

# BIRDS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

## ANNUAL REPORT – 2014



Large-billed Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*) – 1<sup>st</sup> record for the UAE and Arabia found at Al Mamzar in October 2014.  
(Photo © Mark Smiles)

Report compiled by Mark Smiles, Tommy Pedersen & Oscar Campbell

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Annual summary	Page 3
Species accounts	Page 9
Birds of presumed captive origin	Page 37
Acknowledgements	Page 38
List of observers	Page 38

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## ANNUAL SUMMARY

### JANUARY

In absolute rarity terms, a rather quiet start to the year, with much more marked mid-winter doldrums compared to recent years. The most significant new arrivals comprised an **Ashy Drongo** (7<sup>th</sup> record) found in Mushrif National Park (3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>) and a **Black Redstart** showing the characters of the Turkish / European races *ochruros* / *gibraltariensis* (3<sup>rd</sup> record) present in Wadi Bih on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A **Hume's Warbler** and two **Black-throated Thrushes** were also found at the latter on 25th with another **Hume's Warbler** located in Safa Park next day (remaining into February); after none all winter, this clearly constituted an arrival. An end-of-the-month flourish in Abu Dhabi on 31<sup>st</sup> witnessed the near-simultaneous discovery of **Yellow-browed Warbler** (Royal Stables, 13<sup>th</sup> record) and **Mourning Wheatear** on Hoderiyat Island. The warbler was seen again next day.

Other records included **Greylag Goose** at Zakher, up to 75 **Great Knot** at Khor al Beida and 13 at Bhalghelam Island (a hitherto unknown wintering ground) on 17<sup>th</sup>, **Merlin** and a **Greater Spotted Eagle** of the *fulvescens* form at Ras al Khor, **Eastern Imperial Eagle** at several sites, **Short-eared Owl** at Jebel Dhanna and flocks of **Grey Hypocolius** at the usual wintering spots of Lulu Island (approximately 60) and Yas Island (almost 150 on some evenings!) The male **Eversmann's Redstart** remained at Jebel Hafeet and the exceptional winter for **Buff-bellied Pipits** continued with one throughout at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi (for the third successive winter) and 6 counted at Hamranyah Turf Fields on 25<sup>th</sup> (along with an over-wintering **Caspian Plover**).

### FEBRUARY

Again, a rather quiet month, although there was some rather significant raptor action. **Merlins** were reported from two locations early in the month and a ring-tail **Hen Harrier** joined the wintering **Steppe Buzzard** at Al Qua'a fodder field on 14<sup>th</sup>, when the **Eversmann's Redstart** was still present at Jebel Hafeet and an **Eastern Imperial Eagle** seen at Zakher Lake. Two **Griffon Vultures** at Nakhli on 10<sup>th</sup> (14<sup>th</sup> record) were seen again nearby on 18<sup>th</sup> when at least 6 **Lappet-faced Vultures** were also present. Another **Lappet-faced Vulture** was at Wadi Helo on 21<sup>st</sup>. A **Black-winged Kite** (16<sup>th</sup> record) was at Wamm Farms on 28<sup>th</sup>.

The **Forest Wagtail** from late November was located again in Mushrif Palace Gardens, Abu Dhabi and remained for most of the month, sometimes with a **European Robin** in close proximity whilst other interesting wintering birds on Abu Dhabi Island included **Buff-bellied Pipit** and **Masked Shrike** at Emirates Palace, plus a high count of 36 **Pallas's Gulls** at the Officer's Club. Hamranyah Turf Fields held onto its wintering attractions of **Black-throated Thrush**, **Caspian Plover** and **Buff-bellied Pipit** until 28<sup>th</sup>, by which date a **Black-winged Pratincole** had appeared, remaining until 7<sup>th</sup> March. **Hypocolius** remained at Lulu Island (at least 70) and Yas Island (over 100) throughout. The first stirrings of spring began rather early, with a smattering of **Pied Wheatears**, **Woodchat Shrikes** and **Rock Thrushes** evident from 7<sup>th</sup>.

### MARCH

A markedly slow start to the month, with very little of interest for the first fortnight or so. The **Caspian Plover** remained at Hamranyah and up to 130 **Hypocolius** were present on Lulu Island on 29<sup>th</sup> when the over-wintering **Forest Wagtail** appeared again in Mushrif Palace Gardens, having vanished since late February. Migration picked up from mid-month as migrants started to flow steadily, first as a trickle but soon a flood as movement hit top gear. Amongst large numbers of common species, variety came from a few very early records (for example Spotted Flycatcher, Sila'a, on 21<sup>st</sup>; Black-headed Bunting, Wamm, on 26<sup>th</sup> and Whinchat, Abu Dhabi on 28<sup>th</sup>) but also from the largest ever influx of **Semi-collared Flycatchers**, widely reported and culminating in at least 7 at Mamzar on 27<sup>th</sup>. **White-throated Robins** arrived en-masse from the same date onwards, with 10 at the same site the best score. Amongst such a great spike of transients, a few rarities were bound to be found; first a male **Hen Harrier** between Dubai and Al Ain on 23<sup>rd</sup>, then the spring's only **Bay-backed Shrike** at Green Mubazzarah from 25<sup>th</sup>, **Black Drongo** at Umm Suqiem, Dubai on 28<sup>th</sup> and finally **Savi's Warblers** – the first was found at Mirfa on 28<sup>th</sup>, with birds found the next day in Green Mubazzarah and Mushrif Palace Gardens.

### APRIL

March's fantastic run of migrants continued steadily into April, with a fourth **Savi's Warbler** found in five days (Mirfa, 1<sup>st</sup>); a scattering of **Grasshopper Warblers** were also reported at the same time. The first **Cinereous Bunting** was also at Mirfa on 1<sup>st</sup>, with others at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (two individuals) and **Semi-collared Flycatchers** remained from March's influx at Jebel Dhanna until 7<sup>th</sup>. Amongst a very wide range of other migrants, exceptional counts included 250 **Willow Warblers**, 59 **Northern Wheatears** and 40 **Turkestan Shrike** all between Ghagah Island and Mirfa on 5<sup>th</sup>, whilst **Little Terns** were reported at several inland sites. Records of single **Hypocolius** at several (non-wintering) sites indicated a light spring passage; a single male on Lulu Island on 11<sup>th</sup> could indicate the same, or the last of the over-wintering birds. Numbers of passage migrants generally declined in the second half of April, although a **Steppe Eagle** was found at Wamm on 25<sup>th</sup> and a marked arrival of **Rollers** began next day with, for example, 16 found on Abu Dhabi Island

Genuine rarities included **Eastern Cattle Egret** (7<sup>th</sup> record) at Al Qua'a on 5<sup>th</sup> and **White-breasted Waterhen** at Al Barsha on 7-11<sup>th</sup>, with a probable **Black Drongo** reported on roadside wires at Al Awir on 8<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup> record) and then a sudden surge from a the 16<sup>th</sup>: a **Taiga Flycatcher** (6<sup>th</sup> record) was found in Mushrif Palace Gardens on that date (remaining until 23<sup>rd</sup>) and on 18<sup>th</sup> two Little Swifts were found at Sila'a, and two **Kittiwakes** (6<sup>th</sup> record) at Fujairah along with an **Eastern Cattle Egret** at Wamm Farms (a bird has been seen intermittently at this site since August 2009). A **Black Tern** (15<sup>th</sup> record) was at Fujairah on 19<sup>th</sup> with two **Spanish Sparrows**, a species now very uncommon, at Wadi Tarabat on the same date. The first pelagic trip of the year, out of Kalba on the 19<sup>th</sup> yielded five of the now expected **Sooty Shearwaters**.

### MAY

This proved to be a good month for passerine migration with fair numbers of grounded migrants evident on many dates, and continuing strongly until 20<sup>th</sup>. Species such as **Red-backed Shrike** and **Spotted Flycatcher** were generally easy to find. Scarcities included the latest ever **Semi-collared Flycatcher** in Abu Dhabi on 2<sup>nd</sup>, with **Corncrake** at Emirates Palace the next day; another was found on Abu Dhabi island on 13<sup>th</sup>, and a third in Jebel Dhanna on 16<sup>th</sup>. A small wave of **Thrush Nightingales** commenced on 7<sup>th</sup>, a **Garden Warbler** was found at Mirfa on 9<sup>th</sup> and a **Common Rosefinch** at Green Mubazzarah on 10<sup>th</sup>. By the last third of the month, migration had slowed right down. The only real rarities of the month were found on boat trips off Kalba: first two **Masked Boobies** (20<sup>th</sup> record) on 17<sup>th</sup> and then in the spectacular combination of one **Cory's Shearwater** (4<sup>th</sup> record), eight **Jouanin's Petrels** (10<sup>th</sup> record) and 5 **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** (11<sup>th</sup> record) on 31<sup>st</sup>. An immature **Sooty Tern** (18<sup>th</sup> record) was also logged.

### JUNE

As ever in high summer, the main activity was boat trips out of Kalba. A trip on 7<sup>th</sup> proved much quieter than that on 31<sup>st</sup> May, with no sign of any big, spectacular tubenoses. However, another (or the same?) **Sooty Tern** was found, along with the first two **Wilson's Petrels** of the season; this species featured erratically on later trips all summer. A trip on 20<sup>th</sup>, despite rather rough conditions yielded another **Cory's Shearwater** and **Long-tailed Skua** in the same flock of **Persian Shearwaters**, with three **Flesh-footed** and a late **Sooty Shearwater** also seen. **Swinhoe's Petrel** (6<sup>th</sup> record) was recorded on 24<sup>th</sup>, with another two all-dark storm-petrels seen too briefly to conclusively identify on 28<sup>th</sup>, the same date on which the long-awaited **Red-billed Tropicbird** finally put in an appearance – the first East coast report since 2007!

### JULY

Highlights from July boat trips on 4<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> included one **Wedge-tailed** (7<sup>th</sup> record) and up to five **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**, with records of **Long-tailed Skua** and **Sooty Tern** also (singles of both were also seen from land, at Bidiya on 8<sup>th</sup> and Fujairah on 14<sup>th</sup>), plus **Lesser Noddy** (8<sup>th</sup> record) on 19<sup>th</sup>. Following on from last year's spectacular influx, a **Roseate Tern** was found, again at Fujairah on 19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> (8<sup>th</sup> record) and other observations on land included a **Stone-Curlew** chick at Abu al Abyad on 9<sup>th</sup> – the second UAE breeding record - and an unspecified **drongo**, seen on Palm Jumeriah on 11<sup>th</sup>.

### AUGUST

August was a very quiet month, with most resident birdwatchers away, although wader passage was strongly in evidence from the end of the month and a revealingly unseasonal **Black Kite** was a one-day intrigue at Dubai Pivot Fields on 30<sup>th</sup>. Previous records of this species are invariably much later in autumn to spring, and involve the easternmost subspecies *lineatus*; instead this bird showed characters of the Indian form *govinda*.

### SEPTEMBER

It didn't take long to get the autumn well and truly up and running, with plenty of migrant variety in all the expected locations right from the start of the month. A **Pacific Swift** (3<sup>rd</sup> record) drifted over Wamm Farms early on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the same weekend saw both **Black** (16<sup>th</sup> record) and **Roseate Terns** (9<sup>th</sup> record) amongst a veritable flood of terns at Fujairah. Next weekend, Wamm produced a double bill of **Savi's Warbler** and a very early **Moustached Warbler** (17<sup>th</sup> record), found within minutes of each other. Equally unseasonal at Dubai Pivot Fields was **Black-winged Kite** (17<sup>th</sup> record) seen only on 15<sup>th</sup>, although remarkably another was at Hamraniyah on 19<sup>th</sup>. Reports from fishing trips out of Kalba were tantalising to say the least – **Cory's or Scopoli's Shearwater**, a Swinhoe's-type storm petrel (identity unconfirmed) and 85 **Jouanin's Petrels** were reported between 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and 300 **Jouanin's Petrels** were logged on 19<sup>th</sup>, along with 30 **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**. Next day, 120 **Jouanin's Petrels** were recorded on a birder's trip, along with a single **Flesh-foot** and six **Brown Noddy**, a very scarce species this year. The month ended with a small flurry of **Thrush Nightingales** on 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> (at least two, at Sila'a and in Abu Dhabi but other nightingales that weekend were not clinched to species). There was also a **Corncrake** at Sila'a on 26<sup>th</sup>, following an obliging **Spotted Crake** in Abu Dhabi for several days from 22<sup>nd</sup> onwards.

