



EBRC

EBRC ANNOTATED CHECKLIST of the birds of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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The official Emirates Bird Records Committee (EBRC) checklist.

Last updated 8 September 2025 (by T Pedersen)

The official Emirates Bird Records Committee (EBRC) checklist follows AviList (see www.avilist.org). It is in the process of being updated.

475 Category A, B and C species have been recorded in the UAE. Note that this total includes one species (Red-whiskered Bulbul) that was formerly Category C (but is now extinct and has been moved to Category E) as well as two species complexes (Brown / South Polar Skua and Frigatebird sp.) that were not identified to species.

This checklist was prepared from the UAE national records database that is maintained by the Emirates Bird Recorder, Tommy Pedersen, assisted by fellow current members of the EBRC.

The contribution made by past EBRC members is also gratefully acknowledged, especially that from the previous UAE Bird Recorder, Colin Richardson, and long-serving former EBRC members Simon Aspinall, Steve James and Nick Moran.

A website for birders may be found online: <http://www.uaebirding.com/> which also contains a regularly updated online version of this checklist, as well as 'Rare Bird Report' forms for submission of sightings species requiring descriptions. These forms, information on how to complete them and the list of species requiring descriptions is available at <https://www.uaebirding.com/description-species>

Anyone noticing errors or omissions in this checklist is kindly requested to inform the Emirates Bird Recorder, Tommy Pedersen, on tommypepe63@gmail.com

Entries highlighted in **green** or **yellow**;

In green meaning accepted or well-photographed record, but **last date of observation not yet determined**, and in yellow meaning **awaits a decision from the EBRC**.

Site names

A gazetteer of site names together with GPS coordinates is available to download from <https://www.uaebirding.com/regions>

Certain sites may have changed name over the years, in which case both names are cross-referenced there, while in some instances a named site may now no longer exist.

Recommended full citation

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Available from: <https://www.uaebirding.com/bird-checklists>

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Definitions

Species abundance is classified according to the likelihood of seeing that species on any given visit to the appropriate habitat during the appropriate season.

Vagrant	- Species recorded on 20 or fewer occasions and less than annual in occurrence. Such species generally require substantiation on a Rare Bird Report form (see above).
Rare	- Species with more than 20 recent records (averaging one a year or more, even if not annual).
Uncommon	- Typically recorded on less than 10% of visits.
Fairly common	- Typically recorded on 10-50% of visits.
Common	- Typically recorded on 51-90% of visits.
Very common	- Typically recorded on more than 90% of visits.

Category A - Species occurring in an apparently natural, wild state on at least one occasion.

Category A species are included in the total UAE List.

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

Category B species are included in the UAE List.

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

Category C species are included in the UAE List.

*This is the eBird's Exotic Species Category **Naturalized**. Three years prior to becoming **Naturalized**, the species is **Provisional**.*

*An introduced species can not go from **Escapee** to **Provisional** and back to **Escapee**. The term **Provisional** will only be assigned to birds that have reached the rank of **Naturalized**, and will be assigned in retrospect. A species can go from **Escapee** to **Provisional** to **Naturalized** and back to **Escapee**. This will be decided by the EBRC.*

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

Category D species are not included in the UAE list.

*This is the eBird's Exotic Species Category **Provisional**.*

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

Category E species are not included in the UAE list.

Category E species that have bred in the wild in the UAE are designated as E*.

*This is the eBird's Exotic Species Category **Escapee**.*

Category F - Species that either:

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

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

Category F species are not included in the UAE List.

The Emirates Bird Records Committee

The EBRC exists so that ornithologists and interested amateurs can use bird records from the UAE database, from which this checklist is compiled, as a reliable reference, knowing that they are supported with documentation, in so far as is possible, and that they have been carefully screened. For this reason alone, the EBRC strives to be as fastidious as possible in judging records, especially of rare and difficult to identify species.

Records are judged on their individual merit. Decisions are a considered opinion as to whether a particular record carries enough evidence to reliably support the identification and do not represent an assessment of the observer. A verdict of “not proven” usually does not mean that the Committee believes the observer was mistaken; rather that Committee considers that the evidence presented is simply insufficient to establish the identification beyond reasonable doubt.

A number of species occurring as vagrants to the UAE are extremely similar to congeners and / or involve subspecies or populations from regions of the Palearctic that are not well studied by ornithologists. Observers submitting records of such species are advised that only extremely detailed, well-documented records that have been compiled from in-depth observations are likely to reach the required standard. For any record to be accepted, all members of the EBRC need to assess it and vote, and a unanimous or 4:1 majority decision in favour of acceptance has to be reached.

Ideally, the Committee seeks to receive records as soon after the original sighting as possible, ideally within 4 weeks. The ‘field description’ should be based on field-notes taken during the observation or very soon afterwards, preferably written without reference to identification literature. Such literature can be referred to elsewhere in the RBR, for example in the section for characters used to eliminate similar species. Any field-sketches made, or photographs taken, no matter however rudimentary, are often invaluable in evaluating records.

EBRC review of records, 2015–2016.

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

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

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

This aspect of the review has resulted in a significant change to the known status of several of these species in the UAE; those affected are clearly indicated in the annotated list below. EBRC wishes to stress that the outcomes from this current review in no way reflect adversely on the observers involved or on previous decisions made by the committee. In the vast majority of cases, it was considered that the evidence available was simply insufficient to be certain that the species was indeed what

was claimed; only in very few cases was there evidence that misidentification was likely. Some of the species involved were believed, at the time of observation, to be scarce rather than rare and thus, observers may have been required to provide less detail than they might otherwise have done. Further, in some cases, records were not documented at all. Almost all of the species involved in this review are difficult or extremely difficult to identify in a vagrant context and require extremely detailed documentation. Unfortunately, this was not always available and, in those circumstances, it was deemed that, regrettably, the record had to be considered not proven. EBRC would be delighted to reconsider any of the records involved in the light of additional evidence being forthcoming. Observers are encouraged to submit any such evidence directly to the Chairman. Such evidence will be filed and, if appropriate, the record reviewed again.

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

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*
Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*
Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

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

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*
Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Finally, the designation of species in Categories C, D and E was reviewed, resulting in a small number of changes.

As of 1 Jan 2016, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* and Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* were elevated from Category E to C following evidence of breeding and sustained or increasing population, whilst all future Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* records are now to be classed as Category E on evidence of a marked decline in the former population, of which there has been an absence of records since 2014.

Update 16 Jan 2022; Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*, See-see Partridge *Ammoperdix griseogularis* and African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* were elevated from Category E to C following evidence of breeding and sustained or increasing population, see the individual species for more information.

UAE National Red List of Birds (2018-2020)

During the course of 2018-2020, BirdLife International and IUCN, on behalf of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, carried out a national Red List assessment of 170 species of birds regularly breeding in the UAE, or regularly visiting during migration or winter. For all species assessed, an attempt was made to estimate the national population size, and this number has been included in the checklist that follows. All population size ranges presented for either breeding or non-breeding birds are expressed as numbers of mature individuals (not as pairs). EBRC and the compilers of this checklist are most grateful to all at BirdLife International and IUCN who worked on this project, with particular thanks to Rob Sheldon, Ian Burfield, James Westrip, David Allen and Maxim Koshkin.

UAE CHECKLIST

The following list contains all species in Categories A, B and C.

Species are in Category A unless otherwise noted. Lists for Categories D, E and F follow at the end of this report.

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

Vagrant.

1. One female/immature Safa Park 7-9 Nov 1984 (JS Ash, NE Baker *et al*).
2. Three Hatta Lake 1 Feb 1985 (JAD Chapman).
3. One female/immature Emirates Golf Club 26 Nov 1993 (C Richardson).
4. One female/immature Emirates Golf Club 24-25 Nov 1994 (C Richardson).
5. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 14 Nov 1996 (SL James, A Abdi).
6. One female/immature Khatt Lake 30 Nov-5 Dec 1996 (P Brett, SL James *et al*).
7. One female/immature Sharjah Rubbish Tip 28 Dec 2000, again 1 Feb 2001 (C Richardson, DA Diskin *et al*).
8. One immature Qurrayah 22-30 Nov 2001 (DA Diskin *et al*).
9. Six birds Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 22 Nov 2003, with one remaining on 28 Nov 2003 (DA Diskin *et al*).
10. One Zakher Pools 8-26 Dec 2012 (M Parr *et al*).
11. One Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club 21 Nov-2 Dec 2013 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
12. One Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club 27-28 Nov 2020 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Vagrant.

1. One adult, two immatures Abu Dhabi; Eastern Lagoon (sewage farm) 13 Dec 1984 (M Crumbie *et al*).
2. Six birds (two groups of three) flying near Bahrani Island 8 Dec 1993 (per N.Cochrane-Dyet).
3. Two Abu Dhabi; Eastern Lagoon 15 Oct 2000 (C.Band).
4. Three immatures Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 24 Dec 2002-8 Mar 2003, with two birds present to 21 Mar 2003 (T Pedersen *et al*).
5. Two immatures Jebel Dhanna--plantation 15 Dec 2017 (K Al Dhaheri).
6. Two adults Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Lagoon Hide 7 Jan 2019 (F Itani), presumed same Bhalghelam Island 11 Jan 2019 (NP Williams, P Hellyer).

Records of this species are particularly difficult to categorise with regard to origin and some of the foregoing records may in fact relate to escaped birds. The following records are believed to be almost certainly of non-wild origin:

- Pair nesting Sir Bani Yas 10 Apr 1989 (M.Verhage) with four birds present 28 Jul-2 Sep 1989.
- A flock of up to 19 birds Abu Dhabi; Al Reem Island and Eastern Lagoon 18 May 2008 onwards (R Hornby *et al*).
- One International Media Production Zone 4-12 Mar 2010 (M Smiles *et al*) and two Jumeirah Golf Estate 3 Jun 2010 (G Talbot), probable escapes.
- Up to 10 Al Marmoom DCR area April 2013 onwards.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

Vagrant.

1. Two Nad al-Sheba area 25 Jan-8 Feb 1994 (C Richardson *et al*). Site now called Meydan Horse Race and Golf Club.
- Four unidentified swans had been reported same locality from mid-December 1993 by local worker.

Origin uncertain:

One adult Fujairah Tennis Club Dam 17-21 Jun 2013 (J Judas *et al*). Free-flying, no ring and no damage to wings.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Vagrant.

1. Five ad. and one imm. Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 1 Jan-16 Mar 2003, four birds 20-28 Mar 2003; single adult 31 Mar-15 Apr 2003 (P Bourdin, J Ward *et al*).

Releases documented:

- One Sir Bani Yas 31 Aug-2 Sep 1989.

Greylag Goose (Eastern) *Anser anser rubrirostris*

Uncommon and irregular winter visitor, November to March, rarely to April; injured birds have overwintered.

Released and domestic birds regularly seen.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

Vagrant.

1. One immature Umm al-Qaiwain Rubbish Tip 20 Nov 1996 (M Tunturi), same bird Ramtha Rubbish Tip 5 Dec 1996-14 Mar 1997 (SL James, C Richardson *et al*).
2. One adult (and one dead), Nad al-Sheba area 28 Dec 2005-4 Mar 2006 (T Pedersen *et al*).
3. One immature Zakher Pools 25 Nov-8 Dec 2007 (D Clark *et al*).

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Uncommon to rare winter visitor; extreme dates 3 November and 4 April.

Highest count 68 at The Montgomerie; Emirates Hills Golf Course 7 Dec 2010.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* (Category C)

First UAE record; Four Abu Dhabi; Eastern Lagoon 16 Feb 1979 (JNB Brown, R Western).

Feral population on Sir Bani Yas since 1980, now widespread throughout the country.

First confirmed breeding (away from Sir Bani Yas): Abu Dhabi island, 1989 (JNB Brown).

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Localised winter visitor, usually in small numbers (but recent increase noted), October to mid-April with peak January to early March. Peak count 270, Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 28 Jan 2017. Total non-breeding population estimated as 200-300 with apparent increase noted in recent years.

Summer records assumed to refer to escaped birds. Released birds Al Marmoom DCR Dec 2013 onwards.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare to uncommon visitor, October to mid-May, has wintered. Max count 30 Khor al-Beida 30 Oct 2010 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

The potential for escaped birds should be noted as this species is frequent in private collections and the species appears to have been deliberately released in the Al Marmoom--general area (Dubai) from (at least) 2019.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Vagrant.

1. Two South Furayjidat Island 29 Oct 1972 (J Stewart-Smith).
2. Flock of up to 15 Al Jazirah Khor 25 Nov 1988 (JAD Chapman, D Robinson, C Richardson *et al*); four birds present 9 Dec 1988 (JNB Brown).
3. One Al Rafa'a 7 Dec 1997 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
4. Four Khor al-Beida and Dreamland 25 Feb 2000 (*Alula*) with one male present 3 Mar 2000 (SJ Aspinall).
5. Five Khor al-Beida 11 Nov 2006 (N Tovey).
6. Two Al Barsha Pond Park 6-20 Mar 2019 (M Freeman *et al*).

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

Vagrant. However, birds released at the Al Marmoom DCR area from 2016 onwards now breed annually and presumably, at least sometimes, will wander to much more distant sites. This means that determination of vagrants of all records prior to 2016 is now effectively impossible.

1. Flock of 25 Abu Dhabi Island 1 Mar 1972 (J Stewart-Smith).
2. Two Al Rams Rubbish Tip, Ra's al-Khaimah, October 1975, exact date not known (S Dexter).
3. Two Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 20 Dec 2000-11 Jan 2001 (C Richardson *et al*), with one until 4 Feb 2001 (C Richardson).
Possibly same Sharjah Rubbish Tip 9 Feb 2001 (DA Diskin).
4. One Khor al-Beida 1 Feb 2008 (P Cram, NJ Moran, B Elder *et al*).
5. One Zakher Lake 23-25 Dec 2011 and 13-15 Jan 2012 (J Judas, P Rutureau *et al*).
6. One Al Warsan Lakes 14-29 Nov 2012 (S Varghese, M Ullman *et al*).
7. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Reserve--Mangrove Hide 3 Nov 2018 (F Rietkerk).

Releases or possible releases include the following (see eBird for other records).

- One Al Marmoom DCR--general area 20 Jul 2016 onwards, increasing to 26 in 2020, when found breeding.
- Up to two DIP--Eastern Desert Lakes 10 Jun-3 Sep 2019, with three here 16 Mar 2020.
- Two Al-Zora nursery 20-25 Mar 2020, appearing wild but of uncertain origin.
- Up to eight Ajman WTP 10 Jul 2020 onwards, nesting May 2021.
- Five Al Ain cement factory quarries 28 Jan 2021.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Rare winter visitor. However, birds released at the Al Marmoom DCR area from 2016 onwards have bred and presumably, at least sometimes, will wander to much more distant sites. This means that determination of wild winter visitors has become effectively impossible.

1. One Dhayah 24 Dec 1970 (FE Warr).
2. One Abu Dhabi; Saadiyat Island 18 Dec 1981 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
3. One female Zabeel Ponds 3-6 Dec 1987 (C Richardson).
4. One male Ramtha Rubbish Tip 28 Dec 1989, later died of botulism (C Richardson, U Wernery).
5. Three Zabeel Ponds 5-30 Jan 1991 (C Richardson *et al*).

6. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 21 Nov 1995-21 Feb 1996 (P Jonasson, C Richardson *et al*).
7. One Khatt Lake 25 Nov-30 Dec 1996 (P Brett, B Curtis).
8. Four males and two females Dubai Pivot Fields and Al Warsan Lakes 20 Jan 2008 with two males and a female 2 Feb 2008 (N Lake, R Brown *et al*).
9. One female Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 22 Jan 2008 joined by two males 24 Jan, one male staying to 26 Jan 2008 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell *et al*).
10. One male Ain al-Fayda 1-8 Feb 2008 (D Clark).
11. One female Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 6-14 Mar 2008 (G Talbot *et al*).
12. Up to three Green Community 28 Jan-11 Feb 2012 (J Iversen *et al*).
13. Two females Zakher Lake 31 Dec 2012-12 Jan 2013 (J Judas *et al*).
14. Two males Ajman Water Treatment Plant 4 Jan 2013 (K Al Dhaheri).
15. One female Discovery Gardens 3-19 Feb 2013 (M Smiles).
16. One female Palm Sports Resort 18-20 Jan 2015 (H Roberts *et al*).
17. One female Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 28 Nov-21 Dec 2015 (OJ Campbell, S Bashir Khan *et al*).
18. One female between Al Ain Cement factory quarries and Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 28 Nov 2016-27 Feb 2017 (P Arras).
19. Up to two female Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 14 Jan-4 Feb 2017 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles *et al*).
20. One female Al Warsan Lakes 17 Feb 2017 (M Smiles, M&C Hurben).
21. One immature male Al Barari 5 Jan 2018 (S Kirkcaldy).
22. A pair Sila'a--Harbour Marsh 21 Nov 2018 (S Khan).
23. One female Tower Links Golf Course--Khuzam Road 13 Nov-4 Dec 2020 (S Taylor, M Mishu).
24. Up to three Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 9-18 Jan 2021 (OJ Campbell).
25. Up to five Al-Zora Golf Club 14 Jan-25 Feb 2020, with three nearby Ajman WTP 5 Feb (S Taylor).
26. One female Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 21 Jan 2021 (OJ Campbell).
27. One male Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 27 Feb 2021 (OJ Campbell).
28. Up to three Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 26 Jan-12 Mar 2021 (P Arras *et al*).
29. Seven Loch Dibba 5 Feb 2021 (J Judas).
30. Four Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 2-3 Nov 2021 (R Gubiani).
31. Up to three Al-Zora Golf Club 25 Nov 2021-13 Jan 2022 (S Taylor).
32. One male Nad al-Sheba Pond 1 31 Dec 2021 (S Al Suwaidi).
33. One female Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 7 Jan-7 Mar 2022 (P Arras *et al*).
34. One Abu al-Abyadh Island 31 Jan 2022 (P Arras).
35. One female Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 27 Jan 2023 (OJ Campbell).
36. One female Al Falah overflow 11 Feb 2023 (S Azar).

Further records on eBird

Confirmed and possible releases:

- Four birds Sir Bani Yas 31 Aug 1989, at least one (male) remaining to 1995 - documented release.
- 25 birds Zabeel Palace Grounds 21 Jul 2001 - documented release.
- One male Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 1 Feb 2017 - origin uncertain.
- One female Al Zorah Khor 25 Aug 2017 (A Al Ali) - origin uncertain.
- Up to 15 birds Al Marmoom DCR--general area Dec 2016 onwards. Breeding confirmed May 2020 onwards.
- Up to 11 birds DIP--Eastern Desert Lakes 4 Oct 2019-14 May 2020 - origin uncertain.
- One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 8-10 Jun 2021 - origin uncertain.
- Sporadic Ajman Water Treatment Plant 2021 onwards - origin uncertain.
- One male Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 4 Nov 2023 – origin uncertain.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Fairly common but localised migrant and winter visitor; mainly October to March; has oversummered. Total non-breeding population estimated as 200-500.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Rather uncommon and local winter visitor but seemingly increasing; occasional summer records. Total non-breeding population estimated as 10-50.

Releases noted in Al Marmoom DCR (at least a few individuals now present here all year) and Ajman Water Treatment Plant (breeding May 2021 onwards).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor; occasional summer records.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Vagrant.

1. One female-coloured Ruwais Water Treatment Plant 9-10 Nov 2012 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).

Possible releases:

- One female-coloured Al Marmoom DCR--Long Expo Lakes 22 Feb 2022 (Z Kajzer, M Dyduch, L Lawicki, S Guentzel).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Fairly common to common migrant (much more frequent in autumn than spring), rare in summer; small numbers winter.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Locally common to very common migrant and winter visitor; occasional in summer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 1,000-3,000.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Uncommon to fairly common migrant and winter visitor, but seldom numerous.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Uncommon to fairly common migrant and winter visitor; has oversummered.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common migrant and winter visitor. Introduced birds breeding since at least the 1980s. Total non-breeding population estimated as 1,000-2,000.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Common migrant and winter visitor; has overwintered. Total non-breeding population estimated as 200-300.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*

The subspecies occurring is Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca crecca*

Common to very common migrant and winter visitor. Total non-breeding population estimated as 2,000-5,000.

Grey Francolin *Ortygornis pondicerianus* (Category C)

Very common and widely released; doubtfully native.

Black Francolin *Fringilla monticola*

Feral populations common but restricted to Sir Bani Yas. Released early 1980s, breeding confirmed 1991 onwards (SJ Aspinall).

Also breeding Abu al-Abyadh Island 1991–98; releases on Balghelam Island did not survive.

Elevated to Category C status from 2006 onwards.

See-see Partridge *Ammodramus griseogularis*

Feral populations fairly common in the central areas of Sir Bani Yas since at least 1989, breeding early 1990's onwards.

Elevated to Category C status from 2010 onwards.

Sand Partridge *Ammodramus heyi*

Fairly common and widespread mountain resident. Population estimated to number 2,000-20,000 .

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Regular passage migrant; few in winter and summer. May breed.

Releases: Tens of thousands of individuals are captive-bred in the UAE each year but no strong evidence that many escape or are released.

Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar*

First UAE record from Fujairah emirate 27 Apr 1987 (L & R Western).

Uncommon resident in Ra's al-Khaimah mountains north of Dibba and Masafi area; much more common in the Wadi Bih area than elsewhere.

Wild population estimated to number less than 250.

Feral releases elsewhere; for example, 500 birds released in the Al Ain area 2012.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Common resident; locally common migrant and winter visitor.

Recent colonist, first confirmed breeding: Kalba, April 1989 and then marked increase. Breeding population estimated to number 600-1,000 .

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Vagrant.

1. One Dubai Creek 20 Dec 1949 (KM Guichard).
2. One Abu Dhabi Island 1981, exact date unknown (JNB Brown).
3. One Khor Fakkan 30 Dec 1983 (C Richardson).
4. One Abu Dhabi Island 13 Nov 1984 (JNB Brown, JM Hollingworth).
5. One Al Jazirah Khor 25 Nov 1988 (JAD Chapman).
6. One Ain al-Faydah 30 Nov 1993-12 Jan 1994 (R Read, A Owen).
7. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 31 Jan-5 Mar 1994 (C Richardson *et al*).
8. One Abu Dhabi Corniche mid-January 1995 (J Norton).
9. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 28 Nov 1996 (SL James).
10. One Emirates Golf Club 20 Mar 1997 (C Richardson *et al*).
11. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 15 Jan-12 Feb 2000 (C Richardson *et al*).
12. One found dead Abu Dhabi Island; Third Crossing 4 Dec 2004 (C Clark).
13. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Lagoon Hide 29 Dec 2018 (M Smiles, L Smiles *et al*).
14. One Dhayah (Khor Khuwair)--northern section 7-22 Dec 2024 (H Roberts *et al*).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Locally common migrant and winter visitor. Breeding confirmed Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, 2000 (A Abdi).

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Common migrant and winter visitor. Ringing recoveries mainly from Iranian colonies, but also Mediterranean Turkey (K Hyland *pers. comm.*) and Sicily where a juv was ringed on nest 7 Jul 2021 and photographed Al Rafa'a shoreline 24 Nov 2021 (L Esselen).

First confirmed successful breeding UAE at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve January 1999; creche of 10 juveniles 10 February 1999. Has bred two other sites, including large colony discovered Bu Al Syayif Marine Protected Area, near Abu Dhabi April 2009, with at least 290 chicks raised (*per* EAD).

Now regularly breeding at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve; breeding population estimated as 1,600. Total non-breeding population estimated as 17,000-20,000.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*

Vagrant.

1. One Ra's al-Khor--general area 9-18 Nov 1999 and 9 Feb 2000 (MJ Koivula, C Richardson, SL James *et al*).
2. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 13 Mar-7 Dec 2003, probably same bird nearby Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 19 Jan 2004 (J Ward, DA Diskin *et al*).
3. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 16 Jan 2005 (M Simmonds) and again 3 Dec 2005 with two 30 Dec 2005-25 Jan 2006 (K Hyland, A Rowlands *et al*).
4. One bird Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 22 Jun 2006 (A Kosztolanyi *et al*).
5. Two birds Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 13 Jul-4 Dec 2006 (M Hamid *et al*).
6. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 30 Dec 2006 (SJ Aspinall).

7. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 12 Nov-26 Dec 2010 (OJ Campbell, J Rogan, M Smiles).

The potential for escaped birds should be noted as this species is sometimes held in private collections.

Releases documented:

- One Emirates Golf Club 8 Mar 1999 (P Leigh), with two 28 May 1999 to year-end (JAD Chapman, C Richardson *et al*).
- Ten ringed birds Zabeel Palace 11 Jul 1999 onwards (C Richardson).

Asian Houbara *Chlamydotis macqueenii*

Now very rare winter visitor and passage migrant, October to March, however it is now impossible to distinguish genuinely wild bird from those released.

Reintroduced Abu Dhabi emirate since 2004, where has since bred successfully. Un-ringed releases until at least 2010.

A total of 4,400 birds released 2004-2012, with 1,292 birds released in the 2011/12 season alone.

Hundreds of birds released March/April 2013. The species now also regularly breeds in Dubai emirate.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

Vagrant.

1. One Wamm Farms 1-3 Dec 2016 (J Judas *et al*).

Status uncertain:

- One Mushrif Palace Gardens 17 Dec 1996 (A Abdi *et al*), possibly an escape.
- One Madinat Zayed 8 Dec 2010 (M Almazrouei *et al*).

Un-confirmed reports of three birds in Dubai desert 2009 and one Ra's al-Khaimah desert.

It is possible that unringed birds have been released, at least rarely, since 2007 but details of releases, if any, have not been forthcoming

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

Vagrant.

1. One first-summer Ain al-Fayda 14 Mar 2008 (D Card), same Jebel Hafit 20-21 Mar 2008 (G Brown *et al*).
2. One Wamm Farms 16 Feb 2011 (SP Lloyd).
3. One Wamm Farms 20-26 Apr 2012 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
4. One Al Qua'a Fodder Field 23 Feb 2013 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
5. One ad Wamm Farms 4 Feb 2017 (J Lidster, NJ Moran *et al*).

Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*

Vagrant. Subspecies *jacobinus* or *pica*. Also called Pied Cuckoo.

1. One Wamm Farms 7 Sep 2007 (D Wilby, A Jones).
2. One Ajban Farms 4-6 Jan 2009 (A Al Ali, M Almazrouei *et al*).
3. Two Wamm Farms 4-5 Nov 2011 with one present 6 Nov (S Walsh, N Tovey, C Temple, SP Lloyd *et al*).
4. One Wamm Farms 4-7 July 2015 (K Echtay *et al*).
5. One Wadi Wurrayah 17 Nov 2020, found recently dead (SU Majeed).

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

Rare but seemingly increasing visitor October to March, sometimes over-wintering.

1. One Dubai 21-24 Mar 1977 (J Armitage).
 2. One Abu Dhabi Island 16 Feb 1988 (JAD Chapman, D Robinson).
 3. One Emirates Golf Club 13 Nov 1993 (C Richardson).
 4. One female-coloured Mushrif NP 10 Dec 1994 (C Roy).
 5. One Safa Park 1 Mar 1996 (M Garner).
 6. One female-coloured Abu Dhabi--Al Manhal 25-26 Jul 1997 (SJ Aspinall, C & J Glendenning *et al*).
 7. One female-coloured Al Mamzar Park 13-18 Apr 2002 (DA Diskin).
 8. One male Safa Park 21 Mar 2003 (DA Diskin).
 9. One male Wamm Farms, filmed 18 Feb 2005 (German group, via NJ Moran).
 10. One female-coloured Dibba town 11 Mar 2005 (SL James, NJ Moran, R Quested).
 11. One male Wamm Farms 18 Nov 2005 (C Richardson *et al*).
 12. One male Abu Dhabi; British School 3-4 Oct 2006 (OJ Campbell, NJ Moran).
 13. One female-coloured DUGAS Jebel Ali 24 Nov-10 Dec 2010 (P Bodien *et al*).
 14. One Sila'a--general area 9 Dec 2011 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles).
 15. One Green Mubazzarah 7 Dec 2012 (F Rowland *et al*).
 16. One male Safa Park 24 Jan-5 Feb 2015 (M Balan *et al*).
 17. One male Al Mamzar Park 7 Feb 2015 (M Smiles).
 18. One male Jebel Dhanna--housing area 20-22 Mar 2015 (K Al Dhaheri).
 19. One female-coloured Green Mubazzarah 27 Nov 2015 (V Sharma).
 20. One adult male Al Warsan Lakes 6 Feb 2016 (M Smiles).
 21. One male Jebel Dhanna--housing area 21 Mar 2016 (K Al Dhaheri), returning to same tree as last year.
 22. One male Dibba 11 Dec 2016 (LM Abraham).
 23. One female-coloured at a Private estate Green Mubazzarah 14 Dec 2016-17Mar 2017, two 28 Mar-2 Apr and three 3-8 Apr 2017 (P Arras *et al*).
 24. One Green Mubazzarah 24 Jan 2017 (K Al Dhaheri).
 25. One male Al Marmoom DCR--general area 22 Dec 2017 (L Naismith).
 26. One male D67--Plantation Equestrian & Polo Club 22 Nov 2018 (J Judas).
 27. Up to two Private estate Green Mubazzarah Nov 6 2018-21 Apr 2019 (P Arras).
 28. One male Abu Dhabi Golf Club 1 Mar 2019 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell).
 29. One Hatta Hill Park 6 Nov 2019 (R Khan).
 30. One Balghelam Island 11 Jan 2020 & 20 Mar 2020 (OJ Campbell).
 31. Up to two Abu Dhabi Formal Park 20 Oct 2022-10 Mar 2023 (SP Lloyd, L Johnson *et al*).
 32. One immature Dubai Creek Park 14 Jan 2023 (E&C Ferguson, D Darrell-Lambert).
 33. Male and female Al Murajeeb Ladies Park 9-19 Feb 2023 (S Al Suwaidi, N Almehrzzi *et al*).
- Further records on eBird.

Grey-bellied Cuckoo, *Cacomantis passerinus*

Vagrant.

1. One hepatic, probably 2nd calendar year Dibba--Karsha farms 5 Mar 2021 (L Esselen, P Lecuyer, J Judas).

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Uncommon migrant January (rare), February to May and August to November; may breed in early spring in mountains (when sometimes heard singing).

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* (Category C)

Regularly released in the deserts around Dubai, where now established and breeding. Elevated to Category C from 2016 onwards.

Max count 800 birds Saih as Sidirah desert 5 Nov 2010 (OJ Campbell).

Also recorded Abu Dhabi, Das Island and Wamm farms in small numbers. Origin of birds away from the deserts south of Dubai unclear.

Thousands in captive breeding programs.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus erlangeri*

This subspecies-group is called Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (Arabian).

Common but declining resident. Population estimated as 200-2000.

Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus*

Vagrant.

1. Flock of c100 Sila'a Peninsula tip 9 and 16 Aug 1996 (A Rollo); 104 on 30 Aug 1996 (A Rollo *et al*) and 36 on 6 Sep 1996 (A Rollo *et al*).
2. Flock of 274 Sila'a Peninsula tip 9 Apr 1998 (SL James).
3. Flock of 35 birds Ruwais Water Treatment Plant 10 Apr 1998 (SL James).
4. One male Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 28 Oct-23 Dec 1999 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, A Pimbley *et al*).
5. One Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 24-27 Oct 2009 (SL James, H Roberts, D Clark *et al*).
6. One Sila'a Peninsula 16 Mar 2018 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, M Smiles, T Lloyd).

Releases in the Al Marmoom DCR area noted, with tame birds seen here January 2018 onwards; may establish.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii arabicus*

This subspecies-group often called Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (Close-barred).

Fairly common mountain resident. Population estimated as 200-2000 (but extremely difficult to census reliably).

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

Abundant and widespread resident. Population estimated as 200,000-2,000,000.

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Vagrant.

1. One Hamraniyah Fields 21 Oct 1997 (P Brett).
- One Al Mamzar Park 24 Mar 2017 (G & V Kumar), possible escape.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

First recorded Abu Dhabi--general area 7 Oct 1977 (D.M. Corfield, M.A. Hollingworth).

Rare to very uncommon autumn migrant mid-September to November, also recorded in January, Mar, May and July.

High count: 6 Wamm Farm 18 Oct 2022 (SP Lloyd).

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Locally fairly common breeding visitor, April to September, and scarce migrant. Breeding population estimated as 1,000-2,000.

Over 1,200 recorded previously at former Al Wathba Camel Race Track fodder fields in early autumn; very few flocks exceeding 150 in recent years, (but see below) and most counts very small.

Apparent releases (situation unclear) in the Al Marmoom DCR area, where now breeds commonly; and autumn build-ups have reached counts of 1640 (September 2022); winter records are noted.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Abundant; few records prior to 1977 but has spread massively since then. Population estimated as 200,000-2,000,000.

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Vagrant (?) but now widely released across Greater Dubai area and breeding; it is now effectively impossible to ascertain if any Common Woodpigeon in the UAE is a genuine vagrant.

The following records were believed at the time to represent wild birds.

1. Two Emirates Golf Club 22 Aug 1992 (A Forsten, T Numminen).
2. One Das Island 2-22 Dec 1992 (L Reaney, M Wood).
3. One Zabeel Ponds 2 Jan 1994 (J Dierschke, C Richardson).
4. One Dubai Creek Park 16-19 Mar 1998 (C Saunders, *et al*).
5. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 2-11 Apr 2000 (SJ Aspinall, R Quested *et al*). Seemingly of the subspecies *casiotis*.
6. One Safa Park 2-12 Mar 2006 (SL James *et al*).
7. One Wamm Farms 4 Oct 2008 (SL James, AP Twyman).

All of the following records are known or believed highly likely to originate from escapes or releases.

Mostly subspecies *iranicus* noted.

- Up to 12 birds Dubai; Wafi City area from Nov 2008 to Jan 2011 and Nov 2017. Breeding noted 2010. (N Tovey, A Twyman *et al*).
- One Dubai Pivot Fields 30 Jan 2009 (A Jones).
- One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 9 Feb 2011 (V & S Ashby *et al*).
- One Nad al-Sheba area 13 May 2014 (L Naismith).
- One private estate near Green Mubazzarah 5 Apr 2017. Very shy. (P Arras).
- One Dubai Safari Park 16 Apr 2017 (R Khan).
- Three Al Marmoom DCR--Bike Cafe 25 Apr 2017 (O Barden), and common at various sites in the Al Marmoom DCR from spring 2018 onwards. Breeds here, from at least 2023 commonly.
- One UAQ--Royal Residence Resort 13 Mar 2018 (S Assan).
- One Khor al-Beida 27 Apr 2018 (M Gebauer).

- One Wamm Farms 17 May 2019 (OJ Campbell *et al*); very tame.
- One Lulu Island 22 Jan 2021 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett).

Rock Dove (Feral) *Columba livia*

Very common, even in remote mountain wadis.
Pure individuals deemed unlikely to occur.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 9 Nov 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

Uncommon to fairly common resident, originally in the Abu Dhabi Western Region. Has spread steadily since first record; now widespread at low densities across much of country.

First record: Asab Oilfield 22-23 May 1988 (D Robinson).

First confirmed breeding record: Ghiyathi, 17 Jul 1997 (MC Jennings).

Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*

Vagrant.

1. One Zabeel scrubland 30 Mar-1 Apr 1998 (C Richardson *et al*).
2. Two adult Al Qua'a Fodder Field 22 Feb-1 Mar 2013 (M Barth *et al*).
3. One immature Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 15 Sep 2021 (M Almazrouei).

The potential for escaped birds should be noted as this species is often held in private collections. Breeding in Dubai private collections 2012-14.

Origin uncertain;

- One Abu Dhabi island 5 Oct-27 Dec 1983 and 25 Oct-14 Dec 1990.
- One Emirates Golf Club 13 Jun 1999.
- One adult Zakher Lake 13 Feb 2021 (J Ranjith *et al*).

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Vagrant.

1. One Khor Kalba 13 Sep 1977 (MA Hollingworth).
2. Three Jebel Hafit East Plain (Mezyad) 18-25 Feb 1980 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
3. One Qarnein Island 5 Oct 1984 (I Foxall).
4. One Al Ain Camel Racetrack 31 Dec 1993-1 Feb 1994 (M McGill *et al*).
5. One Wamm Farms 8 Feb 1994 (E Hirschfeld).
6. Three Al Ain Camel Racetrack 12 Oct 1996, with four (all juveniles) present 13 Oct-9 Mar 1997 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
7. Two Al Ain Camel Racetrack from 12 Dec 1997 into 1998, increasing to three 23 Feb-8 Mar 1998 (A Ward, C Richardson *et al*).

8. One Hamraniyah Fields 15 Mar 2013 (NP Williams).
9. One immature Zakher Lake 8-10 Oct 2016 (NP Williams *et al*).
10. One immature Arabian Ranches Golf Club 28 Oct-8 Nov 2019 (T Pedersen, KA Hansen *et al*).
11. One immature Private Estate near Green Mubazzarah 23 Dec 2019-25 Feb 2020 (P Arras *et al*).
12. Up to two adult Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 10 Nov 2023-27 Jan 2024 (M Alghafli, OJ Campbell *et al*).

Releases documented:

- Two Abu al-Abyadh Island, July 1991 to 2000 at least (R Morris, SJ Aspinall, G Clarkson *et al*)

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Rare to very uncommon migrant and winter visitor, August to May. Bred Ruwais, 1995.

