly recorded during spring passage 15<sup>th</sup> Apr to 19<sup>th</sup> May, with 20 counted at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr. Less numerous in autumn, with only 7 single birds noted.

**Desert Whitethroat (*Sylvia minula*) WV**

Commonly seen up to 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 24<sup>th</sup> Sep. Highest number recorded was 30 at Dalma Island (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia crassirostris*) WV**

At least 11 birds recorded between 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan and 7<sup>th</sup> May, with 2 birds at Bab al-Shams desert (DUB) on 20<sup>th</sup> Mar and Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Asian Desert Warbler (*Sylvia nana*) WV**

Widely recorded throughout winter and on passage up to 1<sup>st</sup> May and from 17<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards. Ajban (AD) had the highest count of the year with 7 birds on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) PM**

Recorded on passage with dates spanning 19<sup>th</sup> Feb to 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> Aug to 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. The highest count of 6 was recorded on 14<sup>th</sup> May at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and 29<sup>th</sup> Sep at Dalma Island (AD).

**Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) PM**

Reported from 12<sup>th</sup> Feb to 25<sup>th</sup> May and from 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep to 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, although some early & late records may refer to Desert Whitethroat due to difficulties in identification. Highest count of 15 was recorded at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Commonly seen up to 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr and from 9<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards, with peaks in Mar/Apr and Oct/Nov. Highest counts of 15 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar and 25 on Lulu Island (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Arabian Babbler (*Turdoides squamiceps*) R**

Regularly seen, usually in small groups, although there were several records of double-figure counts from Mushrif National Park (DUB) with the highest being 35 on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) PM**

Very common on passage from 15<sup>th</sup> Apr to 25<sup>th</sup> May and from 25<sup>th</sup> Aug to 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, with a lone straggler photographed on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 30<sup>th</sup> Jun. Up to 18 were seen at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 13<sup>th</sup> May, a day on which passage peaked with a total of 51 birds recorded during the day.

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

Over 100 records from 25<sup>th</sup> Mar to 30<sup>th</sup> Jun, with a peak mid- to late April. Much scarcer on return passage from 26<sup>th</sup> Aug to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, with only 9 records totalling 14 birds. Highest count was 19 at Sila'a (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) UC**

Three records during the year. The 2010 bird remained at Safa Park (DUB) until 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, whilst one was found on Dalma Island (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. At the end of the year, one was in the Sila'a (AD) harbour marsh plantation from 9<sup>th</sup> Dec to early Jan 2012.

**White-throated Robin (*Irania gutturalis*) PM**

Seen from 1<sup>st</sup> Apr to 7<sup>th</sup> May, with at least 15 individuals recorded. Highest count was of 4 on Dalma Island (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*) PM**

One was at Emirates Palace (AD) from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May, with another on Lulu Island (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) PM**

Fairly common on passage from 7<sup>th</sup> Mar to 25<sup>th</sup> May, with numbers reaching 8 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May. One bird was seen on return passage on 24<sup>th</sup> Sep at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ), whilst wintering birds were reported from Emirates Palace (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec and Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) WV**

Common in wetland areas in winter up to 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr and from 11<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards. Highest count was 16 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. A white-spotted bird found in the harbour marsh at Sila'a (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar could not be assigned to a specific taxon.

**Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*) V**

A female/1st winter was at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 21<sup>st</sup> Jan to 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. Only the 2<sup>nd</sup> UAE record.

**Semi-collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*) UC**

Four were recorded between 5<sup>th</sup> Mar and 14<sup>th</sup> Apr. Males were at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar and Remah (AD) on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar, with females at Al Mamzar Park from 31<sup>st</sup> Mar to 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr and Sila'a (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) WV**

At least 13 birds recorded during the year, with many staying for long periods during winter. Records from the start of the year until 4<sup>th</sup> May and from 27<sup>th</sup> Oct to 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. Two birds were at Sila'a (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb and on Dalma Island (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Eversmann's Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythronotus*) UC**

There were 2 birds at the start of the year. A female remained at Jebel Hafit (AD) from Dec 2010 until 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, whilst another female/immature was at Dubai Creek Park (DUB) on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) PM**

Very common in spring, with 93 reports from 5<sup>th</sup> Mar to 17<sup>th</sup> May, with an high of 30 on Dalma Island (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr. Very scarce on return passage, with only 3 records from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct to 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Seen in low numbers from 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar to 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr, with most records in the first 2 weeks of March. 3 were at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> Mar.