## **OCTOBER**

Mamzar Park stole October's show on 11<sup>th</sup> with a peculiar, hefty *Phylloscopus* eventually pinned down as Arabia's first **Large-billed Leaf-Warbler**; it was seen briefly next day but the **Green Warbler** also present (12th record; first since 2007) was not, although another was located on 25<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere, the month was solid rather than spectacular, although a **Shikra** in Al Ain on 8<sup>th</sup> was most unusual, a **Steppe Eagle** followed on 11<sup>th</sup> and a Water Rail was at the same site from 16<sup>th</sup> onwards into 2015. The first **Crested Honey-Buzzard** of the autumn was back on Abu Dhabi island from mid-month (although, unusually this species remained otherwise absent until several late December reports) and a large arrival of warblers there on 26<sup>th</sup> included a very unusual autumn **Garden Warbler**. On 31<sup>st</sup>, a **drongo** species was seen at Za'abeel, Dubai, possibly the same individual as from the nearby Palm Jumeirah in mid-summer. A **Forest Wagtail** reported at Safa on the same day was a one-day bird only although a **Great Bittern** found in Al Ain on 30<sup>th</sup> remained into November.

## **NOVEMBER**

Traditionally the most exciting month of the year, November 2014 took just five days to catch fire: the UAE's first **Watercock** was picked up exhausted in Dubai on 5<sup>th</sup>; it was released next day at Al Warsan Lakes. Two days later, a **Black Drongo** (6<sup>th</sup> record) was located at Wamm Farms, along with a **Hen Harrier**. The same day saw **Caspian Plover** and **Jack Snipe** located at Hamraniyah and then a male **Merlin** at Khor al Beida, good company for a **Short-eared Owl** located flying over Abu Dhabi racecourse the next morning. The following weekend was a lot quieter but quality winter visitors located included two **Eastern Imperial Eagles** and the first **Pallas's Gull** at Zakher on 14<sup>th</sup>, with **Mourning Wheatear** and two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Mirfa on the same date; another of the latter was present at Ruwais and a few **Lappet-faced Vultures** started to appear. The first **Sociable Lapwing** and **Buff-bellied Pipit** of the winter was found at Hamraniyah on 21<sup>st</sup>, with **Northern Lapwing** and three **Hypocolius** at Wamm on the same day and a **White-breasted Waterhen** at Al Dhait South on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Another surge of birds began towards the end of month, starting with **Short-eared Owl** in Jebel Dhanna, a single **Greater White-fronted Goose** flying along the shore at Al Aqqah and a second **Hen Harrier** at Wamm Farms on 28<sup>th</sup> and followed by a **Pied Stonechat** at Abu Dhabi on 29<sup>th</sup> which duly overwintered.

## **DECEMBER**

The first good birds came right at the start of the month with a very obliging **Amur Falcon** on the lawns at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi along with Dubai's first **Mourning Wheatear** on the same day; another of the latter was found in Al Ain on 16<sup>th</sup>. An **Ashy Drongo** was found at Wadi Bih on 3<sup>rd</sup> with a **Black-winged Kite**, possibly the September bird, at Hamraniyah on the same day. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, Wamm Farms held its third **Hen Harrier** of the winter, this time an adult male. An arrival of **Buff-bellied Pipits** brought five to Hamraniyah from 12<sup>th</sup> (rising to 6 on 22<sup>nd</sup>) with another at Emirates Palace on 13<sup>th</sup> and two at Wamm Farm from 26<sup>th</sup> onwards. The first **Hume's Warbler** and **European Robin** of the winter were also found at Emirates Palace, and another **Hume's Warbler** followed at Mirfa on 19th. Other notable winter visitors included a **Brambling** found on Dalma Island on 20<sup>th</sup>, with a **Mediterranean Gull**, back for its third successive winter, at Mafraq and a **Ring Ouzel** at Jebel Dhanna on 26<sup>th</sup>. The rarest report, by some margin, wasn't from a birding site at all: two **Fan-tailed Ravens** represented a very lucky sighting from the main highway through Al Rahba, near Abu Dhabi on 13<sup>th</sup>; there is only one previous record of this species!

### **Annual totals**

332 species, plus another 46 deemed to be of captive origin, were recorded during the year. Two species were admitted to the national list in the year, which now stands at 460 species at the end of 2014.

### **Species recorded for the first time in 2014:**

Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*)

Large-billed Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*)



Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*, Warsan Lakes © Tommy Pedersen



Large-billed Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*, © Simon Lloyd



Dr. Sudhanshu Kothe

Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*, Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, © Sudhanshu Kothe

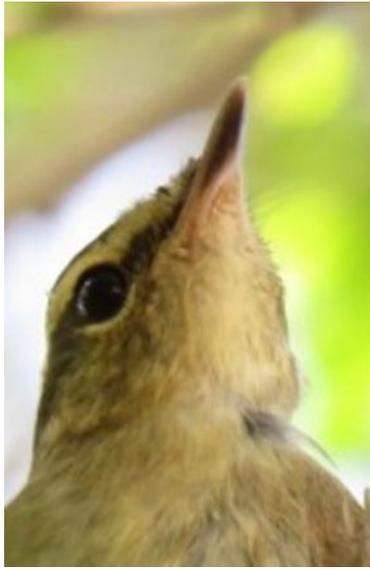


Left: Immature Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*, Khor Kalba pelagic, © Khalifa Al Dhaheri  
 Right: Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*, Umm Suqeim Park, © Badder Al Qasimi



Copyright © Mike Barth

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*, Mushrif Palace Gardens, © Mike Barth



Left: Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, Dubai Pivot Fields, © Mark Smiles  
 Centre: Large-billed Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*, © Mark Smiles  
 Right: Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*, Nad al-Sheba © Gareth Tonen



Left: Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus*, Al Samha petrol stations, © Khalifa Al Dhaheri  
 Right: Pied Stonechat *Saxicola caprata*, Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club, © Mark Smiles



Left: Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*, Fujairah Port Beach, © Simon Lloyd  
 Right: Cory's Shearwater, *Calonectris borealis*, Kalba deepwater pelagic, © Huw Roberts.

## **SPECIES ACCOUNTS**

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

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

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

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

There were only 2 records of this irregular winter visitor during the year. A single bird was regularly seen at Zakher Lake (AD) from 25<sup>th</sup> Jan until the 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, whilst one flew over Sheik Zayed Road near Safa Park (DUB) on 29<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

In the first half of the year, the long-staying flock of up to 36 remained at Safa Park through the winter, gradually dwindling in number with an injured individual remaining until 25<sup>th</sup> Apr. A group of 8 immatures were also recorded flying over Sir Bani Yas on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. In the latter half of the year, there were a number of single-figure counts from 8 different sites between 4<sup>th</sup> Nov and the year end.

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

Very common resident regularly reported during the year from wetland areas across the country, usually in pairs and small groups though a count of 120 at Abu al-Abyadh Island (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Jun was exceptional.

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

Commonly seen at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), from where up to 160 were seen on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, and in lesser numbers at other wetland sites during the winter months up to 14<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 25<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards.

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

The long-staying single birds from 2013 at Zakher Lake (AD) and the Bab al Shams area (DUB) remained until 7<sup>th</sup> Mar and 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan respectively. A single bird was also present at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) from 20<sup>th</sup> Feb to the 5<sup>th</sup> Mar, whilst up to 6 were at the same site from 10<sup>th</sup> Dec until the end of the year.

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

Relatively scarce with only 22 records during the year and a high count of 8 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Reported in small numbers during the winter months up to 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 7<sup>th</sup> Nov with 32 at Bin Butti overflow on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb the highest number counted.

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

Common during winter with small numbers reported throughout the year, though some records may relate to released birds. The largest flock was at Zakher Lake (AD) from where up to 500 were recorded on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Recorded most months except July, though mainly in winter and especially at Zakher Lake (AD) and Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) from where numbers reached 350 on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan and 17<sup>th</sup> Dec respectively.

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

Present, usually in small numbers, up to 8<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 12<sup>th</sup> Jul with larger numbers including 80 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan and 60 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

Fairly common in spring and even more so in autumn, with birds seen from 14<sup>th</sup> Mar to 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 18<sup>th</sup> Aug to 12<sup>th</sup> Nov, reaching a single peak count of 12 on 25<sup>th</sup> Sep at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD).

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

Recorded in every month except May and June, with numbers reaching 350 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov and 250 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

Reported up to 24<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 1<sup>st</sup> Nov with numbers reaching 80 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan and 5<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Recorded in small numbers throughout the year with an individual possibly over-summering at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), from where up to 16 were reported on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov, a count only bettered by Zakher Lake (AD) which held 18 on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

Fairly scarce, with only 21 records during the year, 20 of which were in the first three months up to 24<sup>th</sup> Mar. In the latter half of the year, there was only a single record of 3 on Lulu Island (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. The highest counts were of 20 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan and Zakher Lake (AD) on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan.

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

Only reported from Wadi Bih (RAK) with 40 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec the highest count from a total of only 8 records during the year.

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

Recorded throughout the year with breeding noted in June at Wadi Wurayah National Park (FUJ) and at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD). A count of 30 on Jebel Hafit (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> Jun was the highest reported.

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

Very common throughout the year with 300 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr and 4<sup>th</sup> Sep the highest counts recorded.

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

There were a total of 30 records during the year with birds seen up to 16<sup>th</sup> May and from 6<sup>th</sup> Sep, mostly in single figure numbers, though an estimated 15 calling from Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr was exceptional.

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

Seven records between 7<sup>th</sup> Jun and 1<sup>st</sup> Aug, all from pelagics out of Kalba (SHJ), with a count of 45 on the latter day the highest of the year.

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

The 6<sup>th</sup> record was photographed on a deep-water pelagic trip from Kalba (SHJ) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jun.

**Unidentified Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma sp.*)**

Two "Swinhoe's-type" storm-petrels seen in rough conditions on 28<sup>th</sup> Jun and another photographed on 16<sup>th</sup> Sep, all offshore from Kalba (SHJ), were accepted by the EBRC as "dark-rumped storm-petrel sp".

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

There were 2 birds seen during Kalba (SHJ) pelagics. One was seen on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May, with a different bird photographed on 20<sup>th</sup> Jun.

**Unidentified Shearwater (*Calonectris sp.*)**

A Cory's-type shearwater photographed offshore from Kalba (SHJ) on 13<sup>th</sup> Sep could not be definitely assigned to species.

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

A single bird seen during a Kalba (SHJ) deepwater pelagic on 4<sup>th</sup> Jul was the only record of the year and the 7<sup>th</sup> national record.

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

There were only 4 records, all from Kalba (SHJ) pelagic trips. One was seen on 7<sup>th</sup> Apr, 5 on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr, one on 27<sup>th</sup> May and a single on 20<sup>th</sup> Jun, the latest on record.

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

Seen on 12 occasions between 31<sup>st</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> Sep on Kalba (SHJ) pelagics. Highest counts included 40 on 13<sup>th</sup> Sep and 30 on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Recorded most months from the east coast with high counts of 805 and 589 from pelagics out of Kalba (SHJ) on 20<sup>th</sup> Jun and 19<sup>th</sup> Jul respectively.

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

Seen during 9 Kalba (SHJ) pelagic trips between 31<sup>st</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> Oct with an impressive 300 recorded on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Very commonly recorded from most freshwater wetland sites with 250 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug the highest count. Successful breeding also proven at nine sites between May and August.

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

Reported up to 3<sup>rd</sup> May and from 26<sup>th</sup> Sep, with numbers reaching 41 at The Springs (DUB) on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct and 30 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Common and numerous at the traditional sites of Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) from where highs of 3100 on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan and 2000 on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan were reported. Successful breeding was again recorded at Al Wathba with 90 juveniles observed on 18<sup>th</sup> Sep. A bird seen drinking from a puddle at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct was an unusual and rather pathetic sight.

**Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) UC**

One flew over the boat during a deepwater pelagic out of Kalba (SHJ) on 28<sup>th</sup> Jun. A perplexingly rare east coast record.

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

Rather scarce this year, with a total of only 7 individuals recorded. Wamm Farms (FUJ) hosted long-staying birds with one lingering from 2013 until 4<sup>th</sup> Apr when it was joined by a second bird, and again in autumn when 2 stayed from 19<sup>th</sup> Sep to the year end. Single birds were also seen over the E311 near Ghantoot (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, flying over Wafi (DUB) on 26<sup>th</sup> Apr and at Al Qudra Lake (DUB) on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Present year-round with numbers increasing during winter. Gatherings in excess of 20 birds were often at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) from where up to 74 were counted on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov; Zakher Lake (AD) had 40 on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov and at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) there were 26 throughout November.

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

Mainly recorded during the winter months at the regular sites of Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) and Khor al-Beida (UAQ) from where up to 50 and 16 were reported on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov and 17<sup>th</sup> Nov respectively. A count of 21 at Yas Island (AD) on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan was the only other double-figure count.

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

One was found at a private estate near to Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, remaining until at least 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) PM & R**

Recorded from only 7 sites between the dates of 6<sup>th</sup> Apr to 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. A private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) held up to 5 birds (2 males, 3 females) from mid-June until mid-October with breeding strongly suspected.; an immature there 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Oct would appear to support that.