Recent records:

- One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 13 Jan 2007 (SJ Aspinall).
- One Dubai Pivot Fields 15 Feb 2007 (R Brown).
- One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 31 Dec 2007-12 Jan 2008 (SL James *et al*).
- On Ain al-Fayda 20 Feb 2008 (SL James).
- One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 14 Oct-9 Nov 2008 (SJ Aspinall, NJ Moran *et al*).
- One Khor Zawra 24 Feb 2011 (Y Al Ali).
- Two Ruwais Water Treatment Plant 30 Jan 2012 (K Al Dhaheri).
- One Ruwais Water Treatment Plant 15 Nov 2012 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
- One Private Estate near Green Mubazzarah 16 Oct 2014-12 Mar 2015 (P Arras).
- One Al Warsan Lakes 14 Jan 2026 (F Rowland *et al*).
- One Ajman WTP 15 Jan 2016 (S Taylor).
- One Sila'a--seep 24 Oct 2016 (SP Lloyd).
- One Ras al-Khaimah Khor--Khuzam Road 22 Dec 2017 (S Bhosekar).
- One Private Estate near Green Mubazzarah 10.01.-04.03.2018 (P Arras *et al*).
- One Private Estate near Green Mubazzarah 18.10.-18.11.2018 (P Arras *et al*).
- One Private Estate near Green Mubazzarah 01.11.-04.12.2019 (P Arras *et al*).
- One Ajman WTP 29 Feb 2020 (S Taylor).
- Two Ain al-Fayda 05.11.2020-02.01.2021 (P Arras *et al*).
- One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 09.01.2021 (OJ Campbell).
- Up to three Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 25 Oct-15 Dec 2023 (R Khan, A Al Suwaidi *et al*).

Corn crane *Crex crex*

First UAE record Abu Dhabi Island 30 Oct 1987 (JM Hollingworth, C Overall).

Rare migrant, April to May and September to November.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, September to May.

Bred successfully Al Ghazal Golf Club, March 2010 (T Evans, T Smith); first UAE breeding record.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Localised breeding resident; uncommon migrant and winter visitor. Resident population estimated as 1,000-3,000.
Recent colonist, first confirmed breeding: Kalba (rubbish dump at Khatmat Milaha border post) and Sharjah, April 1989.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Locally common migrant and winter visitor; but locally now a breeding resident. Resident population estimated as 50-100.
Breeding confirmed Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 2002 onwards; since approximately 2010, has also become an annual and common breeder at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

Vagrant.

1. One long-staying adult Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) from 14 Jun 2002, reported with certainty to 10 Jun 2004 (DA Diskin *et al*).
2. One exhausted Saadiyat Golf Club 27 Apr 2018, found dead the next day (SP Lloyd).
3. One adult Hatta Lake 25 Jun 2018 (AV Bourbon).

The Warsan bird bred with Eurasian Coot, with hybrids noted 7 Dec 2003 onwards; these then breeding with the original adult as well as with Eurasian Coot and each other into early 2005 and potentially producing pure-looking hybrid offspring.

Hybrids reported until 31 Oct 2009, with a proposed pure-looking adult 10 March 2010.

One adult Al Warsan Lakes 22 Dec 2012 (M Smiles *et al*) together with a hybrid, might be a new arrival or one of the old pure-looking hybrids.

One adult Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake 15-17 Aug 2018 (R Khan *et al*) - showing worn and damaged plumage indicating having been caged and released/escaped.

Purple Swamphen (Grey-headed) *Porphyrio porphyrio poliocephalus*

Vagrant, but regular Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 2002 onwards, where has bred annually (with up to eight birds) since 2004.

Bred Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 2013 and annually from 2016 onwards, where now well established.

Breeding population estimated as 10-20 pairs.

1. One Jebel Ali Hotel 13 Oct 1984 (P Holmes).
2. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 24 Nov-6 Dec 1992 (S Rodebrand).
3. One Ruwais Housing Complex 2 Sep 1995-10 Jan 1996 (A Rollo, SJ Aspinall, *et al*).
4. One Zabeel Ponds 23 Oct-16 Dec 1995 (C Richardson, U Wernery).
5. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 10 Nov-27 Dec 1995 (SL James, C Richardson *et al*).
6. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 10 Sep 1996 (N Curtis).
7. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 30 Mar-14 May 2001 (C Richardson).
8. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 19 Apr 2002 onwards, see below (DA Diskin *et al*).
9. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 27 Apr 2011; presumed same 31 Jan 2013, with two 9 Mar, adult w chick 25 Apr-4 May 2013 (OJ Campbell).
10. One Emirates Golf Club 9 May 2015 (A Menon).
11. One Ain al-Fayda 12 Dec 2015-25 Jun 2016 (P Arras, M Smiles *et al*).
12. Nine Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, incl 2 chicks 23 Jan 2016 onwards (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd).

Releases: As many as 25 full-grown birds were released on the island of Abu al-Abyadh in 1997 (per SJ Aspinall). In 2004, at least twenty birds of the grey-headed *poliocephalus* group were noted inside and outside an aviary in Mushrif National Park in Dubai; present here in 2009, but none in 2013. Grey-headed birds released in the Ajban area ca 2012.

Suspected releases (Grey-headed) in Al Marmoom DCR, where now common and breeding.

An adult African Swamphen *P. p. madagascariensis* or a hybrid (?) was seen with a chick at Al Warsan Lakes in both 2006 and 2009.

Origin uncertain;

- One Al Madam 22 Sep 2013 (via A Al Ali).

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*

Vagrant.

1. One adult, possibly a male in non-breeding plumage Nad al-Sheba Veterinary Hospital area 5-6 Nov 2014 (G Tonen, D Le Mesurier *et al*).

Caught and released Al Warsan Lakes 6 Nov.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Former vagrant, now considered rare winter visitor with over 30 records.

First record: One Ramtha Tip 12 Nov 1992 for about ten weeks (C Richardson *et al*).

Recent records:

- One Sharjah University City 7-25 Nov 2010 (D Radnell *et al*).
- One Sharjah University City 2-3 Dec 2011, possibly returning bird (D Radnell *et al*).
- One Hamranyah Nursery 8-9 Nov 2013 (OJ Campbell).
- One Dubai Silicon Oasis--south area (Semmer) 25 Nov 2013 (N Tovey).
- One Al Barsha Pond Park 7-11 Apr 2014 (M Smiles).
- One Al Dhait South Rubbish Tip 22 Nov 2014 (A Al Ali).
- One Emirates Golf Club 10 Mar 2015 (R Bradshaw).
- One Ghantoot--Golden Tulip Al Jazira Resort 31 Mar-7 Apr 2016 (C Temple *et al*).
- One Ra's al-Khaimah Khor--Corniche 17 Dec 2017 (J Kingma).
- One Hilton Al Hamra Beach and Golf Resort 13 Mar 2017 (P Frantzén, T Lindström).
- One Hilton Al Hamra Beach and Golf Resort 8-11 Mar 2018 (M Woodhead).
- One Abu Dhabi Golf Club 25 Jan & 1 Mar 2019 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell).
- One Al Ain Zoo--UAE World Desert 9 Dec 2018-11 Mar 2019 (A Jaquet, P Brandl).
- One Tower Links Golf Course--Khuzam Road 29 Nov-1 Dec 2020 (Mishu *et al*).
- One Liwa Oasis workers camp marsh (no access) 5 Feb 2021 (R Pappin).
- One Al-Zora Protected Area and golf club 2-8 Nov 2023 (N Almehrzzi *et al*).
- One Jebel Dhanna--hotels 5-8 Dec 2023 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
- One Private Estate near Green Mubazzarah 19-29 Dec 2023 (P Kinnock, H Roberts).

Records 2024 onwards on eBird.

Little Crane *Porzana parva*

Rare migrant.

1. One immature Safa Park 2-11 Oct 1990 (C Richardson, M Pitt *et al*).
 2. One female Emirates Golf Club 10-19 Mar 1992 (C Richardson).
 3. One male Zabeel Ponds 19-21 Apr 1992 (RA Richardson, C Richardson).
 4. One Emirates Golf Club 4-6 Sep 1993 (C Richardson).
 5. One immature Al Wathba Prison Pools 9-17 Sep 1993 (SL James, E Hirschfeld).
 6. One Emirates Golf Club 23-27 Sep 1993 (M McGill, C Richardson, E List).
 7. One adult male Al Wathba Prison Pools 14 Oct 1993 (SL James).
 8. One caught and released Al Ain Camel Racetrack 17 Oct 1993 (M McGill).
 9. One Abu al-Abyadh Island 14 Apr 1994 (S Smith).
 10. Three Emirates Golf Club 17-20 Sep 1994, with two birds remaining to 22 Sep (C Richardson, SJ Aspinall, C Holt).
 11. One Emirates Golf Club 29 Mar 1995 (SJ Aspinall, JK Bannon, C Richardson *et al*).
 12. One to two Ruwais Housing Complex 3 Sep-25 Oct 1995 (SJ Aspinall, A Rollo).
 13. One Ruwais Housing Complex 8 May 1996 (P Sharman).
 14. One Emirates Golf Club 22 Nov 1996 (SJ Aspinall).
 15. One Das Island 12-18 Oct 1997 (L Reaney, M Wood).
 16. One immature Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 14 Sep 2000 (SJ Aspinall, AP Twyman, P Hellyer *et al*).
 17. One immature Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 12-14 Sep 2003 (AP Twyman, SL James *et al*).
 18. One adult Wamm Farms in 13 Mar 2005 (C Tiller).
 19. One The Montgomerie; Emirates Hills Golf Course 13 Nov 2005 (C Richardson).
 20. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 14-23 Oct 2008 (NJ Moran, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
 21. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 19-25 Sep 2012 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd *et al*).
 22. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 23-26 Sep 2013 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
 23. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 21 Mar 2015 (OJ Campbell).
 24. One male Al Warsan Lakes 27 Mar 2016 (K Ehtay).
 25. One at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah 17 Oct 2016 (P Arras).
 26. One at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah 19-31 Mar 2019 (P Arras).
 27. One Ain al-Fayda 15 Feb 2020 (P Arras).
 28. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 1 Nov 2020-13 Jan 2021 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
 29. Up to two female/1cy Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 11-23 Nov 2021 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
- Records from 2022 onwards available on eBird.*

Baillon's Crane *Porzana pusilla*

Either nominate Baillon's Crane (Eastern), *P. pusilla pusilla* or Baillon's Crane (Western), *P. pusilla intermedia* occurring.
Very uncommon migrant.

1. One Zabeel Ponds 24 Sep 1988 (C Richardson).
2. One Emirates Golf Club 9 Oct 1990 (C Richardson, M Pitt).
3. One immature Al Wathba Prison Pools 3-7 Nov 1993 (SL James, E Hirschfeld).
4. One Emirates Golf Club 17 Apr 1995 (T van der Have).
5. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 30 Apr 1997 (C Richardson).
6. One caught Sweihan 1 Oct 1998, released (ERWDA).
7. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 11 May 2001 (DA Diskin).
8. One Sharjah University City 10 Mar 2006 (M Bayman).

9. One immature Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 26 Sep 2006 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell).
 10. One Green Mubazzarah 10 Apr 2007 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
 11. One immature Wamm Farms 8 Sep and 14 Sep 2007 (N Tovey, NJ Moran *et al*).
 12. One Green Mubazzarah 15 Sep 2007 (D Clark, NJ Moran *et al*).
 13. One immature Green Mubazzarah 18 Sept-15 Nov 2010 with three present 23 Oct (H Roberts, M Smiles, D Clark *et al*).
 14. One Dubai Internet City 5-11 May 2011 (M Barth *et al*).
 15. One Wadi Al Ain 27-29 Sep 2011 (H Roberts).
 16. One Wadi Al Ain 29 Oct 2011 (D Clark).
 17. One Dubai--API World Tower 22-24 Apr 2012 (A Ward, J Ede *et al*).
 18. One immature Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 30 Aug and 5-12 Sep 2012 (P Arras).
 19. One Ruwais Water Treatment Plant 15-16 Nov 2012 (M Smiles *et al*).
 20. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 20 Jan-18 Feb 2013 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell, H Roberts).
 22. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 19 Sep-2 Oct 2013 (P Arras).
 21. One Green Mubazzarah 13-27 Nov 2013 (S Young).
 22. One Green Mubazzarah 4 Apr 2014 (S Young).
 23. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 10-18 Sep 2014 (P Arras).
 24. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 24-25 Aug 2015 (P Arras).
 25. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 5-17 Oct 2015 (P Arras).
 26. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 19-21 Apr 2016 (P Arras).
 27. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 26 Aug 2016 (P Arras).
 28. One Sila'a--Public Park 26 Nov 2016 (M Smiles).
 29. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 4-19 Dec 2016 (P Arras).
 30. One Nad al-Sheba, spring 2017 (H Heaton).
 31. One Al Marmoom DCR--Qudra Lake, photographed spring 2017 (R Khan).
 32. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 27 Jan 2018 (NJ Moran *et al*).
 33. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 8 Mar 2018 (SB Khan, S Ahmed, EA Al Hammadi).
 34. One Green Mubazzarah 1 Apr 2018 (T Kulakowski).
 35. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 6 Dec 2018-31 Mar 2019 (P Arras).
 36. Up to three Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 7 Sep-2 Oct 2019 (P Arras *et al*).
 37. Up to two Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 28 Nov-25 Feb 2020 (P Arras *et al*).
 38. Two Al Marmoom DCR--Paddyfields 20 May 2020 (R Khan).
- Records from autumn 2020 onwards available on eBird.

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedichenus*

Uncommon to fairly common migrant and winter visitor, September to April, scattered mid-summer records might refer to released birds.
Released birds breeding in the Al Ain area and the Al Marmoom DCR in Dubai.

Great Stone-curlew *Esacus recurvirostris*

Vagrant.

1. One Bu Al Siaief Marine Protected Area 27 Sep 2011 (S Javed, S Khan) and nearby Khor Qirqishan (Musaffah) 27 Feb-6 Mar 2012 (SWL Strickland *et al*).
2. One Al Rafa'a bridge and beach 14 Oct 2016 (S Bhosekar).

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, September to March, occasionally other months. Breeding population estimated to number 10-20. Total non-breeding population estimated as 250-500.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Common migrant and breeding resident. Breeding population estimated to number 200-1,000.

Recent colonist, first confirmed breeding: Kalba, April 1988.

Annual breeding attempts in the Al Wathba area since 1996, with up to eight pairs. Wintering flock here has reached c190 individuals but numbers very erratic.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Western Oystercatcher *H. ostralegus ostralegus/longipes* occurring. Total non-breeding population estimated as 1,000-2000.

Locally common migrant and winter visitor, a few birds oversummer.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Common to very common migrant and winter visitor, some oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 1,000-2,000.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Former vagrant, now considered rare migrant and winter visitor, mainly late November to February. One April to June record.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Locally common migrant and winter visitor, late August to early May. Total non-breeding population estimated as 100-500.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Vagrant.

1. Six Dubai; Jumeirah 19 Dec 1970 (W Wyper).
2. One Abu Dhabi Island 5 Jul 1979 (T Giles).
3. One Dibba 18 Feb 1981 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
4. One Qarnein Island 10 Jan 1983 (I Foxall).
5. One Das Island 10-17 Aug 1987 (L Reaney).
6. Two Emirates Golf Club 27 Sep 1987, increasing to three 1 Oct 1987 (C Richardson).
7. One Emirates Golf Club 11 Nov 1987 (C Richardson).
8. One Emirates Golf Club 7-12 Oct 1989 (C Richardson).
9. One Khor al-Khan 17 Nov 1989 (J Oldfield).
10. One Al Jazirah Khor 30 Nov 1989 (S Turner).
11. Flock of 14 Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 14-15 Feb 1991 (JAD Chapman, RA Richardson, JM Hollingworth).

12. One Emirates Golf Club 18 Jul 1991 (C Richardson).
13. Two Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 17 Dec 1992 (SL James).
14. Two Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 27 Dec 1992 (JM Hollingworth).
15. Two Baynunah area 17 Nov 1993 (SJ Aspinall).
16. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 2 Nov 1995 (SL James).
17. Up to four Hamranyah Fields--general area 16-18 Nov 1995 (C Richardson, M Beaman, *Birdquest*).
18. One Wamm Farms 2 Dec 2004 (SL James, NJ Moran, AP Twyman).
19. One Wamm Farms 28 Oct-25 Nov 2005 (SL James, NJ Moran *et al*).
20. One Wamm Farms 11 Oct 2006 (G de Priester).
21. One Ghantoot 11 Dec 2009-20 Jan 2010 (OJ Campbell *et al*), with two from 12 Dec 2009-13 Jan 2010 (M & M Hooper *et al*).
22. One Sir Bani Yas--general area 1 Nov 2010 (A Cokayne).
23. One Sir Bani Yas--general area 3-21 Dec 2010 (T Pedersen, A Cokayne *et al*).

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Very common migrant and winter visitor, peak passage mid-August to October, some oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 300-1,000.

Little Ringed Plover *Thinornis dubius curonicus*

Common breeding visitor and migrant, February to October, some overwinter. Breeding population is estimated to number 300-600; total non-breeding population estimated as 100-200.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Uncommon winter visitor, November to January, rarely February and September/October.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 12 Jan 2004-25 Feb 2004 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
2. Two Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 13-14 Feb 2010; one remaining to 6 Mar 2010 (SL James, SJ Aspinall, H Roberts *et al*).
3. One Al Quoz Stables (Godolphin) 28 Feb 2010-5 May 2011 (K Hyland *et al*).
4. One Sir Bani Yas 15-21 Oct 2010 (A Cokayne).
5. One Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 5-17 Feb 2011, possibly returning bird (OJ Campbell, D Clark, R Quested *et al*).
6. One Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 4-18 Nov 2011, possibly returning bird (S Young *et al*).
7. One Mafraq Rubbish Tip 21 Nov 2015-6 Feb 2016 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
8. One Zakher Lake 9 Feb-5 Mar 2016 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
One Zakher Lake 25 Nov-17 Dec 2016 (S Bruylants, A Arias de la Torre *et al*) - likely returning bird.
9. One Khalifa City A 9 Nov 2016 (A Bailey).
10. One Saadiyat Beach Golf Club 30 Dec 2019-16 Mar 2020 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
11. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 29 Oct-2 Nov 2021 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 9 Oct-15 Dec 2022 (A Vuijk *et al*) - likely returning bird.
One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake and surroundings 15-18 Mar 2023 (G Burns *et al*) - likely returning bird.

- One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake and surroundings 21 Jan 2024 (G Burns *et al*) - likely returning bird.
12. One Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 9 Jul 2023-27 Jan 2024 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
 13. One Mirfa Harbour 8-11 Mar 2024 (A Al Hammadi).
 14. One Eastern Mangroves (Dolphin Park) 21 Apr 2024 (L Bouchet).
 15. One Ruwais STP 6 May 2024 (K Al Dhaheri).

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

Very common breeding resident; has spread westwards in recent years and now regularly present as far west as Sila'a. Breeding population estimated as 5,000-10,000.

Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*

Uncommon winter visitor (mainly November and February) and migrant; one June record. Total non-breeding population estimated as 1-30 but recent increase 2021 onwards.

All records listed:

1. One Safa Park 12-20 Nov 1984 (C Richardson).
2. One Safa Park 1-25 Feb 1986 (C Richardson, JAD Chapman).
3. One Abu Dhabi; Bateen Airbase 18-31 Mar 1986 (M Crumby).
4. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 10 Feb 1988 (J Oldfield).
5. One Das Island 20-23 Nov 1990 (M Wood).
6. One Das Island 3-4 Jun 1991 (M Wood, R Western).
7. Three Hamraniyah Fields--general area 24 Jan-28 Feb 1992 (I & J Andrews, JK Bannon, C Richardson).
8. Up to four Hamraniyah Fields--general area 6 Nov 1992-20 Jan 1993 (C Richardson *et al*).
9. One Wamm Farms 11 Nov 1994 (SJ Aspinall).
10. One Wamm Farms 30 Nov-1 Dec 1996 (H & J Eriksen).
11. One Abu Dhabi Golf Club 13-15 Jan 1997 (JM Hollingworth, SL James *et al*).
12. One Khor al-Beida 12 Feb 1998 (H & J Eriksen).
13. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 22 Oct 1998 (G Kumar).
14. One Al Ain Camel Racetrack 4-19 Nov 1999 (A Pimbley, SJ Aspinall, I Cunningham, C Richardson).
15. One Wamm Farms 8 Jan-11 Feb 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
16. One Wamm Farms 9 Nov 2000 (C Richardson, *Birdquest*).
17. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 22 Nov 2000-3 Mar 2001 (SL James, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
18. One The Montgomerie; Emirates Hills Golf Course 10 Nov 2001 (C Richardson).
19. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 29 Nov-21 Dec 2000 (AP Twyman *et al*).
20. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 5-10 Apr 2002 (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
21. One Wamm Farms 12 Dec 2003-2 Jan 2004 (DA Diskin *et al*).
22. Two Dubai Pivot Fields 4 Jan-27 Mar 2005 (P Bourdin, OB Hansen *et al*).
23. One Hamraniyah Fields 14 Nov 2005 (C Richardson).
24. One Dubai Pivot Fields 17 Nov 2005-12 Feb 2006 (H & J Eriksen *et al*).
25. Two Lahbab--southern fields 3 Feb 2006 (T Pedersen).
26. Up to three Dubai Pivot Fields 25 Nov 2006-3 Mar 2007 (AP Twyman, N Tovey, C Temple, D Clark *et al*).
27. Four Lahbab--northern fields 12 Jan 2007 (E Adolfsen).
28. Up to two Dubai Pivot Fields 14 Nov 2007-11 Mar 2008 (AP Twyman *et al*).

29. Two Ghantoot 13 Dec 2007-20 Feb 2008 (D Wilby, A Jones *et al*).
30. One Digdagga Fields 26 Dec 2007 (SL James).
31. One Ghantoot 31 Oct 2008-13 Feb 2009 (OJ Campbell, NJ Moran *et al*).
32. One Wamm Farms 15-21 Nov 2008 (A Hogg *et al*).
33. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 19 Dec 2008 (NJ Moran, SJ Aspinall, OJ Campbell).
34. Six Lahbab--southern field 9 Jan 2009 (N Tovey, C Temple).
35. One Abu Dhabi; Bateen Airbase 28 Jan 2009 (S Wilson).
36. Six Khor Kalba beach 19 Nov 2009 (H Mikkelsen).
37. One Ghantoot 5-6 Nov 2010 (OJ Campbell).
38. One Dubai Pivot Fields 10-14 Nov 2010 with two birds 15 Nov (OJ Campbell *et al*).
39. One Al Qua'a Fodder Field 10 Dec 2010 (SP Lloyd, M Smiles, G Talbot).
40. Up to two Dubai Pivot Fields 24 Dec 2010-25 Jan 2011 (A Twyman *et al*).
41. Up to three Dubai Pivot Fields 22 Nov 2011-29 Feb 2012 with six birds 25 Feb onwards (C Temple, I Boustead, N Tovey *et al*).
42. One Wamm Farms 17-23 Mar 2012 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
43. Up to four Dubai Pivot Fields 25 Oct 2012-23 Feb 2013 w eight birds 21 Feb (M Smiles, J Baurmeister, K Kuitunen *et al*).
44. Up to two Wamm Farms 14-24 Nov 2012 (M Ullman *et al*).
45. One Al Qua'a Fodder Field 16-23 Nov 2012 (N Tovey *et al*).
46. One Lahbab--northern fields 12 Dec 2012 (A Schmidt, P Paixao, J-P Silbet).
47. Up to four Dubai Pivot Fields 29 Oct-28 Dec 2013 (K Al Dhaheri, K Hyland *et al*).
48. Four Hamraniyah Nursery 23 Nov 2013 (SP Lloyd, N Tovey).
49. One Hamraniyah Fields 21 Nov 2014-7 Jan 2015 (S Taylor, M Smiles, J Lethbridge *et al*).
50. One Wamm Farms 26-27 Dec 2014 (M Smiles *et al*).
51. Two adults Dubai Pivot Fields 14 Feb 2015 (L Olsson).
52. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide 23 Feb 2015 (A Tyler).
53. One Khor Kalba (Alqurm Protected Area) 31 May 2015 (L Hebbelman, J Pereira).
54. One Al Zorah Nursery 20-27 Feb 2016 (S Taylor).
55. Two Wamm Farms 17-19 Feb 2017 (M Barth *et al*).
56. Up to eight Al Saad Farms 1 Nov 2017-18 Mar 2018 (V. Motteau, J Delannoy *et al*).
57. Three Al Marmoom DCR 30 Nov 2017 with four 12 Jan 2018 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell).
58. Two Al Qua'a Fodder Fields 8 Dec 2017 (M Smiles).
59. Up to ten Al Saad Farms 20 Oct-7 Dec 2018 (H Roberts *et al*).
60. Up to four Al Saad Farms Oct 31-Nov 6 2019 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
61. Up to ten Al Qua'a Fodder Field 10 Nov 2019-9 Jan 2020 (K Al Dhaheri, SP Lloyd).
62. One Hamraniyah--carpet grass farm 11 Nov 2019 (A Whitehead).
63. One Wamm Farms 26 Nov 2019-22 Feb 2020 (A Whitehead *et al*).
64. Three Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 3 Dec 2019 and 24-31 Jan 2020 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
65. Twelve Sharjah University City 20-24 Dec 2019 (A Al Ali).
66. Up to ten Hamraniyah Fields--northern area 27 Jan-8 Feb 2020 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
67. Up to four Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 27 Oct-8 Nov 2020 (R Khan).
68. Four Al Qua'a Fodder Field 26-29 Jan 2021 (T Burkett *et al*).
69. Up to 34 Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 16-19 Feb 2021, single bird 5 Mar (V Motteau *et al*).
70. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 20 Oct-26 Nov 2021 (E Elhassan, S Kirkcaldy *et al*).
71. Five Wamm Farms 29 Oct 2021 (M Dass).

72. Up to 21 birds Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 5 Nov 2021-20 Feb 2022 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

73. Three Al Qua'a Fodder Field 3-4 Dec 2021 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

Records from 2022 onwards available on eBird.

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*

Mainly a (very) localised resident breeder, perhaps also a rare migrant and winter visitor, August to April. A recent colonist, (first confirmed breeding: Ajman, 1996) and now a very local breeding resident. Breeding population is estimated to number 20-50; total non-breeding population assumed to fall in the range 50-249 (but likely closer to lower end of this estimate).

Caspian Plover *Anarhynchus asiaticus*

Uncommon migrant, late August to early October; scarcer in spring, late February to April. Rare January, May and June.

Tibetan Sand Plover *Anarhynchus atrifrons*

C. a. pamirensis and possibly *C. a. atrifrons* occurring.

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor with peak in April and October; some oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 4,000-10,000.

Greater Sand Plover *Anarhynchus leschenaultii*

Subspecies occurring not completely resolved; vast majority large billed so presumably *C.l. scythicus* (formerly *crassirostris*); occurrence of western *C.l. columbinus* not certain but feasible.

Common passage migrant and winter visitor (returning as early as late May/June) but much less numerous than Lesser Sand Plover; a few oversummer.

Total non-breeding population estimated as 300-1,000.

Kittlitz's Plover *Anarhynchus pecuarius*

Vagrant.

1. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 23-25 Sep 1995 (SL James, J Buxton *et al*).

Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus alexandrinus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeding population is estimated to number 1,400-2,000; total non-breeding population estimated as 2,000-5,000.

Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

Vagrant.

1. One Wamm Farms 4-16 Nov 2007 (SL James *et al*).

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

Vagrant.

1. One Wamm Farms 31 Oct 2013 (M Smiles, J Kirby).
2. One Zakher Lake 28 Nov-7 Dec 2013 (G Askew *et al*).
3. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake 29 Oct-6 Nov 2015 (J Johnston *et al*).
4. One Ajman WTP 9-16 Nov 2018 (M Smiles, D Poulton *et al*).
5. One private estate near Green Mubazzarah 16 Nov 2020 (P Arras).
6. One Tower Links Golf Course--Khuzam Road 27-30 Nov 2020 (J Abbas *et al*).
7. One Al Marmoom DCR--Flamingo Lakes 12 Nov 2022 (S Al Suwaidi) and possibly same bird 11 km away 26 Nov (G Burns).

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

Vagrant.

1. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide 20-23 Mar 2024 (M Mills *et al*).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

- European Whimbrel, *N. phaeopus phaeopus*

Very common passage migrant with peak passage August to September, less common in winter; a few oversummer.

Total non-breeding population estimated as 500-1,000.

- Steppe Whimbrel, *N. phaeopus alboaxillaris*

Vagrant.

1. One juvenile Saadiyat Beach Golf Club 28 Aug-11 Sep 2020 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd *et al*).

To be looked for in July/August/September, and may be more likely earlier in the season, before the influx of nominate birds arrive.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor; a few oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 500-1,000.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Nominate subspecies (or *yamalensis* if valid) common, (with *baueri* recorded in Oman).

Common to very common passage migrant and winter visitor; a few oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 1,500-3,000.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa limosa*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; a few oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 500-1,000 but numbers generally very small away from Ras al-Khor, where up to 400 recorded.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Vagrant.

1. One Khor al-Beida 25 Jan 2013 (A Al Ali).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, late October to mid-March, rare September and April.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Vagrant.

1. Two Dubai 20-22 Jan 1974 (P Carson).
2. Two Ra's al-Khaimah 18 Dec 1976 (W Weitkowitz).
3. One Al Wathba 4 Nov 1983 (M Crumbie).
4. One Safa Park 16 Nov 1988 (C Richardson).
5. One near Sweihan 1 Dec 1991, caught and brought to Dubai Zoo where later died (*per* R Khan).
6. One Jebel Ali Village 5 Dec 1991 (JK Bannon, C Richardson).
7. One Emirates Golf Club 5 Dec 1991 (JK Bannon, C Richardson).
8. One Das Island 2 Oct 1992 (M Wood).
9. One Emirates Golf Club 13 Nov 1993 (C Richardson).
10. One Abu al-Abyadh Island 15 Nov 1993 (M McGill).
11. One Emirates Golf Club 20 Jan and 11-16 Feb 1999 (C Richardson, P Zetterberg).
12. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 26 Nov 2001 (SL James, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
13. One Safa Park 4 Dec 2002 (DA Diskin).
14. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 8 Feb 2004 (DA Diskin).
15. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 13-14 Feb 2006 (AP Twyman *et al*).
16. One Hili Oasis 23 Feb 2011 (D Clark).
17. One Sila'a--Peninsula Plantations 9 Dec 2011 (K Al Dhaheri, Y Al-Habshi).
18. One Safa Park 18 Dec 2013 (M Smiles).
19. One private estate near Green Mubazzarah 30 Dec 2018 (P Arras).
20. One Umm al-Sheif 8-9 Oct 2020 (N. Shirzad), released Al Marmoom DCR--Workers Lake 9 Oct 2020 (T. Pedersen *et al*).
21. One private estate near Green Mubazzarah 29 Oct-1 Dec 2020, presumed same 21-23 Feb 2021 (P Arras *et al*).
22. One private estate near Green Mubazzarah 5-10 Dec 2021 (P Arras).
23. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 22 Jan 2023 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett, D Lobo).
24. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 25 Nov 2023 (OJ Campbell).

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

Vagrant.

1. One Das Island 18 Oct 1987 (L Reaney).
2. One Safa Park 3-12 Oct 1990 (JK Bannon, C Richardson, M Pitt).
3. One Emirates Golf Club 18-25 Sep 1993, with up to three 7 Oct 1993 (SJ Aspinall, C Richardson).
4. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 2 Feb 1995 (SL James).
5. One Dhayah 4 Mar 1995 (N Ullrich).
6. One Dhayah 12 Feb 1999 (M Rantala).
7. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack, 15 Oct 1999 (SL James, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
8. One Wamm Farms 28 Oct and 5 Nov 2005 (SL James, NJ Moran, J Goedelt).
9. One Wamm Farms 22-23 Sep 2006 (AP Twyman, T Pedersen).

10. One Wamm Farms 16 Nov 2006 (T Pedersen, KA Hansen).
11. One Al Warsan Lakes 11 Mar 2011 (N Tovey).
12. One Wamm Farms 18 Feb 2017 (M Smiles).

Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

Uncommon to fairly common migrant and winter visitor, September to April, rare May, June and August.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Very common migrant and winter visitor, late August to April; scarce in May. Total non-breeding population estimated as 500-1,000.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Fairly common to common passage migrant and winter visitor; recorded all months. Total non-breeding population estimated as 200-500.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor; recorded all months. Total non-breeding population estimated as 150-250.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 3-11 Jan 2010 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicaria*

Vagrant. With hindsight, it is possible that records 2 to 4 (and perhaps record 5 also) below all refer to the same individual, but there is no direct evidence to suggest this.

1. Four to six adults 25 miles off Fujairah 30 May 1989 (WF Curtis).
2. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 18 Jan 2008 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell, SJ Aspinall, J Stewart).
3. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 5-6 Mar 2009 (SJ Aspinall, OJ Campbell *et al*).
4. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 16-20 May 2009 (NJ Moran *et al*).
5. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 5 Mar-9 Apr 2011 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Fairly common passage migrant (April, September; inland sites and offshore waters) and winter visitor (to offshore waters); recorded all months. Large numbers winter in the Gulf of Oman.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; late June to April.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor but rather local; a few oversummer.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Common passage migrant and fairly common early winter visitor (usually scarce late winter); recorded all months.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor; some oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 2,000-5,000.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Vagrant.

1. One Neima Pools 28 Nov 2007-25 Jan 2008 and nearby sites until 23 Apr 2008 (SL James, P & J Hayes *et al*).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Uncommon and very localised passage migrant and winter visitor; recorded all months except June.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, August to April; a few oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 300-500.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Common passage migrant, fairly common in winter; recorded all months. Total non-breeding population estimated as 500-2,000.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Vagrant.

1. One Das Island 16 Jun 1978 (MA Hollingworth).
2. Three or four Marawah Island 9 Nov 1993 (with Great Knot), with one bird 20 Nov 1993 (SJ Aspinall).
3. One Marawah Island 23 Aug 1994 (J Lontkowski).
4. Two Al Jazirah Khor 13 Apr 1997 (A Dally).
5. One Khor al-Beida 14-23 Feb 1998, presumed same Dreamland 6 Mar 1998 (R Aumüller, D Kratzer *et al*).
6. One Khor al-Beida 16-27 Mar 2002 (K Gunther, M Schlorf, C Richardson).
7. One Khor al-Beida 7 Nov 2002 (C Johnsson *et al*).
8. One Khor al-Beida 8 Mar and 24 Mar 2009 (NJ Moran *et al*).
9. One Khor al-Beida 2 Nov 2009 (M Roemhild).
10. One Al Jazirah Khor (Khor Muzahmi) 17 Nov 2012 - 23 Jan 2013 (M Ullman *et al*).
11. One Khor al-Beida 22 Feb-23 March 2013 (M Smiles *et al*).
12. One Khor al-Beida 13 Sep 2016 (M Smiles).
13. One Al Jazirah Khor 16 Apr 2022 (T Nyegaard).
14. One Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 27 Apr-8 May 2024 (M Almazrouei *et al*).

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, August to April, rarely into May. Total non-breeding population estimated as 20-100.

First recorded in 1986; now known to be regular at several sites. Largest flock to date 607 Marawah Island 17 Sep 1994 (SJ Aspinall) but no records from that site for many years. Regularly recorded wintering from Khor al-Beida and Bhalghelam Island; discovered Abu Dhabi Island, February 2020 but no records in subsequent winters there.

One ringing recovery: bird with a tag recorded at Khor al-Beida January 2017 had been ringed at Kamchatka, eastern Russia, seen again Kamchatka, August 2018.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Common to very common passage migrant and fairly common winter visitor; recorded all months. Total non-breeding population estimated as 250-1000.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, rare May and June. Total non-breeding population estimated as 50-200; reports of up to 4,000 at Ras al-Khor in 1980s not replicated recently; up to 560 there 1996 to 2000 but numbers since much smaller.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Common passage migrant and common winter visitor (large influxes some years in April to favoured sites); some oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 1,500-3,000.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Vagrant.

1. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 26 Sep 1994 (I Lycett).
2. One adult Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 1-2 Jul 1995 (C Richardson, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
3. One Abu Dhabi Health and Fitness Club 6-9 Sep 2001 (SL James, P Hellyer, AP Twyman).
4. One adult Khor Kalba 3 Jun 2004 (SL James, SJ Aspinall).
5. One Qurrayah shoreline 19 May 2008 (SL James, T Ford).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Common migrant and, to a lesser extent, winter visitor; recorded all months except June. Total non-breeding population estimated as 50-200 (but up to 200 counted on autumn passage in single day at most favoured locations).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Vagrant.

1. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 14 Sep 1990 (M Pitt).
2. One Zabeel Ponds 28 Sep-2 Nov 1990 (JAD Chapman, M Pitt, D Robinson, C Richardson).
3. Three Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 1 Oct 1990, with up to two until 5 Oct 1990 (JAD Chapman).
4. One Ruwais Water Treatment Plant 12 Dec 1991 (JAD Chapman).
5. Two Al Wathba Prison Pools 22 Sep 1992 (SL James).
6. One Abu al-Abyadh Island 13-14 Sep 1993 (G Clarkson).

7. One Mafrag Water Treatment Plant 9 Nov 1993 (E Hirschfeld).
8. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 16 Sep 1994 (E Hirschfeld *et al*).
9. Six Al Ain Camel Racetrack 28 Sep 1994 (SJ Aspinall).
10. Three Mafrag Water Treatment Plant 24 Oct 1996 (SL James).
11. One Mafrag Water Treatment Plant 25 Apr 1997 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
12. One Dhayah 27 Sep 1997 (P Brett).
13. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 21-22 May 1998 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
14. One Hatta Lake 1 Nov 1998 at least (SJ Aspinall).
15. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 19 Oct 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
16. One Emirates Golf Club 1 Nov 2000 (P Willoughby, A Stoddart).
17. One Wimpey Pits 28-29 Jun 2001 and again 6 and 30 Jul 2001 (SL James, SJ Aspinall, C Richardson).
18. One Khor Kalba, 24 Nov 2005 (B Casslen).
19. One adult Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 26 Sep 2006 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell).
20. One juvenile Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 25 Nov 2006 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell).
21. One adult near Abu Dhabi International Airport 9 Apr 2007 (SL James), presumed same at nearby Bin Butti overflow 19 Apr 2007 (SJ Aspinall).
22. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 1 Sep 2007 (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
23. One Al Hamrania Nursery 22 Nov-9 Dec 2013 (M Smiles *et al*).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Vagrant.