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

Common during the winter months and on passage up to 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and from 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. Highest count was 10 at Dabb'ya Peninsula (AD) on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Western Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis/aterimus*) V**

A male was found in a restricted area at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, with presumably the same individual returning to the same site on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec to at least the year end.

**Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) PM**

Common on spring passage with 80 reports from 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan to 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun, with 2 peaks observed: on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar, when 11 were recorded at Green Mubazzarah (AD) and on 2<sup>nd</sup> May with 15 at Sila'a (AD). Very scarce in autumn and winter, with only 4 records from 16<sup>th</sup> Sep to 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Regularly recorded in winter and on passage up to 8<sup>th</sup> May and from 21<sup>st</sup> Sep. Most frequently seen at Green Mubazzarah (AD) from where a maximum count of 7 was reported on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar and 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) PM**

Mainly recorded in spring, with sightings from 28<sup>th</sup> Mar to 26<sup>th</sup> May, reaching a peak at the beginning of May. Only 7 reports in autumn from 27<sup>th</sup> Sep to 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. Highest count was 5 at Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) and Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and at Emirates Palace (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*) WV**

Winter visitor recorded up to 15<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 8<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards. Up to 5 were recorded at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and at Ajban (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) PM**

Reported from 21<sup>st</sup> Jan to 11<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 14<sup>th</sup> Oct to 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, with 3 birds reported from Sila'a (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. However, due to the difficulties in identifying stonechats conclusively in the field, it is likely that many of the Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec reports may refer to *rubicola*.

**Caspian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus variegatus*) UC**

Five birds were recorded between 21<sup>st</sup> Feb and 19<sup>th</sup> Mar. Up to 2 were at Jebel Dhanna (AD) from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, one at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> March, one at Al Wathba Lake (AD) from 5<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Mar, and one at Sila'a (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar. These represent the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> UAE records.

**Hooded Wheatear (*Oenanthe monacha*) R**

Recorded throughout the year, except for July, mainly from Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Jebel Hafit (AD), though males at Wadi Bih (RAK) and Jebel Dhanna (AD), both on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, a female at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and 2 birds at Jebel Yanas (RAK) on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec were notable records.

**Hume's Wheatear (*Oenanthe albonigra*) R**

Fairly common in the mountains throughout the year, with 15 at Wadi Bih (RAK) the highest number reported.

**Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) PM**

Recorded from 19<sup>th</sup> Feb to 10<sup>th</sup> May and from 6<sup>th</sup> Aug to 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, though most records in the first 3 weeks of April. Highest count was 10 at Dalma Island (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Mourning Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens*) UC**

Only recorded at Jebel Dhanna (AD) with many records of the same wintering individuals up to 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 27<sup>th</sup> Sep. A count of 9 on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov was the highest ever recorded in the UAE.

**Variable Wheatear (*Oenanthe picata*) WV**

Typically early departure and arrival dates, with birds seen up to 7<sup>th</sup> Feb and from 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. Records limited to Wamm Farms (AD), Masafi Wadi (AD) and Qarn Nazwa (DUB), with 4 at the latter site on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec being the highest reported count.

**Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) PM**

Very common and widespread on passage, with spring birds seen from 11<sup>th</sup> Feb to 14<sup>th</sup> May, with the main movement from early-Mar to mid-Apr, peaking on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar and 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr with day totals of 44 and 42 respectively. Similarly numerous on return passage from 7<sup>th</sup> Sep to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, with 95 on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep, 90 of which were on Dalma Island (AD). There were 7 records of the pale-throated form '*vittata*'; 5 from 17<sup>th</sup> Feb to 13<sup>th</sup> Mar and 2 from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Recorded on only 8 dates in spring from 19<sup>th</sup> Mar to 16<sup>th</sup> Apr and on 10<sup>th</sup> Sep in autumn, with a total of 9 or 10 birds noted.

**Red-tailed Wheatear (*Oenanthe chrysopygia*) WV**

Winter visitor regularly seen up to 8<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep onwards. Maximum counts of 6 were reported from Ajban (AD), Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) and Green Mubazzarah (AD).

**Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*) WV**

Common winter visitor recorded up to 1<sup>st</sup> May, with returning birds from 17<sup>th</sup> Sep. 25 on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan was the highest count.

**Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) WV & PM**

The commonest wheatear species for most of the year, with records throughout the year except between 14<sup>th</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> Jul. Up to 100 were recorded at Dalma Island (AD) on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Caucasian Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus amicornum*) V**

In an exceptional year for thrushes, up to 10 remained at Jebel Hafit (AD) from Dec 2010 until 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, with single birds recorded at Asab Oilfield (AD) on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, Ain Al Fayda (AD) on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb and Lulu Island (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Eurasian Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) V**

Three records during the year. Singles were on Dabb'iya Peninsula (AD) on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, Dalma Island (AD) 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Feb and in a private plantation at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Black-throated Thrush (*Turdus atrogularis*) WV**

Many records up to 17<sup>th</sup> Feb; none after that date. A very good winter for this species, with sightings from 11 different locations, including a group of up to 7 that remained at the Mercure Hotel on Jebel Hafit (AD) from late 2010 until 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. Elsewhere, 4 at Sila'a (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan was the only other sizeable count.

**Dusky Thrush (*Turdus eunomus*) V**

A very elusive bird was at Hili Oasis (AD) on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. The 3<sup>rd</sup> UAE record.

**Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) V**

One was found at Sila'a (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, staying until early in the new year. The 8<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) WV**

Common winter visitor seen up to 16<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. Highest number reported was 55 at Sila'a (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.

**Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) R**

Common resident, especially numerous at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), where 1100 were reported from the latter on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) R**

Virtually everywhere. Flocks of several hundred were regularly reported in the autumn and early winter, with 1500 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) the highest.

**Pied Myna (*Gracupica contra*) R**

Regularly seen in Dubai and Sharjah, with most records coming from Safa Park (DUB) and Al Mamzar Park (SHJ), with 35 at the latter being the highest count.

**Brahminy Starling (*Temenuchus pagodarum*) R**

Only 7 records from 3 sites. Up to 2 visited a private garden in Jumeirah (DUB) on 11<sup>th</sup> Jun and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 1 was in Safa Park (DUB) on 11<sup>th</sup> May, whilst another was seen in Sharjah (SHJ) on 10<sup>th</sup> Jul and 15<sup>th</sup> Aug.

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

Recorded from 11<sup>th</sup> Mar to 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and from 6<sup>th</sup> Aug to 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, but never numerous. Seen on only 10 days in spring, with a total of 7 birds recorded. 19 sightings in autumn, totalling at least 13 individuals, with a count of 8 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) WV**

Winter visitor reported up to 30<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 9<sup>th</sup> Jul when 2 juveniles were recorded at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) indicating local breeding. Up to 80 were recorded at this site on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, the highest count of the year.

**Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) R**

Common and widespread except in the west, with a maximum count of 200 at Mushrif National Park (DUB) (FUJ) on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Commonly recorded throughout the year, though many not assigned to subspecies (for which, see below). Highest number recorded: 200 reported flying east at dusk at Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov was an exceptional count for so late in the year.

**Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*) WV & PM**

Recorded in low numbers in winter and on passage up to 8<sup>th</sup> May and from 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. Highest number recorded: 15 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

**Blue-headed / Sykes's Wagtail (*Motacilla flava flava/beema*) WV & PM**

Reported from 14<sup>th</sup> Jan to 8<sup>th</sup> May and from 1<sup>st</sup> Sep to the year end. Fewer autumn records, presumably of difficulty in assigning sub-specific identity to many birds. Highest count: 12 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Yellow-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava lutea*) PM**

Five spring records between 12<sup>th</sup> Apr and 5<sup>th</sup> May, with 2 at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. There was only one record in autumn, that of a single bird at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 7<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Black-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava feldegg*) PM**

Recorded virtually throughout the year except July, though never numerous, with a high count of 7 at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. A pair was recorded breeding at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) in June, raising 2 young. This is the second breeding record for the UAE, following on from a record at the same site in 2008.

**White-chinned Wagtail (*Motacilla flava melanogrisea*)**

One was photographed on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar. Presumably this subspecies is over-looked amongst *feldegg*.

**Yellow Wagtail 'superciliaris' (*Motacilla flava 'superciliaris'*)**

Two were found at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar, with one there on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr. Singles were at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Yellow Wagtail 'xanthophrys' (*Motacilla flava 'xanthophrys'*)**

One was at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov, with presumably the same bird seen again on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

**Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) WV & PM**

Frequently recorded during winter and on passage up to 11<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. Highest count was 20 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan and Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 16<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) WV & PM**

Relatively scarce at the beginning of the year, with only 8 records up to 1<sup>st</sup> Apr. In autumn and the following winter, much more numerous, with 30 sightings from 19<sup>th</sup> Aug onwards. A maximum of 2 birds was reported from Safa Park (DUB) from 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep to 29<sup>th</sup> Dec and Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 16<sup>th</sup> Sep and from 13<sup>th</sup> Oct to 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) WV & PM**

Common winter visitor up to 27<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 7<sup>th</sup> Oct, often in large numbers in mid-winter. Up to 150 were recorded at Emirates Palace (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov and Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Masked Wagtail (*Motacilla alba personata*) WV**

Recorded from 4 sites from 7<sup>th</sup> Oct to 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. One was at Kharran Water Treatment Plant (RAK) on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct, up to 4 at Mafrag Water Treatment Plant (AD) from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Oct, whilst up to 4 were seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ) from 7<sup>th</sup> Oct to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. At the end of the year, one was at Zakher Lake (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Regularly seen up to 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr and from 9<sup>th</sup> Sep, with a highest count of 12 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB).

**Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*) R**

Recorded only twice in the first half of the year, with many records from 19<sup>th</sup> Aug onwards, mainly from Wamm Farms (FUJ), where 7 were counted on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. Records from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan and 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, and Dalma Island (AD) on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec, were noteworthy.

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

There were 3 records in the first half of the year, with single birds at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan to 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, Al Ankah (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, and Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr. In the latter quarter, birds were recorded from 14<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards, with up to 6 at Wamm Farms on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) WV & PM**

Very common in winter and on passage. Latest spring record was on 7<sup>th</sup> May, with returning birds seen from 28<sup>th</sup> August. Highest recorded number was 60 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) WV**

Reported in low numbers up to 28<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 21<sup>st</sup> Sep, with 7 at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan the highest count.

**Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) PM**

Seen from 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar to 14<sup>th</sup> May and from 8<sup>th</sup> Sep to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. Highest spring count was 20 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr, with 19 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct the highest count in autumn.

**Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*) UC**

Only 3 records of this seemingly increasingly scarce winter visitor. One was at Safa Park (DUB) until 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, having been present since Oct 2010, with other single birds at Mirfa Childrens' Park (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov and Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

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

Common in winter and on spring passage, with birds being seen until 12<sup>th</sup> May. Numbers increased from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Apr until early May, with 59 at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> Apr, the highest count of the year. Returning birds seen from 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, though numbers greatly reduced, with a maximum of 10 on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) WV**

Very common in winter and spring, with birds seen until 24<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 68 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar was the highest count recorded.

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

Scarce winter visitor seen at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) up to 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, with a maximum of 3 recorded there on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. At the end of the year, a single bird was found at Emirates Palace (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, which remained into 2012.

**Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) WV**

A good year with several long-staying winter flocks. Seen up to 26<sup>th</sup> Mar, with the first returning bird on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. Largest flocks were 30 at Sila'a (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, with 21 there on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov; 20 on Lulu Island (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Mar, and 30 there on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, and 30 on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Eastern Cinereous Bunting (*Emberiza cineracea semenowi*) PM**

Only 3 records during the year, all in the first 2 weeks of April. One was at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 1<sup>st</sup> Apr, with 2 the following day at Wadi Bih (RAK). A single bird was at Zakher Lake (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) PM**

Common passage migrant seen from 29<sup>th</sup> Mar to 5<sup>th</sup> May and from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep to 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. Largest number reported was 25 at both Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Dalma Island (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr, a day on which a total of 75 birds were seen.

**Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*) V**

A first-winter was found at Al Ankah fodder fields (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. The 1<sup>st</sup> record for the UAE.

**Striolated Bunting (*Emberiza striolata*) R**

Regularly recorded resident of wadis and stony areas near mountains, with a highest count of 35 reported from Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*) PM**

Seen on only 8 dates in spring, from 13<sup>th</sup> Apr to 7<sup>th</sup> May, including 4 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr. Sightings during autumn were almost exclusively from Wamm Farms (FUJ) from 24<sup>th</sup> Aug to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, with 5 there on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug and 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*) V**

A male photographed at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr was the 5<sup>th</sup> record for the UAE.

**Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) WV**

Only 1 record at the start of the year, with a single bird at Al Ankah (AD) on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Later in the year, regularly seen from 4<sup>th</sup> Nov to the year end, with 39 reported from Sila'a (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus*) WV**

A lean year, with only 6 records. Ten were at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, with single birds also recorded there on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr and 24<sup>th</sup> Sep. Singles were also seen at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr, with 4 at Jebel Faiyah (SHJ) on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) UC**

Only 6 sightings during the year, all between 1<sup>st</sup> Oct and 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. Two birds were at Sila'a (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct with one there on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. One was on Lulu Island (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, with other singles at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct and Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) R**

Common and widespread, with flocks in autumn reaching 1000 birds at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB).

**Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) UC**

One was seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jun.