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

Reported throughout the year in relatively low numbers; the highest single counts of 18 at Nad al Sheba (DUB) on 27<sup>th</sup> Jul and 14 at Safa Park (DUB) on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr possibly indicating a significant decline in this species compared to previous years.

**Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) R**

Regularly recorded in single-figure numbers throughout the year with up to 6 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 6<sup>th</sup> May the highest single count. A fresh juvenile observed at Za'abeel Park (DUB) on 9<sup>th</sup> Jun was the only reported evidence of breeding.

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

A count of 9 birds at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan was the highest count of this widespread yet uncommon resident.

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

Reported up to 17<sup>th</sup> May and from 28<sup>th</sup> Sep, this regular winter visitor proved extremely scarce, being seen in ones and twos at 5 locations on only 27 dates. This apparent drop in numbers is probably due to access restrictions at the regular mangrove habitat at Khor Kalba (SHJ).

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

Common throughout the year, with high counts including 120 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 30<sup>th</sup> Aug and 115 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

There were only 2 records during the year, both in April with the birds in breeding plumage. One was photographed at Al Qua'a fodder fields (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr whilst one at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr was presumably the long-staying/returning individual reported in previous years. It is highly likely that this species is regularly overlooked, especially at the latter location, due to the difficulties in separating non-breeding plumaged birds from their Western counterparts.

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

Common and widespread with major gatherings at Al Qudra Lake (DUB) with 94 on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep, 65 on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb at Zakher Lake (AD) and 60 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Reported in mostly ones and twos throughout the year. A flock of 14, mainly juveniles, observed taking off from the breakwater at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Sep and 9 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep were the largest groups reported.

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

Regular at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) throughout the year, with a peak of 75 noted on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. Relatively scarce elsewhere with 10 at Al Jazira Khor (RAK) on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb the only other counts in double figures.

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

Regular in small numbers, especially at the main wetland areas of Zakher Lake (AD) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), with 8 at Zakher Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan and 15<sup>th</sup> Jul the maximum recorded.

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

Common and widespread across most wetland sites, with an exceptional 400 recorded during a boat trip around Bahrani and Futaisi Islands (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> June, including a flock of around 150 birds.

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

Seen on four dates on Kalba (SHJ) pelagics: 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1 on 24<sup>th</sup> Jun, and 2 on both 25<sup>th</sup> Jun and 19<sup>th</sup> Sep. Bizarrely, one of the latter two birds was photographed sitting on a floating sofa deep offshore!

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

Present in small numbers year-round, increasing during the winter months when numbers reached 500+ at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan and at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Socotra Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*) R****IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**

Recorded from both coastlines throughout the year, though counts of 20,000 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb and 15,000 offshore from Umm al-Qaiwain breakwater (UAQ) on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep were exceptional. The former record included many juveniles, suggesting very successful local breeding.

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

Observed every month, mostly near the coast, though single birds at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct and Saih al Salam Expo Lakes (DUB) on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov were unusual inland records. A count of 12 birds during a boat trip around Bahrani and Futaisi Islands (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> Jun was the largest number reported from a single area.

**Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) V**

Four individuals were seen during the year. The returning long-staying bird at Yas Links Golf Club (AD) remained until 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, whilst other singles were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 15<sup>th</sup> Sep and Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep, with presumably the same bird on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

**Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) R****IUCN Red List Status: Endangered**

Only recorded from Jebel Hafit (AD) and sites nearby with a count of 28 on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct the highest reported.

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

Reports were received every month except for September, with regular single-figure counts from the areas around Mushrif National Park (DUB), central Abu Dhabi Island (AD) and the Green Mubazzarah/Ain al-Fayda locality in Al Ain (AD), with a maximum of 6 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr.

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

Reports of 2 *Pernis* sp at Ain al-Fayda (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr and 1 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr could not be assigned confidently to species though the latter report was strongly suspected of being a male European Honey Buzzard *P. apivorus*.

**Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) V**

Two birds were seen in the deserts outside Dubai in February, being photographed on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at Nakhli (DUB) and on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb in the Tijarah desert area (DUB). The 14<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*) UC****IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**

An exceptionally good year for this normally scarce species, with a total of 26 sightings during the year, mainly from the Saih al Salam desert (DUB) and surrounding area. Up to 6 roamed around in the period up to 18<sup>th</sup> Mar, with birds seen again from 13<sup>th</sup> Aug, reaching up to 11 on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. Away from this area, 3 were near Hatta (DUB) on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1 near Wadi Helo (SHJ) on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 1 over the Dhaid to Al Madam road (SHJ) on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep and another seen along the Al Ain to Al Qua'a road (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov and again the following day.

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

A total of only 10 sightings during the year from only 4 localities. A bird was seen around Mushrif National Park (DUB) from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, singles were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and in the Green Mubazzarah (AD) area on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and again on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. Two were seen near the Kalba Bird of Prey Centre (SHJ) on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) WV & PM****IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**

Seen up to 16<sup>th</sup> Apr, with birds returning from 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, mainly in the area around Dubai Creek (DUB). Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, as usual, had the highest counts with 9 there on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan and 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. A *fulvescens*-type bird was seen at Ras al Khor in both Feb and Nov.

**Booted Eagle (*Hieraetus pennatus*) UC**

There were only 6 records, probably relating to as few as 3 individuals. One was at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, with sightings of up to 2 there the following winter from 25<sup>th</sup> Oct to 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. A sighting from Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec may also have been one of these birds. A bird at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct was the only other sighting.

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

Total of 6 records; two in spring and four in autumn and all of singles. Birds, presumably on spring passage, were recorded near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar and at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Autumn records were from 11<sup>th</sup> Oct at Jebel Hafit (AD) with three further records, relating to one or two birds, from the Dubai area 19<sup>th</sup> Oct to 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) WV****IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**

Total of 48 records, almost all singles. Most frequently reported from the Green Mubazzarah / Zakher Lake (AD) area, where up to two were present from early January to 16<sup>th</sup> Apr and again from 30<sup>th</sup> Oct to the year end. Also one reported regularly from the Saih al Salam / Al Qudra (DUB) area until 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar and again from 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. Further records of singles, almost all one-dayers, from 5 other sites.

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

Total of 47 records from eleven sites, including pairs from at or near Jebel Hafit (AD) and Wadi Wurayah NP (FUJ). Less typical was an immature coming in off the sea at Dibba Port (FUJ) on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

There were 38 reports in all, mainly from well-known sites in the Greater Dubai area. Much more interesting were singles near Green Mubazzarah from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Oct and another at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Recorded in small numbers until mid-April, with one on 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Sila'a (AD) and again from 17<sup>th</sup> October (after one outlier on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept). Almost all records referred to single individuals, although 3 were reported from Sila'a on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct and 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Recorded commonly from many sites until 5<sup>th</sup> April, with two records in mid and late April and again from 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. By far the highest counts were from Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), which had up to 15 in Jan, Nov and Dec. Twelve at Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov and 9 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov on were the only other counts exceeding eight.

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

There were 5 of these erratic rare raptors during the year. A ringtail was at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb and 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar, with another in the Bida Bin Amar Desert (AD) also on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar. Towards the end of the year, Wamm Farms (FUJ) had ringtails on 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, followed by an adult male on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

There were 51 records in all, mainly singles but three were recorded at Al Qudra Lake (DUB) on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan and at Sila'a (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. Recorded until early April, with one late bird at Kalba (SHJ) on 29<sup>th</sup> April and again from 12<sup>th</sup> Sept.

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

Much scarcer than the previous species, with just 14 records. Ten of these records were during autumn passage, from 12<sup>th</sup> Sept to 10<sup>th</sup> Nov, with the majority in September, including 3 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. The four records in the first half of the year were from 18<sup>th</sup> Jan to 6<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Black Kite (*Milvus migrans [migrans-group]*) V**

A bird presumed to be either of the nominate *migrans* or Indian *govinda* subspecies was first seen at Dubai Pivot Fields on 30<sup>th</sup> Aug and on several dates in October, being last seen on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Very scarce, with only 6 records, all from the Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary area (DUB) save for two at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 4<sup>th</sup> April and 1 at Ajban Farms (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. At Ras al Khor, 3 were recorded on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr and singles, presumably the same individual, on three dates 6<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Pallas's Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) V**

Only the third UAE record, and the first since 1972, was photographed over Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr.

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

Twelve records in all but pertaining to only four (or five) individuals: Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, Al Qudra (DUB) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, Zakher Lake (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Aug and 29<sup>th</sup> Nov and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 19<sup>th</sup> Oct to 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) UC**

One long-staying bird from 2013 remained at Al Qua'a fodder fields (AD) until 5<sup>th</sup> Apr, whilst one was at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct and 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

A long-staying individual at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) was present from 16<sup>th</sup> Oct until the year end.

**Corn Crane (*Crex crex*) PM**

There were 4 records, with single birds recorded at Emirates Palace (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> May, Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 16<sup>th</sup> May and Sila'a (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

One was at Al Barsha Pond Park (DUB) from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, with another at Al Dhait South rubbish tip (SHJ) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov.

**Baillon's Crane (*Porzana pusilla*) PM**

Two birds were reported during the year. One was at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr, whilst another stayed at a private estate nearby from 10<sup>th</sup> Sep to 18<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

There were just 5 records during the year, all relating to single birds. One was at Emirates Palace (AD) on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar with another at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr. A private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) had one on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr and a long-staying bird from 28<sup>th</sup> Nov to the year end. Another long-stayer was at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club from 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.

**Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*) V**

A first-winter bird found exhausted in the gardens of the Nad al Sheba Avian Reproduction Centre (DUB) on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov was the first ever recorded in the UAE. It was caught the following day and released before an assembled group of birders at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB).

**Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*) R**

Reported throughout the year at the newly-established site of Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) with a maximum count of 7 on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. The only other records came from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) where up to 2 were reported on 9 dates throughout the year.

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

Reported widely at many sites throughout the year, with a maximum count of 47 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Recorded throughout the year from a small number of sites. Highest counts were from Zakher Lake (AD) where up to 60 were reported and Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) where numbers reached 40. Breeding was confirmed at both sites.

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

Very scarce, with only 4 records, although this included a breeding record at Abu al-Abyadh island (AD) where a chick was found in July. The other records were migrants, recorded from 11<sup>th</sup> Oct to 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Recorded all year, although relatively few records from June to Aug. Highest counts came from Khor al Beida (UAQ) where 140 on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb was exceptional; most counts from there comprised less than 50. Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) and Bhalghelam Island (AD) were the only other sites with counts exceeding 30.

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

Present virtually all year, although very scarce Mar-Apr. As usual, the vast majority of records came from Khor al Beida (UAQ), where up to 175 were reported in September. 167 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> October was another significant count. The breeding site of Abu al Abyadh Island (AD) saw 1400, believed to represent approximately 700 pairs, on 11<sup>th</sup> Jun. One photographed at Wadi Reza (SHJ) on 17<sup>th</sup> Sep was the first inland record, although at least one bird satellite tagged in eastern Oman was recorded overflying the UAE desert en-route to the Arabian Gulf.

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

Recorded widely from almost anywhere with suitable habitat. Peak count was 377 at Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan with counts exceeding 300 noted from Zakher Lake (AD) and Sharjah Tip (SHJ) in mid-summer; presumably these relate to post-breeding aggregations.

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

Recorded almost exclusively from the regular sites of Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) and Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) with maximum counts of 91 at the former site (2<sup>nd</sup> Mar) and 21 at the latter (19<sup>th</sup> Jan). Present all year at Al Wathba, with breeding suspected there in June.

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

One Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan and all others reported from 12<sup>th</sup> Nov onwards. Three at Dubai Pivot Fields on that date did not linger but singles at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) remained into 2015.

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

Widely reported all year, with over 200 at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) from late Aug until late Oct and 169 on a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug the highest counts. Up to 7 reported as far west as Sila'a (AD).

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

Only 3 records: one Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct was quite early; ones at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) from 21<sup>st</sup> Nov and at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 26<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> Dec were more typically timed.

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

Reported mainly from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) where breeding was confirmed with a high count of 52 on 12<sup>th</sup> Sep and from the Mafraq-AI Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) area where several pairs bred but the maximum count was only 8 (several dates). Only scattered records, in very small numbers, at several other sites.

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

Singles at Wamm Farm (FUJ) on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb and Ghantoot (AD) on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb were the only records.

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

Present until late March, and again from late Aug, with 12 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 16<sup>th</sup> May the only record in between. The vast majority of records were of small flocks or singles, especially late Aug to end of Oct with relatively few Nov-Dec. 200 reported at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan was an exceptionally high count; all other counts involved 22 or less.