1. One Dubai Pivot Fields 7-10 Nov 2010 (M Kennewell, G Talbot *et al*).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Common passage migrant, marked peaks April to May and September, scarcer in winter; recorded all months. Total non-breeding population estimated as 300-500.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Subspecies probably include *alpina* and *centralis* (if valid and not included in *alpina*); birds occurring in UAE generally look markedly long-billed compared to the typical appearance of those occurring in Europe. Total non-breeding population estimated as 5,000-10,000.

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor; some oversummer.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Vagrant.

1. Two Hatta Lake 27 Oct-1 Nov 1998 (P Willoughby, S & MC Jennings *et al*).
2. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 1 Dec 2001-24 Feb 2002 (DA Diskin *et al*).
3. One juvenile Wamm Farms 26 Sep-7 Oct 2006 (SL James *et al*).
4. One adult Mirfa Water Treatment Plant 6-9 Oct 2011 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
5. One juvenile Mirfa Water Treatment Plant 15-19 Nov 2011 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
6. One Al Marmoom DCR desert reserve 6 Sep 2013 (M Barth).
7. One Dubai Safari--Hippo Pool 14-16 Oct 2018 (R Khan).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, August to May; some oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 5,000-10,000.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 18-26 May 2012 (O Campbell, D O'Mahony *et al*).

Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola*

Locally common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeding population estimated to number 2,500-3,000.

Total non-breeding population estimated as 500-1,000.

Surveys carried out between 2003 and 2010 suggest 347-1,439 pairs; 1,500 pairs (2012) bred from May to August on Umm Amim Island and Abu al-Abyadh Island in the Abu Dhabi emirate. One bird breeding Abu al Abyadh was satellite-tracked to Aldabra, Seychelles.

Cream-colored Courser *Cursorius cursor*

Uncommon breeding resident; post-breeding flocks widespread.

Breeding population estimated as 100-500.

Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*

Vagrant.

1. One immature Abu Dhabi 4-23 Nov 1978 (MA Hollingworth *et al*).
2. One Khor Dubai 5-8 Mar 1984 (JAD Chapman).
3. One Khor Dubai 9 Feb 1985 (JAD Chapman).
4. One Zabeel Ponds 15 Dec 1985 (C Richardson).
5. One Khor Dubai 11 Dec 1993 (H Virtanen).
6. One Nad al-Sheba 25-30 Jan 1994 (C Richardson *et al*).
7. One Khor Kalba Harbour 2 Dec 1995 (A Parker).
8. One Emirates Golf Club 15 Dec 1997-7 Feb 1998 (C Richardson).
9. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 2 Dec 2001-23 Jan 2002 (P Bourdin, AP Twyman *et al*).
10. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 29 Nov 2002-2 Feb 2003 (DA Diskin *et al*), possibly returning bird.
11. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 31 Dec 2004 (DA Diskin), possibly returning bird.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

Vagrant.

1. Two juveniles Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 25 Aug 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, AP Twyman *et al*).
2. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 3-4 Apr 2003 (AP Twyman *et al*).
3. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 21-24 Sep 2004 (C Richardson, NJ Moran, SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
4. One Wamm Farms 24-31 Aug 2011 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

Very rare migrant.

1. One near Khor Dubai 10 Dec 1984 (JAD Chapman).
2. One Al Ain Camel Racetrack 1-3 Oct 1993 (M McGill *et al*).
3. One Kalba Beach 29 Dec 1993-30 Jan 1994 (C Richardson, *Naturstudienreisen et al*).
4. One Ruwais 4 May 1996 (P Sharman).
5. One Wamm Farms 23 Oct 1996 (C Richardson, *Avian Adventures*).
6. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 8-22 Oct 1999 (SJ Aspinall, M Mahdi *et al*).
7. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 18 Mar 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
8. One immature Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 6-13 Oct 2000 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer *et al*).
9. One immature Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 22-27 Oct 2002 (SL James *et al*).
10. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 28 Aug 2003 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
11. One adult Dubai Pivot Fields 7-14 Jul 2004 (DA Diskin, C Temple).
12. One immature Wamm Farms 26-29 Sep 2006 and again 20-25 Oct 2006 (SL James *et al*).
13. Two immatures Wamm Farms 10-15 Nov 2006 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell *et al*).
14. One adult Sharjah Rubbish Tip 9 Mar 2007 (SL James, SJ Aspinall, NJ Moran *et al*).
15. One Dubai Pivot Fields 17 Aug 2007 (S Jahan).
16. One immature Wamm Farms 21 Sep 2007 (SL James, N Tovey, C Temple). **
17. One Hamraniyah Fields 27 Mar 2009 (N Tovey).
18. Two immature Wamm Farms 4-12 Sep 2009 (SL James, OJ Campbell *et al*).
19. One Wamm Farms 3-4 Sep 2010 (M Smiles *et al*).
20. One Wamm Farms 4-7 May 2011 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
21. A flock of 11 birds Wamm Farms 6 Aug 2011 (SP Lloyd, A Ward, SL James).
22. One Wamm Farms 30 Sep-1 Oct 2011 (SP Lloyd, AP Twyman, H Roberts).
23. Two Wamm Farms 5 May 2012 (SL James, K Al Dhaheri).
24. One Ajban Farms 25-26 Apr 2013 (NP Williams, M Almazrouei *et al*).
25. Seven Wamm Farms 27 Apr 2013 (NP Williams).
26. Up to two Al Qua'a Fodder Field 1-5 Oct 2013 (H Roberts *et al*).
27. One Al Hamraniya Nursery 28 Feb-8 Mar 2014 (J Judas, J Angliss).
28. Five Hamraniyah--carpet grass farm 22 Mar 2017 (NP Williams).
29. One Wamm Farms 23 Aug 2019 (J Judas).
30. One Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 9-29 Oct 2022 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
31. One Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 19 Aug-17 Sep 2022 (S Al Suwaidi, M Almazrouei *et al*).

Further records on eBird.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Fairly common passage migrant (especially April); recorded all months.

Colonist with erratic breeding records 2005 onwards and more regularly from 2018; in 2020, at least three sites occupied, two with colonies; third with a single pair and by 2023 common breeder at all three sites, breeding population likely exceeds 200 birds.

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce to probably rare migrant and winter visitor; recorded all months; mainly offshore.

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Common migrant and winter visitor; recorded all months. Much more numerous off East Coast; rare Arabian Gulf.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Vagrant.

1. Two 40 miles off Fujairah 26 Mar 1989 (WF Curtis).
2. Two near Dubai 5 Apr 1989 (WF Curtis).
3. One adult, two juveniles Ra's Dibba 22 Sep 1994 (SL James).
4. One Umm al-Qaiwain Breakwater 10 Apr 1998 (C Saunders).
5. One Al Sha'am 17 Jan 1999 (K Mild).
6. One adult Al Ghurfa Breakwater 3 May 2006 (NJ Moran).
7. Two adults Al Ghurfa Breakwater 25 May 2006 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, NJ Moran).
8. Three adults Fujairah Port Beach 6 Jun 2007 (SL James, T Pedersen).
9. Two adults Fujairah Hilton Hotel 20 Jun 2008 (SL James).
10. One immature Fujairah Hilton Hotel 1 Aug 2008 (SL James).
11. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 22 Jun 2011 (L Naismith *et al*).
12. One Fujairah pelagic 6 Aug 2011 (M Smiles, SL James *et al*).
13. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 11 May 2012 (AP Twyman *et al*).
14. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 13 Jul 2012 (T Pedersen, SL James *et al*).
15. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Nov 2012 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
16. One adult Khor Kalba Pelagic 7 Jun 2013 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
17. One adult Khor Kalba Pelagic 21 Jun 2013 (H Roberts *et al*).
18. One adult Khor Kalba Pelagic 20 Jun 2014 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
19. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 14 Jul 2014 (J Judas).
20. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 Jul 2014 (M Smiles *et al*).
21. One adult Dalma Island ferry 6 Mar 2016 (T Christensen, S Pihl).
22. One 2nd cal year Khor Kalba Pelagic 12 Oct 2018 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
23. Two adults Offshore Dubai 17 May 2019 (J Bell).
24. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 20 Jul 2019 (J Judas *et al*).
25. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 17 Jun 2023 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).

Brown/South Polar Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus/maccormicki*

Vagrant.

1. One Sandy Beach Motel 8 Jan 2000 (SL James, SJ Aspinall).
- Earlier reports unsubstantiated but details sought for proposed review.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

Former vagrant, now considered regular visitor off the East Coast Apr-Oct with one Jan record.

First record: One Ra's Dibba 16 Jun 1995 (SL James, J Buxton).

Rare Arabian Gulf:

- one 12 km northeast of Hail shoal 18 Aug 2021 (J Cabilao). Position 24.425434 , 53.531236.

Lesser Noddy *Anous tenuirostris*

Vagrant.

1. Two Ra's Dibba 14-23 Sep 1994, one remaining to 14 Oct 1994 (M Fouquet, O Girard *et al*).
2. One Al Ghurfa Breakwater 18 Jul 2004 (SL James, SJ Aspinall, I Boustead).
3. One Fujairah Port Beach 9-10 Aug 2008 (SL James, T Pedersen); different bird Fujairah Port Beach 10 Aug-24 Oct 2008, with two present 14 Aug-4 Oct 2008 (T Pedersen *et al*).
4. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 22 Sep 2011 (K Al Dhaheri, A Alzaabi).
5. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 16 Nov 2012 (M Smiles *et al*).
6. Up to three Khor Kalba Pelagic 16 Aug-13 Sep 2013 (J Angliss *et al*).
7. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 7 Sep 2013 (N Tovey *et al*).
8. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 Jul 2014 (M Smiles *et al*).
9. One Luo'alou'ayyah Beach 21-25 Sep 2017 (M Smiles *et al*).
10. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 20 Jul 2019 (J Judas *et al*).
11. Up to 21 Ra's Dibba and offshore fish farms 21 July-14 Sep 2024, with 14 on 4 Oct and 1 on 13 Dec (N Almehrzi, M Mishu, D Darrell-Lambert, H Roberts *et al*). One individual at the same site on various dates in Feb to June 2025 (still present mid-July 2025) is assumed to be the same long-staying individual from 2024.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

Vagrant or rare visitor. Immatures probably regular offshore from end-May to October.

1. One Sir Abu Nua'ir Island 14 Jun and 8 Aug 1969 (ENT Morris).
2. Two off the East Coast 17 May 1974 (PWG Chilman).
3. Two Kalba Corniche 16 Nov 2007 (K Renes, R Huisman).
3. One first-summer Fujairah Hilton Hotel 9 Aug 2008 (SL James), probably same Fujairah Port Beach to Khor Kalba 22 Aug-15 Sep 2008 (T Pedersen *et al*).
4. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 9 Aug 2008 (SL James).
5. Two second-summer birds Fujairah Port Beach 22 Aug 2008 (A Jones), with one there 23 Aug (SL James, D Wilby, G Talbot *et al*).
6. One first-winter Khor Kalba Harbour 7 Nov 2008 (SJ Aspinall, R Quested).
7. One first-summer Khor Kalba Pelagic 10 Jun 2011 (SL James, A Alzaabi *et al*).
8. One first summer Fujairah pelagic 24 Jun 2011 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
9. Seven first-summer Khor Kalba Pelagic 28 Jun 2011 (T Pedersen, K Al Dhaheri, A Alzaabi).
10. Two first-summer Khor Kalba Pelagic 12 Aug 2011 (G Talbot, A Alzaabi *et al*).
11. One first-summer Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 Aug 2011 (A Al Ali, A Alzaabi *et al*).
12. One first-summer Khor Kalba and Fujairah Port Beach 12-14 Oct 2011 (D Wilby *et al*).
13. One first-summer Fujairah Port Beach 12 Jul 2012 (SL James).
14. Two first-summer and one juvenile Khor Kalba Pelagic 10 Aug 2012 (SL James, A Alzaabi).
15. One first-summer Khor Kalba Pelagic 31 May 2013 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).

16. One first-summer Khor Kalba Pelagic 12 Jul 2013 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
17. One immature Kalba Corniche 10 Sep 2013 and Fujairah Port Beach 13-20 Sep (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
18. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 31 May 2014 (A Alzaabi, J Judas *et al*).
19. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 7 Jun 2014 (M Barth, A Alzaabi *et al*).
20. One immature Bidiya 8 Jul 2014 (J Judas).
21. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 Jul 2014 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
22. One immature Fujairah Pelagic 3 May 2016 (J Judas *et al*).
23. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Jun 2016 (A Alzaabi *et al*).
24. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 5 May 2017 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
24. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Jun 2017 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
25. One immature Dibba Rock 19 Apr 2022 (T Nyegaard).

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Common breeding visitor and passage migrant late March to mid-November, uncommon to rare December to February. Breeding population estimated as 45,000-90,000. Very rare inland.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Long confused with the next species, but clear differences in phenology (and plumage!) now determined.

Common passage migrant both coasts from March to May and August to October, some recorded inland during spring migration and flocks recorded over-summering inland (2022, 2023).

Common winter visitor and at least small numbers of non-breeders present both coasts throughout summer.

Ringling recovery of a bird ringed in Israel July 2022, photographed near Abu Dhabi March 2024 (T Burkett).

Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi*

Long confused with the previous species, but clear differences in phenology (and plumage!) now determined.

Locally fairly common breeding visitor to Arabian Gulf islands; possibly also a passage migrant. Breeding population estimated as 200-800.

Returns to Arabian Gulf breeding sites from late February; post-breeding dispersal from early June.

Migrant on the East coast, probably scarce but should be checked for, especially late Feb to March and June to July (when Arabian Gulf breeders disperse).

Apparently completely absent throughout winter (early October to late February); seemingly rare or very rare from August onwards. No confirmed inland records.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, recorded all months; has bred (and may do so regularly in remote parts of the Western Region). Breeding population estimated as 2-40, and is probably (much) closer to the lower limit. Total non-breeding population estimated as 100-300, almost exclusively along the Arabian Gulf coastline.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, recorded all months. Total non-breeding population estimated as 100-300, almost exclusively along the Arabian Gulf coastline.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Common passage migrant, uncommon in winter; recorded all months.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Fairly common passage migrant, uncommon in winter; recorded all months.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Vagrant.

1. One Kalba beach 8 Apr 1993 (R Quested).
2. One near Rul Dhadnah 14 Oct 1993 (E Hirschfeld).
3. One juvenile Khor Kalba 24 Jul 1998 (C Richardson).
4. One Abu Dhabi Corniche 26 Sep 1999 (SJ Aspinall).
5. One Fujairah Hilton 6 Sep 2000 (SJ Aspinall).
6. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 5 Oct 2001 (SJ Aspinall, AP Twyman, A Ward, P Hellyer *et al*).
7. One adult summer Al Ghurfa Breakwater 7 Apr 2005 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell).
8. One adult winter Dubai Pivot Fields 11 Dec 2006 (SL James, T Pedersen).
9. One adult winter Ra's Dibba 11 Nov 2007 (SL James).
10. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 2 Feb-22 Mar 2008 (OJ Campbell, NJ Moran, G Saunders *et al*).
11. One Wamm Farms 22-28 Aug 2009 (N Tovey, AP Twyman).
12. One imm Fujairah Port Beach 6 Apr-1 May 2011 (T Pedersen, S Allen *et al*).
13. One adult Fujairah pelagic 16 Apr 2011 (K Al Dhaheri, S Jahan).
14. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 1 Sep 2012 (M Smiles).
15. One adult Kalba Corniche 19 Apr 2014 (K Al Dhaheri).
16. One imm Fujairah Port Beach 12-13 Sep 2014 (SP Lloyd, M Smiles, OJ Campbell *et al*).
17. One adult Dibba Rock 19 Apr 2022 (T Nyegaard).

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, some oversummer. Non-breeding population estimated as 200-500.

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

Rare breeding visitor to Qarnein Island only; rare inshore along Arabian Gulf coastline but locally common passage migrant and winter visitor to east coast. Breeding population estimated as 2,700-3,000.

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*

Common breeding visitor to offshore islands in Arabian Gulf, especially Qarnein Island; very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeding population estimated as 60,000-110,000; 42,000 pairs Qarnein Island, 2016.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Vagrant.

1. One adult Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 24 Apr 1997 (SL James, SJ Aspinall, AP Twyman *et al*).
2. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 7 May 2010 (M Smiles).
3. One adult Al Ghurfa Breakwater 21 May 2011 (O Campbell, M Smiles).
4. One adult Khor Kalba Pelagic 28 Jun 2011 (T Pedersen, K Al Dhaheri).
5. Three (two adult and one 2cy) Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Jun 2016 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
6. One Saadiyat Beach Golf Club (restricted access) 12-17 Aug 2024 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell).
7. One Al-Zora shoreline 11 May 2025 (K Al Dhaheri).
8. One Karsha Breakwater 14 May 2025 (H Roberts, K Al Dhaheri).
9. Two Ra's Dibba--deep waters 2 Jun 2025 (K Al Dhaheri, N Almehrzi).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Very common passage migrant and common winter visitor; much more common on east coast compared to Arabian Gulf. Recorded all months. Non-breeding population estimated as 1,000-3,000.

- Nominate group *S. hirundo hirundo/tibetana* is a common migrant and winter visitor.
- Birds showing characters of integrades of *S. hirundo hirundo/tibetana* and the eastern group *S. hirundo longipennis* are common in spring, with varying red base to the dark bill. Some birds that appear to very closely match pure *S. hirundo longipennis* have been recorded (for example birds with all-black bills have been documented with photographs) although the occurrence of genuine *longipennis* seems highly unlikely on geographic grounds.

The subspecies *minussensis*, with range "C Asia to s Tibet; winters Indian Ocean", is considered to be a junior synonym of subspecies *tibetana* (Nisbet *et al.* 2017), and has been removed from the UAE list.

White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa*

Very common breeding visitor (Arabian Gulf only, where present mainly March to September and otherwise (very) rare) and passage migrant, uncommon to rare in winter (when mainly on the East coast). Breeding population estimated as 26,000-30,000, all on islands in Arabian Gulf.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Vagrant. The 2013 records putatively belongs to the subspecies *arideensis*.

1. One Jazirat al-Hamra 23 Oct 1986 (Dubai Shorebird Project).
2. Two adults southeast of Sir Abu Nuair Island 10 May 1989 (WF Curtis).
3. Two adult summer Fujairah Port Beach 6 Sep 2013 (M Smiles), orange bills.
4. One adult feeding juvenile Fujairah Port Beach 13 Sep 2013 (OJ Campbell *et al*), adult with black bill.
5. One adult summer Fujairah Port Beach 14-19 Sep 2013 (T Pedersen, SL James, K Al Dhaheri), orange bill.
6. One adult and one juvenile Luoluayah Beach 20 Sep 2013 (A Al Ali), adult with black bill.
7. One adult winter Fujairah Port Beach 28 Sep and 4 Oct 2013 (M Smiles *et al*).
8. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 19 Jul 2014 (M Smiles *et al*).
9. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 30 Jul 2014 (D Wilby).
10. One adult and one juvenile Fujairah Port Beach 13 Sep 2014 (M Smiles *et al*).

11. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 5-11 May 2017 (M Smiles *et al*).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Vagrant.

1. One Khor Kalba 11-28 Mar 1996 (H de Haag, M Dryden).
2. One first-winter in Sila'a Harbour 3 May 1996 (SL James).
3. One Fujairah Port Beach 13 Nov 1997 (J Reynolds).
4. One Umm-al Qaiwain Tip 4-5 Mar 1998 (C Richardson, SJ Aspinall).
5. One Emirates Golf Club 11-21 Apr 1998 (C Richardson *et al*).
6. One first-summer Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 30 Apr 1998 (SL James).
7. One Kalba Corniche 19-20 Jan 2000 (C Richardson).
8. One Kalba Corniche 15 Oct 2000 (C Richardson).
9. One adult Sharjah Rubbish Tip 21 Jan 2006 (T Pedersen, OB Hansen, MR Engebretsen).
10. One first-winter Kalba Harbour 18-23 Feb 2006 (T Pedersen *et al*).
11. One second-winter Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 3 Jan 2007 (SL James, SJ Aspinall).
12. One immature Sharjah Rubbish Tip 5 May 2007 (J Buckler).
13. One immature Khor Kalba Harbour 12-15 Sep 2008 and again 20 Sep (SL James *et al*).
14. One immature Khor Kalba 11-20 Mar 2010 (N Tovey *et al*).
15. One second-calendar Fujairah Port Beach 6 Mar 2013 (M Ullman *et al*).
16. One first-winter Fujairah Port Beach 15-21 Nov 2015 (R Walker, D Jackson, A Pavlushkin).
17. One juvenile Kalba Corniche 3-4 Oct 2018 (R Khan, M Smiles).
18. One Fujairah Port Beach 24 Jan 2019 (S Thomson (Sunbird), N Moran *et al*).

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*

Vagrant.

1. One first-summer Fujairah Port Beach 9 Apr 1998 (A Dean, C Richardson, *Naturetrek*) and again Kalba plain 17 Apr 1998 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
2. One first-winter Qurrayah 5 Mar 2001 (SJ Aspinall, T Potts), same Khor Kalba Harbour 27 Mar 2001 (C Richardson).
3. One first-winter off Bidiyah 7 Nov 2005 (H Schmaljohann, J Goedelt, F Frank).
4. One first-winter Fujairah Port Beach 11-12 Feb 2010 (N Tovey *et al*).
5. One adult Dibba Harbour 7-11 Dec 2012 (M Parr *et al*).
6. Two immatures Fujairah Port Beach 18 Apr 2014 (SP Lloyd).
7. One Umm al-Qaiwain Harbour 3 Feb 2017 (J Lidster, NJ Moran *et al*).
8. One immature Al-Zora shoreline 14 Mar 2022 (K Al Dhaheri).
9. One immature Ra's Dibba and offshore fish farms 14-22 Feb 2025 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
10. At least one (and probably three) individuals present. Al Aqah--Le Meridien and beach camping 18-24 Feb 2025 (K Al Dhaheri, M Almazrouei *et al*). It is likely that the individual (or one of the individuals) here refers to the individuals noted in the previous and following records.
11. One immature Ra's Dibba and offshore fish farms 5-6 Apr 2025 (K Al Dhaheri, H Roberts *et al*).

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Vagrant.

1. One adult at Ramtha Rubbish Tip 24 Jun-26 Jul 1991 (S Turner, C Richardson, RA Richardson).
2. One Fujairah/Khor Kalba beach 8 May 1995 (G Keijl *et al*), again 19 May (SJ Aspinall).

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

Common to very common passage migrant and winter visitor; some birds oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 5,000-15,000.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor; some birds oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated as 20,000-40,000.

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*

Vagrant.

1. One Offshore Fujairah 26 Jan 1988 (WRP Bourne).
2. One immature Port Rashid 3 Feb 1988 (WRP Bourne).
3. One east of Dibba 5 Dec 1990 (WRP Bourne).
4. One immature 5 nautical miles off Dubai 5 Jan 1991 (WRP Bourne).
5. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 6 Mar 2001 (SJ Aspinall).
6. One immature Sharjah Rubbish Tip 26-28 Mar 2001 (DA Diskin).
7. One immature Dibba Port 12 Dec 2012 (T Pedersen, C Papazoglou, P Panayides).

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

Vagrant.

1. One Fujairah Port Beach 17-21 May 2011 (R Khan *et al*).

Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaelus ichthyaelus*

Fairly common winter visitor, late November to April; rarely other months. Total non-breeding population estimated as 200-500.

One ringing recovery: pullus ringed July 2010 at Lake Bolshie Chany, Korablik island (54.55N,77.53E) photographed Khor Kalba 18 Feb 2012 (A Al Ali).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaelus melanocephalus*

Vagrant.

1. One first-winter Ramtha Rubbish Tip 27 Dec 1996 (P Haldén).
2. One first-winter Abu Dhabi; Eastern Lagoon 17-24 Feb 1997 (SL James *et al*).
3. One first-winter Sir Bani Yas 8-9 Mar 1998 (SJ Aspinall).
4. One first-winter Al Warsan Lakes 11 Dec 2006 and 15-27 Jan 2007 (SL James, E Adolfsen, N Tovey).
5. One first-winter Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 18 Jan-21 Feb 2007 (OJ Campbell, NJ Moran, SL James *et al*).
6. One first-winter Mafrq Rubbish Tip 13 Feb 2008 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell).
7. One first-winter Safa Park 10-19 Dec 2008 and 23-24 Jan 2009 (NJ Moran *et al*), possibly same Umm Suqeim 9 Jan and 1 Feb 2009 (A Jones).
8. One adult Lulu Island 19 Nov 2011 (OJ Campbell).

9. One adult Mafrag Rubbish Tip 4 Feb-19 Mar 2012 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles *et al*).

Subsequently, one adult were recorded at this site on;

- 10-19 Jan and 22 Feb 2013 (K Al Dhaheri, NP Williams).
- 7 Dec 2013 (OJ Campbell, F Domenjoud).
- 20 Dec 2014 (SP Lloyd).

Whilst impossible to be certain, it is deemed quite plausible that there may have been only one individual involved and the records are treated as such herein.

Given the apparent great rarity of adults of this species in the UAE, it is possible that the bird at Lulu Island, 36 km to the east, almost two months before the first Mafrag adult was discovered refers to the same individual too.

10. One third cal-year Al Warsan Lakes 21 Feb 2013 (R Lowe).

11. One first-winter Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 7-11 Jan 2016 (OJ Campbell, J Gaskell).

12. One first-winter Mafrag Rubbish Tip 9-15 Jan 2016 and nearby Mafrag WTP 23 Jan. Back at Mafrag Rubbish Tip 5 Mar 2016 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

13. One second-winter Emirates Palace 20 Mar 2021 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett).

14. One first-winter Rugheilat Beach 22 Mar 2023 (D Darrell-Lambert).

15. One adult-winter Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide 26 Jul-12 Aug 2024 (D Darrell-Lambert *et al*).

White-eyed Gull *Ichthyiaetus leucophthalmus*

Vagrant.

1. One adult Khor Kalba 9 May 1994 (SJ Aspinall, C Gladwin).

2. One immature Fujairah Port Beach 13 Sep 2002 (DA Diskin *et al*),

3. One immature Fujairah Port Beach 9 Nov 2002 - possibly same bird (C Johnsson).

4. One adult Kalba Corniche and Khor Kalba Harbour 4-27 Nov 2022 (J Shemilt, A Wilson *et al*).

Sooty Gull *Ichthyiaetus hemprichii*

Common migrant visitor to east coast, although somewhat erratic and often scarce in winter; breeds on Arabian Gulf islands but rather rarely seen inshore there.

Breeding population estimated as 1,200-2,500.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Former vagrant, now a near-annual but rare visitor.

The subspecies recorded in the UAE belongs to the Common Gull (Russian) subspecies-group, *Larus canus heinei*.

1. One Abu Dhabi Island 23 Nov 1965 (PAD Hollom).

2. One Khor Fakkan 8 Nov 1972 (L & SJ Tyler).

3. One Hamriyah 13 Jan 1988 (S Newton).

4. One Port Rashid 27 Jan and 1 Feb 1988 (WRP Bourne).

5. One Zabeel water treatment plant 28 Jan 1988 (P Antrobus).

6. One Abu Dhabi Island 26 Mar 1988 (P Hellyer).

7. One adult Eastern Lagoon 22 Dec 1989 (P Hellyer).

8. One first-winter Al Rams Rubbish Tip 27 Mar 1996 (C Richardson, *Naturetrek*).

9. One first-winter Kalba Corniche 31 Mar 1998 (C Richardson, A Harrop, *Naturetrek*), nearby 17 Apr 1998 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).

10. One first-winter Khor Kalba Harbour 13 Jan 1999 (C Richardson).

11. One first-winter Khor Kalba Corniche 1 Mar 2000 (C Richardson, *Naturetrek*).

12. One Khor Kalba Harbour 30 Jan 2001 (J Sanders).
13. One first-winter Qurrayah 5 Mar 2001 (SJ Aspinall, T Potts).
14. One first-winter Kalba Corniche 3 Apr 2003 (DA Diskin).
15. One Nad al-Sheba 12 Jan 2004 (DA Diskin).
16. One first-winter Khor Kalba 25 Feb 2004 (G Gundersen, V Bunes), again 13 Mar and 22 Apr 2004 (SL James *et al*).
17. One first-winter Kalba Corniche 8 Dec 2005, again 20 Feb-2 Mar 2006 (N Tovey, J Wilkinson *et al*).
18. One first-winter Al Warsan Lakes 18-19 Jan 2007 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, T Pedersen).
19. One second-winter Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Reserve 31 Dec 2007-1 Jan 2008 (S Dodgson *et al*).
20. One first-winter Dubai; Creekside Park 20 Jan 2008 (D Wilby).
21. One adult Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 31 Jan 2008, moved to Mafraq Tip 29 Feb 2008 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell).
22. One second-winter Al Warsan Lakes 7-14 Mar 2008 (N Tovey *et al*).
23. One first-summer Rafa'a north 27 Mar 2009 (N Tovey *et al*).
24. One first-summer Fujairah Port Beach 28 Mar 2009 (T Pedersen, KA Hansen, T Johnsen).
25. One Khor Kalba Harbour 28 Jan-6 Feb 2011 (OJ Campbell, V Ashby).
26. One Fujairah Port Beach 22 Oct and 6 Nov 2011 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles *et al*).
27. One first-winter Khor Fakkan 30 Dec 2012 (SP Lloyd).
28. One Eastern Mangrove Lagoon NP 2 Jan 2014 (A Bailey).
29. One Lulu Island 12 Jan 2014 (OJ Campbell).
30. One first-winter Mafraq Rubbish Tip 30 Jan 2016 (OJ Campbell).
31. One Khor Kalba Harbour 28-19 Dec 2019 (V Motteau *et al*).
32. One immature Ra's Dibba and offshore fish farms 12 Feb 2025 (K Al Dhaheri, N Almehrzi).

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Uncommon and rarely reported passage migrant and winter visitor.

Confusion with Steppe Gull evident; this species is (much) less frequent than latter.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Vagrant.

1. One Ra's Dibba 17 Dec 2023-17 Feb 2024 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett, D Lobo *et al*).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Baltic Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*

Very rare passage migrant, possibly now vagrant, September to October and February to April; rarely other months.

1. One Dabb'iya Peninsula 7 Oct 1993 (SL James, R Qusted).
2. One Khalidiyah Breakwater Park 17 Feb 1994 (SL James).
3. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 18 Sep 1995 (SL James).
4. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 3 Apr 1998 (SL James).
5. One Futaisi Island 25 Mar 1999 (SL James).
6. One Sharjah Rubbish Tip 14 Dec 2000-27 Mar 2001 (DA Diskin).

7. One Khor Kalba 13 Sep 2001 (SL James).
8. Two Fujairah Hilton Hote 8 Oct 2004 (SL James).
9. One Al Ghurfa Breakwater 18 Oct 2004 (SL James, SJ Aspinall).
10. One Fujairah Port Beach 18 Oct 2004 (SL James, SJ Aspinall).
11. One 1st winter Kalba Corniche 6 Nov 2004 (NJ Moran).
12. Two Al Ghurfa Breakwater 2 Dec 2004 (SL James, SJ Aspinall, NJ Moran).
13. Two Khor Kalba 2 Dec 2004 (SL James, NJ Moran).
14. One Dubai Creek Park 28 Mar 2005 (DA Diskin).
15. Two Al Ghurfa Breakwater 30 Sep 2005 (SL James, NJ Moran).
16. Five Khor Kalba 30 Sep 2005 (SL James, NJ Moran).
17. One Al Ghurfa Breakwater 26 Sep 2006 (SL James).
18. One Khor Kalba 13 Oct 2006 (N Tovey).
19. Two Fujairah Port Beach 14 Oct 2006 (N Tovey).
20. One Fujairah Hilton Hotel 7 Sep 2007 (A Jones).
21. One Al Warsan Lakes 13 Feb 2008 (SL James).
22. One Kalba Rubbish Tip 22 Feb 2008 (T Pedersen, M Engebretsen).
23. One Ghantoot 11 Mar 2008 (SL James).
24. One Khor Kalba 11 Apr 2008 (A Jones).
25. One Khalidiyah 30 Sep 2008 (SL James, AP Twyman).
26. One Sila'a--general area 19 Sep 2009 (N Tovey, G Talbot).
27. One Fujairah Hilton Hotel 2 Oct 2009 (SL James).
28. One Zakher Lake 13-28 Sep 2013 (SP Lloyd, K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
29. One Dhayah (Khor Khuwair) 7 Feb 2025 (M Janoušek).

Heuglin's Gull *Larus (fuscus) heuglini*

Common or locally common passage migrant and winter visitor; absent June to August. Much less common than Steppe Gull.

Steppe Gull *Larus (fuscus) barabensis*

Common to very common passage migrant and winter visitor, often in large numbers. The most common large gull occurring in the UAE.

Reports of *L. f. taimyrensis* unsubstantiated.

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*

Winter breeder on offshore Arabian Gulf islands; nesting confirmed Qarnein (although no breeding here 2018-2019), Zirku and Arzanah islands and has nested previously on Sir Bu Nair. Breeding population estimated as 150-500 (although recent very marked decline as of 2025). Very occasionally seen from Dalma Island ferry.

East Coast Records:

- One Ra's Dibba 15 May 1998 (SL James).
- One Khor Fakkan Pelagic 21 Jul 2006 (N Tovey *et al*).
- One Fujairah Hilton Hotel 7 May 2007 (S Aspinall).
- One imm. Fujairah Hilton Hotel 11 May 2007 (S Aspinall, SL James).
- One Ra's Dibba 23 Nov 2007 (SL James, D Wilby).
- One Khor Kalba Pelagic 28 Jun 2014 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
- One Khor Kalba Pelagic 1 Aug 2015 (A Alzaabi).

- One Khor Kalba Pelagic 27 Oct 2017 (S Kirkcaldy, C Nielsen *et al*).
- One Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Aug 2019 (N Haass, A Alzaabi).

Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

First UAE record Das Island 7 Jul 1987 (L Reaney).

Rare (or hard to observe) from land but common visitor off the East Coast, May to August; only very sporadically inside the Arabian Gulf.

Swinhoe's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates monorhis*

Vagrant.

1. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 12 Aug 2011 (G Talbot, K Al Dhaheri, SP Lloyd, A Al Ali, SL James, A Alzaabi).
2. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 Aug 2011 (G Talbot, A Alzaabi *et al*).
3. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 2 Sep 2011 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
4. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Sep 2011 (OJ Campbell, A Alzaabi *et al*).
5. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Jun 2014 (K Al Dhaheri, A Alzaabi *et al*).
6. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Oct 2015 (SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
7. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Jun 2016 (OJ Campbell, A Alzaabi *et al*).
8. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 5 Aug 2016 (SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
9. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 2 Sep 2016 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
10. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 30 Sep 2016 (OJ Campbell, A Alzaabi *et al*).
11. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 May 2017 (M Smiles, J Judas, A Alzaabi *et al*).
12. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 31 May 2019 (H Roberts, SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
13. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 6 Sep 2019 (OJ Campbell, A Alzaabi *et al*).
14. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Oct 2021 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
15. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 17 Jun 2023 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).

Leach's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhoa*

Vagrant.

1. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 25 May 2018 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell, A Alzaabi *et al*).

- A bird found dead on the road at the old Sharjah airfield, seemingly hit by a car, about 8 Jun 1969 (reported by J Laphorn, RG Griffiths, WRP Bourne); mummified body re-found 29 Jun by JM Laphorn and sent to BM Natural History, Tring, UK, where it is preserved.

Appeared in fresh plumage and to be of the nominate race *leucorhoa*.

Unidentified Storm Petrel, *Hydrobates* sp.

All with dark rump, probably Swinhoe's Storm Petrel, but with poor or entirely lacking photographic evidence.

- Five Khor Kalba Pelagic 26 Aug 2011 (N Tovey, A Alzaabi *et al*).
- Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 28 Jun 2014 (K Al Dhaheri, A Alzaabi *et al*).
- One Khor Kalba Pelagic 16 Sep 2014 (K Al Dhaheri, A Alzaabi).

Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*

Vagrant in inshore waters; apparently erratically present but sometimes locally common in deeper waters, especially summer months to autumn and early winter.