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

Only 16 records from 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr to 29<sup>th</sup> Sep, with a maximum count of 10 from Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr. Other interesting migrant records were of 2 birds on Lulu Island (AD) on 20<sup>th</sup> May and Dalma Island (AD) on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Pale Rockfinch (*Carpodacus brachydactyla*) PM**

A poor year, with only 7 spring records from 4<sup>th</sup> Mar to 18<sup>th</sup> Apr, with 12 the highest count on the latter date. There were 3 records in autumn, with sightings from 28<sup>th</sup> Aug to 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep, with a flock of 40 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) recorded on the first date.

**Golden-backed Weaver (*Ploceus jacksoni*) UC**

Recorded 7 times during the year, mainly from Abu Dhabi (AD), where a total of 5 were reported nest-building on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Off-island, a single bird was seen at Zabeel (DUB) on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Streaked Weaver (*Ploceus manyar*) R**

Regularly seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ), Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) and Wadi Al Ain (AD), with 15 at the latter site being the highest count reported.

**Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*) R**

Common and widespread, with a high count of 100 reported from Wadi Bih (RAK) on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) R**

Uncommon, but fairly regularly seen at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB). Flocks of 20 birds were seen at Al Jimi Oasis (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb and Al Warsan Lakes on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr.

**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:

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)  
 Black-necked Swan (*Cygnus melancoryphus*)  
 Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)  
 Radjah Shelduck (*Tadorna radjah*)  
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [captive/hybrid]  
 Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)  
 California Quail (*Callipepla californica*)  
 Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*)  
 Arabian Partridge (*Alectoris melanocephala*)  
 Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*)  
 Yellow-necked Francolin (*Francolinus leucoscepus*)  
 See-see Partridge (*Ammoperdix griseogularis*)  
 Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)  
 Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*)  
 Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*)  
 Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)  
 Hadada Ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*)  
 Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*)  
 Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)  
 Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*)  
 Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*)  
 Blacksmith Lapwing (*Vanellus armatus*)  
 White-necked Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus* [palumbus-group])  
 Cinnamon-necked Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus casiotis*)  
 Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*)  
 Blossom-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula roseata*)  
 Rosy-faced Lovebird (*Agapornis roseicollis*)  
 Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)  
 Nanday Parakeet (*Nandayus nenday*)  
 Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*)  
 Common Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*)  
 Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*)  
 Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*)  
 Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)  
 Bengal Weaver (*Ploceus benghalensis*)  
 Southern Red Bishop (*Euplectes orix*)  
 Yellow-crowned Bishop (*Euplectes afer*)  
 Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)  
 Java Sparrow (*Lonchura oryzivora*)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report is based on sightings reported by both visiting and resident birders, submitted either via the UAE birding website ([www.uaebirding.com](http://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 Al Zaabi	Jacky Judas	Oscar Campbell
Ahmed Al Ali	Jim Ward	P.G. (full name not supplied)
Aideen and Ian Cunningham	John Iversen	Paul Jaquith
Aimee Cokayne	John Rogan	Peter Arras
Alan Jones	John Waterbury	Peter Hellyer
Alan Younger	John Wilkins	Peter Steer
Andrew Twyman	Jonathan Angliss	Philip Andrews
Andrew Ward	Josh Smithson	Raimundo Soto
Bo Settergren	Kevin Hyland	Reza Khan
Bruce Hansen	Khalifa Al Dhaheri	Richard Hornby
Chris Hocking	Leslie Pereira	Richard King
Christelle Lucas	Liz Stewart	Rob Qusted
Christophe Tourenq	Lucie Fuchsova	Rod Fox
Clive Temple	Luke Naismith	Salim Javed
Daniel Lopez Velasco	Maja Pesic Pedersen	Sanalkumar Sreevalsan
Danny McLaughlin	Maral Khaled Shuriqi	Sarah Bates
Dave Clark	Mark Smiles	Scott Young
Dave McGrath	Mattias Ullman	Shah Jahan
David Diskin	Michael Pocock	Shahid Khan
David Radnell	Mike Barth	Shane McPherson
Dennis Barr	Mike Bayman	Simon Peter Lloyd
Derrick Wilby	Mohamed Al Musharafy	Stephen Bell
Emirates Natural History Group	Mohamed Almazrouei	Steve James
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi	Neil Anderson	Tommy Pedersen
George Armistead	Neil Tovey	Vaughan Ashby
Govind Kumar	Neil, Thomas & Christopher Dursley	Virginia Robson
Graham Talbot	Nick P. Williams	Vivek Kumar
Greg Simkins	Nicole Burgoz	Vladimir Kucherenko
Gregory Askew	Nimeesh Suseelan	Werner Mischler
Gwen Appere	Omar Al Shamsi	Yousef Al-Habshi
Huw Roberts	Omar F. Al-Sheikhly	Yousif Al Ali
Ian Boustead		