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

Present all year, with records in every month. 350 at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan was the maximum count. Counts exceeding 200 came from Khor al Beida (UAQ), Bhalghelam Island (AD) and Al Jazirah Khor (RAK), all in Jan.

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

Probably present all year, but no records in July and few records May-mid Aug. Most counts were rather small (less than 30) with highest counts coming from Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (100, 19<sup>th</sup> Jan and 80, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct).

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

Present all year, but rather scarce Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec. Most counts predictably low but 50 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 29<sup>th</sup> Jun presumably represented a post-breeding aggregation.

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

Present all year with breeding reported at many sites from Apr-July. By far the highest counts came from Khor al Beida (UAQ) with 2000 there on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug and 1000 on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep. Nine other sites had counts exceeding 100.

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

Present all year, but surprisingly scarce in Apr (only 3 records) and in Jun (one record). 1500 were counted at Khor al Beida (UAQ) on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan and 29<sup>th</sup> Aug, with 1298 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct the next highest count. Apart from 1000 at Khor al Beida on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, no other counts exceeded 400.

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

Present all year, but very scarce Mar-June and in generally much lower numbers than the preceding species. Only 9 counts exceeding 100, including 1000 at Khor al Beida (UAQ) on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug and 860 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus*) PM**

13 records, all of singles, but involving only 5 individuals. Unusually, one overwintered at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) from Jan to 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. Autumn records came from four sites (including one at Hamraniyah on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov) from 29<sup>th</sup> Aug to 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Recorded Jan to early Feb and again from 1<sup>st</sup> Nov until 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, apart from up to 3 individuals in the Al Ain area (AD) from 4<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Apr. Most records concerned singles but 3 were at Ain al Fayda (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr.

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

Scarce; recorded from only five sites but present from Jan to 28<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 19<sup>th</sup> Sep until late Dec. Most records referred to a long-staying, well observed individual at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD), although two were present there in Mar. Most other records concerned singles, but two were noted at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on several dates with a remarkable 8 reported there on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.

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

Common and widespread until 26<sup>th</sup> Apr (with one recorded 3<sup>rd</sup> May) and again from late Aug until the year end. Largest counts were 81 at Hamraniyah (RAK) on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct and 60, Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) WV & PM****IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Present all year, although few records Apr-Aug inclusive. All counts exceeding 60 came from Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) where 100 or more were noted on seven occasions, including 235 on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Other regular wintering sites, albeit in much smaller numbers, were Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), Zakher Lake (AD) and Yas Island (AD).

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

Present all year, with counts of 100 Bahrani / Futaisi Islands (AD) in June and 250 Khor al Beida (UAQ) in July indicating substantial numbers of over-summering non-breeders. Counts in excess of 500 came from Yas Island (AD) and Bhalghelam Island (AD) in Jan and from Khor al Beida (UAQ) on several dates Jan-Mar and Sep. The maximum was 680 at the latter site on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

Widespread and present all year, but in rather small numbers with only one count exceeding 50: 51 at Khor al Beida (UAQ) on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Similar temporal and spatial distribution of records to previous species, and in rather similar numbers with few substantial counts. Up to 60 were recorded from Khor al Beida (UAQ) in Feb-Mar but otherwise less than 20 was the norm.

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

Present in very small numbers at favoured sites from Jan until 3<sup>rd</sup> May and again from 5<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards to the year end; much scarcer in the second half of the year. Up to 6 were present at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) Jan-May with 3 together at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3 dates in late April. Only recorded from 8 additional sites and almost invariably as singles.

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

Present all year, but scarce Apr-May and no June records. Counts exceeding 100 came only from Khor al Beida (UAQ) on many dates (maximum 827, 20<sup>th</sup> Dec) and Bhalghelam Island (AD) on two dates (280, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan; 254, 11<sup>th</sup> Oct).

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

Recorded all months, but very few Apr - late Aug. Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) had up to 35 in late winter-early spring but counts exceeding 10 were otherwise very infrequent.

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

Present all year and quite widespread, normally in low numbers, in suitable habitats. Khor al Beida (UAQ) was by far the most important site, with 200 there on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar and counts exceeding 100 there in Jan-Feb and Dec. Six other sites had counts exceeding 15.

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

Quite widespread in very small numbers until 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and from 12<sup>th</sup> July, with one on 26<sup>th</sup> Jun the first returning migrant. Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) hosted 10 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan but otherwise only a few counts exceeded 4.

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

Widespread and quite common until 16<sup>th</sup> May and from 16<sup>th</sup> Aug, with two records in late Jul / early Aug. Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) had up to 35 Nov-Dec, Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) 20 on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept and a similar number at Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Most other counts were less than 10.

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

Present until 18<sup>th</sup> May and again from 6<sup>th</sup> July. As normal, the highest counts came from Khor al Beida (UAQ), where 70 were present on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. Bhalghelam and Sir Bani Yas Islands (both AD) were the only other sites where counts exceeded 20.

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

Present, at least in small numbers, almost all year; no records 22<sup>nd</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June may reflect genuine absence but also limited observer activity. No counts exceeded 20 and the vast majority were less than 10. Seventeen at Khor Fakkan canal (SHJ) on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan and 14 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct were the highest single counts.

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

Recorded every month, but only one record in June and two in August. Only four counts exceeded 50, all from September / October and hence presumably involving passage migrants with a maximum of 88 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. Highest numbers in winter came from Khor al Beida (UAQ), where 50 were recorded on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb; most other counts were less than 20.

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

Recorded from only two sites. At Khor al Beida (UAQ), recorded until 7<sup>th</sup> Feb and from 15<sup>th</sup> Nov with 75 counted on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan; all other counts were less than 20. In addition, 13 were present at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Present until 28<sup>th</sup> May and from 12<sup>th</sup> Aug, with one record in July. Highest counts (66 and 90) came from 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and 18<sup>th</sup> May at Kalba (SHJ) and clearly refer to spring migrants; although 61 were at the same site on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. Sixty at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct was the best count from autumn passage. Almost all other counts were less than 30 but included inland records at Al Qudra Lake (DUB) late Mar and late Aug.

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

Present all year, although numbers from mid May until late August very small. Largest counts (1000) came from Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on several dates with Zakher Lake and Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (both AD) the only sites where counts exceeded 400. Widespread at many other sites, albeit often in small numbers.

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

Present until 9<sup>th</sup> May and from 16<sup>th</sup> Aug. Largest counts came in autumn from Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) where 160 16<sup>th</sup> Oct and 110 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) had up counts of up to 90 (Oct to Dec) and 64 were at Zakher Lake on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. Widespread at many other sites, albeit generally in small numbers.

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

Present all year, but only three records in May, one in June and two in August. The highest counts were 450-500 spring migrants at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Apr. Khor al Beida (UAQ) was the only other site where counts exceeded 200 however such counts were scattered throughout the year.

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

Recorded until 16<sup>th</sup> May and from late August, with one June record. Almost all counts exceeding 500 came from Khor al Beida (UAQ) with 2000 and 2250 counted there in Jan. In addition, 1500 were recorded at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct and 1131 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Just 12 reports of this enigmatic and low-profile species with all records from 4<sup>th</sup> Sept until 25<sup>th</sup> Oct bar single records from both July and Aug. Highest counts were an excellent 11 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept and 12 at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct; some of the latter likely refer to wintering birds at this difficult-to-access site. One at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 10<sup>th</sup> October was an unexpected location for this species.

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

Present and widely reported until 14<sup>th</sup> May and from 18<sup>th</sup> July. Highest counts (150) came from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept and 16<sup>th</sup> Oct respectively. Other sites where counts exceeded 40 were Sharjah Rubbish Tip (SHJ) and Al Qudra Lake (DUB).

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

Recorded almost all months; no records in June (and only one in July). Interestingly, four counts (70 to 140) were all from sites along the east coast from Fujairah to Dibba (both FUJ) in Jan with only one other count exceeding (130, Khor Kalba Pelagic (SHJ) on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr). Widespread in small numbers elsewhere, in particular in Apr and Sept.

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

Recorded all year bar June, clearly a function of observer activity. Biggest counts, as usual, came from post-breeding aggregations in summer and autumn, including 64 at Khor al Beida (UAQ) on 12<sup>th</sup> July and up to at Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club Sept to Dec. The vast majority of other records were from the greater Dubai area (DUB), and included breeding confirmed at Saih al Salam / Al Qudra Lake (DUB) (where chicks were found in March and 4 juveniles in May). One outside Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar and 4<sup>th</sup> Apr was an interesting record of a presumed migrant.

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

Recorded from 13<sup>th</sup> Mar until 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, with clear peaks for spring and autumn passage. Twelve at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr was the best spring count but 32 at Hamranyah Nursery (RAK) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug exceeded this. Breeding was confirmed at saline pools at Ajban where two chicks were seen in June.

**Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*) V****IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

One was at Hamranyah Nursery (RAK) from 28<sup>th</sup> Feb to 8<sup>th</sup> Mar.

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

A poor year for this species, with only 4 records received. Kalba (SHJ) pelagics yielded 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> Sep, 6 on 20<sup>th</sup> Sep and 1 on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep. One was also seen flying along the beach at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov.

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

The 8<sup>th</sup> national record was photographed at sea off Kalba (SHJ) on 19<sup>th</sup> Jul.

**Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*) V**

Two immatures were found at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr. The 6<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

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

Present all year, but numbers in summer very small and all records Mar to early Oct with small counts. 2500 counted at sites along the East Coast on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan was by far the biggest count with 508 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) the best count on the Gulf coast.

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

Common and widespread until Apr and from Nov onwards with scattered summer records in very low numbers. 22 counts exceeded 1000, nearly all from coastal locations, with 5000 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) and 2500 at Abu Dhabi Officer's Club (AD) in January the highest totals.

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

An adult at Mafraq Rubbish Tip (AD) on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec might possibly have been the same individual recorded at the same site in 2013.

**Pallas's Gull (*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*) WV**

Present until 18<sup>th</sup> Apr (but only three Apr records) and widely reported from 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. 440 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) was a new highest count for the UAE and must have been a spectacular sight; 420 were still present mid-month with 70 there on 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. 45 at Dhayah on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan was the only other count exceeding 40 and indeed most records concerned 10 birds or less, mainly on the Gulf coast and especially around Abu Dhabi island (AD).

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

Present all year, mainly on the east coast but relatively few records Aug to Dec. Highest counts were generally Apr-May or Jan, with maxima of 2310 at Kalba (SHJ; 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr), 500, Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ; 31<sup>st</sup> May) and a combined total of 1755 at both sites, 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. Only one record on the Gulf coast (8, Lulu Island (AD), 6<sup>th</sup> Sept) but counted Sir Abu Nuair Island (SHJ), where nests with one to three eggs were found.

**Mew Gull (*Russian*) (*Larus canus heinei*) V**

One was seen at Eastern Mangrove Lagoon NP (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, with possibly the same bird on Lulu Island (AD) on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

In all, just eight widely scattered records of this subtle and doubtlessly overlooked gull, with four records Jan and the remainder October to Dec. Most records referred to singles, with 3 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct the exception.

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

Reported from 24<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, with two single records from mid Aug and early Sep. 300 were reported at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, although this likely includes many (possibly very many) birds of the following taxon. Almost all other counts were less than 5, widely scattered on both coastlines.

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

Reported until 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and from 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, with one record on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Highest counts were 500, Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 15<sup>th</sup> Mar and 200 at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. Widely reported in smaller numbers at other sites.

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

Large white-headed gulls, of any taxon, are generally scarce in the UAE between the end of March and mid-August, with numbers down to single figures through the summer. Identification difficulties obscure the true status of all three taxa involved although it is generally believed that a large majority of records refer to Steppe Gull *L.f.barabensis*. Hence, many records relating to unspecified (sub)species were received. Reported until 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and from 5<sup>th</sup> Sep, 3300 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan was exceptional; no other counts exceeded 300 and most were less than 100.

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

Present all year, but many fewer records Apr to Aug. The majority of records (and all counts exceeding 11) came from Khor al Beida (UAQ) where 90 on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb was the maximum and Ras al Khor Wetland Sanctuary (DUB) where the peak count was 35 on 9<sup>th</sup> June. All records bar three came from the Gulf coast.

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

As with the previous species, present all year and virtually confined to the Gulf coast. 50 at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept was the maximum count; most other counts exceeding five came from the Abu Dhabi Island / Yas Island areas (AD) where 40 were recorded on a boat trip on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Up to 5 at Safa Park (DUB) in Jan – Feb would have been an impressive sight.

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

Present all months along the east coast, in fairly small numbers. Apart from Khor Kalba harbour once, Dibba Port (FUJ) was the only site recording more than 30 birds, with 100 here on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and 150 on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

As the previous species, recorded all months mainly from the east coast (but also present in small numbers in summer in inshore waters of the Gulf coast, especially around Abu Dhabi island. Eight counts exceeding 100 were received, with 200 at Dibba Port (FUJ) on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct the highest.

**Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) WV & P**

Present on the east coast in small numbers all year, although records at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) (up to 5 in Sept) and one at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov were notable Gulf coast records. Only four counts exceeded 25 with 80 at Kalba on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr being the peak.

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

Majority of records March to October with several outside this period being questionable due to identification difficulties and separation from the next species. Mainly recorded from the east coast, in flocks of up to 80 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ). As usual, and rather more convincingly, several inland records in Mar and Apr from the Al Ain area.

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

Only reported March to Sept but doubtless overlooked amongst the preceding species and possibly much more numerous. Counts included 75 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 7<sup>th</sup> Jun and breeding was recorded at or near Abu Dhabi and Abu al Abyad Islands (AD).

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

There were 64 records of unspecified *Sternula* terns throughout the year. It should be noted that accurate identification of *Sternula* terns is often difficult, even with full breeding-plumaged adults, with many birds showing inconclusive features, e.g. ambiguous forehead pattern or inconsistent combinations of black outer primaries and rump colour. Identification of juveniles and winter birds is generally impossible. Reported (by cautious observers) all year and in much larger numbers than either of the above two entries. Nine counts, all from the east coast, exceeded 100, with a whopping 1000 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 20<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Three Jan records from the east coast but otherwise recorded Apr to mid Nov but numbers very low from mid Sept. Counts included up to 531 on Kalba Pelagic trips (SHJ) but the maximum observed from land was 45. 1500 were present on Sir Abu Nuair island (SHJ) with 500 pairs estimated.

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

There were 4 records during the summer with birds seen on pelagic trips out of Kalba (SHJ) on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> Jun and 19<sup>th</sup> Jul and one past Al Bidiyah (FUJ) on 8<sup>th</sup> Jul.

**Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) V**

Up to 4 birds were seen at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) during the summer, with single adults on 19<sup>th</sup> Jul and 30<sup>th</sup> Jul and an adult and juvenile on 13<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Present all year along all the east coast. The majority of larger counts (including all bar three exceeding 200) came from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ), where 3000 were located on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept and 1200 on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1000 were also seen there on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Four at Zakher Lake (AD) 29<sup>th</sup> April was a typical inland record of spring migrants but there were very few from the Gulf coast. The majority of records were unattributed to subspecies, but three records apparently pertaining to *S. h. minussensis* were received.

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

Reported virtually all year, although no records in Dec and rather scarce Jan, Feb and Nov. The largest count was 300 at a breeding site at Jebel Dhanna (AD) and regularly seen in summer in smaller numbers off Abu Dhabi Island (AD). Numbers along the east coast were much smaller relative to the preceding species; 200 were at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr but most other counts were less than 40.

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

Present all year, but very few records June to July. Widespread, but in very small numbers; up to 65 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) in Nov and Dec dwarfed all other counts.

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

Scarce or very scarce Jan to Sep but autumn passage marked, with up to 9 at favoured sites (Al Wathba Wetland Reserve and Mirfa Water Treatment Plant; both AD). 30 at the former site on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov exceptional. Much less widespread than the previous species.

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

An adult photographed at Kalba cornice (SHJ) on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and a juvenile at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Sep were the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> national records.

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

Single birds reported from Al Rugheilat Beach (FUJ) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan and a Kalba pelagic (SHJ) on 4<sup>th</sup> Jul were the only records received this year.

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

Scarce; only 17 records scattered throughout the year and all from the east coast. The only significant counts came from Kalba (SHJ) pelagic trips, where 21 (19<sup>th</sup> Apr) and 9 (25<sup>th</sup> Apr).

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

Three records of singles; all midsummer: on the boat on Kalba pelagic trips (20 Jun; 19 Jul) and off Fujairah Port Beach (14<sup>th</sup> Jul).

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

Quite widely reported all year mainly from the Gulf littoral. Largest counts came from Saih as Salam area (DUB) and, to a lesser extent, Wamm Farms (FUJ) where 77 (2<sup>nd</sup> Dec) and 50 (17<sup>th</sup> Oct) respectively. Breeding was confirmed at several sites in the greater Dubai area, including Nakhli (DUB) whilst 11 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) was the first confirmed record from this site.

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

Commonly reported from a well-watched private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD), where counts peaked at 31 on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. Elsewhere, just a handful of scattered records, most regularly from Wadi Wurayah (FUJ) where the peak count was 12 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Common and widespread with up to 1000 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr the highest number reported.

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

Present mid-March to mid-Nov, with one Dec record, but most records in Aug to Oct. Only significant numbers came from Saih as Salam area / Al Qudra Lake (DUB) where breeding was clearly successful and 30 logged on 30<sup>th</sup> Aug. Breeding was also confirmed from Ajban Palace (AD).

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

One at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct was the only record of this uncommon, predominately autumn visitor.

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

Abundant and widespread, with estimated counts of 1000 received from Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan and Ajban (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> Sep the highest submitted.

**Laughing Dove (*Spilopelia senegalensis*) R**

Extremely common and widespread resident, with counts often in triple figures and an estimated 300 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) the most reported.

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

Relatively scarce this year, with only 14 sightings. Counts of 20 were noted at Sila'a (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and, more unexpectedly, at Dubai pivot Fields (DUB) on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

There was a total of nine birds recorded, all single individuals, with 5 reports from 27<sup>th</sup> Mar to 9<sup>th</sup> May. A sighting on 18<sup>th</sup> Jun was presumably an early returner, with two others following on 14<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Aug.

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

One was seen flying over Al Mizhar (DUB) on 20<sup>th</sup> July, whilst in an amazing twist of fate, another was seen approximately 10km away in the Za'abeel area (DUB) the same evening.

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

Recorded at six sites during the year, with successful breeding recorded at Mushrif National Park (DUB) in May when 3 chicks were seen. Elsewhere, birds were seen at the regular roost sites of Al Jimi Oasis (AD) and Sharjah University City (SHJ) and also at Wadi May (FUJ), Sila'a (AD) and Nakhli private reserve (DUB).

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

There were 5 records during the year. An injured bird was found in the Za'abeel area of Dubai (DUB) on 15<sup>th</sup> Mar, one was photographed at Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar, with others at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and the Intercontinental Hotel in Abu Dhabi (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> May. In the autumn, one was at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, whilst another was seen on a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Oct.

***Otus sp.***

A scops owl found in the park at Sila'a (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov was not assigned to species.

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

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

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

Reported, more or less regularly, from nine widely scattered sites. Breeding was confirmed or deemed likely at three of these.

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

Just three records of singles: Jebel Dhana (AD; 15<sup>th</sup> Jan); Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club (AD; 8<sup>th</sup> Nov) and Shuweihat Rocks (AD; 28<sup>th</sup> Nov).

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

Spring passage 16<sup>th</sup> Apr to 16<sup>th</sup> May; mainly late Apr and early May where 4, Abu Dhabi Officer's Club on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr was the only significant count. Autumn passage 19<sup>th</sup> Sept until early Nov, and similarly scarce as spring apart from the usual the usual peculiar late influx to Emirates Palace (AD), where 8 on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov (and still 2 on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec).

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

Most interestingly, now a suspected summer breeder at one site in Abu Dhabi Emirate, where present late Mar to late Sep, peaking at 30 on 10<sup>th</sup> July with at least 4 juveniles seen. Winter singles at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (Jan, Nov, Dec) and also near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. Finally, one on spring passage, Wadi Wurayah, 18<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Unidentified Nightjar sp. (*Caprimulgus* sp.)**

Two records of unidentified nightjars from Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on 24<sup>th</sup> Sep and offshore from Kalba (SHJ) two days later were unresolved.

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

There were just 9 records. Winter records comprised singles at the water treatment plants of Al Ain (AD) on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan and Mirfa (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, with two seen over Zakher Lake (AD) on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. Late March saw a small movement, with 5 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar and 10 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar. A single bird at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Sep was the only bird seen in the autumn.

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

Seen almost throughout the year, with only July lacking records; numbers increasing during winter when counts of 1500 at Zakher Lake (AD) and 500 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) were noted.

**Pacific Swift (*Apus pacificus*) V**

A bird strongly indicative of this species, *sensu stricto*, was watched for 2 minutes over Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Sep. Since the split of the Pacific Swift complex into 4 species in 2011, it is extremely difficult to assign conclusively to species without good photographic evidence.

**Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) R**

Two were seen at the end of the Sila'a (AD) peninsula on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr, whilst one seen briefly over the hospital on Dalma Island (AD) on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec was probably one of two that were seen again in early 2015.

**Unidentified Swift (*Apus* sp.)**

A probable Little Swift was seen amongst approximately 400 presumed Pallid Swifts passing over Safa Park (DUB) on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr. On 17<sup>th</sup> Oct, a white-rumped swift thought possibly to be a Pacific-type was seen over Zakher Lake (AD) but not conclusively identified.

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

Regularly and widely reported throughout the year north and eastwards from the greater Abu Dhabi area, from where a single observation at Abu Dhabi airport (AD) on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar was an exceptionally rare record. Largest count was 50 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Mainly seen in low numbers during spring and autumn passage, with a small number staying until early Dec at least. One was recorded on 10<sup>th</sup> Jul, suggesting at least one bird may well have braved the summer conditions. A count of 22 made at Sila'a (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> May was the highest noted.

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

Exclusively recorded at Al Qurm Protected Area, Khor Kalba (SHJ), a systematic survey of the mangroves on 5<sup>th</sup> June revealed a population of 124 individuals, including 47 pairs. Ten nests were counted, the contents of which ranged from eggs to 2-3 week old chicks.

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

Recorded until 7<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep in ones and twos at a small number of sites, almost exclusively coastal. Despite limited access, most records (counts of up to three on two dates) came from Al Qurm Protected Area, Khor Kalba (SHJ). One near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov was a long way inland.

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

Widely and commonly reported from Abu Dhabi eastwards and northwards with breeding confirmed at a number of sites. Most counts less than 20, with at private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) and Ajban Water Treatment Plant (AJ) recording up to 22, 60 and 40 respectively.

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

Present from 5<sup>th</sup> Mar until 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, with, as usual, most records from Aug to Sept on autumn passage. Peak counts in autumn included 80 over Wamm Farms (FUJ; 5<sup>th</sup> Sept) and 75 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) in late Aug (several dates). In spring, the maximum was 31 at Al Qurm Protected Area, Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar but most spring counts much smaller. Breeding was confirmed at Al Bahia Farms (AD) and Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ).

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

Recorded 21<sup>st</sup> Mar to 16<sup>th</sup> May with rather less records on autumn passage, from 14<sup>th</sup> Aug until 26<sup>th</sup> Sept, with late records in Oct (two) and, exceptionally, one at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on the amazing date of 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. Highest counts in spring came from Wamm Farms (FUJ; 37) and Al Qua'a Fodder Field (AD; 40) both on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr. 30 at Sila'a (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept was the highest count in autumn.

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

Common and widespread, with a high count of 50 at Al Mamzar park (DUB) on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep. Breeding confirmed at Safa Park (DUB).

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

A few records scattered at the start of the year, but mainly recorded on spring passage (14<sup>th</sup> Mar to 18<sup>th</sup> Apr) and with far fewer records in autumn (3<sup>rd</sup> Sept to 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct). No further records until, rather peculiarly, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec when records between then and the end of the month. Three counts of three; the rest of doubles and (mainly) singles.

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

A rather poor year. Recorded 28<sup>th</sup> Mar to 23<sup>rd</sup> May (only five records; maximum 10 on 28<sup>th</sup> May at Wamm Farms (FUJ)) and in autumn (11 records; mainly from Wamm Farms, where maximum 3) between 26<sup>th</sup> Sep and 31<sup>st</sup> Oct with one remaining until end of Dec.

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

Widely reported from many sites where pairs clearly resident. Eight at Wamm Farms (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov was the peak count; most other counts four or less.

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

A female at Emirates Palace (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec was the only record this year. 17<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

**Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*) UC****IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

One was seen in Abu Dhabi (AD) outside the Sofitel Hotel on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar. A pair recorded on Fazia'a Island (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> Jul probably bred successfully as a colour-tagged juvenile was photographed there on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

There were five records; one flew through Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, single birds were seen at Zakher Lake (AD) on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and 4<sup>th</sup> Apr, Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Sixteen records, all in autumn from 12<sup>th</sup> Sept and all singles, bar 2 at Wamm Farms (FUJ; 17<sup>th</sup> Oct). Oddly, one late bird lingered at Zakher Lake (AD) from 30<sup>th</sup> Nov to 5<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Just three records; one in Al Ain (AD; 30<sup>th</sup> Jan) and two in Nov (1<sup>st</sup>; at Jebel Dhanna (AD) and 16<sup>th</sup> at Al Qudra Lake (DUB)).