1. One Al Ghurfa Breakwater 18 Oct 2004 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
2. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 12 Aug 2011 (G Talbot, K Al Dhaheri, SP Lloyd, A Al Ali, SL James, A Alzaabi).
3. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 Aug 2011 (G Talbot, A Alzaabi *et al*).
4. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 26 Aug 2011 (N Tovey, A Alzaabi *et al*).
5. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Sep 2011 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
6. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 17 Sep 2011 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
7. Up to 300 birds Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Oct-16 Nov 2012 (A Alzaabi, K Al Dhaheri, T Pedersen *et al*).
8. 609 Khor Kalba Pelagic 21 Dec 2012 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
9. 20 Khor Kalba Pelagic 14 Jun 2013 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
10. Eight Khor Kalba Pelagic 31 May 2014 (M Smiles, J Judas, A Alzaabi *et al*).
11. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Jun 2014 (K Al Dhaheri, A Alzaabi *et al*).
12. Up to 85 Khor Kalba Pelagic 13-16 Sep 2014 (A Alzaabi, K Al Dhaheri).
13. 300 Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 Sep 2014 (A Alzaabi) with 120 present 20 Sep and 150 on 10 Oct (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
14. One Kalba Pelagic 11 May 2015 (A Alzaabi).
15. Up to 90 Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Oct 2015 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
16. One Fujairah pelagic 3 May 2016 (J Judas *et al*).
17. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 5 Aug 2016 (SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
18. Five Khor Kalba Pelagic 2 Sep 2016 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
19. Up to 28 Khor Kalba Pelagic 30 Sep 2016 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
20. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 28 Oct 2016 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
21. Up to 30 Khor Kalba Pelagic 7 Apr 2017 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
22. One Fujairah Pelagic 26 Apr 2017 (B Busas, R Baldwin).
23. Up to 80 Khor Kalba Pelagic 5 May 2017 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
24. Four Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Jun 2017 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
25. Up to 37 Khor Kalba Pelagic 27 Oct 2017 (J Judas, A Alzaabi *et al*).
26. Up to 21 Khor Kalba Pelagic 12 Oct 2018 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
27. Five Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Aug 2019 (N Haass, A Alzaabi).
28. Four Khor Kalba Pelagic 6 Sep 2019 (H Roberts, A Alzaabi *et al*).
29. Four Khor Kalba Pelagic 11 Oct 2019 (SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
30. 61 Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Oct 2021 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
31. 150 Khor Kalba Pelagic 30 Oct 2021 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
32. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 17 Jun 2023 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
33. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 3 Sep 2023 (X Vissering *et al*).

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

Vagrant.

1. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 12 May 2011 (A Alzaabi, K Al Dhaheri, D Wilby).
2. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 22 Jun and 1 Jul 2011 (A Alzaabi, OJ Campbell *et al*).
3. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 30-31 May 2014 (A Alzaabi, SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell *et al*).

4. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 20 Jun 2014 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell *et al*), presumed different from the May bird.

Cory's/Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis/ diomedea*. Records not identified to species:

- One Khor Kalba Pelagic 13 Sep 2014 (A Alzaabi).
- One Khor Kalba Pelagic 30 Aug and 14 Sep 2015 (A Alzaabi).
- One Khor Kalba Pelagic 6 Jul 2018 (A Alzaabi).

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*

Vagrant.

1. One Khor Kalba Breakwater 12 Aug 2010 (D Wilby).
2. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 7 May 2011 (AP Twyman *et al*)
3. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 25 May 2011 (T Pedersen *et al*).
4. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 28 Jun 2011 (T Pedersen, K Al Dhaheri).
5. Up to five Khor Kalba Pelagic 31 May-7 Jun 2013 (M Smiles *et al*).
6. Up to eight Khor Kalba Pelagic 8-14 Jun 2013 (M Smiles *et al*).
7. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 4 Jul 2014 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

Former vagrant, since 2010 found to be annual in small numbers in spring to mainly inshore waters off East Coast, with one October record; single record from the Arabian Gulf.

1. One feeding off Khor Kalba Beach 30 Apr 1995 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
2. One off Ra's Dibba 1 May 1995 (WIWO/TM van der Have).
3. One off Fujairah Hilton Hotel 11 May 1995 (SL James).
4. Three: one off Fujairah Port Beach, one off Fujairah Corniche and one off Kalba Corniche, 15 May 1997 (SJ Aspinall).
5. One Umm Shaif Oilfield (platform) 16 Apr 2001 is the sole record from the Arabian Gulf (SJ Aspinall).
6. Two off Ra's Dibba 5 Oct 2002 (DA Diskin).
7. One off Fujairah Corniche 4 Mar 2003 (DA Diskin).
8. Six off Al Ghurfa Breakwater 22 Apr 2006 (I Boustead), with singles 3 May (NJ Moran) and 11 May (T Pedersen *et al*).
9. Up to 13 off Fujairah Port Beach and Fujairah Hilton Hotel 8 Apr-11 May 2007 (SJ Aspinall, OL Wardmann, SL James, AP Twyman, N Tovey *et al*).
10. One off Ra's Dibba 29 Apr 2007 and 25 May 2007 (SL James *et al*).
11. One off Ra's Dibba 18 Apr 2008 (G Talbot).
12. Four Kalba Corniche 2 May 2008 (G Talbot), one Fujairah Corniche 4 May (S Buckingham), with one Kalba Corniche 12 May (K Bensusan).
13. One off Bidiya and six off Fujairah Hilton Hotel 19 May 2008 (SL James, AP Twyman), then two 25 May and a singleton 28 May (NJ Moran, SL James).
14. One Fujairah Port Beach 17 Apr-15 May 2010 (N Tovey, M Smiles *et al*), with two same locality 22 May 2010 (AP Twyman).
15. One off Khor Kalba 29 May 2010 (G Talbot).
16. Up to 12 Khor Kalba Pelagic 15 Apr-25 May 2011 (M Smiles, G Talbot, T Pedersen *et al*).
17. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 30 Mar 2012 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
18. One Fujairah Port Beach 27 Apr 2012 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
19. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 27 Apr 2012 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
19. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 19-25 May 2012 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

20. Four Khor Kalba Pelagic 1 Jun 2012 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles *et al*).
 21. Four Khor Kalba Pelagic 10 May 2013 (J Judas *et al*).
 22. Five Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 Apr 2014 (K Al Dhaheri, A Alzaabi).
 23. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 27 May 2014 (A Alzaabi).
 24. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 20 Jun 2014 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
 25. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 2 Jun 2015 (A Alzaabi).
 25. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 14 and 21 Apr 2016 (A Alzaabi).
 26. Three Fujairah pelagic 3 May 2016 (J Judas *et al*).
 27. One Fujairah Port Beach 13 May 2016 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
 28. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Apr 2017 (A Alzaabi).
 29. One Al Bidiyah 29 Apr 2017 (J Judas).
 30. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 3 May 2018 (A Sutherland).
 31. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 8 June 2018. (H. Heaton, OJ Campbell *et al*).
 32. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 17 May 2019 (OJ Campbell, A Alzaabi *et al*).
 33. One Dibba Rock 19 Apr 2022 (T Nyegaard).
 34. Two Faqiat Beach (Dibba Family Picnic Area) 26 Apr 2022 (K Al Dhaheri).
 35. One Al Aqah--Le Meridien and beach camping 30 May and 2 June 2023 (D Darrell-Lambert).
- Further records on eBird.*

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris*

Vagrant.

1. Two Ra's Dibba and offshore fish farms 26 Apr-10 May 2025 (H Roberts, K Al Dhaheri, N Almehrzi).

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

Formerly considered vagrant, now recognised as semi-annual offshore May-Oct, rare other months.

1. One Fujairah Hilton Hotel 8 Oct 2004 (SL James).
2. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 11 Jun 2010 (OJ Campbell, G Talbot, J Rogan, M Smiles, D Wilby *et al*).
3. Up to two Khor Kalba Pelagic 15 Apr-7 May 2011 (M Smiles, L Smiles, G Talbot, AP Twyman, A Alzaabi *et al*).
4. Up to four Khor Kalba Pelagic 22 Jun-1 Jul 2011 (G, Talbot, OJ Campbell, SL James, A Alzaabi *et al*).
5. 35 birds during Khor Kalba Pelagic 28 Jun 2011 (A Alzaabi, T Pedersen, K Al Dhaheri).
6. Up to five Khor Kalba Pelagic 12-19 Aug 2011 (G Talbot, A Alzaabi *et al*).
7. A total of 21 Khor Kalba Pelagic 26 Aug 2011 (T Pedersen, A Alzaabi *et al*).
8. Up to 12 Khor Kalba Pelagic 28-30 Jun 2012 (A Alzaabi, K Al Dhaheri, SL James *et al*).
9. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 14-16 Sep 2012 (G Talbot, A Alzaabi *et al*).
10. Up to five Khor Kalba Pelagic 31 May 2013-21 Jun 2013 (M Smiles, K Al Dhaheri, A Alzaabi *et al*).
11. Five Khor Kalba Pelagic 31 May 2014 (OJ Campbell, A Alzaabi *et al*).
12. Up to five Khor Kalba Pelagic 20 Jun-19 Jul 2014 (A Alzaabi, K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
13. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 1 Aug 2014 (A Alzaabi, M Smiles *et al*).
14. Up to 40 Khor Kalba Pelagic 13-26 Sep 2014 (A Alzaabi, K Al Dhaheri, M Smiles *et al*).
15. Up to 15 Khor Kalba Pelagic 25 Jul 2015 (A Alzaabi).
16. Minimum one Khor Kalba Pelagic 30 Aug 2015 (A Alzaabi).
17. Six Khor Kalba Pelagic 14 Sep 2015 (A Alzaabi).

18. One Fujairah Pelagic 5 Oct 2015 (J Judas).
19. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Oct 2015 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
20. One Fujairah pelagic 3 May 2016 (J Judas *et al*).
21. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 5 Aug 2016 (SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
22. Three Khor Kalba Pelagic 2 Sep 2016 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
23. Four Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Jun 2017 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
24. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 20 Jul 2018 (M Smiles, A Alzaabi *et al*).
25. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 14 Jun 2019 (OJ Campbell, A Alzaabi *et al*).
26. Minimum 24 Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Aug 2019 (N Haass, A Alzaabi).
27. Seven Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Oct 2021 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, A Alzaabi *et al*).
28. Three Khor Kalba Pelagic 30 Oct 2021 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus*

Fairly common to common off the East Coast all year but seemingly a marked decline in UAE waters of the Gulf of Oman in recent years; only rarely inside the Arabian Gulf.

High counts 4,229 Khor Kalba Pelagic 31 May 2013 and 3,000 Khor Kalba Pelagic 15 Apr 2011 but generally numbers much smaller.

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Vagrant.

1. Seven to eight birds near Wadi Zikt 20 Jul-appx 10 Aug 2021 (per SU Majeed).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Vagrant.

1. One Abu Dhabi Island 22 Mar 1973 (J Stewart-Smith, JD Wellings).
2. One Al Ain 28 Mar-2 Apr 1979 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
3. One Ain al-Fayda 24 Mar 1981 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
4. One Ain al-Fayda 30 Nov 1994 (N Simpson).
5. One Dhayah area 21 Nov 1998 (A Kirschel), again nearby 26 Nov 1998 (SJ Aspinall).
6. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 25 Oct 2004 (SL James, SJ Aspinall).
7. One imature Qasr Al Sarab Protected Area--lakes 4-5 Nov 2018 (R Gubiani).

The potential for escaped birds should be noted as this species is sometimes held in private collections.

Origin uncertain;

- One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 26 Jun 2010 (T Admiraal).
- One at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah 7-11 Jul 2013 (P Arras).
- One at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah 13 Oct, Zakher Lake 14 Oct and Ain al-Fayda 19 Oct 2013 (P Arras, E Miller), possibly returning bird.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Scarce and irregular autumn migrant; sometimes in flocks; uncommon winter and spring and rarely oversummers.

Frigatebird sp. *Fregata sp.*

Vagrant.

1. One adult male Jumeirah 1--Public Beach 17 Mar 2019 (*via* ENHG).

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

Vagrant.

1. One found live on a northbound ship off the East Coast 27 Aug 1979 (PWG Chilman); first UAE (and Oman) record.
2. One adult offshore Khor Kalba 23 May 2011 (A Alzaabi).
3. One found dead on Al Hamra beach, Western Region 21 Oct 2016 (M Abdulla).
4. One 30 km offshore Khalifa Port 16-17 Sep 2020 (L Hage Ribeiro de Magalhaes).
5. One immature, possibly two different birds, offshore Abu Dhabi 10-25 May 2021 area (A Araujo Macedo, A Beerman, M Montali).
6. One adult 14 km west of Dalma Island 15 May 2021 and presumed same 11 km north of Barakah 20 May 2021 (observer unknown; per K al Dhaheri).
7. One Ra's Dibba offshore fish farms 10 Dec 2023-22 May 2024, again 4-12 Oct 2024 and 14 Feb **to July 2025** (F Hawkins *et al*).
8. One Qarnein Island 12 May and 5 Jun 2024; reported again late May 2025 when date unspecified (EAD; M Al Hameli, E A Al Hammadi, A A Al Hammadi, S Bashir Khan, S Ahmed).

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Vagrant.

1. One adult on oil platform northeast of Fateh Oilfield 26 Oct 1986 (M Harvey).
2. One off Al Sha'am 16 Jan 1987 (JAD Chapman).
3. One sub-adult off Fujairah 12 Apr 1997 (JM Allen, M Dryden).
4. One immature Ra's Dibba 9 Feb 1998 (SL James, M Stansfield).
5. One Kalba 18 Apr 2000 (C Richardson, *Naturetrek*).
6. One Fujairah Port Beach 26 Apr 2001 (P Hellyer).
7. One Al Sufouh--open beach 27 Apr 2001 (P Bourdin).
8. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 12 Apr 2002 (DA Diskin).
9. One Ra's Dibba 31 Oct 2003 (C Richardson).
10. One Dibba harbour 2 Jan 2004 (DA Diskin).
11. One adult Fujairah Port Beach 19 Jan and 7 Mar 2005; presumed same Al Ghurfa Breakwater 9 Feb 2005 (P Bourdin, SL James, T Pedersen *et al*).
12. One adult Ra's Dibba islet 6 May 2005 (SL James, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
13. One immature Ra's Dibba 3 Nov-5 Dec 2005 (N Tovey *et al*).
14. One immature Fujairah Port Beach 28 May-3 Jun 2010 (AP Twyman, G Talbot) with three immatures off Kalba Harbour 29 May 2010 (G Talbot *et al*).
15. One Dibba Port 4 Oct 2013 (N Tovey *et al*) and offshore nearby 6 Oct (K Al Dhaheri).
16. One Zubara Beach 1 Jan 2015 (E Miller).
17. One off Sir Abu Nuair Island 8 Feb 2021 (FO Lana).
18. One Al Aqah--Le Meridien and beach camping 3 Jun 2022 (D Darrell-Lambert) and presumed same Sharm breakwaters 5 June (A Al Ali).

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

Rare to very uncommon visitor, generally Apr to Nov.

First record: One off Al Sha'am 2 May 1973 (DA Scott).

Records 2010-2024:

12. Two off Khor Kalba Harbour 29 May-3 Jun 2010 with one there 11 Jun (G Talbot *et al*).
13. One adult off Khor Kalba 13 Aug 2010 (G Talbot *et al*).
14. One subadult on a Khor Kalba Pelagic 12 May 2011 (A Alzaabi, K Al Dhaheri, D Wilby).
15. One Fujairah pelagic 30 Oct 2011 (A Alzaabi). Also reported by fishermen the previous day.
16. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 11 May 2012 (AP Twyman *et al*).
17. One immature Khor Kalba Pelagic 6 and 16 Nov 2012 (A Alzaabi, K Al Dhaheri, T Pedersen *et al*).
18. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 9 Nov 2012 - both different from the 6 Nov bird (OJ Campbell *et al*).
19. One immature Luoluayah Beach 6 Jan 2013 (J Judas).
20. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 17 May 2014 (A Alzaabi).
21. One juv Khor Kalba Pelagic 24 Jun 2014 (K Al Dhaheri, A Alzaabi *et al*).
22. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 25 Jun 2014 (A Alzaabi).
23. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 19 Sep 2014 (A Alzaabi).
24. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 2 Jun 2015 (A Alzaabi).
25. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 25 and 31 Jul 2015 (A Alzaabi).
26. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 30 Aug 2015 (A Alzaabi).
27. One adult off Dibba Port 20-26 Sep 2015 (A & G Bowley *et al*).
28. One subad Khor Kalba Pelagic 6 Nov 2015 (H Roberts *et al*).
29. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 6 Feb 2016 (A Alzaabi).
30. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 14 Apr 2016 (A Alzaabi).
31. Two Khor Kalba Pelagic 21 Apr 2016 (A Alzaabi).
32. One Dibba Port 10 Nov 2016 (T Ljungquist) and nearby Dibba--Holiday Beach Resort 11 Nov (X Vandevyvre).
33. Adult and subadult Fujairah Pelagic 26 Apr 2016 (B Busas, R Baldwin).
34. One subadult Al Aqqah 4 Sep 2017, wounded on the beach, found dead next day (U Andorff).
35. One Fujairah Pelagic 21 Mar 2018 (J Judas) - seen from a helicopter survey.
36. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 3 May 2018 (A Sutherland).
37. One Barakah--eastern shoreline (no access) 15 Oct 2018 (R Pappin).
38. Twenty Khor Kalba Pelagic 17 Nov 2018 (A Alzaabi).
39. One Offshore Fujairah 15 Jan 2021 (A Al Ali).
40. One Offshore Abu Dhabi 17 May 2021 (A Araujo Macedo).
41. One Shuweihat beach 22 Jun 2021 (KAM).
42. One offshore Khor Fakkan 26 Jun 2021 (A Al Ali).
43. One Offshore Fujairah 4 Dec 2021 (A Al Ali).
44. One Khor Kalba--Kingfisher Retreat 15 Apr 2022 (S Thornhill).
45. One Offshore Fujairah 21 May 2022 (A Al Ali).
46. One Khor Kalba Pelagic 25 June 2018 (A Alzaabi, H Roberts *et al*).
47. One Ra's Dibba incl. offshore fish farms 25 Feb 2024 (N Almehrzi *et al*).

Further records on eBird.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The subspecies occurring is *P. carbo sinensis*.

Common migrant and winter visitor; mainly November to April, some immatures oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated to number 500-2,000.

Socotra Cormorant *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*

Common resident; breeds Arabian Gulf islands, September to April. Fairly uncommon non-breeding visitor East Coast. Breeding population estimated as at least 120,000-140,000; eight breeding colonies located 2016-2017.

Very rare inland, photographed Dubai desert and Al Ain.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Locally common migrant and winter visitor, regularly oversummers. Total non-breeding population estimated to number 150-300; has increased in recent years.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Fairly common to common migrant and winter visitor, flocks regularly oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated to number 200-300; any trend not clear.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Breeding known from Sir Bani Yas, Dubai and Al Ain.

Seven Ain al-Fayda 5 Apr 1993 with 70 birds Al Ain Zoo from 1993 onwards. Regular and increasing in the Al Ain area.

Six birds introduced Sir Bani Yas in 1980s, one remaining to 2 Sep 1989 (JNB Brown).

One Khor Kalba 14-15 Apr 1998 (CM Saunders), one several sites on the East Coast and Qurrayah 6 Jun-20 Oct 2006, presumed escapes.

Elevated to Category C status from 2008 onwards.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Vagrant.

1. Three off Abu Dhabi; Saadiyat Island 30 Nov 1970 (J Stewart-Smith).
2. Five flying north off Khor Fakkan 8 May 1973 (MD Gallagher).
3. One dead Abu Dhabi Island 6 Apr 1980 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
4. Four Dubai; Jumeirah shoreline 10 Mar 1981 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
5. One Das Island 26 Dec 1994 (L Reaney).
6. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 6-10 Nov 1999 (D Hale, C Saunders *et al*).
7. One Abu Dhabi Island near the Grand Mosque 6 Oct 2003 (C Clark).
8. Two immatures Ajman WTP 12 Dec 2015 (A Al Ali) with one re-found Ra's al-Khor--Mangrove Hide 26 Dec 2015-13 Mar 2016 (PS Nistar, M Luqman, B Al Qasimi *et al*). The other bird was photographed in Khor Badiaa in Oman, 277 km to the south-east on Dec 31 2015.
9. One immature Ra's al-Khor--Mangrove Hide 20 Feb 2017 (M Barth, C Rogers), then presumed same again 22-23 Nov 2017 (S Assan *et al*), presumed same moved to Al-Zora Protected Area 10-22 Dec 2017 (Q for Adventure, K Al Dhaheri).
The presumed same immature again Ra's al-Khor--Mangrove Hide 12 Jan to 12 May 2018 (A Mantri, C Valdez *et al*).
From 11 Aug-16 Nov 2018 the immature was at Ra's al-Khor--Mangrove Hide, and the same or a new bird Al Warsan Lakes 17 Aug-3 Oct 2018
10. One immature Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 8 Mar 2018 (SB Khan, S Ahmed, EA Al Hammadi).
11. Two immature Ra's al-Khor--Mangrove Hide 13-26 Oct 2018 (R Davies *et al*). Possibly the bird from Al Warsan joined the long-staying bird.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*

Vagrant.

1. One Bateen Village, Abu Dhabi 16 Dec 1970 (J Stewart-Smith). **
2. One immature caught offshore, Zakum Oilfield, 19 Jan 1980 (JNB Brown). **
3. One Umm al-Qaiwain--general area 28 Feb 2017 (J Betleja), refound Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Reserve--Mangrove Hide 4 Mar 2017 (V Sharma, A Sarkar).
4. One immature Wadi Ghail Dam (Kalba Dam) 5-14 Oct 2021 (F Mosabbah *et al*).

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare visitor.

1. One sick bird Bu Hasa September 1971 (DJG Williams).
2. One Abu Dhabi Island 7 Oct 1978 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
3. One Abu Dhabi Island 13 Sep 1979 (ENHG *Bulletin* 9:32)
4. One Al Sha'am 19 Nov 1979 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
5. Two Khor Kalba 7 Jan 1981 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
6. Three Safa Park 12 Sep 1982 (C Richardson).
7. Two Safa Park 5 Nov 1983 (JAD Chapman).
8. One Safa Park 4 Oct 1985 (M West, C Richardson).
9. Three Safa Park 16 Oct 1987 (C Richardson, M West, S Turner)
10. Two Safa Park 21 Oct 1988 (J Footitt, E List).
11. One Zabeel Ponds 23 Feb 1990 (JAD Chapman, D Robinson).
12. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 4-8 Nov 1993 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, E Hirschfeld *et al*).
13. One Emirates Golf Club 14 Sep 1994 (A Owen, M Fryer).
14. One Khor al-Beida 4 Dec 1994, attacked by falcon, brought to Dubai Zoo (R Khan).
15. One Zabeel Ponds 29 Nov-30 Dec 1999 (T Loseby, C Richardson).
16. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 7 Nov 2002 (KA Hansen, P Bourdin).
17. One Umm al-Qaiwain Breakwater 27 Jan 2003 (A Jordi, *Liberty Bird*).
18. One Wamm Farms 18 Nov 2004 (T Pedersen, OB Hansen).
19. One Sharjah Tip 22 Dec 2006 (N Tovey, OB Hansen, T Pedersen)
20. One Safa Park 13 Oct 2008 (K Steiof *et al*).
21. One Zakher Pools 14 Dec 2011-3 Jan 2012 (H Roberts *et al*).
22. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 30 Oct-13 Nov 2014 (P Arras).
23. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake 28 May 2016 (H Heaton).
24. One Hatta--border dam and wadi 6 Apr 2017 (R Khan).
25. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 24 Oct 2018-1 Apr 2019 (P Arras *et al*).
26. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake 1 Feb 2019 (OJ Campbell).
27. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 19-25 Oct 2019 (P Arras *et al*).
28. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake 28 Oct -15 Nov 2019 (S Kirkcaldy, OJ Campbell).
29. One Ain al-Fayda 6 Dec 2019 (P Arras).
30. One Ain al-Fayda 19 Dec 2019 (H Roberts, P Arras).

Cinnamon Bittern *Botaurus cinnamomeus*

Vagrant.

1. An adult male Arzanah Island 20 Nov 2000 (SJ Aspinall).

Little Bittern *Botaurus minutus*

Uncommon to fairly common migrant and summer visitor, March to June and August to November; occasionally other months. Bred Ruwais 1995 and suspected of breeding erratically at other sites. Breeding (or at least summering) population estimated as 2-10.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

This subspecies is called Western Little Egret.

Common migrant and winter visitor (but much more local than preceeding and following species); some oversummer.

Breeding recorded Al Marmoom DCR from July 2020 (R Khan) and still occurring 2023.

Western Reef Heron (Indian) *Egretta gularis schistacea*

Very common coastal resident; erratic and local visitor inland. Total non-breeding population estimated to number 800-2,000.

Black-crowned Night Heron (Eurasian) *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

Fairly common migrant and winter visitor, some oversummer; probably breeds annually but secretive and hard to monitor.

Breeding confirmed Dubai 1992 (C Richardson), 2013 (J Judas) and 2015 (A Stephenson).

Little Heron (Striated) *Butorides atricapilla*

Common resident; uncommon to rare inland. Population estimated to number 400-1,000.

NB: Was previously named Striated Heron.

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*

Very localised winter visitor; common Khor Kalba August to May; uncommon to rare other sites, including inland.

Confirmed breeding: Al Marmoom DCR in July 2025 – first nesting in Arabia and the Middle East.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Fairly common migrant March to November, occasional in winter.

Possibly bred Al Warsan 2008 (N Tovey), confirmed breeding at same site June 2015 (M Smiles); breeding confirmed private site near Green Mubazzarah 2019 (P Arras).

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Common migrant and winter visitor, some oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated to number 100-200.

The subspecies occurring is assumed to be nominate *alba*.
Eastern Great Egret *A. (alba) modesta* claimed but not reliably reported.

Medium Egret *Egretta intermedia*

Vagrant. Since some birds are long-staying and may return annually, it is now very difficult to keep track of the exact number of records and that should be borne in mind when considering the below.

1. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 23 Dec 1994-13 Jan 1995 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
2. One Dubai Pivot Fields 25-30 Jun 2001 and 27-30 Jul 2001 (DA Diskin, C Richardson *et al*). Also at Wimpey Pits 28 Jun (C Richardson).
3. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 23 Oct-10 Nov 2007 (NJ Moran *et al*).
4. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake 15 Nov 2014 (R Khan).
5. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide 20 Dec 2014 (M Barth).
6. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide 12-14 Oct 2017 (H Heaton, M Smiles).
7. One Al Badia Golf Club 21 Oct-14 Nov 2018 (A Schmidt *et al*).
Possibly same individual Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide 15 Nov-26 Dec 2018 (H Heaton *et al*).
Possibly same individual Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide 3-18 Apr 2019, in breeding plumage (V Sladariu, L Negulescu, K Al Dhaheri).
Possibly same individual Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide 5 Nov 2019-14 Feb 2020 (N Cairns, S Kirkcaldy *et al*).
8. One Meydan Horse Race and Golf Course 4-5 Jan 2024 (S Al Suwaidi).
9. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide 20-30 Mar, 11-22 Jun, 1 Dec 2024, 3 Jan 2025 (M Mills, T Burkett, M Van de Walle *et al*).
10. One Tower Links Golf Course 4 May 2024 (A Datar).
11. One Dhayah--roadside marshland 9-17 Dec 2024 (R Khan, M Mishu *et al*).
12. One Tower Links Golf Course 27 Feb-2 Mar 2025 (A Datar, J Kingma).

Western Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

Common migrant and winter visitor, increasing resident, with confirmed nesting very locally in Dubai from 2001 onwards and Al Ain 2013 and 2015.
Breeding population estimated to be 190-230; Total non-breeding population 1,000-2000.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Ardea coromanda*

Vagrant but records have increased markedly in recent years (since 2017 in particular). Since some birds are long-staying and may return annually, it is now impossible to keep track of the exact number of records and that should be borne in mind when considering the below.

1. One adult Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 23 Apr 2009 (P Arras).
2. One adult Wamm Farms 8 Aug-11 Sep 2009 (SL James *et al*).
 - One adult Wamm Farms 26 Mar-17 Apr 2010 (AP Twyman *et al*), probably returning bird.
 - One adult Wamm Farms 23 Oct 2010 (SL James), probably returning bird.
3. Two adult Wamm Farms 23 Apr 2011 with one adult 24 Jun (K Al Dhaheri, SL James).
 - One adult Wamm Farms 28 Mar-20 Apr 2012 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*), probably returning bird.
 - One adult Wamm Farms 15 Mar and 12 Apr 2013 (M Smiles, G Bond, SL James) , probably returning bird.
 - One adult Wamm Farms 18 Apr and 19 May 2014 (SP Lloyd, Y Golan), probably returning bird.
 - One adult Wamm Farms 20 Mar-24 Apr 2015 (M Smiles *et al*), with two birds 7 Apr 2015 (G Askew), and again one adult 3-11 Jul 2015 (M Smiles *et al*).
 - One adult Wamm Farms 26 Mar 2016 (M Smiles), with at least one, possibly three present 8 Apr 2016 (SP Lloyd, M Smiles).
4. One adult Khudhairah Farms 22 Mar 2017 (N Almerzi).

- Two adults Wamm Farms 19-27 May 2017 (M Smiles, J Judas).
- One adult Wamm Farms 3 Apr 2019 (SP Lloyd).
- One adult Wamm Farms 19 Mar-3 Apr 2020 (J Judas).
- 5. One adult Al Qua'a Fodder Field 5 Apr 2014 (S Young, G Askew).
- 6. One Khudhairah farms 22 Mar 2017 (N Almehrzi).
- 7. One Ajman Water Treatment Plant 1 Apr 2017 (S Taylor).
- 8. One adult Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 13-25 Sep 2017 (P Arras).
- 9. One Markaniyah Farm 23 Apr 2018 (H Roberts).
- 10. One Ajman Water Treatment Plant 12 Apr 2019 (A Al Ali).
- 11. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 3-22 Apr 2020 (OJ Campbell *et al*); visited Abu Dhabi Officer's Club 14 Apr.
- 12. One Al-Zora Golf Club 30 Sep 2021 (S Taylor).
- 13. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 23-24 Mar 2022 (OJ Campbell, V Kalinichenko *et al*). Possibly returning bird from 2020.
One Abu Dhabi Officers' Club and Khor al-Maqta'a Park 1-7 Mar 2023, and Mushrif Palace Gardens 9 Mar 2023 (OJ Campbell *et al*). Presumed returning bird.
- 14. One Sir Bani Yas--southern area 29 May 2023 (M Pearson).
- 15. One Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 26 Aug-9 Sep 2023 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett, SP Lloyd, D Lobo).
- 16. One Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 27 Feb-24 March 2024 (M Alghafli, T Burkett, SP Lloyd *et al*). Presumed returning bird.
- 17. Up to two Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 1Jun-18 Aug 2024, with two 18 Aug (T Burkett, SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell, I Reid *et al*).
- 18. Up to two Al Marmoom DCR 29 Mar-16 Aug 2024 (R Khan *et al*).
- 19. One Al Bidiyah--gravel plain 26 Apr 2025 (A Al Ali).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Fairly common migrant, recorded all months.

Breeding recorded Al Ain 20 Aug 2012 (J Judas).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Very common migrant and winter visitor, some oversummer. Total non-breeding population estimated to number 500-1,000.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Several subspecies likely occurring, but no definite determination.

Common migrant April to May, once June, and September to mid-November, rare December-January .

Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

Scarce and local breeding resident but seemingly increasing; very uncommon migrant and formerly regular, very localised winter visitor, September to early May.

One juvenile found in Ajban, Abu Dhabi emirate 14 Jun 2013 represents the first UAE breeding record (M Almazrouei).

Breeding confirmed again March 2016 with adult on nest with two eggs, and again April 2017 at same site; bird with young found Al-Marmoom DCR area July 2023.

Breeding population estimated as 10-50 but likely under-recorded. Communal roosts from late spring to early autumn know from multiple sites, including where breeding recorded ; maximum count 122 (including 113 in one roost), July 2023.

Sykes's Nightjar *Caprimulgus mahrattensis*

Vagrant.

1. One male Dubai Pivot Fields 4 Feb 2001 (R Grimmett, C Richardson, P Bourdin).
2. One male Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 9-28 Feb 2001 (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
3. One male Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 14 Jan-22 Feb 2005 (SL James, NJ Moran *et al*).
4. One male Wamm Farms 20-26 Dec 2007 and again 18-23 Jan 2008 (SL James, OB Hansen *et al*).
5. One Wadi Wurayah NP--Buffer zone 11 Dec 2021 (SU Majeed).

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Rare visitor.

1. Two Dubai Airport 6 Aug 1975 (W Wyper).
2. One Umm al-Qaiwain 9 Jun 1978 (MA Hollingworth, R McNiff).
3. One Safa Park 7 May 1982 (M West).
4. One Dubai City 5 Jun 1987 (G Kumar).
5. One Remah-Sweihan 13 Mar 1992 (NARC).
6. One near Dhafra airbase 12 Dec 1992 (I Philips).
7. One Dubai--Rashidiyah 13 Sep 1992 (S Turner).
8. One Khor Kalba 31 Mar 1994 (M Hardwick).
9. One Al Ain Intercontinental Hotel 6 Sep 1994 (SJ Aspinall, O Wardman).
10. One Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 12 Feb 1995 (A Forsten, T Numminen).
11. One Hamraniyah 2 Mar 1995 (*Naturstudienreisen*).
12. Two Qarn Nazwa 11 Mar 1996 (P Rusanen).
13. One Bateen Wood 16 Apr 1997 (AP Twyman *et al*).
14. One Jebel Hafit 18 Apr 1997 (I Larsson).
15. Three Emirates Golf Club 14 Apr 1998 (C Richardson).
16. Two Khor al-Beidah 17 Sep 1998 (DE Sargeant).
17. One Tower Links Golf Course 11 Mar 2000 (P Brett).
18. One Emirates Golf Club 28 Jan 2002 (C Richardson).
19. One Dubai Airport 23 Oct 2005 (E Durand).
20. Three, possibly four, Khalidiya 16 Jan 2008 (SJ Aspinall, J Stewart *et al*).
21. One Wamm Farms 17 Jan 2008 (Birdwatching Breaks).
22. One Al Ghail area 7 Feb 2008 (OJ Campbell).
23. Two Abu Dhabi Hilton Hotel 20 Jun 2008, one remaining next day (A Ward *et al*).
24. Two Samayah Hotel Dubai 17 Nov 2011 (N Anderson).
25. One Arabian Ranches 17 Dec 2011 (SL James).
26. One Palm Jumeirah--Atlantis Hotel 6-7 Aug 2012 (P Stewart).
27. One near Abu Dhabi Airport 23 Apr 2013 (M Almazrouei).
28. One Wamm Farms 4 Mar 2016 (M Smiles).
29. One Zakher Lake 1 Sep 2016 (S Kirkcaldy).
30. One Sila'a 28 Apr 2017 (SP Lloyd).
31. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 3 & 19-20 Jan 2020 (P Arras).
32. One Offshore Abu Dhabi 7 Jun 2021 (M Montali).

33. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 17 Jan 2022 (P Arras).
34. One Al-Zora Nursery 18 May 2023 (A Al Ali).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

All records reviewed by the EBRC in October 2014 in light of a September 2014 record. Whilst the identity of each record as Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* is not in doubt, in the absence of photographs it proved impossible to definitively assign any of the records to subspecies. However, the detailed written descriptions did give some indication of subspecies involved in two of the records, and this is indicated below.

1. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 24 Sep 1999 (SJ Aspinall, AP Twyman *et al*). Showing characteristics broadly indicative of subspecies *Apus p. pacificus*.
2. One The Montgomerie; Emirates Hills Golf Course 20 Jan 2002 (C Richardson). No clear indication as to subspecies involved.
3. One Wamm Farms 12 Sep 2014 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles, SP Lloyd). Showing characteristics strongly indicative of subspecies *Apus p. pacificus*.
4. One Yas Island--Yas Links Golf Course 2 Jan 2016 (A Dwarshuis, M van Waasdijk, M Barth, OJ Campbell).

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Rare migrant, recorded most months.

Records 1-5, 7, 9 & 10 not in database. All other records listed.

6. One Khor Kalba 21 Feb 1991 (C Richardson).
8. Two Hamraniyah Fields 3 Mar 1995 (C Richardson).
11. One Hamraniyah Fields 2 Mar 1995 (C Richardson *et al*).
12. One Al Ain Camel Racetrack 27 Mar 1995 (SJ Aspinall).
13. One Ra's al-Khaimah--general area 8 Jun 1996 (P Brett).
14. One Al Ain Camel Racetrack 13 Apr 1997 (M Dryden, J Max Allan).
15. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 31 Oct 1998 (CM Saunders).
16. One Ra's al-Khaimah Airport 25 Jan 1999 (P Brett).
17. One Digdagg Fields 15 Mar 2000 (C Richardson).
18. One Mushrif NP 17 Jan 2001 (M&M Hooper).
19. One Wimpey Pits (historical) 21 Jan 2001 (P Bourdin).
20. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 12 Oct 2001 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, K Scholberg).
21. One Mushrif NP 24 Apr 2004 (O Samwald).
22. One Al Warsan Lakes 16-28 Jan 2005 (C Moores, NJ Moran, R Questedt).
23. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 17 Mar 2006 (NJ Moran, SL James, A Galbraith).
24. One Wamm Farms 28 Apr 2006 (I Boustead).
25. One Wamm Farms 24 Oct 2006 (V&G Kumar).
26. One Sharjah Rubbish Tip 14 May 2007 (A Twyman).
27. One Wamm Farms 21 Sep 2007 (SL James, N Tovey, C Temple).
28. One Dubai--general area 22 Feb 2008 (O Langrand).
29. One Dubai Pivot Fields and Al Warsan WTP 2-21 Dec 2008 (M Smiles, SP Lloyd *et al*).
30. One Kharran WTP 8 Jun 2012 (SP Lloyd).
31. Two Sila'a Peninsula tip 18 Apr 2014 (SL James).
32. Up to two Dalma Island 20 Dec 2014-3 Feb 2015 (L Smiles, M Smiles *et al*).
33. One Danat Al Ain Resort 20 Feb 2015 (A Ward).
34. One Yo Dibsah Reserve 14 Nov 2026 (S Bruylants).

35. One Ajman WTP 27-28 Jan 2017 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell, D Lobo *et al*).
36. One Al Warsan Lakes 21 Apr 2018 (J Judas).
37. One National Avian Research Centre NARC 10 Oct 2018, found dead (G Monchaux, S Lefebvre, A Jacquet, V Motteau).
38. One Abu Dhabi Golf Club 24 Dec 2020 (OJ Campbell).
39. One Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 19 Feb 2021 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, V Motteau).
40. One private estate near Green Mubazzarah 10-12 Oct 2021 (P Arras).
41. One Al-Zora Nursery 15 Apr 2022 (A Al Ali).
42. One Akoya Lake 20 Jan 2023 (G Burns).
43. One Jebel Hafeet 30 Apr 2023 (T Burkett, P Arras).

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Uncommon migrant, late February (rarely mid Feb) to early May with a peak in April, scarce in autumn. One December record.
Birds of the subspecies *Apus apus pekinensis* identified.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Very common migrant and breeding visitor. Nests from November to April/May, uncommon to rare from June to September / October when most depart (to locations unknown). Population estimated as 2,000-20,000.

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba erlangeri*

Uncommon to rare breeding resident. Population estimated as 100-300 but likely under-recorded.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Formerly a fairly common resident, records indicate a decline. Population estimated as 2,000-10,000.

Subspecies unknown, possibly *A. n. saharae* and/or *A. n. lilith* involved, but the assignment of individuals to any Little Owl subspecies on morphological data appears to be a very difficult task. Darker birds generally found in the UAE mountains, paler and sandier birds in the desert.

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*

First UAE record Das Island 29 Mar 1987 (L Reaney).

Uncommon or overlooked migrant March to April and September to November. Few winter records.

Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei*

Scarce breeding resident in northern and eastern UAE. Population estimated as 1,000-5,000 but likely under-recorded.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus flammeus*

Rare to very uncommon winter visitor October to April.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Vagrant.

1. One Sharjah City 29 Jan 1971 (B Etheridge).
2. One landed on ship off Khor Fakkan 28 Mar 1978 (PM Reynolds).
3. One Dubai; Port Rashid 19 Oct 1979 (W Wyper).
4. One Das Island 12 Dec 1991 (L Reaney).
5. One Das Island 10 Nov 1994 (L Reaney).
6. One Jebel Ali Hotel and Golf Resort 22 Nov 1996 (M Tunturi).
7. One found dead Das Island 6 Dec 1998 (L Reaney).
8. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 14 Oct 1999 (SL James, AP Twyman *et al*).
9. One Ramtha Lagoon and Rubbish Tip 27 Mar 2000 (B Mandin).
10. One Das Island 15 Apr 2001 (SJ Aspinall).
11. Four Mushrif National Park 17-21 Feb 2003, with three present to 11 Mar (C Richardson, J Ward, JA Leclercq).
12. Two Mushrif National Park 26 Dec 2003, with four present 22 Feb 2004, three remaining to 5 Mar 2004 (SJ Aspinall, DA Diskin *et al*).
13. Two Mushrif National Park 4 Dec 2004-2 Jan 2005 (SJ Aspinall, DA Diskin *et al*).
14. One Khalidiya 23 Nov 2006 (SJ Aspinall, C & J Glendenning).
15. One Mushrif National Park 25 Dec 2011-18 Jan 2012, with two present 30 Dec (J Iversen *et al*).
16. One Umm al-Qaiwain Marina 23 Jan 2013 (K Kean).
17. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 1 Jan 2022 (M Maksood, A Ditta).
18. One Lulu Island 9 Jan 2022 (OJ Campbell).
19. One Umm al-Qaiwain Jan 2022 (observer unknown), caught and released.
20. One Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 20 Jan 2024 (M Herold, P Goodman).

Pharaoh Eagle-Owl *Bubo ascalaphus*

Uncommon to fairly common breeding resident. Population estimated as 50-100 but likely under-recorded.

Arabian Eagle-Owl *Bubo milesi*

Rare resident in Hajar mountains; population recently discovered.

One Hajar Mts site A and one Hajar Mts site B 1 Nov 2017 and two birds Hajar Mts site A 18 Apr 2018 (A Stoquert, S Majid, J Judas *et al*). First record, but subsequent fieldwork has established it as scarce and inconspicuous resident in the Hajar Mountains and Wadi Wurrayah NP.

Approximately 10 territories located by May 2018 (A Stoquert, J Judas, V Sharma *et al*). Population estimated as 20-100.

In addition:

- A juvenile Spotted Eagle-Owl was gifted to Dubai Zoo in 2003 by a donor from Dibba, caught in the Dibba mountains (*per* R Khan).
- An adult in the Hatta Mountains, photographed. Year unknown (*per* K Al Dhaheri).

Omani Owl *Strix butleri*

Presumed very rare resident in mountains of Fujairah emirate; to date recorded only from Wadi Wurayah NP.

1. One heard calling Wadi Wurayah NP--Wadi Ghayl on five occasions 8-20 Mar 2015 (E Miller, P Cabrera, J Judas). Documented with sound-recordings.
2. One Wadi Wurayah NP 30 July 2020 (camera trap image) and presumed same bird photographed by day, 20 Dec 2020 (SU Majeed).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

Common resident, migrant and winter visitor; uncommon inland. At least 70 nests found in 1997 survey in Abu Dhabi Emirate and 61 nests in 2007. Breeding population estimated as 140-200 in 2020 but at least 150 pairs 2025 (source: EAD).

Black-winged Kite (Asian) *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*

Former vagrant, increasingly reported 2015 onwards and now an uncommon but widely spread resident, although rare in the Western Region of Abu Dhabi Emirate. Has bred regularly at one site from 2018-2020; and nest-building recorded (October 2018) at a second site.

1. One juvenile Dubai; Jumeirah 24 Feb 1984 (M West).
2. One adult Hamranyah Fields--general area 6 Nov-2 Dec 1992 (C Richardson, JK Bannon).
3. One with broken wing Dubai; Jumeirah 6 Nov 1993 (*per* D Remple).
4. One Wamm Farms 15-16 Sep 1994 (E Hirschfeld, C Richardson *et al*).
5. One Jebel Ali Hotel 24 Feb 1997 (*per* D Sheldon).
6. One juvenile Wamm Farms 29 Dec 1997-5 Jan 1998 (M Ullman, B Arvidsson).
7. One Hamranyah Fields--general area 11-12 Mar 1998 (C Richardson *et al*).
8. One Ra's al-Khaimah Airport 18 Nov and 27 Dec 1998-13 Feb 1999 (P Brett, J Andersson *et al*).
9. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 10 Feb 1999 (M Rantala, K Eisner, SL James).
10. One Dhayah area 27 Feb 2000 (R Aye).
11. One Mushrif Palace Gardens and Abu Dhabi Island sites 11-31 Oct 2001; 23 Dec 2001 and 19 Jan 2002 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
12. One Sila'a--Harbour Plantation 7-10 Dec 2008 (D Wilby *et al*) - showing characters of ssp. *vociferus*.
13. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 28 Jan 2009 (NJ Moran).
14. One Yas Island--Yas Links Golf Course 15 Nov 2012-5 Mar 2013 (S Parr *et al*) - showing characters of ssp. *vociferus*.
15. One Yas Island--Yas Links Golf Course 12 Nov 2013-1 Feb 2014 (OJ Campbell), possibly returning bird.
16. One Wamm Farms 28 Feb 2014 (A Bailey).
17. One Dubai Pivot Fields 15 Sep 2014 (M Smiles).
18. One Hamranyah Fields 19 Sep 2014 (M Smiles), and presumably the same bird 3 Dec 14 (M Smiles, P Hill & J Mottishaw).
19. One Dubai Pivot Fields 20 Mar 2015 (S Sreevalsan, J Mason).
20. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 31 Oct 2015 (M Hamid).
21. One Dubai Investment Park--Ewan scrubland 29 Nov 2015 (K Ehtay).
22. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake 3-4 Dec 2015 (K Ehtay).

Records 2016 onwards available on eBird.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Non-breeding resident, rarely observed away from Jebel Hafit, Al Ain; possibly also rare migrant. Counts of up to 100 non-breeders noted here in the past but generally lower numbers in recent years; some evidence of a marked decline but much variation in numbers.

Breeding, long suspected at Jebel Hafit, finally confirmed May 2017 (NP Williams *et al*) and may occur annually there.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Rare migrant. One confirmed winter record.

Confusion with Crested Honey Buzzard evident.

Known records;

1. One Mushrif Palace Gardens and Bateen Wood 30 Sep-22 Oct 1989 (P Hellyer).
2. One Zabeel Ponds 4 Mar 1999 (C Richardson).
3. One Wamm Farms 19 Apr 2001 (C Richardson).
4. One juv. Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 16 Sep 2004 (N Moran, SL James, A Twyman).
5. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 1 Oct 2004 (SJ Aspinall, N Moran, SL James, A Twyman).
6. One adult male Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 7 Mar 2005 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, A Twyman).
7. Two Khor Fakkan 16 Sep 2005 (H Bultot, P Collard).
8. One Dubai Pivot Fields 13 Jan 2006 (C Temple, S Hall).
9. One Private island off Sila'a 18 Sep 2007 (W Mischler).
10. One Green Mubazzarah 16 May 2008 (D Wilby).
11. One Abu Dhabi; British School Al Khubairat 20 Mar 2009 (N Moran).
12. One Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 6 Oct 2009 (G Simkins).
13. One Emirates Palace 11-16 Oct 2009 (A Ward, A&I Cunningham).
14. One juvenile Wadi Bih 26 Sep 2010 (T Pedersen).
15. One Safa Park 2-14 Oct 2011 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
16. One Ruwais Water Treatment Plant 19 Oct 2011 (D Wilby).
17. One Wamm Farms 16 Aug 2013 (SP Lloyd, SL James).
18. One Wamm Farms 30 Sep 2016 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles, SP Lloyd).
19. One Jebel Dhanna--hotels 24-26 Mar 2018 (K Al Dhaheri).
20. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 26 May 2018 (SP Lloyd).
21. One Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 9 Oct 2022 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell, T Burkett).

Crested Honey Buzzard (Northern) *Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis*

Uncommon to locally common, mainly late autumn migrant and winter visitor until May. Regular at favoured sites; mainly parks in urban and suburban areas.

Rare but annual in summer.

First UAE record Hamranyah Fields 16 Dec 1992 (T Tuomenoja).

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Vagrant.

1. One Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 16-31 Oct 2012 (M Smiles, S Bell, G Simkins *et al*).
2. One Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 24 Jan 2018 (G Simkins).
3. One Al Marmoom DCR--general area 3 Nov 2019 (R Khan).
4. One Al Marmoom DCR--Flamingo Lakes 11 Jan 2024 (M Alghafli).
5. One Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 15 Feb 2025 (DDCR staff)

Origin uncertain;

- A subadult reportedly caught by local people near a farm in the Ra's al-Khaimah mountains, 20 Feb 1995. Although brought to Dubai Zoo on 26 Feb 1995, a release attempt failed and the bird subsequently died in captivity.
- A bird brought from the East Coast to the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife, Sharjah in 1999 or 2000 died before release attempt could be undertaken.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*

Formerly rare, now uncommon, has bred.

Records appear to be increasing, presumably from wandering birds in Oman, but this could be a result of individuals congregating more at specific areas, rather than actual population increases. Restocking of certain areas with game has likely encouraged this species to occur and linger more frequently. 10-50 are estimated to occur annually.

Particularly high counts:

- Up to 47 Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 13 Oct-6 Nov 2012 (M Smiles, S Bell, G Simkins *et al*).
- Up to 11 Al Marmoom DCR--general area 22 Oct 2014-6 Apr 2015 (R Khan *et al*).

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*

Vagrant.

1. One immature 13-16 Oct 2012 (SL James, S Bell, N Suseelan *et al*).

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Vagrant.

1. One Dhaid plain 2 Jan 1988; presumed same Jebel Faiyah and also then Hatta, 2 Jan 1988 (P Antrobus).
2. One Jebel Hafit 28 Sep 1988 (JM Hollingworth).
3. One Lahbab--general area 2 Mar 1990 (C Richardson, M Pitt *et al*).
4. One Jebel Faiyah 28 Feb 1992 (JAD Chapman).
5. One Wadi Bih--general area 5 Nov 1992 (D Rosair, JM Hollingworth).
6. One Masafi 29 Mar 1993 (SJ Aspinall, RA Dennis).
7. Two Wadi Ghayl 20 Aug 1993 (C Richardson, SJ Aspinall), two, possibly same, Dibba 29 Aug 1993 (SJ Aspinall, JK Bannon, C Richardson).
8. Two Madam Plain 2 Oct 1993 (SJ Aspinall).
9. One Wadi Tarabat 16 Nov 1995 (SL James).
10. One Jiri Plain 12 Nov 1997 (P Brett).
11. Two Jebel Hafit 2 Oct 2006 (E & M Nolan).
12. Up to five Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 13-20 Oct 2012 (S Bell *et al*).
13. Six Al Faqa 18 Mar 2013 (J Smithson).
14. Two Nakhli 10 Feb 2014 (L McGillewie) and two in nearby Tijarah desert 18 Feb 2014 (K Hyland).
15. One or two Jebel Hafit and Private Estate near Green Mubazzarah 23 Apr 2018 (NP Williams *et al*).
16. Three Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake and surroundings 12 Apr 2022 (G Burns).
17. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 17 Apr 2022 (P Arras).
18. One Al Marmoom DCR--Flamingo Lakes 1 Nov 2023 (G Burns).
17. Two Dubai Desert Conserveation reserve, July 2025 (DDCR staff)

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor; recorded all months. Has bred (Ras Al Khaimah). Total non-breeding population estimated as 10 or less.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga*

Common migrant and winter visitor, late September to late April. Occasionally oversummers. Total non-breeding population is estimated to number 50-100. The pale form *fulvescens* rarely recorded.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina*

Vagrant.

1. One first-winter found shot Zabeel Ponds early December 1993 (collected by C Gross).
2. One Ra's al-Khaimah Airport 26 Dec 1996 (P Brett).
3. One Wimpey Pits 9 Mar 2003 (C Johnsson).
4. One second-spring juvenile Dubai Pivot Fields 27-28 Mar 2013 (M Barth *et al*).
5. One Siniyah Island 11 Nov 2013 (R Gubiani).

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennata*

Uncommon to rare migrant and winter visitor, September to April, rarely other months.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

First UAE record Northern Emirates 2 Apr 1987 (JM Hollingworth, N Jephson).

Rare to uncommon migrant and winter visitor, September to late April, occasionally other months.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

First UAE record Dubai City 11 Dec 1987.

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, late October to April. One July record. Total non-breeding population is estimated to number 1-5.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Very rare resident (possibly now extinct as a breeder) and visiting vagrant.

Known records:

1. One Jebel Hafit 23 Nov 1990 (JAD Chapman, D Robinson).
2. One immature south of Tarif 11 Feb 1992 (J Norton, NARC).
3. One sub-adult Baynunah desert 13 Nov 1993 (SJ Aspinall).
4. One sub-adult Baynunah desert 26 Nov 1993 (SJ Aspinall).
5. One Al Ain area March 1994 (EBR Vol 19) - 6 week old juv brought to Dubai Falcon Hospital from the Al Ain area.
6. One Hili Oasis 11 Nov 1994 (C Pohl).
7. One second-winter Dhayah 5 Dec 1996 (SL James).
8. One immature Sir Bani Yas 4 Jan 1997 (H & J Eriksen).
9. One Al Rams area 4-9 Jan 1997 (B Curtis, P Brett), presumed same Al Rams Rubbish Tip 26 Mar 1997 (I Phillips, *Limosa*).
10. Two Madinat Zayed desert 2 Feb 1997 (SJ Aspinall)
11. Pair on nest Liwa Oasis East 8 Jan 1999 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer *et al*).

12. Pair Shah Oilfield 11 Oct 1999 (SJ Aspinall); see next record, presumed same.
13. Adult at nest with chick Shah Oilfield 26 Feb 2000 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer, W Thesiger, AM Al-Kindi *et al*).
14. One Liwa Oasis South, seen from helicopter, 18 Oct 2000 (P Hellyer).
15. One Bab Oilfield 2 Jan 2002 (SJ Aspinall).
16. Two Masafi Wadi 12 Mar 2003 (C Johnsson *et al*).
17. One immature Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 24 Jan 2004 (G Simkins).
18. One Wadi al-Reum 19 Feb 2004 (SL James, R Quested).
19. One Umm az Zumul 4 Jan 2006 (R Cuttler, H Kallweit).
20. One sub-adult Sila'a--general area 9 Dec 2008 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell); again 6 Mar 2009 (D Wilby).
21. One adult Qusaihwira desert 20 Jan 2010 (H El Alqamy).
22. Pair Shah Oilfield 22 Jan 2010 (M Almazrouei, SJ Aspinall, T & M Pedersen, SP Lloyd, S Jahan).
23. One immature Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 22 Jun-3 Jul 2010 (G Simkins *et al*).
24. One sub-adult Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 16 Aug 2011 (G Simkins).
25. One immature Remah desert 12 Dec 2011 (OF Al-Sheikhly).
26. One adult Liwa--Mazirah 21 Dec 2011 (M Almazrouei).
27. One juvenile Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 16 Jan 2012 (G Simkins).
28. One adult Zakher Pools 15 Nov 2012 (NP Williams).
29. One immature Khor Kalba (Alqurm Protected Area) 16 May 2017 (J Pereira).
30. One adult Qasr Al Sarab Protected Area--lakes 17-18 Nov 2018 (R Gubiani).
31. One Umm az Zumul--Arabian Oryx protected area 18 Nov 2020 (R Gubiani).
32. One immature Al Beda'a Protected Area 5 Apr 2021 (R Gubiani).
33. Two on nest Al Beda'a Protected Area 28 Jun 2021 (R Gubiani).
34. Two adults Ain al-Waal 18 Nov 2023 (H Roberts).

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciatus*

Rare resident in mountains; uncommon winter visitor to lowland areas, although some records then may refer to dispersing juveniles.
The breeding population is estimated to number 10-20.

Shikra *Tachyspiza badia*

Localised breeding resident, perhaps introduced though origin of first records not clear. Present in Dubai city suburbs from 1996; breeding population rapidly expanding from 2014 and now well-established in much suitable habitat. Breeding annually Abu Dhabi island and around Al Ain from 2016.

Vagrant elsewhere; likely that records from the Western Region refer to birds that have crossed the Arabian Gulf.

Breeding population estimated to be 50-100 individuals.

Vagrant records to 2017, by when too widespread to be further considered:

1. Two (ad and juv) Sila'a--Peninsula Plantations 26 Dec 2009 with the adult 15 Jan-1 Apr 2010 (K Mild *et al*).
2. One juv Sila'a--Public Park 28 Sep-6 Oct 2012 and presumed same Sila'a--Peninsula Plantations 1 Dec 2012 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles, SP Lloyd).
3. One juv Kharran Water Treatment Plant 24 Nov 2012 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles, A Ward).
4. Two Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 7-11 Oct 2014 (P Arras) is the first record from the Al Ain area.
5. One adult female Mushrif Palace Gardens 13 Nov 2014 (SP Lloyd) is the first record from the Abu Dhabi area.
6. One immature Wamm Farms 5 Nov 2016 (NP Williams).
7. One Wamm Farms 16 Sep 2017 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles).

Levant Sparrowhawk *Tachyspiza brevipes*

Vagrant.

1. One juvenile Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 4-7 Nov 2023 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett, D Lobo, C Hockett *et al*).

Category F record:

- One near Dhaid 28 Oct 1977. **

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Fairly common winter visitor late September to April, occasionally to May.

Eurasian Goshawk *Astur gentilis*

Vagrant.

1. One Abu al-Bukhoosh Oilfield 15 Oct 1976 (DM Simpson).
2. One Hamranyah Fields--general area 14 Nov 1997 (J Reynolds, C Richardson).
3. One Ra's al-Khaimah Airport 10 Dec 1997 (P Brett).
4. One Mushrif National Park 26 Dec 2003 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
5. One Jebel Ali Hotel 6 Dec 2004 (SJ Aspinall, NJ Dymond).
6. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack area 9 Dec 2006 (SL James, N Tovey *et al*).
7. One immature Wadi Wurayah NP--headquarter 3 Feb 2019 (SU Majeed).

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Fairly common migrant and winter visitor; present mainly September to April; occasional in summer. Total non-breeding population estimated to number 50-100.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Rare migrant and winter visitor; one June record. Over 30 records to 2000 inclusive.

Records 2000 to 2022 are listed below:

- One Hamranyah Fields--general area 10 Mar 2001 (C Richardson, *Naturetrek*).
- One Hamranyah Fields--general area 28 Mar 2001 (C Richardson, *Limosa Holidays*).
- One Dubai Pivot Fields 15 Jun 2001 (DA Diskin, C Richardson, P Bourdin).
- One adult male Abu Dhabi Island 10 Jan 2002 (SL James).
- One immature male Abu Dhabi Camel Racetrack 22 Oct 2002 (SL James *et al*).
- One immature Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 4 Nov 2004 (SJ Aspinall, NJ Moran, C Clark).
- One Al Ain Camel Racetrack 20 Jan 2005 (M Simmonds).
- One adult female Umm al-Qaiwain to Emirates Road 12 Feb 2006 (K Bensusan, T Pedersen).
- One female Al Qua'a Fodder Fields 27 Oct-7 Dec 2011 (H Roberts, D Clark *et al*).
- Up to two Wamm Farms 13 Jan-23 Mar 2012 (M Barth, M Smiles *et al*).
- One female Khor al-Beida 20 Jan-22 Feb 2012 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

- One male Wamm Farms 3 Dec 2012-2 Jan 2013 (A Al Ali *et al*).
- One female Khor al-Beida 21 Dec 2012-15 Mar 2013 (M Smiles *et al*).
- One Al Qua'a Fodder Fields 14 Feb-23 Mar 2014 (M Smiles, M&M Ullman).
- One male Bida Bin Amar desert 23 Mar 2014 (M&M Ullman).
- One female Wamm Farms 7 Nov 2014 (SP Lloyd).
- One female Wamm Farms 28 Nov 2014 - different from earlier bird (M Smiles).
- One male Wamm Farms 6 Dec 2014 (M Smiles).
- One male Mushrif NP 1 Jan 2017 (G&V Kumar).
- One immature Sila'a Peninsula 20 Apr 2018 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd *et al*).
- One female Hamraniyah--RAK Motocross track 25 Jan 2019 (M Smiles).
- One Lulu Island 21 Nov 2020 (OJ Campbell).
- One female Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields (no access) 6-26 Jan 2022 (M Alghafli, S Al Suwaidi).

Further records on eBird.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Uncommon migrant and rare winter visitor; occasional in summer.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Very common migrant and winter visitor, recorded all months but mainly present September to March. Total non-breeding population estimated to number 100-300; several annual roosts of 20 birds or more.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor. Note that the vast majority of individuals of this species occurring in the UAE show characters resembling (often strongly) Black-eared Kite *M. (migrans) lineatus* which is part of the *lineatus/formosanus* subspecies-group. However, it is deemed very likely, if not almost certain that all individuals occurring are actually intergrades between *lineatus* and nominate *migrans* (which occur widely across central Asia, as far east as Mongolia) rather than pure *lineatus*; the occurrence of genuine, pure *lineatus* in the UAE seems (highly) unlikely geographically and has never been established, despite much reference to this subspecies in the past.

One record of an apparent *Milvus migrans govinda* from India, part of the *migrans* subspecies-group:

- Dubai Pivot Fields 30 Aug 2014 (M Smiles) and 10-17 Oct 2014 (F Itani, S Sreevalsan, V Sharma).

There is a small possibility that this well-photographed bird refers to an escape or a release but there is no evidence strongly suggesting this.

Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

Vagrant.

1. One Dibba (Hisn) January 1972 (J Stewart-Smith)
2. One Ra's al-Khaimah 29 Oct 1972 (L & SJ Tyler), perhaps same bird returning.
3. One immature Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Flamingo Hide 3 Apr 2014 (S Kothe).

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo (vulpinus-group)*

Western Steppe Buzzard *B. b. vulpinus* thought to be the occurring subspecies.
Rare autumn migrant, rarely in winter. Some confusion with migrant and wintering Long-legged Buzzards apparent.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

B. r. rufinus - Northern Long-legged Buzzard
Uncommon winter visitor, October to March. Black morph sometimes recorded.

B. r. cirtensis - Atlas Long-legged Buzzard
Very rare breeding resident; presumed also uncommon dispersive visitor from elsewhere in Arabian peninsula. This subspecies has no black morph.

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Very common migrant and locally common resident mainly, in northern and eastern UAE. Small numbers of birds winter in areas where breeding does not occur. Breeding population estimated to number 1,000-2,000.

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

Very common breeding resident in the northern Emirates and Al Ain area; range expanding. Population estimated as 5,000-15,000 .

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

Fairly common migrant, April to early May and mid-August to October. Formerly bred Ra's al-Khaimah but now likely extinct as a breeder.
Former breeding population estimated to number 0-10.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

Vagrant.

1. One Emirates Golf Club 20 Nov 1989 and again there on 5 Mar 1990 (C Richardson, JK Bannon, A Forsten, T Numminen).

Arabian Green Bee-eater *Merops cyanophrys*

Common to very common breeding resident; range expanding. Scarce west of the Abu Dhabi to Al Ain line.
Population estimated as 5,000-10,000 .

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

Common migrant and declining breeding visitor, mid-February to October. One December record. Breeding population estimated as 40-200 . This species is much easier to find in autumn, especially August to September, when flocks disperse widely and linger over favoured areas.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Common migrant late March to April and mid-August to mid-October, rarely to end November. One winter record from Dubai Pivot Fields 2014.

Formerly bred Ra's al-Khaimah; current status uncertain but now likely extinct as a breeder. Former breeding population estimated to number 20-100.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, mid-August to April. Total non-breeding population estimated as 25-100.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Rare visitor. Can be absent for years and prone to occasional irruptions.

1. One Umm al-Qaiwain 27 Feb and 13 Mar 1980 (T Nightingale, CM Saunders).
2. One Abu Dhabi; Eastern Lagoon 18 Nov 1986 to 20 Mar 1987 (JM Hollingworth *et al*).
3. One Jumeirah Beach Palace Dec 1986-Febr 1987 (K Hyland).
4. One Abu Dhabi 19 Aug-6 Sep 1987 (P Hellyer).
5. One Khor Kalba 27 Oct 1989 (J Hart, J Footitt).
6. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 4-10 Nov 1989 (S Turner)
7. Up to two Ramtha Rubbish Tip 2 Nov 1990-15 Feb 1991 (S Turner, C Richardson, R Green *et al*).
8. One Zabeel Ponds 21 Jan-23 Feb 1995 (K Drissner, W Kurz *et al*).
9. One Safa Park 25 Oct 1996-22 Jan 1997 (P Rusanen *et al*) then at nearby Zabeel Ponds 14 Feb-18 Mar 1997 (C Richardson *et al*).
10. One Abu Dhabi; Eastern Lagoon 8 Dec 1996-2 Feb 1997 (A Ward *et al*).
11. One Abu Dhabi; Eastern Lagoon 27 Nov 1997 (SL James), perhaps returning bird; again 9 Jan-7 Mar 1998 (C & J Glendenning, AP Twyman *et al*).
12. One Dhayah--mangrove swamps 27 Nov 1998-4 Feb 1999 (D Scott, K McGregor, C Richardson).
13. One Zabeel Ponds 6 Nov 1999 - 19 Feb 2000 (M Koivula, C Richardson *et al*).
14. One Khor Kalba 6 Dec 1999-25 Feb 2000 (T Lawson, SJ Aspinall, C Richardson, R Aye *et al*).
15. One Abu Dhabi; Western Lagoon 30 Jan-10 Feb 2000 (AP Twyman, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
16. One Emirates Golf Club 16 Oct 2005 and again 1-9 Dec 2005 (N Tovey *et al*).
17. One Al-Zora Protected Area 7-19 Nov 2008 (A Al Ali *et al*).
18. One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 19 Nov 2008 (R Khan).
19. One Abu Dhabi; Eastern Lagoon 30 Nov 2008 and 26-27 Jan 2009 (J Eriksen *et al*).
20. One Musaffah 11 Feb 2009 (R Hornby).
21. One Sir Bani Yas 19-20 Feb 2009 (A Ward); presumed same 2 May 2009 (S Wilson).
22. One female Dubai Media City 6 Jan-1 Feb 2010 (A & A de Smet *et al*).
23. One Ruwais 5 Mar 2010 (D Wilby).
24. One Sir Bani Yas 15 Jan-28 Mar 2011 (A Cokayne).
25. One female Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 15-17 Oct 2015, with a pair present 16 Oct (W Al Shohoomi *et al*).
26. One female Ajban Farms 19 Oct-10 Nov 2015 (M Almazrouei *et al*), a male 4 Dec 2015-14 Feb 2016. Two birds (presumed m and f) 18 Dec 2015 (A Napier).
27. One Sir Bani Yas 21 Oct 2015 (J Wessels).
28. One Saadiyat Golf Course 6-8 Nov 2015 (S Lindqvist, P Hellyer).
29. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 25 Nov 2015 (M Hamid).
30. One female Khor al-Beida 28 Nov-2 Dec 2015 (Surendran, V Sharma).
31. One male Dubai Creek--Al Badia shoreline 18 Jan-3 Mar 2016 (R Gubiani, L Khil, M Suanjak *et al*).
32. One Dalma Island 6 Mar 2016 (TK Christensen, S Pihl).
33. One Khor al-Beida 11 Nov 2016 (J Abbas).
34. One Khor al-Beida--Emaar Lagoon 11 Nov 2016 (J Abbas).

35. One female Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 7 Nov 2018 (OJ Campbell), possibly same Saadiyat Beach Golf Club 9 Nov-8 Dec 2018 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
 36. One Sila'a--Harbour Marsh 21 Nov 2018-15 Mar 2019 (S Khan *et al*).
 37. One female Eastern Mangroves Hotel and Spa 21 Jan 2019 (R Pappin).
 38. One Palm Jumeirah 13 Mar 2019 (A Jones).
 39. One Al-Zora Protected Area 27-28 Dec 2020 (S Taylor).
 40. One Mubarras Island 21 Nov 2022 (P Erftemeijer).
- Records 2023 onwards on eBird*

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* (Category B)

Vagrant.

1. One Asab Oilfield 14-17 Jun 1990 (L Reaney, R Traves). **

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Vagrant.

1. Two Ramtha Rubbish Tip 30 Nov 1990 (C Richardson, WRP Bourne).
2. One Ramtha Rubbish Tip 28 Aug 1992-7 Feb 1993 (J Hart *et al*).
3. One Dhayah--mangrove channel 28 Dec 1995 (G Schön, C Richardson *et al*).
4. One Dhayah 17-23 Jan 1998 (D Sheldon, P Brett).
5. One Ra's al-Khaimah Khor 23 Oct 1998 (SJ Aspinall, P Brett).
6. One near Khatt Lake 7 Mar 1999 (P Leigh).
7. One Ra's al-Khaimah Airport 6 Nov 2001 (P Brett).
8. One Khor Kalba 20 Feb 2009 (P Jaquith).
9. One Al Mamzar Park 4 Mar 2011 (AP Twyman *et al*).
10. One Wamm Farms 5-30 Nov 2011 (M Barth *et al*).
11. One Jebel Dhanna--hotels 1 Apr 2012 (A&I Cunningham).
12. One Sila'a--Public Park 1 Dec 2021-12 Mar 2022 (SP Lloyd, T Burkett, O Campbell *et al*).
13. One Dhayah--roadside marshland 27 Nov-15 Dec 2024 and 13 Apr 2025 (M Al Shehi *et al*).

Collared Kingfisher (Arabian) *Todirhamphus chloris kalbaensis*

Common but highly localised, threatened endemic resident; only at Khor Kalba mangroves, first discovered Jan 1962 (W Stanford).

On the basis of systematic studies and intensive surveying from 2014-16, at least 30 pairs believed to breed annually (J Pereira, EPAA Sharjah).

June 2014: 139 individuals counted.

June 2015: 128 individuals counted.

June 2016: 141 individuals counted.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Uncommon to fairly common migrant, March to April and September to mid-October, with some birds wintering.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Very localised uncommon to fairly common spring migrant, uncommon in autumn, rarely overwintering and in winter.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident, very common migrant and winter visitor. Breeding population estimated to number 60-200.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Vagrant.

1. One juvenile Wamm Farms 29 Sep-16 Oct 2006 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell, SL James *et al*).
2. One second-year female Wamm Farms 14-20 Oct 2006 (OJ Campbell, SL James *et al*).
3. One female Al Marmoom DCR--Oasis Lakes 22 Apr 2018 (M Iliff, T Pedersen).

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

Rare migrant and winter visitor.

1. One immature male Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 9-24 July 1995 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
2. One adult male Asab Oilfield 19 Nov 2001 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer).
3. One adult female Shahama 26 Apr 2002 (SL James).
4. One immature female Wamm Farms 14 Nov 2002 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
5. One immature male Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 29 Jul-13 Aug 2004 (SJ Aspinall, C Clark *et al*).
6. One immature female Wamm Farms 29 Sep-3 Nov 2006 (SL James, NJ Moran, OJ Campbell *et al*).
7. One female Masafi to Dibba Road 16 Nov 2006 (T Pedersen, KA Hansen).
8. One immature female Abu Dhabi; Hilton/Spinneys area 6 Dec 2006 (SJ Aspinall, M Verhage *et al*).
9. One female Wamm Farms 30 Nov 2007 (SL James *et al*).
10. One female Ghantoot 17 Dec 2009 and 9 Jan 2010 (OB Hansen, T Pedersen, M Smiles).
11. One immature Al Qua'a Fodder Field 29 Dec 2009 (K Mild).
12. One male Wamm Farms 22 Apr 2011 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
13. One Al Qua'a Fodder Field 16 Nov 2012 (N Tovey *et al*).
14. One Lulu Island 15 Nov 2013 (OJ Campbell).
15. One Wamm Farms 23-29 Nov 2013 (SP Lloyd, A Petersson).
16. Two Al Qua'a Fodder Field 15-21 Dec 2013 (H Roberts, K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
17. One female Emirates Palace 1 Dec 2014 (OJ Campbell).
18. One 2nd cal year male and female Wamm Farms 13-18 Jun 2015 (M Smiles *et al*), female seen until 26 Jun.
19. One 2nd cal year male Wamm Farms 3-4 Jul 2015 (M Smiles) - different from June bird.
20. Three 2nd cal year female Wamm Farms 4-7 Jul 2015 (M Smiles *et al*).
21. One Wamm Farms 13 Nov 2015 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd *et al*).
22. One adult male Wamm Farms 4-16 Nov 2016 (A Al Ali, Nistar PS *et al*).
23. One Wamm Farms 24 Nov 2018 (J Judas).
24. One Al Marmoom DCR 16 Nov 2020 (V Sharma).
25. One male Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes and pivot fields 30 Oct-10 Dec 2021 (M Almazrouei *et al*).
26. Up to three Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 12 Nov-24 Dec 2022 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

27. Up to seven Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 11 Dec 2023-1 Apr 2024 (M Almazrouei, M Alghafli *et al*).
Further records on eBird.

Red-footed/Amur Falcon *Falco vespertinus/amurensis*

- One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 28 Sep 2012 (N Williams).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Rare migrant and winter visitor, annual since 2002.

'Pallid' Merlin *F. c. pallidus* has been identified, as well as birds seemingly not belonging to this subspecies.

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

Vagrant.

1. One Safa Park 22 Apr 2004 (O Samwald).
2. One Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 15 Sep 2024 (M Almazrouei).

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*

Very rare and highly endangered declining breeding visitor (5 nesting pairs in 2008; 2-3 nesting pairs in 2016 but probably none since and, as of 2025, probably extinct in UAE; source: Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi data) to offshore Arabian Gulf islands. Very rare migrant onshore.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Uncommon spring migrant April to May, and fairly common to common autumn migrant September to October.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

- Barbary Falcon *Falco peregrinus pelegrioides*

Rare breeding resident; perhaps also rare migrant. Breeding population estimated as up to 10; non-breeding population estimated as 20 or less.

Northerly breeding birds are very uncommon migrants and winter visitors. Many records presumed to relate to escaped birds.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

Previously rare migrant and / or winter visitor, now vagrant. No recent records of any bird that showed any likelihood of being wild.

Many records presumed to relate to escaped birds.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

Previously rare migrant and / or winter visitor, now vagrant. No recent records of any bird that showed any likelihood of being wild.

Many records clearly relate to escaped birds or to captive-bred hybrid Saker x Gyr *F. rusticolus*, and it is now not ordinarily possible to determine whether any bird may be of genuinely wild origin, even if apparently both a pure Saker and lacking jesses.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* (Category C)

Widespread in urban centres; expanding since first records post 1988.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (Category C)

Common resident; first records from early 1970s.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Uncommon to fairly common migrant, late April to May, occasionally in June and August to mid-October; rarely winter months. Indian Golden Oriole *O. kundoo* not reliably reported, but the winter records might be of this species.

Black-naped Oriole (East Asian) *Oriolus chinensis diffusus*

Vagrant.

1. One immature Safa Park 18-25 Feb 2012 (A & M Günther *et al*).

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

It is likely that there is some duplication of records of long-staying birds wandering around and being seen at various sites in Dubai, but in the absence of any direct evidence of this, most records have been regarded as involving different individuals. Note that this species has bred annually at one site (Mushrif National Park, Dubai) since 2021.

Vagrant, but effectively resident Greater Dubai area since 2012 and breeding confirmed at same site 2021-23 inclusive.