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

Very scarce with repeated sightings of birds in the Jebel Hafit area, especially near Green Mubazzarah (AD) and, to a lesser extent, Wamm Farms (FUJ).

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

Widely reported, mainly from Abu Dhabi Island (AD) and the greater Dubai area (DUB) with only 2 records exceeding 10, both from the former site. Recorded from as far west as Mirfa (AD).

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

Many more records than the previous species, including up to 50 recorded at Mushrif National Park (DUB) and The Springs (DUB) on several dates. Recorded from as far west as Dalma Island (AD).

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

In spring, one at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar was exceptionally early and no further records until 2<sup>nd</sup> May and then commonly reported until 20<sup>th</sup> May; maximum counts 11 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on three dates at 10 at Emirates Palace (AD) on one date. Much scarcer in autumn, with up to two reported from only three sites, from 12<sup>th</sup> Sept until 28<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Reported widely until 12<sup>th</sup> Apr and then from 17<sup>th</sup> Sep to the year end. Clear spike in passage late Mar, when 30 at both Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Mar; most other reports less than ten.

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

Singles overwintering reported in Jan from Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club (AD) and Green Mubazzarah (AD) but otherwise common on spring passage from 21<sup>st</sup> Feb until end of Apr (with a few in May) and in autumn from 25<sup>th</sup> Aug until late Oct with a scattering of Nov and even a few Dec records. 30 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) by far the highest count; most other records less referring to less than 10.

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

There were 47 records of unspecified Isabelline Shrikes during the year in addition to 4 reports of obvious Red-backed x Daurian/Turkestan hybrids.

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

One was present at Green Mubazzarah (AD) from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Mar.

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

There were 6 spring individuals between 2<sup>nd</sup> May to 16<sup>th</sup> May, with 17 records covering probably 13 returning birds from 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug to 30<sup>th</sup> Sep. All records related to single birds.

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

Common and widespread, and especially so at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) from where there were many double-figure counts, reaching a maximum of 21 on 26<sup>th</sup> Jun and 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Regularly reported during winter and a rather protracted passage, with records regular until early April, though one individual was seen at Sila'a (AD) as late as 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Return migrants were recorded from 13<sup>th</sup> Sep. Counts of 8 were logged at Sila'a on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar and nearby Ghagah Island (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr.

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

Widely recorded in ones and twos from early spring, with dates ranging from 7<sup>th</sup> Feb to 10<sup>th</sup> Apr, peaking in late March/early April with up to 3 at Wamm farms (FUJ) on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar and Wadi Bih (RAK) on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr. An adult at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec was an extremely late, and only, record outside of spring.

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

Relatively uncommon, though fairly regularly observed due to the species reputation for long-staying. Records stretched up to 17<sup>th</sup> May and from 6<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards, with all records of single birds except for a count of 3 at the favoured haunt of Emirates Palace (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr. Other favoured locations included both Safa and Mamzar Parks (DUB) and Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD).

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

Recorded as a late spring migrant (16 records, 17 individuals) from 26<sup>th</sup> Apr to 13<sup>th</sup> Jun; the latter being a very late record coming from Alqurm Protected Area, Kalba (SHJ). Returning autumn birds (10 records, 15 individuals) were reported from 29<sup>th</sup> Aug through until 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. Though most seen singly, 4 at Mirfa (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> Sep was a notably good autumn score.

**Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) V**

In an exceptionally good year for drongos, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> national records were seen at Umm Suqiem Park (DUB) on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Mar and at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

One was at Mushrif National Park (DUB) from 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan to 14<sup>th</sup> Mar whilst another was found at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec and was still present the following day. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> UAE records.

**Black/Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus/leucophaeus*)**

There were five sightings of drongos in the Dubai area that were not satisfactorily identified, but all considered likely to be Black. These were at Al Awir (DUB) on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr, near the Atlantis Hotel, Palm Jumeirah (DUB) on 11<sup>th</sup> Jul, and three sightings in the Za'abeel area (DUB) on 11<sup>th</sup> Aug, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Widespread and very common in cities and coastal locations. A total of 310 was recorded at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep when a huge flock was observed leaving their roost in the nearby plantations.

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

Regularly seen in inland areas, especially dune deserts, with 40 seen along the northern section of Emirates Road (RAK) on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec the most reported.

**Fan-tailed Raven (*Corvus rhipidurus*) V**

Two birds were photographed soaring over the E11 near the Al Samha petrol stations (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. Only the 2<sup>nd</sup> UAE record and not recorded since 2006.

**Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) WV & PM**

Present until late Mar, with three further records of single migrants until 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. Only flocks were at the regular sites of Lulu Island (AD; maximum of 130, 20<sup>th</sup> Mar) and Yas Island (AD; maximum of 147, 10<sup>th</sup> Jan). In the second half of the year, one single at Lulu Island in October (18<sup>th</sup>) with up to 90 here by early December. Other records came from Wamm Farms (FUJ; 3 on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov) and Dalma Island (AD; 4 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec) with 90 back on Yas Island by end of Nov.

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

Scattered records from as far north as Khor al Beida (UAQ) and as far south/west as near Al Qua'a and Ruwais (both AD). Majority of records from the well-watched site of Saih al Salam area (DUB) where up to 5 reported. Breeding confirmed at Hoderiyat Island (AD), very close to Abu Dhabi island, in June.

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

Widely reported and fairly common in mountain areas. Maximum count was 20 at three sites: Wadi Bih (RAK), Masafi Wadi (FUJ) and Wadi Helo (SHJ), all Sep to Nov and presumably referring to post-breeding aggregations. Eight at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan was locally unusual.

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

One photographed near Al Qudra Lake (DUB) on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr was the only record of this increasingly scarce (or at least hard-to-find) resident.

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

As for Greater Hoopoe-Lark, many records from the Saih al Salam area (DUB), where evident all year. Up to 100 here in Jan (and at Nakhili (DUB) in August) but most flocks less than 20. There were strong indications of breeding at this site, and breeding confirmed at Khor Kalba (SHJ).

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

Reported only 9 times during the year. Three were at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan with the same number being recorded at Wamm Farms (FUJ) between 31<sup>st</sup> Jan and 26<sup>th</sup> Mar. Singles were also noted at Hamraniyah (RAK) on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar and 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec and Lahbab Fields (DUB) on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Regular winter visitor reported until 13<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 26<sup>th</sup> Sep, with 105 recorded on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at Wamm Farms (FUJ) the maximum.

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

Common and widespread with the highest count being 100 at Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr.

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

Widely reported until 25<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 5<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards, with several large flocks reported, most notably 40 at Al Qudra Lake, Saih as Salam (DUB) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20<sup>th</sup> Sep and Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

In a very poor year for this species, there were only 3 reports. Two birds were at Al Qudra Lake, Saih as Salam (DUB) on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, an incredible 35 at Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb and another 2 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Single birds at Suweihat Rocks (AD) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov and Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov were the only records this year.

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

Single birds from the remnant population at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) were seen on 13<sup>th</sup> Sep and 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Very common widespread resident with estimates of 300 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 30<sup>th</sup> Aug and 200 at Ajban Palace (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Jul the largest gatherings noted.

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

Common resident, mainly seen in city parks, from where a count of 75 was reported on 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar at Al Mamzar Park (DUB).

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

Fairly common resident of the mountains, with 60 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr the most counted.

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

Recorded throughout the year, scarce in late spring and summer, but increasingly numerous through the autumn, especially over inland bodies of water. High counts included 200 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and 150 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Recorded every month, with numbers swelling during spring and especially autumn. Large roost gatherings were observed at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on several dates during the Sep-Oct period, reaching 500 on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.

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

A single bird photographed at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov and seen again on the 25<sup>th</sup> was the only record this year.

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

Widely reported from mountain areas and the northern Emirates, albeit in fairly small numbers but 100 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 25<sup>th</sup> Dec exceptional. Most other records 20 or less and none west of Abu Dhabi.

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

Eighteen records, from 15<sup>th</sup> Jan to 2<sup>nd</sup> May and, more commonly, 6<sup>th</sup> Sep to 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. Invariably in small numbers, but 8 were at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on the latter date.

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

There were only 11 records (17 individuals) of this charismatic species, all between 7<sup>th</sup> Feb and 5<sup>th</sup> Apr, except for a lone individual at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. Typically an early migrant, a total of 5 were recorded on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, of which 4 were at Zakher Lake (AD).

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

Relatively under-recorded, with only 20 records during the year, over half of which emanated from the mountain wadis of Masafi (FUJ) from where up to 7 were counted on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. Outside of the northern Hajars, there were a few records from Wadi Tarabat (AD) at the base of Jebel Hafit.

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

Commonly reported during spring passage between 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar and 27<sup>th</sup> May, with numbers reaching 222 on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and 309 the following day, with 180 being recorded in the Jebel Dhanna (AD) area alone on the 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and some 238 on the 5<sup>th</sup> between Sila'a (AD) and nearby Ghagah Island (AD). There were five autumn records of up to 4 birds between 5<sup>th</sup> Sep and 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, with an extremely rare winter record on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov at Wamm Farms (FUJ).

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

Very common in winter and on passage, being recorded up to 21<sup>st</sup> Apr and from 15<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards, with a maximum estimated count of 90 coming from Al Mamzar park (DUB) on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar.

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

Regularly seen during winter at various mountain wadi locations, with dates up to 14<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Newly-arrived birds were recorded from mid- to late October from the coastal sites of Lulu Island (AD) and Al Mamzar Park (DUB), from where counts of 7 & 6 respectively were logged on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

There were just 3 individuals this year. A bird seen at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr was the sole spring record, whilst others were at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) from 19<sup>th</sup> Sep to 14<sup>th</sup> Oct and Safa Park (DUB) from 29<sup>th</sup> Oct until 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov.

**Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) V**

One at the Royal Stables in Abu Dhabi (AD) on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan and 1<sup>st</sup> Feb was only the 13<sup>th</sup> recorded in the country.

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

Only seven were reported during the year, with single birds at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan, Safa Park (DUB) 25<sup>th</sup> Jan to 15<sup>th</sup> Feb and again 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec, Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar, Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, Emirates Palace (AD) on 13<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and Mirfa Children's Park (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

A bird photographed at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Oct could not be conclusively assigned to either species.

**Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*) V**

Al Mamzar Park (DUB) hosted two different individuals during the autumn, with a very yellowish bird found on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, the first recorded since 2007. This was followed by a second more washed-out individual on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct, with presumably the same bird seen again on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Large-billed Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*) V**

One found and photographed at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct and remaining until the following morning, was the first record for the UAE and Arabia.

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

Four records of singles in spring, 28<sup>th</sup> Mar to 18<sup>th</sup> Apr. In autumn, recorded 6<sup>th</sup> Sep until 8<sup>th</sup> Nov but possibly involving as few as five individuals.

**Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens*) R**

Widely reported in small numbers from almost anywhere with suitable habitat, with records as far west as Sila'a (AD). Highest densities at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), where up to 15 reported.

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

One was photographed in the goat farm at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20<sup>th</sup> Sep. 17<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

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

There were four records: one was in the Nad al-Sheba area (DUB) on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar, Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May, with one at Dubai Marine Beach Resort in Jumeirah (DUB) also on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.

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

No January records, but otherwise reported every month, being far more conspicuous when singing and breeding. Much less widespread than Clamorous Reed Warbler but similarly highest densities at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), where up to 12 reported.

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

Recorded widely and fairly commonly 25<sup>th</sup> Apr to 29<sup>th</sup> May, with three counts of up to 50 between 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May but few counts exceeding 20. Reported in autumn (just four records) 29<sup>th</sup> Aug to 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Booted/Sykes's Warbler (*Iduna caligata/rama*)**

A bird photographed in Wadi Helo on 26<sup>th</sup> Apr could not be conclusively identified.

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

Present all year on Abu Dhabi Island (AD) where up to 12 reported in May when singing and conspicuous. Elsewhere, a widely reported spring migrant, mainly April to early May and Sept to Oct but in rather small numbers.

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

Spring passage in fairly small numbers with 42 records 14<sup>th</sup> Mar to 17<sup>th</sup> May with 8 at Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> May the maximum reported. Seven were reported here at 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. Three singles in autumn, 25<sup>th</sup> Aug to 19<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

There were five reported, all within the space of a week, with birds at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar, Dalma Island (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr, Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Apr, Safa Park (DUB) also on the 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on the 5<sup>th</sup> Apr.

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

A very good year for this species, with no less than 6 individuals found. Singles were at Ain al Fayda (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr and Green Mubazzarah (AD) 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Mar, two at Mirfa (AD) between 28<sup>th</sup> Mar & 1<sup>st</sup> Apr and a very obliging individual at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Mar. In the autumn, one was flushed from long grass at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Very common and widespread, with 22 at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan the highest logged.