1. Two Safa Park 5 Dec 1986 - 17 Jan 1987 (M West, C Richardson).
2. Two Digdaga Fields South 16 Nov 1990 (C Richardson).
3. One Qurrayah 17 Nov 2005-8 Jan 2006 (C Richardson *et al*).
4. One Al Barsha Pond Park 18 Jan-1 Feb 2012 (M Charlton *et al*)
5. One Dubai Pivot Fields 11 Mar 2012 (T Pedersen *et al*) and 15 Apr 2012 (N Tovey). Possibly same as Al Barsha Pond Park.
6. One Umm Suqeim Park 28 Mar 2014 (B Al Qasimi, R Rodrigues).
7. One Wamm Farms 7-8 Nov 2014 (M Smiles *et al*).
8. One Discovery Gardens 7 Apr 2015 (R Zalewska)
9. One Mushrif NP 9-16 Jun 2015 (M Francis *et al*) and presumed same 15 Oct 2015-4 Mar 2016 (S Abdikhalyk *et al*).
 - One Mushrif NP 10 Oct-11 Nov 2016 (T Chapman *et al*) and again 12 Jan-3 Feb 2017 (R Zalewska *et al*), probably returning bird from 2015/16.
 - One Mushrif NP 28 Oct-4 Mar 2018 (N Riddiford *et al*), probably returning bird from 2015/2016.
 - One Mushrif NP 9 Jan 2019 (V Chaitanya).
 - Up to two Mushrif NP 11 Feb-5 Mar 2020 (S Al Suwaidi, S Delve).
 - Two Mushrif NP 24 Sep 2020 (V Sladariu) and single bird 23 Dec 2020 (K Al Dhaheri).
 - Up to three Mushrif NP 16-27 Jun 2021, with juvenile seen being fed on 27 Jun (S A Al Suwaidi *et al*). First confirmed nesting record.
 - Two Mushrif NP 15 Feb 2022 (S Taylor).
 - Found nesting, feeding chick(s) 13 May 2022 (N Almehrzi), both parents with one fledgling 3 Jun 2022 (S Al Suwaidi).

- Two birds on nest 15 Mar-2 May 2023, with 2 chicks 27 Apr, juveniles by 14 May, 4 birds to 29 June, two birds to 17 Jul 2023; second nesting attempt made but abandoned (S Al Suwaidi, R Khan *et al*).
 - Up to three Mushrif NP 10 Oct-20 Dec 2023 (S Al Suwaidi *et al*), also 3 birds nearby Quranic Park 20 Dec 2023 (by R Khan).
Further records from Mushrif NP on eBird.
 - 10. One Zabeel Park--south 10 Dec 2015 (M Daubney) with two birds 17 Feb 2016 (L Kihl, C Schulze, M Suanjak).
 - 11. One Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club 25 Sep 2016 (T Pedersen, G Duquemin).
 - 12. One Abu Dhabi Golf Club 3 Dec 2017 (SP Lloyd).
 - 13. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 31 Oct 2020-31 Mar 2021 (S Kirkcaldy, V Sladariu *et al*).
 - 14. One Dubai Safari Park 30 May 2021 (R Khan).
 - 15. Up to two in Quranic Park 1 Jan-26 Feb 2022 (A Ali Hassan, R Khan *et al*).
- One Quranic Park 30 Mar 2023 (R Khan).
 - 16. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 29-30 Oct 2022 (P Arras *et al*).
 - 17. One Al-Zora Golf Club 29 Feb 2024 (S Taylor).
 - 18. One Al Marmoom DCR--general area 21 Mar-1 Apr 2024 (G Burns, A Jones).
- Further records on eBird.*

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Of the Blackish Drongo *D. l. longicaudatus* subspecies-group.

Vagrant.

1. One Abu Dhabi; Hilton/Spinneys area 16-19 Dec 2006 (NJ Moran *et al*).
2. One Ain al-Fayda 29 Feb-20 Mar 2008 (SL James *et al*).
3. One Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant 21 Dec 2009 (SP Lloyd).
4. One Safa Park 14-15 Jan 2010 and 2-17 Mar 2010 (P Mountain, N Tovey, R Khan *et al*).
5. One Safa Park 27-28 Oct 2011 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
6. One Danat Al Ain Resort 13 Dec 2011 (A Duvall).
- Presumed same Ain al-Fayda 18 Feb-26 Mar 2012 (G Askew *et al*).
7. One Mushrif NP 3 Jan-14 Mar 2014 (H Druid *et al*).
8. One Wadi Bih--Parr's Farm 3-4 Dec 2014 (J Mottishaw, P Hill, M Smiles, KA Monrad).
9. One Al Mamzar Park from appx 1 Jan-7 Feb 2015 (K Al Sharhan, SP Lloyd, M Smiles *et al*).
10. One Al Mamzar Park 31 Oct-28 Nov 2015 (M Smiles).
11. One Al Mamzar Park 29 Oct-5 Nov 2016, in the same tree as the 2015 bird, so possibly returning (M Smiles *et al*).
12. One Dubai Creek Park 3 Feb-16 Mar 2023 (G Douglas, G Brent *et al*).
13. Two Al Mamzar Park 1-17 Jan 2024 (A Al Ali *et al*).
14. One Rahman School woodland 5 Dec 2024 - 22 Feb 2025 (S Al Suwaidi *et al*).
15. One Arabian Ranches--Saheel 28 Dec 2024-6 Jan 2025 (G Singh *et al*).
16. One Sharjah Safari 19-29 Jan 2025 (X Vissering, J Conder).

Black/Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus/leucophaeus*

The following records are inconclusive:

1. One Dubai; British Embassy garden, for seven weeks January - February 1977 (J Armitage). Reported as Black Drongo, no details.
2. One Jebel Ali Hotel 30 Nov 1990-1 Mar 1991 (JM Hollingworth, J Hart, G Ricks *et al*). Reported as Black Drongo, no details.

3. One Abu Dhabi--general area 11 Apr 2010 (C Temple *et al*). Reported as probably Ashy Drongo.
4. One Al Awir 2 Jul 2013 (K Hyland). Reported as possibly Black Drongo.
5. One Al Awir 8 Apr 2014 (S Young). Reported as possibly Black Drongo.
6. One Palm Jumeirah 11 Jul 2014 (L McGillewie). Reported as possibly Black Drongo.
7. One Zabeel area 11 Aug 2014 and 4 Nov 2014 (A Stephenson). Reported as definite Black Drongo, no other details.
 - Presumed same Zabeel Park--south 31 Oct 2014 (J Hallstrom *et al*).
8. One Al Ain--Old Sarooj 10 Mar 2016 (G Askew). Reported as Ashy Drongo.
9. One Mushrif NP 16 Feb 2020 (N Sethna). Reported as Ashy Drongo.
10. One Heritage Park 6 May 2021 (T Burkett).
11. One The Cove 27 Oct 2024 (C Valdez). Reported as Black Drongo.

Indian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*

Vagrant.

1. One Dalma Island 27 Oct 2011 (G Talbot).
2. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 30 Dec 2019-23 Apr 2020 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
3. One Al Dhait 29 Mar 2025 (L Johnson *et al*).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

- Great Grey Shrike (Arabian) *Lanius excubitor aucheri* - very common and widespread breeding resident, also noted on passage and as a winter visitor. Breeding population estimated to number 10,000-20,000.

Was previously under Southern Grey Shrike - taxonomy changed 2018.

- Great Grey Shrike (Steppe) *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris*

Fairly common migrant and winter visitor with peak migration in mid-March and September-October.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

Uncommon but regular migrant, mid-March to May and September to October.

A few birds winter annually in Abu Dhabi and Dubai parks and gardens.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

Fairly common migrant, April to May, uncommon late August to mid-November.

Woodchat Shrike (Eastern) *Lanius senator niloticus*

Fairly common migrant, mid-February to early May, uncommon August to October, also recorded summer. One winter record; 31 Dec 2023 at Al Marmoom DCR.

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*

Rare to very uncommon migrant and winter visitor.

Bred successfully Masafi Wadi June 2010; first UAE breeding record.

1. One Sharjah City 10 Apr 1970 (FE Warr).
2. One Digdaga Fields 15-30 Nov 1972 (L & SJ Tyler).
3. One Al Ain City 23 Feb 1979 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
4. One Khalidiyah 24 Nov-1 Dec 1989 (JM Hollingworth).
5. One Dalma Island 30 Apr 1990 (JAD Chapman).
6. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 14 Apr 1995 (SL James, J Buxton *et al*).
7. One Emirates Golf Club 16 Apr 1995 (C Richardson).
8. One Umm al-Qaiwain Breakwater 26 Mar 1997 (R Smith).
9. One adult male Wamm Farms 11 Mar 1998 (C Richardson, *Limosa*).
10. One Wamm Farms 20 Sep 2002 (T Pedersen, P Bourdin).
11. One Wamm Farms 26 Dec 2003-12 Mar 2004 (SJ Aspinall, DA Diskin *et al*).
12. One Wamm Farms 21 Apr 2006 (N Tovey *et al*).
13. One Wamm Farms 23 Sep 2006 (T Pedersen).
14. One juvenile Khor Kalba roundabout 3 Jul 2009 (D Wilby).
15. One Wamm Farms 19 Oct 2009 (B Metz).
16. One Wamm Farms 19 Mar 2010 (AP Twyman).
17. One Al Jais, 19-20 Mar 2010 (H & J Eriksen).
18. One Wamm Farms 3 Apr 2010 (J Angliss *et al*).
19. One adult w two juveniles Masafi Wadi 7 Jun-24 Jul 2010 (W Hare, N Milius *et al*).
20. One adult Hamraniyah Fields 9 Dec 2010 (N Lake).
21. One adult Wamm Farms 20 May 2011 (M Smiles *et al*).
22. One adult Masafi Wadi 24 Jun 2011 (SL James).
23. One Wamm Farms 19-24 Aug 2011 (SP Lloyd).
24. One adult Wamm Farms 8-14 Apr 2012 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
25. One sub-adult Wamm Farms 15 Apr 2012 (M Smiles, SP Lloyd).
24. One immature Wamm Farms 4 May 2012 (AP Twyman).
25. One adult at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah 2-4 Apr 2013 (P Arras).
26. One adult Green Mubazzarah 25-29 Mar 2014 (S Young *et al*).
27. One adult Wamm Farms 4 Apr 2015 (J Judas).
28. One adult Wamm Farms 20 Jun-10 Jul 2015 (M Smiles *et al*).
29. One female Masafi Wadi 15 Apr 2016 (M Smiles, B Dawton).
30. One juv Al Mamzar Park 3-13 Sep 2016 (M Smiles).
31. One Lulu Island 1 Dec 2016-20 Jan 2017 (OJ Campbell).
32. One Masafi Wadi 24 March 2017 (M Smiles).
33. One Palm Jumeirah Park (Al Ittihad Park) 29 Mar-13 Apr 2017 (J Ede *et al*).
34. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 30 Apr 2017 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
35. One adult Wamm Farms 26 Aug-1 Sep 2017 (J Judas *et al*).
36. One Wamm Farms 10 Mar 2018 (J Judas).
37. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 18-20 Mar 2018 (P Arras).
38. One Saadiyat Beach Golf Course 26 Mar 2018 (SP Lloyd).
39. One Wadi Wurayah NP--Wadi Ghayl 27 Mar 2018 (J Judas, S Lim).

40. One male Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 26 Apr 2018 (P Arras).
 41. One male Academic City--DESC desert 16 May 2018 (H Heaton).
 42. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 14-19 Sep 2018 (P Arras).
 43. One Al Mamzar Park 28 Mar 2019 (N Broekhuizen).
 44. One Wadi Wurayah NP--HQ to carpark 28 Mar 2019 (SU Majeed).
 45. One juvenile Khor Kalba Pelagic 12 Jul 2019 (A Alzaabi) - landed on boat 85 km west of Khor Kalba, 85 km south of Iran.
 46. One Wadi Wurayah NP--HQ to carpark 16 Mar 2020 (SU Majeed).
 47. One Wamm Farms 18 Mar 2020 (OJ Campbell).
 48. One Khor al-Beida--Huzaiwa desert 22 Mar 2020 (EAS Al Ali).
 49. One juvenile Wadi Wurayah NP--HQ to carpark 1-16 Aug 2020 (SU Majeed).
 50. One Wamm Farms 3 and 30 Oct and same place 18 Dec 2020-31 Mar 2021, with two birds 2 Apr 2021 (J Judas, OJ Campbell *et al*).
 51. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 25 Oct 2020 (P Arras).
 52. One Ajman BBQ Park (Ghabat Al Regayeb) 29 Oct 2020 - 16 Jan 2021 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
 53. One Bithna Fort 25 Mar 2021 (KE Aballe).
 54. One Buhaira Corniche Park (Al Nakheel Oasis) 15 May 2021 (C Roy).
 55. One Ajman BBQ Park (Ghabat Al Regayeb) 12-24 Dec 2021 and 10-26 Feb 2022 (K Al Dhaheri, S Al Suwaidi, M Alghafli *et al*).
- Further records on eBird*

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus isabellinus*

This subspecies is called Isabelline Shrike (Daurian).

Common migrant and winter visitor, October to April, scarce other months.

Birds of the subspecies-group Isabelline Shrike (Chinese) *L. (isabellinus) arenarius/tsaidamensis* could occur, but not reliably reported.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Common migrant April to May. Uncommon September to October, rare November to February.

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*

Common migrant, March to early May and September to mid-November; scarce or absent other months. Recorded July.

Note: grey-backed and grey-headed birds assigned to *L. phoenicuroides 'karelini'* recorded in spring.

Long-tailed Shrike (Indian) *Lanius schach erythronotus*

Vagrant.

1. One Khalidiyah 9-11 Sep 1999 (AP Twyman *et al*).
2. One Millennium Airport Hotel garden 3-21 Mar 2003 (M Cade, C Richardson *et al*).
3. One wintering Wamm Farms 24 Oct 2003-20 Mar 2004 (DA Diskin *et al*).
4. One wintering Green Mubazzarah 3 Jan-26 Mar 2006 (SJ Aspinall, B Moskoff *et al*).
5. One Abu Dhabi Golf Club 13 Mar 2007 (SL James).
6. One Wamm Farms 14 Mar 2009 (AP Twyman).

7. One adult male Al Mamzar Park 14-16 Apr 2011 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
8. One Al Saad Farms 20 Nov 2018 (X Popp).
9. One Al Zorah Nursery 2 Jan-28 Mar 2021 (S Taylor *et al*).
10. One Al Zorah Nursery 25 Feb-15 Mar 2022 (A Al Ali *et al*). Possibly returning bird.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Vagrant.

1. One adult male Emirates Golf Club 26 Apr 2004 showing characteristics of *L. c. cristatus* (O Samwald).
2. One adult male Khalidiyah 11 May 2007 showing characteristics of *L. c. lucionensis* (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell, I Boustead).
3. One adult, possibly a male, Jebel Hafit 4 Feb and 19-22 Apr 2008, showing characteristics of *L. c. cristatus* (OJ Campbell, NJ Moran, D Clark, H Roberts *et al*). Possibly present from 2 Nov 2007, photos inconclusive.
4. One adult female Jebel Hafit 13 Nov 2008-12 Mar 2009, subspecies uncertain, hybrid possible (SJ Aspinall, R Quested *et al*).
5. One first-winter male Dubai Pivot Fields 2 Dec 2008-23 Apr 2009 showing characteristics of *L. c. cristatus* (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell *et al*).
6. One adult male Dubai Pivot Fields 3 Oct 2009-21 Apr 2010 presumed returning bird showing characteristics of *L. c. cristatus* (A Al Ali *et al*).
7. One Wadi Bih--Colin's Farm 20 Nov 2012-5 Jan 2013 showing characteristics of *L. c. cristatus* (M Ullman, M Ullman *et al*).

Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*

Fairly common but declining desert breeding resident. Breeding population estimated to number 1,000-3,000.

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus*

Vagrant.

1. One Qusaihwira desert, 20 Feb 2006 (SJ Aspinall, R Hornby).
2. Two Al Samha petrol stations 13 Dec 2014 (K Al Dhaheri).

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Very common breeding resident on and near the Gulf coast from Abu Dhabi Island northwards, as well as on the east coast, but very rare any distance inland. This introduced species spread north from Yemen and first established itself on the East Coast. It reached Dubai in 1977 and Abu Dhabi Airport 1987.

Carrian Crow (Mesopotamian) *Corvus corone capellanus*

Vagrant. All records are from the same general area, and could be of the same returning bird.

1. One Siniyah Island 26 Nov 2012-23 Jan 2013 and visiting nearby Khor al-Beida 19-26 Jan 2013 (R Gubiani *et al*). Recorded 21 Mar 2013 (R Gubiani). Almost certainly same bird photographed Siniyah Island 9-13 Nov 2013 (R Gubiani).
2. One Al Rafa'a bridge and beach 1 Mar 2015 (L Segelström).
3. One Umm al-Qaiwain--Flamingo Beach Resort 16 Mar 2018 (S Taylor).

Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*

Fairly common breeding resident; seasonal movements minimal. Breeding population estimated to number 2,000-8,000.

Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*

Uncommon highly localised breeding resident in the far west; formerly (?) breeding in Bab al Shams area (Dubai/Abu Dhabi) approximately 2006-2012 but almost no records since; possibly extinct there now.

Breeding population estimated at 10-20 pairs.

Recent UAE records:

- 4 Bab al-Shams desert 30 Sep 2011 (M Smiles).
- 6 Bab al-Shams desert 4 Feb 2012 (M Barth).
- 1 Ra's Ghumeis--Fazia'a Island viewpoint 21 Jun 2013 (K Al Dhaheri).
- 1 Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake and surroundings 4 Apr 2014 (M Barth).
- 1 Shuweihat Rocks 9 Nov 2014 (K Al Dhaheri).

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*

A. d. taimuri occurs as a common breeding resident to mountains and gravel plains.

A. d. insularis occurs very locally on coastal bluffs in the western Abu Dhabi emirate.

Breeding population estimated to number 10,000-20,000. Vast majority of these will be *A. d. taimuri*.

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*

Locally common resident; nomadic in flocks in autumn and winter. Breeding population estimated to number 10,000-20,000.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*

Uncommon and localised migrant and winter visitor in very small numbers, most reliable in recent years at Wamm Farms, September to April. First record Ruwais 18 Nov 1991 (NARC).

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Fairly common winter visitor, November to mid-March, rarely in April and October. Non-breeding population estimated to number 100-1,000.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Very common to abundant resident; numbers and range increasing. Breeding population estimated as 50,000-100,000.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Subspecies *artemisiana* confirmed, and nominate *brachydactyla* presumed regular visitor.

Common migrant, mid-February to early April and mid-August to November; may have bred in very small numbers previously but no recent records of suspected breeders.

Breeding population, if any still occur, estimated to number 1-10.

Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*

Uncommon migrant and localised winter visitor, November to mid-March. Recently, no regular wintering sites.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 2-11 Feb 1995, presumed same 10 Apr 1995 (SL James *et al*).
2. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 2-18 Dec 1997 (A Abdi, SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
3. One Dubai Pivot Fields 24-27 Nov 2000 (P Bourdin, DA Diskin).
4. One Wamm Farms 2 Dec 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
5. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 25 Nov 2004-14 Feb 2005 (SJ Aspinall, AP Twyman *et al*).
6. One Al Qua'a Fodder Field, 9-10 Dec 2011 (H Roberts *et al*).
7. One Dalma Island 3 Dec 2012 (OJ Campbell, G I Ensor).
8. One Wamm Farms 31 Oct 2013 (M Smiles).
9. One Wamm Farms 9 May 2015 (M Smiles).
10. Eight Sila'a--The Seep 2 Dec 2017 (SP Lloyd)
11. Up to two Wamm Farms 8 Dec 2017-26 Jan 2018 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles *et al*).
12. One Wamm Farms 9 Oct 2021 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett).

Arabian Lark *Eremalauda eremodites*

Vagrant.

1. One Umm al-Qaiwain Corniche 27 Mar 1996 (HH & H de Haag). Recorded as Dunn's Lark *E. dunni* but now presumed *E. eremodites* post split.

Turkestan Short-toed Lark *Alaudala heinei*

Locally, generally scarce migrant and winter visitor, September to April (mainly November to February). It is unclear what proportion belongs to *heinei* and possibly Mediterranean Short-toed *A. rufescens*, although occurrence of the later species is unconfirmed in the UAE.

Very localised (probably former) breeding visitor to coastal areas (exact taxa unknown); no recent records of suspected breeders.

Subspecies in the UAE:

A. heinei persica - s Iraq to s Afghanistan. UAE breeding birds probably belongs to this subspecies.

- large and heavy-billed, pale sandy gray above, tinged cinnamon, with narrow streaks, more sparsely streaked below

A. heinei heinei - possible winter visitor from e Turkey, Transcaucasia and Kazakhstan. Those from N parts of range winter S to Middle East.

- pale and grey to grey-brown with well-defined moderate streaking, whiter ground colour below.

A. heinei aharonii - possible winter visitor from c Turkey. Includes *niethammeri*.

- slightly paler and grayer than *heinei*, contrasting black streaks above, chest with thin short black streaks

Mediterranean Short-toed Lark *Audala rufescens*

A. rufescens minor - not reliably reported in the UAE after the recent split, but a possible winter visitor.

Breeds from Egypt to Turkey, Iraq, w Saudi Arabia. Those from N parts of range winter S to Middle East.

- buffish sandy to brownish, streaks above and below are small.

Delicate Prinia *Prinia lepida*

Very common breeding resident. Breeding population estimated to number 20,000-50,000.

Previously called Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*), which occurs in Bahrain and e Saudi Arabia; residents birds on Sila'a Peninsula confirmed as Delicate.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Vagrant.

1. One Das Island 1 May 1986 (L Reaney).
2. One Safa Park 29 Aug 1989 (C Richardson).
3. One Sir Bani Yas 1 Sep 1989 (JAD Chapman, C Richardson).
4. One Zabeel Ponds 22 Feb 1990 (E List).
5. One Ruwais 23 Mar 1990 (JAD Chapman).
6. One Abu Dhabi; Bateen Wood 14 Apr, 1991 (JAD Chapman).
7. One Jebel Ali Village 3 Sep 1993 (JK Bannan, C Richardson).
8. One Bateen Woods 13 Apr 1997 (SL James, AP Twyman).
9. One Jebel Ali Hotel 14 Apr 1997 (A Dally).
10. One Das Island 24-25 Apr 1998 (L Reaney).
11. One Emirates Golf Club 12 Apr 2001 (DA Diskin, C Richardson).
12. One Khalidiyah 9 May 2005 (NJ Moran).
13. One Sila'a--Public Park 8 May 2009 (OJ Campbell, G Talbot *et al*).
14. One Al Mamzar Park 4 Apr 2010 (AP Twyman).
15. One Al Mamzar Park 21 Apr 2018 (M Smiles).
16. One Sila'a--general area 13 May 2021 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell, T Burkett).
17. One Al Mamzar Park 20 May 2022 (A Al Ali).
18. One Heritage Park 23 Oct 2022 (T Burkett, OJ Campbell).
19. One Sila'a--Public Park 4 May 2023 (R Khan, M Majbasmisho).

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*

Common spring migrant, late February to early May with a peak in mid April to early May; uncommon July to early October, rarely to December.

Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*

Vagrant.

1. One Sila'a WTP 16-23 April 2021 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell, T Burkett *et al*).

Status of this species unclear, a number of early records prior to split from Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama*; early records did not differentiate between the two. Formerly reported as a scarce migrant but very few records ever formally submitted and the very few documented claims are insufficient to establish the definite identity of the birds involved. Booted Warbler is likely to occur in the UAE and may even be a rare migrant rather than a vagrant but there is no evidence to support this contention.

Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama*

Breeding resident in the Khor Kalba mangroves, with maximum of 15 pairs in 2000. However, given recent access issues, there have been few recent records. Historical records Ra's al-Khaimah Khor (specimen records), otherwise unrecorded away from Khor Kalba.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

Common migrant, March to May and August to September, rarely winter; rare, very localised and declining breeding resident Abu Dhabi Island. Breeding population estimated to number 20-500; probably much closer to the lower end of that range.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Uncommon to rare spring migrant mid-February to May, occasionally to June. Rare August to November.

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon*

Vagrant; mainly in winter.

1. One Safa Park 13 Dec 1985 (C Richardson).
2. One Safa Park 14-18 May 1990 (C Richardson, M Pitt).
3. One Zabeel Ponds 13 Nov 1991-30 Jan 1992 with two birds 19 Dec 1991 (C Richardson).
4. One Ain al-Fayda 2 Feb 1994 (SL James, M McGill).
5. One Ain al-Fayda 17 Nov 1995-26 Jan 1996 (SL James, SJ Aspinall).
6. One Ain al-Fayda 26 Jan-25 Feb 1997 (SJ Aspinall, RH Dennis).
7. Two Ain al-Fayda 13 Dec 1997 (SJ Aspinall).
8. One Dhayah--mangrove swamps 13 Feb 1998 (C Richardson).
9. One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 8 Nov 1999-20 Mar 2000 (C Saunders, C Richardson).
10. One Qurrayah 1 Jan 2003 (SJ Aspinall).
11. One Dubai Pivot Fields 2 Dec 2005-12 Feb 2006 (I Boustead *et al*).
12. One Green Mubazzarah 29 Nov-9 Dec 2006 (SL James, H Roberts *et al*).
13. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 6-12 Jan 2008 (NJ Moran *et al*).
14. One Dubai Pivot Fields 17 Dec 2008-7 Feb 2009 and 14 Mar 2009 (R Khan *et al*).
15. One Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 3-5 Nov 2009 (T Pedersen, OB Hansen *et al*).
16. Up to two Zakher Pools 26 Dec 2011-18 Jan 2012 (S Young, OJ Campbell *et al*).
17. One Wamm Farms 20 Sep 2014 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, M Smiles).
18. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake 20 Dec 2017-4 Jan 2018 (R Khan *et al*).
19. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 27 Jan 2018 (J Delannoy, NJ Moran *et al*).
20. One Ain al-Fayda 18 Dec 2020-2 Jan 2021 (P Arras *et al*).
21. Two Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 11 Feb 2023 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell, T Burkett).
22. Up to three Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 11 Nov 2023-8 Mar 2024 (H Roberts, OJ Campbell, T Burkett *et al*).

Records 2024 onwards on eBird.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

Vagrant.

1. One Wamm Farms 8 Jan 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
2. One Abu Dhabi; British School-Al Khubairat 11 Oct 2007 (NJ Moran *et al*).

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Now established to be regular in very small numbers, late August to early October. Very rare May.

Many older records unsubstantiated and remaining unsubmitted to the EBRC.

All below have been assessed by EBRC and found acceptable; the majority are documented by photographs.

1. One trapped Zabeel Ponds 5 May 1994 (E Hirschfeld, C Richardson).
2. One trapped Marawah Island 23 Aug 1994 (E Hirschfeld, M Schulz, J Lontkowski, T Swaraczyk).
3. Three trapped Marawah Island 24 Aug 1994 (E Hirschfeld, M Schulz, J Lontkowski, T Swaraczyk).
4. Four trapped Marawah Island 28 Aug 1994 (E Hirschfeld, M Schulz, J Lontkowski, T Swaraczyk).
5. One trapped Marawah Island 6 Sep 1994 (E Hirschfeld, M Schulz, J Lontkowski, T Swaraczyk).
6. One trapped Marawah Island 11 Sep 1994 (E Hirschfeld, M Schulz, J Lontkowski, T Swaraczyk).
7. One Dubai Creek Park 9 May 2003 (DA Diskin).
8. Two Mushrif Palace Garden 6-12 Oct 2006 with one remaining to 13 Oct (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell).
9. One Wamm Farms 31 Aug 2011 (SP Lloyd).
10. One Safa Park 29 Sep 2012 (M Smiles).
11. One Al Mamzar Park 4-11 Sep 2015 (M Smiles).
12. Up to three Mushrif Palace Gardens 19-26 Aug 2016 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
13. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 2 Sep 2017 (SP Lloyd).
14. Two Mushrif Palace Gardens 3 Sep 2017 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
15. One Al Mamzar Park 16 Sep 2017 (SP Lloyd, M Smiles).
16. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 21 Sep 2017 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
17. Up to five Mushrif Palace Gardens (Front and Back Wood) 19 Aug-8 Sep 2018 (SP Lloyd, T Lloyd *et al*).
18. One Sila'a--Public Park 14 Sep 2018 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell).
19. One Al Mamzar Park 15 Sep 2018 (M Smiles) and presumed same 25 Sep-2 Oct 2018 (M Smiles).
20. One Dubai Safari 18 Aug 2019 (R Khan).

Subsequent records on eBird.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

First UAE record Das Island 22 May 1987 (L Reaney).

Common late spring migrant, late April to June, sometimes (very) abundant May. Also recorded July, September and October but in general autumn records exceptional and identification to be approached with great caution.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus*

This subspecies is called Caspian Reed Warbler.

Resident and partial migrant breeder, and locally common passage visitor, late February to May and late July to early November.

Breeding population estimated to number 100-300.

Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*

Vagrant.

1. One male Mushrif Palace Gardens 26-27 Apr 2010 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
2. One male on territory, Bab al-Shams desert lake 29 May-10 Jun 2020 (OJ Campbell, A Bailey *et al*).

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Uncommon migrant, mid-March to late May, very rare before late April; also mid-August to November. Rare winter.

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus (stentoreus) brunnescens*

This group is called Clamorous Reed Warbler (Brown).

Common resident, primarily in mangroves and locally at inland wetlands, where often abundant. Breeding population estimated to number 1,000-3,000.

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*

Vagrant.

1. One trapped 29 Aug 1994 on Marawah Island (T Swaraczyk, J Lontkowski *et al*).
2. One caught by cat, released alive, Dubai; Al Sufouh in Dubai College garden 24 May 2000 (C Saunders).
3. One Khalidiyah 26 May 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, AP Twyman).
4. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 26 May 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
5. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 15 Sep 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
6. One Emirates Golf Club 16 May 2002 (C Richardson).
7. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 9 Oct 2003 (AP Twyman).
8. One found dead Khalidiyah 20 May 2004 (SJ Aspinall, N Williams).
9. Two Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 21 May 2004 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, C Clark).
10. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 7-8 May 2005, perhaps two birds present (SL James, NJ Moran, AP Twyman).
11. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 7-11 May 2013 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
12. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 16-17 May 2013 (OJ Campbell).
13. One Abu Dhabi Formal Park 14-21 May 2022 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
14. One Emirates Palace 20-28 May 2022 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Rare to uncommon migrant March to May, rare August to September; one record early January and late February.

Common Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Very uncommon spring migrant, February to May, even rarer July to September.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Fairly common migrant and winter visitor August to May; has occurred all months. Autumn migration, especially late August to September, much stronger than that in spring. Non-breeding population estimated to number 100-500.

Pale Martin *Riparia diluta*

Uncommon to rare winter visitor, numbers varying annually, absent some years.

First confirmed record: At least 10 birds Ain al-Fayda 14 Jan 2000 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer).

Peak count 80 Sharjah Rubbish Tip 22 Dec 2006 (T Pedersen *et al*).

Recent records:

- Up to 33 birds Al Ain WTP 12 Dec 2009-12 Apr 2010 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
- Two Ajban Farms 18 Dec 2010-7 Jan 2011 (M Almazrouei).
- Two Kharran WTP 7 Jan 2011 (SP Lloyd, G Talbot).
- One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 19 Mar 2011 (J Waterbury).
- Two Ajman WTP 14 Dec 2011 (K Al Dhaheri).
- One Dubai Pivot Field 2 Mar 2012 (SL James).
- Two Al Wathba Water Treatment Plant 20 Dec 2014 (SP Lloyd).
- Two Saih al Salaam--Al Qudra Lake 14 Jan 2016 (F Rowland).
- Up to four Ajman WTP 7-29 Jan 2018 (K Al Dhaheri).
- One Sila'a--general area 22 Feb 2019 (K Al Dhaheri).
- Up to 30 Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 24 Jan-21 Feb 2020 (O Campbell *et al*).
- Two Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 4 Apr 2020 (A Al Ali).
- Two Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 5-13 Mar 2021 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
- Three Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 7 Apr 2022 (D Darrell-Lambert, SP Lloyd).
- One Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 22 Jan 2023 (N Almehrzi).
- Two Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 16 Dec 2023 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

Further records on eBird.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Rare, probably very rare, migrant and winter visitor, August to May; very widely confused with Pale Crag Martin. Apparently a decline in records in last 10 years.

Recent records:

- One Al Mamzar Park 23 Sep 2016 (V & G Kumar).
- One Safa Park 28 Apr 2017 (V & G Kumar).
- One Madinat Zayed desert 30 Mar 2021 (M Almazrouei)
- Three Sila'a WTP 16 Apr 2021 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett).
- Two Emirates Palace 19 Apr 2021 (OJ Campbell)

Pale Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*

Common resident of mountains and foothills, also nesting (albeit at low densities) on high-rise buildings in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Breeding population estimated to number 2,000-20,000.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Former vagrant, probably now rare winter visitor.

1. One adult Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 20 Feb 1996 (SL James, P Hellyer, R Qusted, AP Twyman *et al*).
2. One Emirates Golf Club 14-26 Jan 1998 (C Richardson, D Scott).
3. One immature Al Ain Camel Racetrack 7 Feb 1998; again 2 Apr 1998 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
4. One adult Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 18 Mar-7 Apr 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
5. One Dubai Pivot Fields and Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) 27 Dec 2002, presumed same Dubai Pivot Fields 10 Jan 2003 (DA Diskin, T Pedersen).
6. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 11 Apr 2003 (SL James, AP Twyman *et al*).
7. Four Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 31 Dec 2003-2 Jan 2004, with three there 9 Jan, two 13-23 Jan, one 6 Feb and four again 3-17 Mar 2004 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
8. Up to two Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 15 Dec 2005-14 Apr 2006 (SJ Aspinall, NJ Moran *et al*). **
9. One Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 6-12 Feb 2010 (N Tovey *et al*).
10. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve and Mafrq WTP 22 Feb-25 Mar 2011 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
11. One Al Warsan Lakes 7 Feb 2012 (F Rowland *et al*).
12. One Zakher Lake 30 Dec 2012-4 Jan 2013 (S Young *et al*) and Al Ain Water Treatment Plant 2 Feb 2013 (V & S Ashby).
13. One Ajban Farms 21-22 Apr 2013 (M Almazrouei).
14. One adult, one immature Al Warsan Lakes 7-27 Feb 2015 (M Smiles *et al*).
15. One Al Warsan Lakes 3 Feb-21 Mar 2017 (M Smiles, S Kirkcaldy).
16. One Wamm Farms 3 Feb 2017 (OJ Campbell).
17. Two Al Ain Cement factory quarries 14-20 Mar 2017 (P Arras, A de la Torre).
18. Up to four Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots access road 6 Jan to 21 Mar 2020 (R Khan, S Kirkcaldy, T Smith *et al*).
19. Two Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 15 Dec 2020 (M Almazrouei); three birds same site 17 Apr 2021 (M Almazrouei) and two at the nearby Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 30 Apr 2021 (OJ Campbell *et al*) are presumed to refer to the same birds.
20. Up to three Ajban Palace 13-26 Feb 2021 (OJ Campbell). It is possible that this record relates to the same birds recorded at at Maha Forest in December 2020 and April 2021 (see above), although they are treated as differently here.
21. One immature Ajman WTP 5 Mar 2021 (S Taylor).
22. One adult Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 18 Nov 2021-21 Jan 2022, with two birds 19 Jan 2022 (M Almazrouei, S Al Suwaidi, M Alghafli *et al*). One, presumed same, Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 20 Mar 2022 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett, C Brodie).
23. One immature Khudhairah farms 5 Feb 2022 (N Almehrzi).
24. One adult Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 27 Nov-4 Dec 2022 (N Mavris, N Almehrzi *et al*), possibly returning bird.
25. Up to two Al Marmoom DCR--Paddyfields 16-26 Jan 2023 (R Khan).
26. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 27 Jan-19 Feb 2023 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
27. One Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 15 Apr 2023 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett, P Arras).
28. Up to five (adult and 4 immatures) Ajban Farms--northern saline lakes 14 Dec 2023- 14 Apr 2024 (M Almazrouei *et al*).
29. One Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 16 Dec 2023 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

Further records on eBird.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Barn Swallow (White-bellied) *H. rustica rustica*

Common migrant and winter visitor; occurs all months but much scarcer June to August. Non-breeding population estimated to number 500-1,000.

Breeding suspected occasionally over multiple years in northern Emirates, now confirmed;

- two adults gathering mud Mafrq WTP 11 Feb 2021, nest located 10 April, three recently fledged juv 22 Apr 2021 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

- adult seen feeding a juvenile at Al-Zora, 9 May 2020 represents a probable breeding record, but the possibility of the juvenile having bred outside UAE possible (A Al Ali).

Barn Swallow (Tytler's) *H. rustica tytleri*

Birds with rusty or red underparts sometimes reported and photographed, confirmed to be of this eastern subspecies-group.

- One Ajban 18 Dec 2010 (M Almazrouei).

- One Sir Bani Yas 19 Apr 2011 (A Cokayne).

- One Wamm Farms 7 May 2011 (D Wilby).

- Two Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 31 Oct 2019 (M Almazrouei).

- One Al-Zora Golf Club 6 Apr 2021 (S Taylor).

- Two Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 7-18 Nov 2021 (M Almazrouei).

- Two Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields (no access) 20 Mar 2022 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett).

- Two Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 4 Dec 2022 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett).

Records 2023 onwards on eBird.

Western House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, but very sporadic; recorded all months.

European Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis rufula*

Fairly common migrant in small numbers, late February to March, occasionally to May. Rare September to January.

Failed breeding attempts noted at Masafi in 1998 and 1999.

Eastern Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Vagrant or very rare visitor, possibly overlooked in the past.

Birds with deep, uniform red rumps and well streaked underparts occasionally reported, indicating eastern origin.

1. Three Al Maha Pivot Fields 10 Dec 2021-20 Feb 2022 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett, SP Lloyd, D Lobo *et al*). First fully documented and accepted record.

2. One Ajban Farms 8 Dec 2024 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett, R Delgadillo, A Koroth).

Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 22 Dec 2000-9 Feb 2001 (SL James, AP Twyman *et al*), two present 8 Jan and 1 Feb 2001 (C Richardson *et al*).

2. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 2-8 Jan 2004 (SJ Aspinall, C Clark *et al*).

3. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 23 Dec 2005-13 Jan 2006, possibly same bird 4 Mar 2006 (SJ Aspinall, AP Twyman, N Tovey *et al*).

4. One Ain al-Fayda 4-20 Feb 2008 (H Roberts, D Clark, SJ Aspinall *et al*).

5. One Al Warsan Lakes 5 Feb 2008 (T Pedersen, D Barr).

6. One Al Warsan Lakes and Nad al-Sheba Ponds 27 Dec 2008-17 Jan 2009 (S Dodgson *et al*).
7. Three Kharran Water Treatment Plant 7 Jan 2011 (G Talbot, SP Lloyd).
8. One Al Warsan Lakes 10-26 Jan 2011 (N Tovey *et al*).
9. Two Al Warsan Lakes 19 Jan 2013 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell, A Arias).
10. One Al Zorah Nursery 24 Dec 2017 (K Al Dhaheri), probably same bird Ajman WTP 29 Dec 2017 (M Smiles).
11. Up to five Ajman WTP 2-29 Jan 2018 (J Judas *et al*).
12. One Al Maha Forest--southern lakes 31 Oct 2019 (M Almazrouei).
13. One Al Marmoom DCR--Expo 2020 Lake 6 Jan 2020 Lake (R Khan).
14. Up to four Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 6 Jan to 21 Feb 2020 (R Khan, OJ Campbell *et al*).
15. One Mafraq WTP 6 Mar 2021 (OJ Campbell).
16. One Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 30 Dec 2021 (M Almazrouei).
17. One Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 1 Apr 2023 (M Almazrouei).
18. One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 9 Dec 2023 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett, I Reid).
- One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 25 Mar 2024 (S Al Suwaidi). Presumed same bird wintering.

Streaked Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta*

Of the Scrub Warbler (Eastern) *Scotocerca inquieta* (*inquieta*-group).

Fairly common breeding resident; only found in mountains and wadis in the northern and eastern part of the country; absent from Jebel Hafeet.

Breeding population estimated to number 200-2,000.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Vagrant.

1. One Ruwais Housing Complex 21-25 Oct 1993 (SJ Aspinall).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Uncommon to rare migrant, mid-March to mid-May and more regular September to mid-October. One January record.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Vagrant.

1. One Khalidiyah 13 Nov 1998 (AP Twyman).
2. One Bu Hasa 31 Dec 1998 and 7-8 Feb 1999 (SJ Aspinall, O Wardman).
3. One Safa Park 2 Jan 1999 (SJ Aspinall).
4. One Jebel Ali Hotel 3 Jan 2003 (DA Diskin).
5. One Khalidiya 14 Oct 2005 (NJ Moran, SL James, AP Twyman).
6. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 22-25 Oct 2005 (AP Twyman, NJ Moran, SL James *et al*).
7. Two Khalidiya 5-12 Nov 2005, one bird remained until 9 Dec 2005 (SL James, SJ Aspinall *et al*). **
8. One Abu Dhabi; Hilton/Spinneys area 8 Nov 2006 (NJ Moran, SL James).
9. One Lulu Island 24 Oct 2009 (OJ Campbell).
10. One Al Warsan Treatment Plant 22-28 Dec 2009 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).

11. One Mafrag Marsh 21 Oct 2012 (SP Lloyd).
12. One Dalma Island 30 Nov-1 Dec 2013 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, M Smiles).
13. One Abu Dhabi--Royal Stables 31 Jan-1 Feb 2014 (OJ Campbell, A Ward).
14. One Al Mamzar Park 29 Oct-19 Nov 2016 (M Smiles) with two on 30 Oct (M Ullman *et al*).
15. One Emirates Palace 5-12 Nov 2016 (A Ward *et al*).
16. One Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve 23 Nov 2016 (S Bruijlants *et al*).
17. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 25 Oct 2017 (SP Lloyd).
18. One Al Mamzar Park 28 Oct 2017 (M Smiles, D Wadsworth).
19. One Wadi Bih--Simonosca's Farm 21 Jan 2018 (Y Gisseleire).
20. One Abu Dhabi Formal Park 23-25 Oct 2020 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
21. One Abu Dhabi Formal Park 30 Dec 2021-2 Jan 2022 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
22. One Saadiyat Beach Golf Club 1 Dec 2023 - 25 Mar 2024 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

Further records on eBird

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei humei*

Rare to uncommon migrant and winter visitor, September to late April (mainly late November to early March).

NOTE:

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

Records pre-1996 did not differentiate between these two species.

- One Abu Dhabi Formal Park 17-23 Dec 2020 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd *et al*). A well-photographed (but very confusing) individual.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Vagrant.

1. One Safa Park 19 Oct 1990 (M Pitt).
2. One Abu Dhabi; Bateen Wood 10-20 Dec 1992 (SL James *et al*).
3. One Wamm Farms 28 Oct-4 Nov 2005 (SL James, NJ Moran *et al*).
4. One Khalidiyah 17-20 Nov 2007; presumed same 15-17 Dec 2007 and 2-15 Apr 2008 (SL James, NJ Moran, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
5. One Safa Park 29 Oct-1 Nov 2010 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
6. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 18 Jan-13 Feb 2013 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles *et al*).
7. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 15-20 Dec 2013 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
8. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 12-13 Nov 2016 (SP Lloyd).
9. One Al Mamzar Park 20 Oct-1 Nov 2018 (SP Lloyd).
10. One Heritage Park 9-12 Nov 2023 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett, SP Lloyd, *et al*).

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Vagrant.

1. One Emirates Golf Club 19 Nov 1992 (C Richardson).
2. One Abu Dhabi; Bateen Wood 17 Oct 1995 (SL James, J Buxton).
3. One Khalidiyah 8 May 1997 (SL James).

Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus*

Fairly common to common winter visitor to mountain wadis, mid-October to end March. Small numbers regularly in plantations on Arabian Gulf coast in October; a few of which overwinter.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Fairly common late spring migrant, late March to early June, rare mid-August to October.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Very common migrant and winter visitor, end October to early April. Single records to end-May.

There is anecdotal evidence that the majority of wintering birds are somewhat different in appearance from occasional big falls of migrants that appear some years in early to mid-March; in essence latter generally appear more obviously olive (less grey) tinged above and with more obvious yellow on underparts than normal wintering birds.

Subspecies definitely identified are:

- *P. c. menzbieri* (seemingly the common wintering ssp; based on DNA analysis from birds trapped in March (1) and December (2))
- *P. c. abietinus* (seemingly a common spring migrant; one trapped March bird identified by DNA analysis).

Note that the usual, frequently heard contact call of the common wintering Chiffchaffs in the UAE, now presumed to be *menzbieri*, is very similar to Siberian *tristis*. However, song (heard regularly from wintering birds from January to March) is essentially the standard European song, and hence markedly different from *tristis*. This indicates that the vast majority of wintering birds, irrespective of call or appearance, are not *tristis*.

Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis*

No proven records (although should occur).

Records of birds believed by the observers to resemble *tristis* as follows, although definitive documentary evidence lacking.

- One Abu Dhabi Hilton Hotel 23 Dec 2006 (SJ Aspinall).
- One Khalidiyah 14-21 Nov 2008 (SJ Aspinall, OJ Campbell, SL James et al), with three birds 8 Dec 2008 (SJ Aspinall et al). Heard singing.
- One male Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant 22 Dec 2009 (SJ Aspinall et al). Heard singing.
- One male Emirates Palace 28 Apr 2017 (OJ Campbell, A Ward). Heard singing.
- One Al Mamzar Park 1 Mar 2018 (M Smiles). Heard singing and sound-recorded.

Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*

Rare migrant. All records listed.

1. One Bateen Woods 17 Apr 1993 (SL James, R Quested).
2. One Khalidiyah 8-10 May 1997 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
3. One Khalidiyah 11-13 May 1998 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer, OL Wardman).
3. One Arzanah Island 19-22 Nov 2000 (SJ Aspinall).
4. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 21 Oct-3 Nov 2005 (NJ Moran, SL James *et al*).
5. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 6 Oct 2006 (OJ Campbell, NJ Moran).
6. One Khalidiyah 11-13 Oct 2006 (SL James, OJ Campbell, NJ Moran).
7. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 15 Oct 2006 (SL James, OJ Campbell).

8. One Khalidiyah 28 Apr-5 May 2007 (SL James, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
9. One Khor Kalba mangroves 4 May 2007 (N Tovey).
10. One Jebel Hafit 18 Oct 2007 (T Pedersen, K Sarsfield).
11. One Khalidiyah 6 Nov 2007 (SL James).
12. One Al Mamzar Park 11 Oct 2014 (M Smiles).
13. One Al Mamzar Park 25 Oct - 6 Nov 2014 (M Smiles, A Al Ali *et al*).
14. One Dubai Pivot Fields 12 Sep 2015 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles, N Strycker).
15. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 4 May 2016 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
16. One Al Mamzar Park 31 Aug 2017 (M Smiles).
17. One Al Mamzar Park 16 Sep 2017 (M Smiles, SP Lloyd).
18. One Wadi Wurrayah NP 27 Sep 2017 (AVB de Alba, A Stoquert).
19. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 7 Oct 2017 (T Lloyd).
20. One Safa Park 21 Apr 2018 (F Itani).
21. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 7-8 Sep 2018 (OJ Campbell).
22. Two Al Mamzar Park 9 Oct 2018 (M Smiles).
23. One Abu Dhabi Formal Park 18 Oct 2020 (OJ Campbell).
24. One offshore Abu Dhabi 20 April 2021 (C Petta).
25. One Abu Dhabi Formal Park 2-9 Oct 2022 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
26. One Heritage Park 2 Sep 2023 (SP Lloyd, T Burkett).

Green/Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus/viridanus*

One Emirates Golf Club 4 Oct 1996 (SJ Aspinall, C Richardson).

Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Mamzar Park 11-12 Oct 2014 (M Smiles *et al*).
2. One Abu Dhabi Formal Park 10 Sep 2022 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* (Category C)

Common; first recorded 1974. Range expanding but still much less numerous than preceding species.
Hybridisation with White-eared Bulbul noted.

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis* (Category C)

Very common and widespread; range expanding.
Hybridisation with Red-vented Bulbul noted.

White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*

Common native but seemingly declining breeding resident in the mountains and eastern part of the UAE. Breeding population estimated to number 2,000-10,000. Escaped birds noted in the cities of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* (Formerly Category C; population now extinct, now Category E)

Formerly highly localised resident on Abu Dhabi Island, 1991 onwards with one pair Jun 2012 and single birds to late 2014. No records since and now considered extinct. Breeding reported Dubai 1985.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Uncommon migrant, mainly mid April to mid May. Rarely mid September to November.

Records 2008-2020:

- One Khalidiyah 23 May 2008 (N Moran).
- One Khalidiyah 6-9 May 2009 (S Wilson *et al*).
- One Lulu Island 8 May 2009 (N Moran).
- One Emirates Palace 11 Oct 2009 (A Ward).
- One Dubai--The English College 27 Apr 2010 (SP Lloyd).
- One Jebel Dhanna--hotels 3-7 May 2010 (SL James *et al*).
- One Lulu Island 7 May 2010 (OJ Campbell).
- Two Sila'a Peninsula 8 May 2010 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
- One Khalidiyah 14 May 2010 (OJ Campbell).
- One Mushrif Palace Gardens 25 Apr 6 May 2012 (SL James).
- One Mushrif Palace Gardens 17 May 2013 (SP Lloyd, A Ward).
- One Mirfa--general area 9 May 2014 (SP Lloyd).
- One Mushrif Palace Gardens 26 Oct 2014 (A Ward).
- One Yo Dibsah Reserve 6 May 2020 (V Motteau).
- One Abu Dhabi Formal Park 9-16 Oct 2020 (SP Lloyd).

Records 2021 onwards available on eBird.

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*

Fairly common spring migrant in April and early May, rare August to November, but singletons recently recorded into January.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

This species has been subject to much confusion in the past, as well as the present (!)

In the light of recent publications, based on genetic and isotopic analysis which incorporated birds sampled from the UAE, the formerly widely held assumption that *Curruca* (= *Sylvia*) *minula* was the default wintering taxon is now believed to be incorrect. Currently there is no compelling evidence that *C. minula* has actually occurred in the UAE.

Non-breeding population estimated to number 200-1,000, the vast majority of which would be *C. c. halimodendri*.

The current understanding of on the relative status of this species is as follows:

- Lesser Whitethroat (*curruca/blythi*) *Curruca curruca curruca/blythi*

Apparently a regular (possibly fairly common) migrant mid-February to mid-May and September to November. Uncommon in winter.

- Lesser Whitethroat (*halimodendri*) *Curruca curruca halimodendri*

Apparently a common winter visitor (and presumed migrant) mid-September to mid-April.

- Lesser Whitethroat (Hume's) *Curruca curruca althaea*

Rare to very rare migrant and winter visitor, confusion with other species of the Lesser Whitethroat-complex evident.

Following records documented to closely match known appearance of birds from breeding grounds of *C.c. althaea* and thus accepted as such, with caveat that it may be impossible to rule out Caucasian-breeding subspecies *C.c. caucasica* (if latter deemed valid, which it often is not).

1. One Emirates Golf Course 21 Mar 1999 (C Richardson).
2. One Dalma Island 24 Sep 2015 (M Smiles).
3. One Jebel Dhanna--private palace 12-15 Mar 2019 (K Al Dhaheri, SP Lloyd).
4. One Ain al-Waal 13 Mar 2019 (H Roberts).
5. One, Sila'a--orchard plantation, 26 Mar 2021 (SP Lloyd, T Burkett, O Campbell).
6. One Khor Khalid--Al Majaz Park 13-14 Apr 2023 (A Al Ali).

Eastern Orphean Warbler *Curruca crassirostris*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, October to mid-April.

C. c. jerdoni confirmed; two trapped Ghantoot, Mar 2004 (S Votier *et al*).

Asian Desert Warbler *Curruca nana*

Common winter visitor and migrant, September to early April. Non-breeding population estimated to number 1,000-2,000, but note this is regarded as highly tentative.

Menetries's Warbler *Curruca mystacea*

Both subspecies-groups likely to occur, nominate *C. m. mystacea* and *C. m. rubescens/turcmenica*.

Common migrant and scarce winter visitor, late September to May with especially strong passage late February to March. Non-breeding population estimated to number 500-1,000.

Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

Common migrant February to May (mainly late April to May) and mid-August to October, rare in winter. Early spring migrants mostly resemble *C. c. icterops*; later spring bird seemingly involves nominate and/or *C. c. rubicola*.

Arabian Babbler *Argya squamiceps*

Common breeding resident, essentially north of a line from Abu Dhabi island to Al Ain only. Breeding population estimated to number 10,000-25,000.

Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus*

First UAE record Das Island 11 Apr 1987 (L Reaney).

Uncommon to fairly common (but very localised) migrant and winter visitor November to mid-April, with peak numbers typically in late winter/early spring.

Non-breeding population estimated as 100-250.

The most regularly used site in recent years, Lulu Island, off Abu Dhabi Island has hosted up to 100 each year from November to March, since 2008 at least. However, in January 2020, most left this site and none were present for the remainder of the spring. Since then, has occurred November to January annually, but occurrence in February and March is now much more erratic than in the previous decade.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Fairly common winter visitor, November to February, occasionally other months.

A few pairs formerly bred in Ra's al-Khaimah (current status uncertain), with recent breeding suspected Dubai and confirmed in Al Marmoom--DCR area, 2018 onwards.

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

Vagrant.

1. Two immatures Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 7 Nov 1998 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer).
2. One female Al Ain Zoo 21 Mar 2018 (R Khan *et al*).
3. One immature Sila'a--Harbour Marsh 29 Oct-23 Nov 2020 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett *et al*).
4. One immature Lulu Island 7 Nov 2020 (OJ Campbell).
5. One non-breeding adult Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes & Pivot Fields 30 Nov-10 Dec 2021 (M Almazrouei, OJ Campbell *et al*).
6. One adult male Al Mamzar Park 2 Apr 2023 (N Almehrzi).
7. One adult male Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 13 Aug 2023-6 Jan 2024, and again 1-25 Apr (S Al Suwaidi, M Alghafli, N Almehrzi *et al*).
8. Two Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 16 Nov 2024 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett, D Lobo).

Origin uncertain;

- One adult male Zabeel Ponds 21 Jan 1992 (C Richardson).

- One Zabeel Ponds 23 Jan and 22 Mar 2000 (C Richardson *et al*).

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, scarce in summer, uncommon to rare in winter.

Indian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* (Category C)

Locally fairly common in Dubai area, mainly in urban parks, occasional elsewhere; first recorded 1989 (Sharjah).

Brahminy Starling *Sturnia pagodarum*

Very small breeding population in the cities of Dubai and Sharjah, where they have bred since 1985 at least; records away from here listed below, where at least some (all?) quite plausibly genuine vagrants.

1. One Abu Dhabi--general area 13 Mar 1998 (A Abdi).
2. One Abu Dhabi Hotel Intercontinental 31 Dec 2005-11 Feb 2006 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer *et al*).

3. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 7 Nov 2006 (OJ Campbell).
4. One Bateen Village 5 Feb 2008 (S Jahan).
5. One Green Mubazzarah 15-23 Mar 2008 (A Al Ali *et al*).
6. One Ghantoot 29 Nov 2008 (N Tovey).
7. Two Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 3-17 Jan 2014 (P Arras).
8. One Jebel Dhanna--general area 4 Apr 2014 (K Al Dhaheri).
9. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 10 Apr 2014 (P Arras).
10. One 1st winter Mushrif Palace Gardens 21 Nov 2016 (OJ Campbell).
11. One Al Rawdha 28 Nov 2018 (P Arras).
12. One Al Saad Farms 4, 1 Nov 2019 (V Motteau).
13. One immature Jebel Dhanna--general area 23 Oct 2020 (K Al Dhaheri).
14. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 6 Oct 2021 (P Arras).
15. One Wamm Farms 9 Oct 2021 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett).
16. One Neima Healthcare Center grounds 11 Nov 2021 (H Roberts).
17. One Sir Bani Yas 3 Jan 2023 (M Pearson).
18. One Ajban Farms 1 Mar 2023 (M Almazrouei).
19. One Ajban Farms 12 Dec 2024 (M Almazrouei).

Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus* (Category C)

Fairly common but very local breeding resident; first records c.1972.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* (Category C)

Very common; deliberately introduced in 1976, perhaps as early as 1972.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Vagrant.

1. One immature Khalidiyah 15 Aug 2000 (SJ Aspinall).

Origin uncertain;

- One adult male Jebel Dhanna--hotels 1 Dec 2018 (M Smiles, SP Lloyd).

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* (Category C)

Recorded Abu Dhabi 1989-90, Dubai area 2006-09, Ra's al-Khaimah 2006-07. Confirmed breeding Sharjah University City from 2005 onwards. Elevated to Category C status from 2016 onwards.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Awir 11 Dec 1970 (B Etheridge, K Would, FE Warr).
2. One Dubai; Jumeirah 2 Jan 1971 (W Wyper).
3. One Sharjah Rubbish Tip 4 Mar 1971 (J Castree).
4. One Tawi Bisat 26 Mar 1971 (Ex-Lapwing, per M Gallagher).
5. One Jebel Ashker 18 Nov 1979 (CM Saunders).
6. One Das Island 22-24 Nov 1985 (L Reaney).
7. One Safa Park late January 1990 (M Halonen per A Forsten).
8. Two Das Island 16 Nov 1990 (M Wood).
9. Up to two Das Island 30-31 Oct 1991 (M Wood)
10. One Safa Park 27 Jan 1992 (C Richardson).
11. One Jebel Ali Village 12 Feb 1999 (K McGregor).
12. One Emirates Golf Club 29 Nov 2002 (D Dack).
13. One Jebel Hafit 1 Jan-10 Feb 2003 (P Hellyer *et al*).
14. One Ghiyathi 14 Feb 2003 (SJ Aspinall).
15. One Ajman Kempinski Hotel 1-4 Mar 2006 (C Townsend *et al*).
16. One Al Mamzar Park 1 Mar 2007 (M Björklund).
17. One Ghantoot--Golden Tulip Al Jazirah Resort 10 Mar 2007 (K Cowton).
18. One Emirates Palace 6-8 Nov 2008 (SL James, SJ Aspinall *et al*).
19. One Jebel Hafit 21 Jan-12 Mar 2009 (D Clark, I Boustead, M & M Hooper *et al*).
20. One Ain al-Waal 14-15 Nov 2013 (H Roberts *et al*).
21. Two Ajban Farms 26 Nov 2013 (M Almazrouei).
22. One Al Qua'a Fodder Field 9 Dec 2016 (M Smiles).
23. One Safa Park 16 Jan-6 Feb 2017 (P Monney *et al*).
24. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 9-14 Nov 2020 (P Arras *et al*).
25. One Al Mamzar Park 4 Feb 2023 (RR).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers, October to March, with stragglers to April.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus iliacus*

Vagrant.

1. One Safa Park 20 Nov 1988 (E List).
2. One Abu Dhabi Island 23 Dec 1988 (JM Hollingworth, L Graham).
3. One Safa Park 4 Jan 1989, increasing to three 21 Jan-8 Feb 1989 (C Richardson, SJ Aspinall).
4. One Abu Dhabi Island 13 Jan 1989 (D Robinson).
5. One Ain al-Fayda 25 Feb 1993 (C Pilcher).
6. One Mushrif Palace Garden 22-27 Jan 2007 with two birds present 14-24 Feb 2007 (SJ Aspinall, B Brieffies *et al*).
7. One Sila'a--Peninsula Plantations 8 Jan 2010 (OJ Campbell, G Talbot *et al*).
8. One Sila'a--Harbour Marsh 9 Dec 2011-7 Jan 2012 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles, K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
9. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 3-4 Feb 2017 (A Bailey *et al*).

10. One Sila'a--Harbour Marsh 15-17 Dec 2020 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Vagrant; much rarer since 2003.

1. One Fujairah City 29 Oct 1970 (W Wyper).
2. One Dubai City 17 Dec 1970 (D Shepherd).
3. One Safa Park 26 Nov-6 Dec 1983 (JAD Chapman).
4. One freshly dead Dubai Dry Docks 11 May 1985 (JAD Chapman).
5. One Das Island 22-25 Jan 1988 (L Reaney, R Western).
6. One Das Island 1 Mar 1988 (E List).
7. One male Abu Dhabi; Bateen Wood 19 Mar 1988 (P Hellyer).
8. Two, male and female, Safa Park 8 Feb 1990 (JK Bannon).
9. One Das Island 14 Jan-22 Feb 1994 (L Reaney, M Wood).
10. One Das Island 7-9 Oct 1994 (L Reaney, M Wood).
11. One heard, not seen, Jebel Ali Hotel 5 Jan 1995 (F Heiser group).
12. One male Marawah Island 24 Mar 1995 (P Hellyer).
13. One Khor Khalid; Marbella Resort 30 Oct 1995 (S Howe).
14. One Das Island 14-16 Nov 1995; with two present 17 Nov 1995 (L Reaney, M Wood).
15. One Jebel Ali Hotel 8 Dec 1995 (SJ Aspinall).
16. One Das Island 21-23 Dec 1995 (M Wood).
17. One Bu Hasa 31 Dec 1998 (SJ Aspinall, GRD King).
18. One Emirates Golf Club 19-31 Jan 1999 (S Young, C Richardson).
19. One Mushrif National Park 24 Jan 1999 (L Sharpe).
20. One Das Island 7-16 Feb 1999 (L Reaney).
21. One Arzanah Island 1-2 Feb 2000 (SJ Aspinall).
22. One immature male Abu Dhabi Hotel Intercontinental 11 Dec 2001-4 Feb 2002 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
23. One Hamranyah Fields 28 Feb 2003 (DA Diskin).
24. One Dabb'iyah Peninsula 17-25 Jan 2011 (SL James).
25. One Dalma Island 11-12 Feb 2011 (G Talbot).
26. One adult male Jebel Dhanna 19 Nov 2011 (K Al Dhaheri).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Vagrant.

1. One Abu Dhabi Island 25 Nov 1965 (PAD Hollom). **
2. One Dubai City 6 Nov 1975 (J Armitage). **
3. Five Safa Park 18 Jan 1984 (JAD Chapman). **
4. One Dubai; Jumeirah 26 Jan 1988 (S Newton). **
5. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 26 Dec 1990 (R Quested *et al*). **
6. One Jebel Dhanna--housing area 18 Nov 2017 (K Al Dhaheri).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus amicornum*

This subspecies is called Caucasian Ring Ouzel.

Very rare migrant (or vagrant).

1. One Das Island 15-18 Nov 1986 (L Reaney).
2. One Emirates Golf Club 23 Jan 1989 (C Richardson).
3. One Asab Oilfield 18-19 and 26-27 Nov 1989 (L Reaney).
4. One Bu Hasa 29-30 Nov and 8-10 Dec 1990 (D Robinson).
5. One Emirates Golf Club 22 Nov 1994 (C Richardson).
6. One Das Island 11 Dec 1994 (L Reaney, M Wood).
7. One Dubai Pivot Fields 29 Dec 2000 (C Richardson *et al*).
8. One Abu Dhabi; Hilton/Spinneys area 16 Nov 2001 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer).
9. One Ghantoot 3 Jan 2002 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer, SL James).
10. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 2-4 Jan 2003 (AP Twyman *et al*).
11. One Jebel Hafit 2-15 Jan 2003 (SL James *et al*).
11. One Ghantoot 6 Dec 2004 (SJ Aspinall, NJ Dymond).
12. One Wadi Bih--Colin's Farm 19 Nov and 27 Dec 2005 (C Richardson *et al*).
13. One Jebel Hafit 3 Jan-27 Feb 2006 (SJ Aspinall, W Moskoff *et al*).
14. One Liwa Oasis 14-16 Feb 2008 (M Bayman).
15. One at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah 21 Feb 2008 (P Arras).
16. One Sila'a--Peninsula Plantations 7 Nov 2008 (NJ Moran, OJ Campbell, G Talbot).
17. One Abu Dhabi; Lulu Island 20 Dec 2008-21 Feb 2009 (NJ Moran, M & M Hooper *et al*).
18. One Jebel Dhanna 14 Nov 2010 (K Al Dhaheri).
19. Up to nine Jebel Hafit 9 Dec 2010-17 Feb 2011 (D Clark *et al*).
20. One Asab Oilfield 25 Jan 2011 (SL James).
21. One Ain al-Fayda 25.02.2011 (M Almazrouei, A Al Ali).
22. One Lulu Island 4 Mar 2011 (OJ Campbell).
23. One male Jebel Dhanna--housing area 26 Dec 2014 (K Al Dhaheri).
24. One Jebel Hafit 10-29 Jan 2015 (M Smiles, T Pang *et al*).
25. One Abu al-Abyadh Island 26 Jan 2015 (K Al Dhaheri).
26. One Emirates Palace 12 Nov 2016 (M Smiles).
27. One trapped National Avian Research Center 3 Dec 2016 (G Monchaux, V Motteau, J Delannoy, S Bruylants).
28. One male Jebel Dhanna--housing area 24 Feb-3 Mar 2017 (K Al Dhaheri).
29. Up to three Jebel Hafit 4-23 Dec 2019 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*

Uncommon to rare winter visitor, highly erratic and absent in many winters but prone to sporadic influxes, occasionally large, November – December, some then lingering to mid-March.

High counts:

Min 15 birds Lulu Island 11 Dec 2016 (OJ Campbell).

One possible hybrid Red-throated Thrush *T. ruficollis* x Black-throated Thrush *T. atrogularis* Jebel Hafit, January 2003 (SL James).

Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus*

Vagrant.

1. One Safa Park 12-24 Mar 1998; reportedly from November 1997 (R Aumüller, D Kratzner *et al*).
2. One Ghantoot--Golden Tulip Al Jazira Resort 27 Feb-26 Mar 2005 (V Bunes *et al*).
3. One Hili Oasis 23-24 Feb 2011 (S Young).
4. One Wamm Farms 31 Oct 2015 (M Barth).
5. One Emirates Palace 18 Mar 2022 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett *et al*).

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* (Category B)

Vagrant.

1. One Asab Oilfield 3-4 Oct 1988 (D Robinson). **

Black Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*

Vagrant.

1. One Emirates Golf Club 15-19 Apr 1992 (C Richardson).
2. One Mushrif National Park 2-3 Apr 2000 (J & L Watson, C Saunders, SJ Aspinall).
3. One Das Island 14-17 Apr 2001 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
4. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 1 May 2007 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
5. One Sila'a--Harbour Plantation 5-6 Apr 2009 (E Grønningsäter, BO Tveit, M Klann *et al*).
6. One Sila'a--general area 15-16 Nov 2012, 18 Jan and 29 Mar 2013 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
7. One Sila'a--fodder field 3 Apr 2016 (SP Lloyd).
8. One Jebel Dhanna--hotels 12-13 Mar 2019 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
9. One Sila'a Peninsula 14 Mar 2019 (SP Lloyd).
10. One Green Mubazzarah 5 Jul 2020 (K Al Dhaheri).
11. One Sila'a Peninsula 6 Apr 2024 (K Al Dhaheri).

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

Locally common breeding visitor to plantations in west and south, and fairly common migrant, March to May and September to October; reports in winter rare. Breeding population estimated to number 500-5,000.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*

Vagrant.

1. One Jebel Dhanna--housing area 1 Jan and 26 Mar 2023 (K Al Dhaheri)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common migrant late March to June and late August to October, very rare other months.

Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelaena*

Vagrant.

1. One in non-breeding plumage Jebel Ashker 17-30 Nov 1980 (CM Saunders).
2. One adult male Masafi Wadi 11 Feb 1999 (M Rantala, K Eischer).

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Rare to very uncommon winter visitor; exceptionally has oversummered.

White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis*

Uncommon spring migrant, late March to early May (variable numbers annually); very rare mid-August to mid-October.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

Uncommon migrant mid-April to late May, one July record; uncommon to rare migrant September to mid-November.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Fairly common migrant, mainly late March to mid-May but also late August to mid-October. Occasional records mid-summer and overwintering.

- Common Nightingale (Eastern) *Luscinia megarhynchos golzii* group; most birds apparently belong to this sandy-coloured subspecies-group.
- Common Nightingale (Western) *Luscinia megarhynchos megarhynchos/africana*; this more rufous-coloured group is less common in the UAE than the Eastern group but *africana* certainly occurs and individuals have been recorded showing characters of nominate as well.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Red-spotted Bluethroat, part of the *svecica* subspecies-group, is the commonly occurring group.

Locally common migrant and winter visitor, September to April, but mainly from November to March.

It is not clear if the subspecies involved are *svecica*, *volgae* or *pallidogularis* or most likely all.

Caucasian Bluethroat, monotypic member of the *luristanica* subspecies-group (formerly named *magna*).

Vagrant or rare spring migrant.

Confirmed records (earlier unconfirmed records exist):

- One Safa Park 30 Mar 2001 (DA Diskin).
- One Al Mamzar Park 19-20 Apr 2013 (J Ingliss, C, T & N Dursley *et al*).

White-spotted Bluethroat.

Birds reported with a clear white throat-spot, which now are quite regularly seen in spring appear to resemble the western group White-spotted Bluethroat *L. s. cyanecula/namnetum*. The ssp. *cyanecula* in this group breeds as far east as SW Russia, and *might* wander south to the Arabian Peninsula in winter (?) although most are believed to winter in SW Europe and NW Africa.

However, a more easterly subspecies, *L. s. abbotti*, belonging to the Red-spotted Bluethroat *svecica* subspecies-group uncommonly shows a clear a white throat spot. It

breeds in the Himalayas, wintering to NW India and could conceivably winter in eastern Arabia. It is not clear to which subspecies UAE records of white-spotted Bluethroats refer.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, mainly October to November. Rare on spring passage.

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

Vagrant.

1. One Khalidiah 24 Nov-30 Dec 2003 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
2. One Abu Dhabi; Spinneys/Hilton area 22 Dec 2005-24 Mar 2006 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
3. One Sila'a--Peninsula Plantations 4-5 Dec 2010 (G Talbot, OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd *et al*).
4. One Wamm Farms--goat farm 25 Nov-3 Dec 2012 (M Ullman *et al*).
5. One male Safa Park 30 Nov 2012-25 Mar 2013 (M Smiles *et al*).
6. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 16-23 Apr 2014 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
7. One Al Mamzar Park 21-31 Mar 2015 (M Smiles *et al*).
8. One Al Mamzar Park 30 Oct 2016 (M Ullman *et al*).

Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*

Uncommon but regular spring migrant mid-March to late April, rare into the first week of May.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Mamzar Park 3-9 Oct 2015 (M Smiles *et al*).

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Vagrant.

1. One male Mushrif Palace Gardens 14 May 2003 (SJ Aspinall, SL James, AP Twyman *et al*).
- 2 One second calendar year male Umm al-Emarat Park 6 May 2019 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd *et al*).

European Pied / Collared / Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* / *albicollis* / *semitorquata*

The following *Ficedula* records were recorded as indicated below but either lacked any details, or the details provided were insufficient to uphold the identification when EBRC reviewed the records in late 2015 / early 2016.

Note that all *Ficedula* species are extremely rare in the UAE in autumn and that the only *Ficedula* satisfactorily identified to species in the autumn in the UAE is Collared Flycatcher (see above).

- One Safa Park 8 Apr 1985, noted as European Pied Flycatcher.
- One Das Island 26 Sep 1995, noted as Semicollared Flycatcher.
- One Khalidiah 9-15 Oct 1999, noted as Semicollared Flycatcher.
- One Khalidiah 22-23 Sep 2007, noted as European Pied Flycatcher.
- One Dibba al-Hisn Corniche 16 Aug 2018. Photos not assignable to species.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Vagrant.

1. One Safa Park 7 Dec 2008-12 Mar 2009 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
2. One Mushrif Palace Gardens 21 Jan-7 Mar 2011 (P Jaquith *et al*).

Eversmann's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus*

Former vagrant, now considered rare migrant/winter visitor; mainly November to February.

Extreme dates: 7 November and 19 February, once March, twice April (offshore). Predominantly males recorded.

Recent records:

- One male Emirates Palace 27 Nov 2010 (P Jacquith, J Rogan, A&I Cunningham).
- One male Dalma Island 2-4 Dec 2010 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, G Talbot *et al*).
- One female-coloured Jebel Hafit 8 Dec 2010-5 Feb 2011 (B Larsson *et al*).
- One female-coloured Dabb'iyah Peninsula 20 Dec 2010-25 Jan 2011 (SL James).
- One female-coloured Dubai Creek Park 4 Jan 2011 (C Temple *et al*).
- One male Masafi Wadi 30 Jan 2011 (B Settergren).
- One 1st winter male Wadi Bih 3 Feb 2012 (SL James).
- One 1st winter male Jebel Hafit 15 Nov 2013-14 Feb 2014 (J Judas *et al*).
- One Jebel Jais 27-29 Nov 2013 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
- One male Zabeel Park--north 8 Nov 2014 (P Olliff).
- One male Sila'a--Public Park 11 Nov 2016 (SP Lloyd).
- One male Emirates Palace 12-13 Nov 2016 (M Smiles).
- One female Wamm Farms 10 Nov-16 Dec 2016 (T Ljungquist *et al*).
- One female Al Khubeirah Garden 20 Nov 2016 (A Pavlushkin).
- One female Wadi Bih--Colin's Farm 31 Dec 2016 - 13 Jan 2017 (M Smiles, V&G Kumar).
- One male Sharjah National Park 1 Jan 2017 (M Smiles).
- One female Sila'a--Peninsula Plantations 27 Jan 2017 (K al Dhaheri).
- One male Al Mamzar Park 5-10 Nov 2018 (R Rajagopal *et al*).
- One male Wadi Shawka 19 Nov 2018 (A de Alba).
- One male Munay Dam 23 Feb 2019 (H Heaton).
- One female Al Jarroof Village 7-13 Nov 2020 (S Taylor *et al*).
- One female Lulu Island 7 Nov 2020 (OJ Campbell).
- One male Wadi Shees Park 8 Nov 2021 (R Khan).
- One male Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 6 Dec 2021 (S Al Suwaidi).
- One female Jebel Hafit 11 Dec 2021-30 Jan 2022 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
- One male in a private garden Al Ain 5 Jan-6 Feb 2022 (H Roberts).

Other records on eBird.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The species-group recorded refers to the Eastern Black Redstart (*ochruros*-group). Most males show characters of *P. o. phoenicuroides*.

Common migrant and winter visitor, end September to mid April. Non-breeding population estimated as 1,000-2,000.

Dark birds showing characters of nominate *P. o. ochruros* from Turkey recorded and photographed:

- One male Jebel Dhanna 4 Jan 2011 (K Al Dhaheri).
- One male Jebel Dhanna 27 Dec 2011-13 Jan 2012, a returning bird (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
- One male Wadi Bih--Simosca's Farm 24 Jan 2014 (SP Lloyd, OJ Campbell).
- One male Jebel Hafit--Mercure Hotel 2 Dec 2020-2 Jan 2021 (H Roberts *et al*).

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Common Redstart *P. p. phoenicurus* - common spring migrant, mainly April to mid-May; uncommon in autumn.

Ehrenberg's Redstart *P. p. samamisisicus* - fairly common late February to April, usually preceding *phoenicurus*. Rare in autumn.

Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*

Fairly common spring migrant February to May; uncommon to rare August to October. One Jan record.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

Local and uncommon migrant and winter visitor September to April, rare other months.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Uncommon migrant, March to May and rare September to October, exceptional to late November.