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

Fairly widely reported, mainly north and east of a line from Al Ain (AD) to Dubai (DUB) although also reported from Ajban (AD). 21 near Green Mubazzarah on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct was the largest count.

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

One peculiar January record (Abu Dhabi corniche, AD (!)) but otherwise reported 19<sup>th</sup> Mar to 13<sup>th</sup> May where 35 records in all, generally small numbers (three records of six or five being the maximum). Only five autumn records, 26<sup>th</sup> Oct to 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov although 6 in Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on the former date was a good count.

**Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) UC**

Two records; one Mirfa (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> May and one Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Spring passage 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr to 17<sup>th</sup> May, with 5 Sila'a (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> May by far the largest count. Only four autumn records of singles, 29<sup>th</sup> Aug to 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Present until 15<sup>th</sup> May but scarce after mid Apr. 24 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar was easily the highest count in the first half of the year, with 15 at Sila'a and Mirfa (both AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Mar respectively also notable. Autumn records from 6<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards with an apparent influx in late Oct when, for example, 16 reported at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> of that month.

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

Reported in small numbers until 5<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 24<sup>th</sup> Sept onwards, again with a large increase in records from late October when up to 15 reported from several sites. Not always reliably separated from the previous taxa and doubtless many recorded as *S. curruca* belong with this taxon. Various records of unidentified whitethroats, including 20 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> March doubtless include many of this taxon.

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

Just four records, with singles from three locations in Jan, Feb, late Nov and early Dec.

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

Reported until 7<sup>th</sup> Apr (but mainly in Jan and Feb) and from mid Oct (but mainly Nov and Dec). Maximum count 7, Shuweihat Rocks (AD) on two dates in Nov but the vast majority of records were of singles.

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

Mainly present 25<sup>th</sup> Mar to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, with most records in the latter month. A scattering of spring counts were from 4 to 8 but most records in smaller numbers. Autumn passage 5<sup>th</sup> Sept to 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov with a maximum of 8 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 7<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Widely recorded up to as late as 9<sup>th</sup> May and from 12<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards, with significant movements in late Mar and late Oct. Counts of 20 at a private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD) and 13 on Lulu Island (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar were the two highest counts of the year, the latter site also boasting the highest autumn count with 12 on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Locally common resident, restricted mainly to the northern emirates, forming large flocks especially during the autumn. Large counts were made at Dubai Pivots Fields (DUB) and Wamm Farms (FUJ) where 2000 and 400 were recorded on 30<sup>th</sup> Aug and 20<sup>th</sup> Sep respectively. Away from the regular sites, birds were also reported from the Ajban (AD) area and Al Ain (AD).

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

Very common and widespread, with a highest count of 1300 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Locally common in parks and gardens within Dubai city, mostly in low numbers, although up to 50 were recorded in Al Mamzar Park (DUB), its apparent stronghold. Outside of Dubai, 2 were reported from Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on a couple of dates in March & May.

**Brahminy Starling (*Sturnia pagodarum*) R**

Reported irregularly from four areas during the year. Two birds lingered around a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) from the beginning of the year until 10<sup>th</sup> Apr, up to 2 adults were seen around the Jumeirah area of Dubai (DUB) from 31<sup>st</sup> Mar to 7<sup>th</sup> Sep, with a juvenile noted there on 28<sup>th</sup> Jun. Singles were also seen at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and in the Al Goaz area of Sharjah (SHJ) from 18<sup>th</sup> Oct to at least 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Mostly recorded in winter at Wamm Farms (FUJ), from where a maximum of 18 was counted on both 21<sup>st</sup> Feb and 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Also noted several times around the Hamraniyah (RAK) area. Records ran up to 18<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 5<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Mainly reported from the northern emirates, where locally resident, especially around the Hamraniyah area (RAK) where up to 57 were counted on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Counts of 14 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov, 13 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and 8 at Sila'a (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov suggest a small winter movement.

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

A male at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Dec was the only record of this irregular winter visitor.

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

There were 5 records during the year – all in the first 2 months. Two birds were at Ain al Mahdab park (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, whilst a single bird was at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) the same day, with possibly the same bird seen again on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Single birds were also seen at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan and Mirfa (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and 2 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Very common during winter, being recorded until 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and from 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. A count of 25 on Dalma Island (AD) on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec was the highest number reported, most of which were in "Hospital Wood".

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

Regularly and widely recorded during spring with the first bird noted on 14<sup>th</sup> Mar. Records continued through to 9<sup>th</sup> May, with significant counts being recorded at Sila'a (AD) with 34 on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and at a private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD) with 18 on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr. By comparison, summer and autumn collectively totalled only 8 reports between 14<sup>th</sup> Jul and 26<sup>th</sup> Sep, compared with 56 in the spring.

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

Common on passage, especially in late spring and early autumn. Spring records ran from 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar to 20<sup>th</sup> May, whilst returning birds were noted from 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug until 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. Significant counts included 26 at Sila'a (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 18 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 12<sup>th</sup> May, whilst the highest daily total reached 42 on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

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

Three birds were recorded during the year. Long-staying individuals from 2013 were at Emirates Palace (AD) and Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) until 25<sup>th</sup> Jan and 26<sup>th</sup> Feb respectively. Later in the year, one was heard at Emirates Palace on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec and another seen at Safa Park (DUB) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

**Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) WV & PM**

Widespread and fairly common during winter and passage, being seen up to 5<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 17<sup>th</sup> Oct, with 8 at Al Qudra Lake, Saih as Salam (DUB) on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov being the largest number reported.

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

In a pretty good year for this species, there was a total of 9 individuals seen, with 5 spring birds reported between 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May, including 2 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on the 10<sup>th</sup>. In autumn, 4 birds were recorded between 26<sup>th</sup> Sep and 8<sup>th</sup> Oct, with 2 seen at Sila'a (AD) on the 26<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

In individual seen at Mushrif Palace (Gardens (AD) on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan was an exceptional wintering record of this elusive, yet fairly common, species recorded widely in spring from 27<sup>th</sup> Mar to 23<sup>rd</sup> May with a count of 6 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on the first date being especially noteworthy. Autumn records were sparse, with only 3 recorded from 26<sup>th</sup> Sep to 6<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

A good year for this species, with 52 reports between 21<sup>st</sup> Mar and 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr, with a peak total of 20 birds on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar which included a count of 10 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB).

**Semi-collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*) UC****IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

A total of 36 records involving at least 32 individuals in what was one of the best springs ever for this species. Recorded between 20<sup>th</sup> Mar and 5<sup>th</sup> May, most of the records were of ones and twos except for 7 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar and 3 at Safa Park (DUB) four days earlier.

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

There were 17 records, with 7 reported between 12<sup>th</sup> Feb to 15<sup>th</sup> Apr and the remainder from 24<sup>th</sup> Oct until the year end. Most were single-bird sightings, but 2 were recorded at Sila'a (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr and 19<sup>th</sup> Dec and at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) V**

A female present at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr was the 6<sup>th</sup> national record.

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

The 2013 long-staying male remained at the Mercure Hotel on Jebel Hafit (AD) until the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Later in the year, a first winter male was photographed at Za'abeel Park North (DUB) on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Commonly reported during winter up to 28<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 20<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards with the highest count being 9 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan.

A male, probably *P.o. ochruros* from the Turkish / Caucasian population (but superficially resembling birds from the western Black Redstart group *P. o. gibraltariensis et al*) was at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

Very common in spring with 96 records between 5<sup>th</sup> Mar and 17<sup>th</sup> May, peaking in the first week of April when a total of 88 were counted on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and 92 the following day. Al Mamzar Park (DUB) attracted the highest numbers with 30 reported on both 27<sup>th</sup> Mar and 4<sup>th</sup> Apr; the latter date's count comprising 29 males and only one female.

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

There were 18 reports between 14<sup>th</sup> Mar and 4<sup>th</sup> Apr, with a peak total of 23 birds on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar which included a count of 19 at Jebel Dhanna (AD). A male photographed at Sila'a (AD) on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep was a rare autumn record.

**Common Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) PM**

Widely reported during spring from a variety of sites, most notably Green Mubazzarah (AD) where there were 9 on 14<sup>th</sup> Mar. A total of 50 spring sightings ran from 21<sup>st</sup> Feb to 20<sup>th</sup> May; in contrast, there were only 2 in autumn, both at the very end of September.

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

Regularly reported in winter and on passage, though very scarce away from the Al Ain (AD) sites around Green Mubazzarah. Records ran up 28<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 26<sup>th</sup> Sep, with 10 at Green Mubazzarah on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar the highest noted.

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

Scarce in spring, with 21 records ranging from 28<sup>th</sup> Mar to 13<sup>th</sup> May, mostly in ones and twos on Abu Dhabi island, though 4 in the Mirfa (AD) area on 9<sup>th</sup> May was the highest count. There were 5 records in autumn between 6<sup>th</sup> Sep and 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.

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

Widely recorded in low numbers during the winter months up to 6<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. A count of 5 at Sila'a (AD) on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov was the highest reported.

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

Scarce passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, recorded up to 11<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 16<sup>th</sup> Sep. One or two spent both winters at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB).

**Pied Bush Chat (*Saxicola caprata*) R**

A female was found at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov and remained until March 2016. The 16<sup>th</sup> UAE record.

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

There was a total of 60 records, 53 of which were between 16<sup>th</sup> Mar and 21<sup>st</sup> Apr, showing a very strong spring bias in movements. There was a significant influx on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr, with a total of 75 birds logged including 23 at Ghagah Island (AD) and 15 at Sila'a fodder field (AD). By contrast, there were only 7 records in autumn, all of single birds, between 4<sup>th</sup> Sep until the very late date of 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Widely recorded through the winter and spring until 9<sup>th</sup> May and from 12<sup>th</sup> Aug onwards, with records peaking during March and September. Counts of 15 at Sila'a (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar and 13 on Ghagah Island (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr were the highest individual site counts during the year.

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

Scarce, yet recorded throughout the year, especially at the known main haunts of Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Jebel Hafit (AD). Two juveniles were noted at the latter site on 9<sup>th</sup> Aug, only the third confirmed breeding record for this species.

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

Rather common winter and passage migrant recorded up to 12<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 5<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards. Fifteen at Saih as Salam Al Qudra Lake (DUB) on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan and 11 at Suweihat Rocks (AD) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov were the only counts in excess of 10.

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

There were 23 records, all confined to the western coastline within a 3-week window in early spring between 18<sup>th</sup> Mar and 5<sup>th</sup> Apr, with a total of 7 individuals noted on the latter date.

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

Widely recorded from 4<sup>th</sup> Feb until 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 5<sup>th</sup> Sep until early Nov, with two singles in Dec. Numbers peaked around late March, with 57 at Lulu Island (AD) on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar, 35 at Sila'a (AD) on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar and 32 part of a large fall of storm-grounded migrants at Al Sufouh public beach (DUB) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr. By contrast, the latter half of the year saw only 34 records compared to spring's 86, with much lower numbers.

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

Scarce winter visitor mainly seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Green Mubazzarah (AD) in low numbers; 5 being the most recorded at the former site. An early migrant, all birds departed by 5<sup>th</sup> Mar, with first returning 5<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

Regularly seen at various mountain sites and wadis throughout the year, with a maximum count of 12 recorded at Wadi Helo (SHJ) on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.

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

There were 10 reports involving 9 individuals, with the recently reliable Jebel Dhanna (AD) hosting one 6<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Jan and 3 on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. Singles were also at Hoderiyat Island (AD) on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, Suweihat Rocks (AD) 12<sup>th</sup> Nov, Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) 14<sup>th</sup> Nov, Saih as Salam (DUB) 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec (only the second record for the emirate) and Jebel Hafit (AD) on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Common in the mountains and wadis throughout the winter months until 29<sup>th</sup> Mar, with returning birds seen from 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep. Up to 8 were counted at Ajban (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec and on several dates in Nov at a private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD).

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

Common and widespread across most of the country, although scarce in Western Region with singles at Jebel Dhanna (AD) between 19<sup>th</sup> Mar and 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and counts of 2 and 4 on Dalma Island (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Apr and 20<sup>th</sup> Dec the only records received from the far west. Elsewhere, mainly seen in low numbers but counts up to 40 were recorded and breeding was confirmed at several locations.

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

Extremely common and widespread, with estimated counts reaching 10,000 at a private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on several dates in autumn and winter.

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

Two birds were reported from Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Pale Rockfinch (*Carpospiza brachydactyla*) PM**

Typically recorded as an early spring migrant, there were 14 records between 1<sup>st</sup> Mar and 25<sup>th</sup> May, with a total of 40 on 7<sup>th</sup> Mar a very notable peak - 20 being reported from both Masafi Wadi (FUJ) and Wadi Bih (RAK). A flock of 8 at Wadi Wurrayah on 21<sup>st</sup> Jun contained some pink-billed (juvenile?) birds suggesting that breeding may have occurred locally. Four at Wadi Reza (SHJ) on 17<sup>th</sup> Sep were the only autumn birds recorded.

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

Very under-reported; there were only 7 records from 5 sites, mostly of spring migrants rather than summer visitors. One at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb was a very early record, whilst during spring passage 12 were on Lulu Island (AD) on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, feeding on *Salvadora* berries, with 6 still lingering a week later. A single at Wamm Farms on 16<sup>th</sup> May was the latest migrant noted, whilst an adult and juvenile at Ain al Ghamour (SHJ) was the only summer record and evidence of breeding.

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

Reported from only two sites during the year. A lone bird was at Emirates Palace (AD) on 15<sup>th</sup> Mar; however, up to 20 were recorded breeding successfully at Za'abeel Park (DUB) from 23<sup>rd</sup> May until mid-July at least.

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

Only 9 records during the year, the majority of which came from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), from where up to 6 were counted on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. The only other sites to host birds were the nearby Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), Wadi al Ain (AD) and Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), all of which had single individuals.

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

Widespread and locally common north and eastwards of Abu Dhabi, often in sizeable flocks, with up to 100 seen at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) during October.

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

There were 14 records from 6 sites north and eastwards of Abu Dhabi. A flock of 15 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) was the largest count, the site being where the species was most regularly encountered. Breeding was noted at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) where an occupied nest was observed on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct.

**Forest Wagtail (*Dendroanthus indicus*) V**

In Abu Dhabi, the 2013 long-staying bird remained at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) until the 29<sup>th</sup> Mar. Another individual was at Safa Park (DUB) on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

The following account refers to birds not distinguished to subspecies; for the latter see below. Widespread and recorded every month except July with 35 at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 25<sup>th</sup> Sep the highest count. Six at the same site on 10<sup>th</sup> Jun was a particularly late date and scarce summer record, the third time in four years that birds have been recorded there in late June.

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

There were 8 records of this subspecies – all falling in the months of April and September. In spring, a total of 9 were at Sila'a (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr, with one at Emirates Palace (AD) on the 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. Autumn records comprised single at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD), Emirates Palace (AD), Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) between 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

There were 16 records attributed specifically to this form, 14 of which were in the period up to 21<sup>st</sup> Apr, with 6 at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar the highest reported. In the latter half of the year, the remaining 2 records were of singles at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 8<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Recorded in small numbers, mostly up to the end of March and from 12<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards, though singles were recorded at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) and Zakher lake (AD) on 24<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Jun respectively. In addition, a pair remained at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), raising one youngster, and were last reported on 27<sup>th</sup> Jun.

**Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*)**

There were 9 records of this form. Two were reported from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, whilst the majority were seen during passage from 26<sup>th</sup> Mar to 4<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> Sep to 30<sup>th</sup> Sep. A total of 4 on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr included 3 from the Sila'a (AD) area.

**Yellow Wagtail (*superciliaris*-type intergrade) (*Motacilla flava (superciliaris.intergrade)*)**

Up to 2 were recorded at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Yellow Wagtail (*dombrowskii*-type intergrade) (*Motacilla flava (dombrowskii.intergrade)*)**

A bird showing characteristics of this form was noted at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar.

**Yellow Wagtail (*xanthophrys*-type intergrade) (*Motacilla flava (xanthophrys.intergrade)*)**

A bird showing characteristics of this form was reported on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb and 6<sup>th</sup> Mar from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB).

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

Widely reported in small numbers up to 10<sup>th</sup> May and from 16<sup>th</sup> Aug with a surprisingly low maximum of 8 from a number of sites; the lowest since 2002.

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

Fairly scarce winter visitor and passage migrant recorded in single-figure numbers. Seen as late as 20<sup>th</sup> May and from 7<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards, counts of 4 from Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Safa Park (DUB) on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep and 29<sup>th</sup> Oct were the highest reported.

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

Common and widespread during winter and passage with several counts of 100 or more noted from Hamraniyah nursery (RAK), the most being at 120 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) was the only other site to record 100 birds (27<sup>th</sup> Nov). Birds were regularly reported until 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 20<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards, though one photographed at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 21<sup>st</sup> Jun was an exceptional summer record.

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

There were at least 8 individuals reported during the year. Two birds were at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, with singles at Al Qua'a (AD) on 6<sup>th</sup> Mar, Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. Up to 3 were present at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) between 25<sup>th</sup> Sep and 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

Regularly reported from grassy localities, especially Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) during the winter and on passage up to 25<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep onwards. Counts of up to 15 were recorded at Wamm Farms on both 28<sup>th</sup> Nov and 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, whilst 6 on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov was the highest counted at the Pivots.

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

A total of 8 reports, all but one of which came from Wamm Farms (FUJ). One photographed on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar was the only record from the first half of the year, whilst the remainder were recorded from 28<sup>th</sup> Nov onwards, with the farms hosting up to 7 on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

Widespread and fairly common in winter and on passage, with records up to 11<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 5<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards and a maximum count of 50 at Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.

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

Possibly under-reported, there were 27 records up to 19<sup>th</sup> Mar and from 10<sup>th</sup> Oct until the year end, mostly from the regular sites of Masafi Wadi (FUJ) and Wamm Farms (AD), from where a count of 8 was recorded on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov at the latter site. Away from these sites, one at Al Qudra Lake, Saih as Salam (DUB) on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec was an exceptional find away from its typical habitat. One was watched performing song flight at Masafi Wadi on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, suggesting potential breeding.

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

A relatively scarce winter visitor with only 23 records. At the top of the year, a total of 6 individuals were recorded at 3 sites as late as 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, whilst the bulk of reports came after 7<sup>th</sup> Nov with perhaps 21 individuals at 9 sites. Six birds seen on a traffic roundabout on Dalma Island (AD) on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec was by far the highest single count.

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

Reported every month except July & August, though scarce outside of main passage windows of Mar-Apr and Sept-Oct. One late record was of an injured individual on 16<sup>th</sup> June at Royal Stables, Abu Dhabi (AD). A count of 41 at Sila'a (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr was the highest single number logged at a site, part of a total of 85 individuals recorded on that date, whilst autumn passage yielded more modest numbers, with 9 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Emirates Palace (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Oct respectively.

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

Commonly recorded outside of the summer months, with sightings reported up to 24<sup>th</sup> May and from 17<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards, peaking in early April when counts of 90 and 45 were noted on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr from Sila'a (AD) and Mirfa (AD) with 37 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) the previous day.

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

There were 21 records of this scarce, but increasingly regular, winter visitor, mostly from the traditional sites of Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) and Wamm Farms (FUJ) until 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and from 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. Up to 6 were recorded at the former on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan & 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, whilst the latter held 2 on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. Emirates Palace (AD) was the only other site where the species was recorded, with single birds at both ends of the year.

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

Common throughout the winter months until 1<sup>st</sup> Apr and from 5<sup>th</sup> Sep onwards, reaching a maximum of 100 at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

**Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) V**

A single male was found amongst House Sparrows in the park on Dalma Island (AD) on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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

There were only 12 records of this scarce and nomadic species throughout the year with the highest count being 8 on 9<sup>th</sup> May at Wadi Tarabat (AD).

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

A female at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> May was the sole spring record, whilst in the autumn, one was at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2 at Green Mubazzarah on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep and one at Colin's Farm in Wadi Bih (RAK) on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

Uncommon winter visitor recorded up to 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 8<sup>th</sup> Nov onwards, reaching a maximum of 40 at Al Qua'a fodder fields (AD) on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

Only reported in spring between 28<sup>th</sup> Mar - 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. An exceptional fall of migrants at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar resulted in a total of 6 birds, 5 of which were males. Other multiple counts included 2 birds at Wadi Tarabat (AD) from 28<sup>th</sup> Mar to 5<sup>th</sup> Apr and 2 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr.

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

Recorded mainly in small numbers from 19<sup>th</sup> Mar to 9<sup>th</sup> May and from 11<sup>th</sup> Sep to 31<sup>st</sup> Oct; however, a flock of 16 at Jebel Dhanna marsh (AD) on 28<sup>th</sup> Sep was exceptional.

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

Regularly recorded throughout the year in wadis and mountain areas; the largest numbers reported being 35 at Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr and 20 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

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

There were just 6 records, all of single birds. One was at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar, whilst Wamm Farms (FUJ) hosted singles on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar and 26<sup>th</sup> Apr. Other lone birds were found at Al Mareed district (RAK) on 1<sup>st</sup> May and Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. A bird photographed at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep was the only autumn record.

**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:

Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*)  
 Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)  
 Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)  
 Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)  
 Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)  
 Black-necked Swan (*Cygnus melancoryphus*)  
 Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)  
 Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)  
 Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)  
 Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*)  
 Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)  
 Maned Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*)  
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)  
 White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)  
 Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)  
 Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*)  
 Arabian Partridge (*Alectoris melanocephala*)  
 Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*)  
 Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)  
 Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*)  
 African Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)  
 Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*)  
 Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*)  
 Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*)  
 Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*)  
 Common Crane (*Grus grus*)  
 Crowned Lapwing (*Vanellus coronatus*)  
 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (*Pterocles alchata*)  
 Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (*Pterocles lichtensteinii*)  
 Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*)  
 Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)  
 Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)  
 Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides pelegrinoides*)  
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*)  
 Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)  
 Lovebird hybrid (*Agapornis sp*)  
 Nanday Parakeet (*Aratinga nenday*)  
 Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*)  
 Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*)  
 Vitelline Masked Weaver (*Ploceus vitellinus*)  
 Yellow-crowned Bishop (*Euplectes afer*)  
 Southern Red Bishop (*Euplectes orix*)  
 Black-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda troglodytes*)  
 Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)  
 Java Sparrow (*Lonchura oryzivora*)  
 Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*)

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

## **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:

A.V. Babu	Gregory Askew	Mohammad Abdul Tariq
Abdallah Alzaabi	Guy Kirwan	Mostafa Elbrolosy
Abdulla Al Hammadi	Henrik Druid	Muthukumaran Balansubramanian
Abraham Arias de la Torre	Henrik Ruissen	Nabarun Sadhya
Ahmed Al Ali	Howard Heaton	Naeem Mirza
Aideen & Ian Cunningham	Hugh Babington Smith	Neil Tovey
Ajmal Hasan	Humoud Alshayji	Nick P. Williams
Aki Pesic Pedersen	Huw Roberts	Nimit Virdi
Alan Jones	Ian Boustead	Oscar Campbell
Alan Stephenson	Ian Roberts	Pam Whistler
Alec Napier	Jacky Judas	Patricia Cabrera
Aleya James	Jhim Abucayon	Paul Jaquith
Alistair McLee	Jim McCormick	Peter Arras
Andreas Bruun Kristensen	Jody Hallstrom	Peter Hellyer
Andrew Bailey	Johan Gustafsson	Peter Olliff
Andrew Ward	John Pereira	Philip Andrews
Badder Al Qasimi	Jonathan Angliss	Pieter VanNiekerk
Bert Harris	Josh Smithson	Reza Khan
Beverly McKay	Julie Mason	Risto & Kaija Saranto
Chris Brodie	Junaid Abbas	Rob Gubiani
Christophe Tourenq	Justin Ede	Robert P. Morris
Christopher Batchelder	Kent Soderberg	Robert Renton
David Le Mesurier	Kevin Hyland	Robin Willbond
David Radnell	Khalifa Al Dhaheri	Rogério Rodrigues
David Saxon	Kiran Salunke	Sami Majeed
Derrick Wilby	Knut Arne Monrad	Sanalkumar Sreevalsan
Donal Byrne	Larry McGillewie	Scott Young
Doug Johnston	Lars Olausson	Shital Somaiya
EAD	Lisa Hebbelman	Simon Peter Lloyd
Edward Bonavia	Louise Smiles	Simon Thompson
Elvin Miller	Luke Naismith	Steph Green
Emirates Natural History Group	Maarten Verhage	Stephen Taylor
EPAA	Magnus Ullman	Steve James
Forrest Rowland	Maja Pesic Pedersen	Steve Parr
Fouad Itani	Maral Khaled Shuriqi	Stewart Kirkcaldy
Gaell Mainguy	Maria Betschart	Sudhanshu Kothe
Ganesh Nethaji	Mark Smiles	Tamsin Carlisle
Gareth Blockley	Mark Williams	Tanya Adler
Gareth Tonen	Matt Prior	Tommy Pedersen
Gary Feulner	Mattias Ullman	Vimal Viswanathan Nathan
Gerard Whitehouse-Tedd	Michael Pocock	Vinaya Mohan
Glenn Bowley	Michael Velasco	Vipin Sharma
Graham Langley	Mike Barth	Yoav Golan
Greg Simkins	Mohamed Almazrouei	Yousif Al Ali