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*

Vagrant or very rare visitor.

1. One Emirates Golf Club 6 May 1994 (C Richardson).
2. One Emirates Golf Club 22-23 Mar 1996 (M Sipponen *et al*).
3. One female-coloured Wamm Farms 22 Aug 1997 (C Richardson).
4. One male Emirates Golf Club 26 Mar 1999 (R O'Reilly).
5. One male Wamm Farms 30-31 Mar 1999 (C Saunders, R O'Reilly).
6. One male Al Ain Camel Racetrack 31 Mar 1999 (R O'Reilly).
7. One male Wamm Farms 3 Sep 1999 (C Richardson).
8. One male Wamm Farms 17 Nov 2000-31 Jan 2001 (DA Diskin *et al*).
9. One male Wamm Farms 22 Sep 2003 (V Ashby *et al*).
10. One male Wamm Farms 28 Oct 2005 (NJ Moran, SL James).
11. One female-coloured Wamm Farms 15 Sep 2006 (NJ Moran, SL James, OJ Campbell *et al*).
12. One male Wadi Ghalilah 23 Feb 2007 (G Saunders).
13. One first-winter male Wamm Farms 11-21 Sep 2009 (N Tovey, H Roberts *et al*).
14. One adult male Wamm Farms 3-4 Sep 2010 (M Smiles *et al*).
15. One female-coloured Mirfa--Public Park 2-3 Dec 2010 and 17 Jan 2011 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, G Talbot *et al*).

16. One first-winter female Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 29 Nov 2014 -16 Mar 2015 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
17. One female Wamm Farms 7 Nov 2015 (OJ Campbell, G Sanders, R Miller, A Robertson).
18. One female Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 21 Sep 2016 (P Arras).
19. One male Wamm Farms 15 Sep 2017 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell).
20. One male Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 22-23 Mar 2018 (P Arras *et al*).
21. One male Green Mubazzarah--west wooded area 18 Apr 2019 (H Roberts).
22. One female-coloured Al Foah Wheat Farm 21 Sep-2 Oct 2020 (K Al Dhaheri).
23. One female Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields (no access) 3 Sep 2021 (OJ Campbell, T Burkett, SP Lloyd, D Lobo).
24. One male DOUGAS Jebel Ali 23 Jan 2022 (C Abhinand).
25. One male Al Sufouh--open beach 30 Mar 2022 (D Darrell-Lambert).

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*

Relative proportions of subspecies involved not fully understood, as generally only males distinguishable subspecifically, and requiring close view (and ideally photographs). However both *S. m. maurus* and *S. m. hemprichii* (formerly termed *variegatus*) confirmed to regularly occur (mainly former). First record of *S. m. variegatus* (formerly termed *armenicus*) confirmed in 2018, but possibly a more frequent vagrant or even scarce migrant.

Siberian Stonechat (Siberian) *S. maurus maurus*

This subspecies is part of the [maurus] group.

Fairly common migrant, Feb to Mar and smaller numbers Sep to Nov. Very scarce winter visitor.

Siberian Stonechat (Caspian) *S. maurus hemprichii* (formerly termed *variegatus*).

Uncommon but regular spring migrant, rare autumn.

Spring date range 6 Feb to 24 Mar. First recorded 17 Feb 2008, possibly overlooked prior to this.

Known autumn records

- One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 22 Nov 2012 (K Al Dhaheri).
- One Wamm Farms 7-27 Nov 2015 (OJ Campbell, G Sanders, R Miller, A Robertson).
- One Al Marmoom DCR--Qudra Pivots 30 Nov 2017 (OJ Campbell).
- One Sila'a--Harbour Marsh 16 Nov-1 Dec 2018 (SP Lloyd, M Smiles).
- One Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Pivots 15 Nov 2019 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

Siberian Stonechat (Armenian) *S. maurus variegatus* (formerly termed *armenicus*).

This subspecies is part of the [maurus] group.

- One Sila'a--Harbour Marsh 16 Mar 2018 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, M Smiles, T Lloyd). First confirmed record.

Siberian Stonechat (Amur) *S. maurus stejnegeri*

- One female Sila'a--general area 20 Nov-18 Dec 2020 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd, T Burkett *et al*).

This well-photographed individual was confirmed via DNA analysis.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Records since 2006 show this species to be a regular winter visitor in small numbers, November to February, scarce October and March to early April.

No definite records prior to 2006, but occurrence long suspected and noted; many early records do not distinguish between this and the following species.

The first proven record since re-separation from Siberian Stonechat was a male at Dubai Pivot Fields 20 Jan-24 Feb 2006 (T Pedersen *et al*).

Hooded Wheatear *Oenanthe monacha*

Rare to scarce resident Jebel Hafit, rare resident elsewhere in Hajar chain; also rare migrant (including records from Arabian Gulf coastline). Breeding population uncertain (but estimated as 10-50 pairs in 1996).

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

Common migrant and winter visitor, September to early May, rarely other months. Non-breeding population estimated as 50,000-100,000.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Common migrant, February to April and August to November, rarely other months. The rarer white-throated morph *vittata* is recorded annually in very small numbers.

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*

Uncommon migrant mid-February to April, very rare September to November, rarely other months.

- Hybrid Pied x Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka x melanoleuca* can appear near-identical to Finsch's Wheatear, but tail and wing pattern typically deviates from Finsch's. Several records of such hybrids on spring migration have been noted in the UAE.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Fairly common to common migrant mid February to early May, uncommon August to November; rare December and January.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Very common migrant and winter visitor, recorded all months. Peak migration in March/April and August/September. Non-breeding population estimated as 1,000-2,000.

Blackstart *Oenanthe melanura*

Vagrant.

1. One Khalidiyah, Abu Dhabi 14 Apr 1997 (M Dryden, JM Allan, A Abdi).

Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe (picata) picata*

Uncommon and very local winter visitor, rare away from north eastern part of UAE, early September to early March, often departed by early February.

Hume's Wheatear *Oenanthe albonigra*

Common breeding resident but strictly in montane areas; limited altitudinal descent in winter. Breeding population estimated as 10,000-20,000.

Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens*

Rare or very localised migrant and winter visitor, mainly to western Abu Dhabi emirate, late October to early March.

Kurdish Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopyrna*

Vagrant.

1. One male Jebel Hafit 18 Dec 2003-1 Feb 2004 (DA Diskin, M Chalmers *et al*).
2. One male Jebel Dhanna 22 Mar-2 Apr 2012 (R Willbond, SL James, K Al Dhaheeri *et al*).

Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe chrysopygia*

Common winter visitor, mainly to mountains, early October to mid-March, rarely other months.

White-crowned Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*

Vagrant.

1. One female Das Island 11 Apr 1987 (L Reaney).
2. One Das Island 2-3 Feb 1994 (L Reaney, M Wood).
3. One Sila'a--general area 20 Feb 1996 (A Rollo).
4. One Das Island 26 Jan 1997 (L Reaney, M Wood).
5. One Das Island 7 Mar 1997 (L Reaney, M Wood).
6. One Das Island 3-15 Apr 1997 (L Reaney).
7. One Das Island 25-26 Jun 1997 (L Reaney, M Wood).
8. One Das Island 8-13 Apr 1998 (SJ Aspinall, M Wood, L Reaney).
9. One Qarn Nazwa 6-8 Feb 1999 (C Richardson).
10. One Das Island 9-13 Apr 1999 (L Reaney, M Wood).
11. One Das Island 5-7 Apr 2002 (L Reaney, M Wood).
12. One Das Island 9-10 Apr 2002 (L Reaney, M Wood).
13. One Jebel Hafit 29 Oct 2015 (S Böhner).
14. One Al Jarroof village 9 Nov-13 Dec 2019 (S Taylor, S Taylor *et al*).
15. One Tawi Bisat 15 Mar-18 Apr 2021 (S Kirkcaldy *et al*).
16. One Jebel Hafit 19-23 Jun 2023 (J Beck *et al*).
17. One Jebel Jais--general area 20 Dec 2024 – 17 May 2025 (L Johnson *et al*).
18. One Lulu Island 2-9 May 2025 (OJ Campbell).

Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus*

Common breeding resident; nomadic in summer. Breeding population estimated as 50,000-100,000.

Golden-backed Weaver *Ploceus jacksoni* (Category C)

Uncommon with colonies in Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi cities; first recorded 1993 at least.

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar* (Category C)

Uncommon Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi wetland sites; nesting since late 1980s.

Indian Silverbill *Lonchura malabarica*

Very common resident in urban/suburban areas; locally common in mountain wadis; popular cagebird, often released. Breeding population estimated as 10,000-20,000.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* (Category C)

Uncommon Dubai and Abu Dhabi; nesting since 1993.

Radde's Accentor *Prunella ocularis*

Vagrant.

1. One Safa Park 10-14 Apr 2012 (B Baker).
2. One Wadi Shees Park 14 Dec 2021-15 Feb 2022 (R Khan *et al*).

Pale Rockfinch *Carpospiza brachydactyla*

Fairly common spring migrant in variable numbers, sometimes in large flocks, late February to May, and very localised breeding visitor, probably erratic perhaps not breeding every year.

Irregular September to October, rare winter.

Yellow-throated Sparrow *Gymnoris xanthocollis*

Common but localized breeding summer visitor, scarce on passage March/April and rare September/October; rarely to December.

Breeding population estimated as 100-1000.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Vagrant.

1. One Safa Park 7 Mar 1984 (JAD Chapman).
2. One Safa Park 9 Nov 1984 (JAD Chapman).
3. One Das Island 8 and 23 Sep 1986 (L Reaney), presumed to involve same bird.

Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus*

Vagrant.

1. Up to four (3 males, 1 female) Das Island 21 Jan-21 Mar 1992, one remaining to 3 Apr (L Reaney, M Wood).
2. Male in song Marawah Island 21-22 Mar 1993 (SJ Aspinall).

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Formerly an uncommon breeding resident Hamranyah area at least from 1993 to 2008; when also regular winter visitor Wamm Farms.

Breeding population estimated (1996) as 10-100 pairs but no recent records.

Since 2011 effectively a vagrant, with following records since summer 2007:

- Up to 53 Wamm Farms 23 Nov 2007-6 Mar 2008 (SL James *et al*).
- Up to 50 Hamranyah Fields 1-5 Jan 2008 (D Wilby *et al*).
- One Wamm Farms 19 Sep 2008 (N Moran *et al*).
- Up to 15 Sila'a Peninsula--Harbour Marsh 8 Dec 2008-30 Jan 2009 (D Wilby, N Moran *et al*).
- One male Ain al-Fayda 26 Dec 2008 (G Kumar).
- Up to 30 Wamm Farms 9 Jan-21 Feb 2009 (G Talbot *et al*).
- Eight Wamm Farms 6 Nov 2009 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
- One male Ruwais Housing Complex 5 Mar 2010 (D Wilby).
- One male Wamm Farms 20 Mar 2010 (N Tovey).
- One male Mirfa--general area 30 Apr 2010 (SL James, OJ Campbell, M Smiles).
- One male Wamm Farms 24 Jun 2011 (SL James, D Hoops).
- One male Wamm Farms 14 Apr 2012 (N Tovey).
- One male Lulu Island 15 Mar 2013 (OJ Campbell).
- Three Sila'a--Harbour Marsh 8 Jan 2022 (T Burkett, OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd).
- One male Al Maha Forest--Pivot Fields 24 May 2022 (S Al Suwaidi).

One apparent hybrid House Sparrow x Spanish Sparrow mist-netted and photographed NARC 2 Jun 2016 (V Motteau).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

House Sparrow (Indian) *Passer domesticus* [*indicus-group*] is the abundant resident, range expanding.

Breeding population estimated as 200,000-2,000,000.

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*

Rare migrant and winter visitor, almost annual on Abu Dhabi Island, vagrant elsewhere. Recorded mid-September to April.

First record for UAE and Arabia was Bateen Wood, November 1987 (D Robinson).

Records away from Abu Dhabi Island:

1. One Bu Hasa 27 Nov 1989 (D Robinson).
2. One Shah Oilfield 6 Dec 1989 (D Robinson).
3. One Emirates Golf Club 10-21 Oct 1994 (C Richardson, SJ Aspinall).
4. One Marawah Island 15-16 Oct 1994 (SJ Aspinall).
5. One Mushrif National Park 5 Mar 1996 (M Sipponen, V Salo).
6. One Safa Park 30 Oct 2000 (P Bourdin, C Richardson).
7. Two Safa Park 26 Oct-24 Nov 2007 with three 27 Oct (E & P Van Audenhove *et al*).
8. One Safa Park 22-23 Oct 2009 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
9. One Jebel Dhanna--hotels 2-5 Dec 2012 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
10. One Safa Park 29-30 Oct 2014 (L Olausson, J Hallstrom).

11. One Jebel Ali Hotel 7 Feb 2016 (M Beer).
12. One Private estate near Green Mubazzarah 5 Mar-14 Apr 2021 (P Arras).
13. One Dalma Island 13 Dec 2021 (OJ Campbell).
14. One Sila'a WTP 8 Jan 2022 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Fairly common migrant and winter visitor, late August to April, rarely May. Non-breeding population estimated as 10-50.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Common migrant and localised winter visitor, though racial identification in winter often uncertain.

Confirmed breeding (*feldegg*) Dubai Pivot Fields June 2011-2014 (AP Twyman *et al*), but this site now destroyed; has also bred annually 2018-onwards in similar habitat at Al Marmoom DCR and similar grasslands.

- Yellow-headed Wagtail *M. flava lutea* - uncommon on migration March/April and October/November.
- Blue-headed Wagtail *M. flava flava/beema* group - common migrant and winter visitor. These two subspecies often not safely distinguishable in the Middle East. It is likely that most (if not all) occurring in the UAE are *beema*.
- Grey-headed Wagtail *M. flava thunbergi* - common migrant, February to mid-May and late August to October, some may winter.
- Black-headed Wagtail *M. flava feldegg* - common migrant and fairly common winter visitor. Rare and localised breeder.
Eastern Black-headed Wagtail *M. flava 'melanogrisea'* - uncommon migrant. Here included under *feldegg*.
- White-headed Wagtail *M. flava leucocephala* - very rarely reported, but very pale *beema* or, perhaps more likely possible intergrades between *beema* and *lutea* very difficult to conclusively rule out. However, well-documented records of birds that match appearance of at least some *M.f. leucocephala* on west Mongolian breeding grounds are listed below, with the caveat it may be impossible to completely eliminate possibility of *beema* x *lutea* intergrades:
 1. Two Al Hamriyah E-11 overpass 8 Apr 2023 (K Al Dhaheri).
 2. One Al-Zora Golf Club 4 Apr 2025 (X Vissering).
- Yellow Wagtail, form *M. flava 'superciliaris'* - identified on migration. Considered an intergrade between *feldegg* and *flava* or *beema*.
- Yellow Wagtail, form *M. flava 'dombrowskii'* - identified on migration. Considered an intergrade between *feldegg* and *flava* or *beema*.
- Yellow Wagtail, form *M. flava 'xanthophrys'* - identified on migration. Considered an intergrade between *feldegg* and *lutea*.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola citreola*

- Citrine Wagtail (Grey-backed) *M. citreola citreola/werae*

Common migrant and winter visitor, mid-August to April, rare other months. Non-breeding population estimated as 100-200.

- Citrine Wagtail (Black-backed) *M. citreola calcarata*

Vagrant.

1. One male Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 14-16 Mar 2024 (M Almazrouei *et al*).

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

Vagrant. Likely overlooked, but very difficult to adequately document as definite sound recording and images required for acceptance.

1. Two Al Hamriyah E-11 overpass 12 Jan-12 Apr 2023 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
2. One Ajman Water Treatment Plant 8 Feb-27 Mar 2023 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
3. One Al Maha Forest--southern desert lakes 14-28 Dec 2024 (S Lloyd, T Burkett).

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

- White Wagtail (White-faced) *M. alba alba/dukhunensis*

Very common migrant and winter visitor, mid-September (mainly October) to April. Non-breeding population estimated as 2,000-4,000; almost all of which will be *alba*.

- White Wagtail (Masked) *M. alba personata*

Uncommon migrant and localised winter visitor, extreme dates 2 Sep to 13 Mar; regular through winter only at Wamm Farms; but with passage noted elsewhere in early October. Arrival of this subspecies in autumn always precedes *alba*.

- White Wagtail (East Siberian) *Motacilla alba ocularis*

Vagrant.

1. One Saadiyat Island Golf Course 7 Nov 2017 (J Partridge).

- White Wagtail (Amur) *Motacilla alba leucopsis*

Vagrant.

1. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 21-26 Jan 2021 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

White Wagtail (Transbaikalian) *Motacilla alba baicalensis*

Male resembling this subspecies photographed Zabeel Park--south 17 Feb 2016 (L Khil, C Schulze, M Suanjak).

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, late September to mid-April.

First record: up to three Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 12 Oct-6 Nov 1993 (SL James *et al*).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Very common migrant and winter visitor mid-September to late April, uncommon May to August. Non-breeding population estimated as 2,000-3,000.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*

Uncommon dispersive resident and possibly rare migrant visitor to the northern UAE and the Arabia Gulf Coast.

Breeding population estimated as 200-000. All birds in the UAE are believed to be of subspecies *decaptus*.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, and very local, mid-September to mid-April, occasionally to early May. Non-breeding population estimated as 10-50.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Vagrant.

1. One Hamraniyah--Paddyfield grass farm 10-26 Nov 2017 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd *et al*).
2. One Wamm Farms 12 Oct 2018 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd *et al*).
3. Three Wamm Farms 23 Dec 2023-14 Jan 2024 (D Darrell-Lambert, V Sladariu, SP Lloyd *et al*).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Common migrant, mainly mid March to mid April and September to October, and rare winter visitor.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Rare migrant and winter visitor, late September to early May.

First recorded with three birds Abu Dhabi--British Embassy compound 23 Nov 1977 (M Hollingworth, D Cornfield).

All records refer to *A. h. yunnanensis*, except the following records of birds showing characters of nominate *A. h. hodgsoni*.

1. One Ruwais 11 Jan 2008 (SJ Aspinall, OJ Campbell, NJ Moran).
2. One Safa Park 22 Oct 2009 (R Khan *et al*).
3. One Emirates Palace 3 Nov 2013 (OJ Campbell, A Ward).

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Common migrant, March to April (rare in autumn) and uncommon, localised winter visitor. Non-breeding population estimated as 100-200.

Siberian Pipit *Anthus japonicus*

Rare but regular winter visitor, late November to early March, sometimes in small groups.

First record: One Ruwais 26-27 Dec 1996 (SJ Aspinall).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Uncommon winter visitor late October to late March, rarely April.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

The subspecies-group recorded is Water Pipit (Caucasian), *A. spinoletta coutellii*.

Common migrant and winter visitor late October to early April. Non-breeding population estimated as 1,000-2,000.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Rare winter visitor.

1. One Abu Dhabi Island 9-24 Nov 1977 (DM Corfield, MA Hollingworth).
2. One Masafi Wadi 13 Oct 1979 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
3. One Eastern Lagoon 17 Nov 1985 (M Crumby, P Hellyer).
4. Up to three, Das Island 22-24 Nov 1985 (L Reaney).
5. One Das Island 16 Nov 1986, with three on 4 Dec 1986 (L Reaney).
6. Two Dubai Water Treatment Plant 29 Jan-28 Feb 1987 (C Richardson).
7. One Bu Hasa 29 Jan 1989 (D Robinson).
8. Up to two, Asab Oilfield 26-28 Nov 1989 (L Reaney).
9. Flock of 25 Wadi al-Reum 7 Dec 1990 (D Robinson).
10. One Das Island 21 Nov 1991 (M Wood, L Reaney).
11. Two Das Island 20 Dec 1991 (L Reaney, I Shearman).
12. Two Das Island 20 Jan 1992 (L Reaney).
13. One Das Island 11 Nov 1993, increasing to five 23 Nov, one remaining to 12 Dec 1993 (L Reaney).
14. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 19 Nov 1993 (R Quested).
15. One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 28 Nov 1993 (SL James).
16. One male Jebel Ali Hotel 16 Sep 1994 (SJ Aspinall).
17. One Abu Dhabi Eastern Lagoon 8-14 Nov 1994 (C Pohl).
18. One Hamraniyah Fields--general area 16 Nov 1995 (C Richardson, M Beaman, *Birdquest*).
19. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 1 Dec 1995 (SL James).
20. One Das Island 14-16 Jan 1996 (M Wood, L Reaney).
21. One Das Island 4-7 Dec 1996 (M Wood, L Reaney).
22. One male Jebel Hafit 31 Dec 2006-5 Jan 2007 (SL James *et al*).
23. One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 11 Jan 2008 (N Tovey, C Temple *et al*), again 1-8 Mar 2008 (A Jones, *et al*).
24. One Dalma Island 3 Dec 2012 (OJ Campbell).
25. One Jebel Hafit 2-3 Dec 2013 (A Bailey).
26. One Dalma Island 20 Dec 2014 (M Smiles).
27. One Safa Park 11 Feb 2015 (M Smiles, J Judas).
28. Up to two males Emirates Palace 11-22 Nov 2016 (A Ward, OJ Campbell *et al*).
29. One female Emirates Palace 22 Nov 2016 (A Ward).
30. One Sila'a--Public Park 3 Dec 2021 (R Khan).
31. One Kalba Lake Park 17-18 Dec 2021 (F Rietkerk *et al*).
32. One Al Saad Farms--Remah 14-16 Nov 2022 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).

Eurasian Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Vagrant.

1. One Das Island 9 Jan-16 Feb 1987 (L Reaney). **
2. One Das Island 22 Mar 1987 (L Reaney). **
3. One Das Island 27 Nov-1 Dec 1991 (I Shearman *et al*). **
4. One Das Island 3-20 Dec 1991 (I Shearman, L Reaney *et al*). **

5. One Das Island 30 Jan-9 Feb 1992 (L Reaney) and 17-20 Feb 1992 (I Shearman *et al*). **
6. One female Dalma Island 14 Dec 2021 (OJ Campbell).
7. One male Abu Dhabi Formal Park 6-28 May 2022 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

Records in winter 1991-92 considered by observers as constituting different individuals.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Rare migrant; has occurred all months but mainly September to October.

Trumpeter Finch *Rhodopechys githaginea*

Uncommon and erratic winter visitor and rare migrant, perhaps rare breeding resident.

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Vagrant.

1. Two males, one female Abu Dhabi Island 23-25 Nov 1977 (DM Corfield, MA & JM Hollingworth).
2. Three near Masafi 13 Feb 1984 (JAD Chapman).
3. One Das Island 21 Nov 1987 (L Reaney).
4. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 15-24 Apr 2005 (C Clark *et al*).
5. One imm male Safa Park 25 Apr 2017 (H Heaton).

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Vagrant.

1. Two Abu Dhabi Island 16 Jan 1987 (JM Hollingworth).
2. One Wamm Farms 13 Feb 1995 (SJ Aspinall, C Richardson).
3. One Das Island 26-27 Apr 1998 (L Reaney, M Wood).

The following records are presumed to relate to escaped birds.

- One male Mushrif Palace Gardens 24 Oct 2001-17 Apr 2003 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
- One immature male Abu Dhabi; Hilton/Spinneys area 8 Nov 2003-17 Mar 2004 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).
- One Abu Dhabi; Third Crossing 6 Feb 2005 (C Clark).
- One at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah 17-23 Feb 2015, belonging to the grey-headed subspecies-group (P Arras).
- One male Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake and surroundings 20 Mar 2022 (G Burns).

Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Rare and irregular winter visitor with sporadic influxes.

High count 80 birds Al Sufouh--open beach 21 Dec 2023 (D Darrell-Lambert).

Recent records;

- One Abu Dhabi Port; Mina Zayed 23 Dec 2010 (SL James).

- Up to 12 Safa Park 5 Dec 2012-16 Mar 2013 (A Jones *et al*).
- One Qarnein Island 7 Dec 2012 (OJ Campbell *et al*).
- Two Al Jazirah Khor 8 Dec 2012 (SL James, SP Lloyd).
- Nine Sila'a--Public Park 8 Mar 2013 (M Smiles).
- A pair Safa Park 11 Feb 2015 and 4 birds 14-17 Feb 2015 (M Smiles, G Kumar).
- One Dubai Creek Park 28 Nov 2015 (M Smiles).
- One Safa Park 28 Nov 2015 (M Smiles).
- One NARC 16 Nov 2016 (V Motteau).
- Up to 20 Dalma Island 1-2 Dec 2017 (OJ Campbell).
- One male Hail 3 Island--Private access 28 Mar 2017 (R Gubiani).
- Two Sila'a Peninsula 22 Nov 2019 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
- Up to four Al Marmoom DCR--Oasis Lakes 22-29 Nov 2019 (L Fernando *et al*).
- Two Jebel Dhanna--hotels 30 Nov 2019 (OJ Campbell).
- One Sila'a Peninsula--general area 1 Dec 2019 (OJ Campbell).
- Two Jebel Hafit 4-6 Dec 2019 (K Al Dhaheri *et al*).
- One Al Marmoom DCR--Expo Lakes 28 Dec 2019 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
- 20 birds Hatta Hill Park 11 Mar 2020 (R Khan, S Alam).
- Up to 12 Abu Dhabi--Royal Stables 14-24 Mar 2020 (OJ Campbell).
- Four Sila'a--Public Park 1 Dec 2021 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

Records 2022 onwards on eBird

Striolated Bunting *Emberiza striolata*

Fairly common breeding resident, dispersing from mountains to adjacent plains in winter. Vagrant to Arabian Gulf coast of Abu Dhabi emirate. Breeding population estimated as 10,000-50,000.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Vagrant (that has recently become much more rare).

1. Two Abu Dhabi Island 30 Nov 1978 (MA Hollingworth, RO King).
2. One Dubai City 23 Mar 1980 (G Ramadan-Jaradi).
3. One ringed Safa Park mid-February 1982 (GA Miles).
4. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 19 Nov 1993 (SL James).
5. One roadside Umm al-Qaiwain Breakwater 20 Mar 1997 (M Vakkiala).
6. One Dhayah reedbed 26 Nov 1998 (SJ Aspinall).
7. Two Ain al Faida reedbeds 4 Feb 2000 (SJ Aspinall, R Schmitt, *Natur-Studienreisen*).
8. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 12 Dec 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
9. One male Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 18 Mar 2017 (OJ Campbell).
10. One Zakheer Lake 5 Dec 2020 (V Motteau).
11. One Wamm Farms 17-18 Dec 2021 (OJ Campbell, H Roberts, D Darrell-Lambert *et al*).

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

Vagrant (that has recently become much more rare).

1. One Jebel Ashker 27 Dec 1980 (CM Saunders).
2. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 3 Dec 1998 (SJ Aspinall, SL James).
3. One adult female Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 6-27 Oct 2000 (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
4. One first-winter male Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 15-23 Nov 2001 (DA Diskin *et al*).
5. One first-winter Al-Zora Golf Club 13 Sep 2024 (V Sladariu, X Vissering).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Vagrant (that has become much more rare since 2001).

1. One Das Island 28 Oct 1986 (L Reaney).
2. One Das Island 22-27 Oct 1987 with up to three 1-7 Nov 1987 (L Reaney).
3. One Sir Bani Yas 26 Nov 1989 (JAD Chapman).
4. One Das Island 15 Jun 1992 (L Reaney).
5. One Jebel Ali Hotel 25 Oct 1993 (M Kapanen, A Topp).
6. One Das Island 7-26 Nov 1993 (L Reaney, M Wood).
7. Two Das Island 20-27 Oct 1994 (L Reaney).
8. One Hamraniyah Fields 4-13 Mar 1995 (N Ullrich *et al*).
9. One Das Island 21 Nov 1995 (L Reaney).
10. One Das Island 6-22 Oct 1996 (L Reaney, M Wood).
11. One Das Island 16 Oct 1998 (SJ Aspinall).
12. One Wamm Farms 13-16 Jan 1999 (A Dally, C Richardson, C Saunders).
13. Two Das Island 21 Jan 1999 (L Reaney, M Wood).
14. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 12-13 Oct 2000 (SJ Aspinall, AP Twyman, P Hellyer, SL James).
15. One Asab Oilfield 18-19 Nov 2001 (SJ Aspinall, P Hellyer).
16. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 7-21 Dec 2001 (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
17. One Wadi Bih--Parr's Farm 26 Oct 2012 (S Parr).
18. One Emirates Palace 12-13 Nov 2016 (A Ward *et al*).
19. One Ruwais Housing Complex 16 Dec 2020 (OJ Campbell).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

Vagrant (that has become much more rare since 1996).

1. One Das Island 9-15 Dec 1985 (L Reaney).
2. One Qarnein Island 22 Feb 1989 (I Foxall).
3. One Asab Oilfield 6 Dec 1990 (L Reaney).
4. One adult male Das Island 27 Oct 1992 (L Reaney).
5. One Das Island 21 Nov 1995 (L Reaney, M Wood).
6. One Das Island 6-15 Oct 1996 (L Reaney, M Wood).
7. One Emirates Golf Club 22 Nov 1996 (SJ Aspinall).
8. One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 24 Nov 2004 (T Pedersen, OB Hansen).

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

Uncommon migrant April-May (mainly on the Arabian Gulf coast), and late July to mid-September (particularly at Wamm Farms).

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*

Vagrant. Some known escapes have occurred, but we believe the following records are most likely to relate to wild birds.

1. One Asab Oilfield 14 Apr 1991 (L Reaney).
2. One Abu al-Abyadh Island 18-20 Apr 1995 (SJ Aspinall).
3. One Das Island 31 Jul 1996, with Black-headed Buntings (L Reaney).
4. One first-winter male Hamraniyah Fields 23-30 Mar 2002 (Anon/T Pedersen *et al*).
5. One male Wamm Farms 23 Apr 2011 (K Al Dhaheri).
6. One male Emirates Palace 25 Mar 2013 (SP Lloyd *et al*).
7. One imm male Wamm Farms 31 Aug-1 Sep 2013 (SL James, J Judas *et al*).
8. One Al Mamzar Park 9 May 2015 (E Askum, M Smiles, A Melnykovych).
9. One male Al Mamzar Park 3 Sep 2016 (M Smiles).

The following records are presumed to relate to escaped birds.

- One male Safa Park 8-9 Jun 2003 was re-found in Al Mamzar Park 13 Sep 2003 (DA Diskin).
- One male Abu Dhabi; Al Diar Gulf Hotel 24 Mar 2004 and Abu Dhabi; Third Crossing 3 Apr (SJ Aspinall, SL James *et al*).
- One male Abu Dhabi Formal Park 26 Jun 2023 (OJ Campbell).
- One male Al Itihad Park 27-29 Oct 2023 (A Al Ali).

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Uncommon to fairly common migrant and winter visitor, late October to early March. Present in very variable numbers each year. Formerly bred but no recent evidence of this. Non-breeding population estimated as 250-1,000.

Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani*

Vagrant.

1. One Wadi Wadi Galilah 26 Apr -1 May 2025 (J Kingma, L Johnson *et al*).

Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea semenowi*

This subspecies-group is called Cinereous Bunting (Yellow-bellied) as well as Eastern Cinereous Bunting.

Rare to very rare spring migrant late March to mid-May.

Only four autumn records:

- One female-coloured Zabeel Ponds 20 Sep 1990 (C Richardson, JAD Chapman, MJ Pitt).
- One male Das Island 30 Sep 1993 (L Reaney).
- One juvenile Khalidiyah 12 Sep 2000 (SJ Aspinall).
- One Sila'a--Public Park 14 Sep 2018 (OJ Campbell, SP Lloyd).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Fairly common spring migrant mid-March to mid-May, uncommon September to early November.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*

Vagrant.

1. One female Al Ankah 7 Jan 2011 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell).
2. One ad male Jebel Dhanna--hotels 24-27 Mar 2013 (K Al Dhaheri, M Al Musharfy *et al*).
3. One Saadiyat Beach Golf Club (restricted access) 14-16 Mar 2019 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti*

Vagrant.

1. Two Emirates Golf Club 5-6 Nov 1992 (JK Bannon, C Richardson).
2. One at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah 16-22 Nov 2016 (P Arras *et al*).
3. One Wadi Shees Park 22-23 Oct 2024 (N Almehrzi *et al*)

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella* (Category B)

Vagrant.

1. One Das Island 17 Mar 1987 (L Reaney). **

Category D - Species that would otherwise appear in Category A, except that there is reasonable doubt that they have occurred naturally. Category D species are not included in the UAE list.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Single bird recorded in Dubai 12 Apr and 21 Oct 1986-30 Jan 1987, with two present 20-25 Dec 1986 (J Platt *et al*).

White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*

One near Nad al-Sheba 8-9 Dec 1997 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).

Another, perhaps same bird, Emirates Golf Club, 22 Sep 1998-30 Apr 2002 (CM Saunders *et al*).

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*

One at Abu Dhabi; Third Crossing 25 Oct 2003-7 Feb 2004 (C Clark *et al*).

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

A flock of six birds (three males, three females) on Abu al-Abyadh Island 9 Feb 1992 (RP Morris). **

One heard flying over Al Ain Camel Racetrack 3 Mar 1997 (SJ Aspinall). **

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

Recorded sporadically, most likely escaped birds from the pet trade.

- One Al Mamzar Park 15 Mar 2015 (T Pedersen, V Schollaert).

- One Zubara--Jebel al Hurrayah 11 Apr-17 May 2016 (J Judas).

- Ten birds Wamm Farms 5 Aug 2016 (SP Lloyd) with one bird present 2 Sep 2016 (M Smiles).

- One Wamm Farms 17 Feb 2017 (J Judas *et al*).

- One Al Mamzar Park 3 Dec 2019 (D Lewis).

Temminck's Lark *Eremophila bilopha*

Vagrant.

1. One Dubai--Jumeirah 28 Dec 1982 (JAD Chapman).

Deemed probable escapee or released (confirmed sold in local pet markets):

- Up to two Al Marmoom DCR--south cycle track area 29 Oct-12 Nov 2022 and one near Al Marmoom DCR--Al Qudra Lake 17 Mar 2023.

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

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*

Sir Bani Yas.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Escapees recorded in Safa Park.

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

Deliberately released Al Marmoom DCR since c2018 at least, where breeding.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 10 Feb 2004. (D Diskin).

Hawaiian Goose *Branta sandvicensis*

Four Zabeel Ponds 1 Jun 1989 to year end.

Two Zabeel Ponds on eggs April 1991 (*per* K Hyland).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

One Das Island 19 Nov 1991 and 29 May 1992 (L Reaney).

One Al Warsan Lakes (Wimpey Pits) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 27 Jan 2002 to 4 Nov 2005 (T Pedersen *et al*).

One Qarn al-Aysh 26 Jan 2009 (ENHG).

Recorded Al Marmoom DCR since c2018 at least, where breeding.

Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melanocorypha*

Six Sir Bani Yas 28 Jul 1989 and 31 Aug-2 Sep 1989

Three Abu Dhabi Eastern Lagoon 27 Jan-13 Feb 2009 (A&I Cunningham, NJ Moran, R Hornby).

Six Yasat Sufia Island 15 Feb 2011 (P Hellyer, S Bates).

Two Abu Dhabi Eastern Lagoon 5 Mar 2011 (A Younger).

Recorded Al Marmoom DCR since c2018 at least

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*

Four Yasat Sufia Island 15 Feb 2011 (P Hellyer, S Bates).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

225 birds Eastern Lagoon 12 Jan 2013 (OJ Campbell). Small groups seen erratically in this area since then.

Recorded Al Marmoom DCR since c2018 at least

Radjah Shelduck *Radjah radjah*

One Safa Park 19 Dec 2010-14 Feb 2011 (OB Hansen *et al*).

One Al Warsan Lakes 26 Feb 2011 (J Iversen).

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Formerly held in Sir Bani Yas collection (per SJA).

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

One Al Ain city 1 Mar-17 Apr 2006 (L Bailey).

One Green Mubazzarah 26 Dec 2006 (H Roberts).

One Safa Park 1 Dec 2008-23 Mar 2009 (C Temple *et al*).

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

Two Al Warsan Lakes 5 Feb 2010 (N Tovey).

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

One female Safa Park 11 May 2005 (A Ahrif).

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

One female Safa Park 23-24 May 2004 (D Diskin).

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Feral birds possibly breeding in semi-captivity; several locations.

Vulturine Guineafowl *Acryllium vulturinum*

One Mushrif National Park 05.03.2004 (D.A.Diskin).

California Quail *Callipepla californica*

One Yasat Sufla Island 15 Feb 2011 (P Hellyer, S Bates).

One private island off Sila'a 3 Jun 2011 (W Mischler).

Chukar *Alectoris chukar* (Category A & E)

Birds outside of the Ra's al-Khaimah mountains north of Dibba and Masafi area are of feral origin and not considered to be self-sustaining.

500 birds released in the Al Ain area 2012, as well as on Sir Bani Yas.

Arabian Partridge *Alectoris melanocephala*

First reported Sir Bani Yas 28 Jul 1989, now common there.

One Green Mubazzarah 23 Sep-30 Nov 2007, and regular in the Jebel Hafit area 2009 onwards, up to 10,000 birds released there in 2019/20.

Also introduced on private islands.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Francolinus leucoscepus*

Probably bred successfully on Abu al-Abyadh Island in 1990s.

Two on private island off Sila'a 1 May 2011 (W Mischler).

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Probably breeds on Abu al-Abyadh Island, also recorded Sir Bani Yas.

Also recorded Bateen Woods, Al Wathba, Ajban Farms, Al Ain Camel Racetracks, Ghantoot and Safa Park.

Green Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus versicolor*

One Wadi Al Ain 9 Feb 2010 (H Roberts).

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Breeds successfully on Sir Bani Yas and in a number of gardens and hotel grounds.

Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*

Recorded Jebel Ali Hotel in May 2009, where apparently breeds with Indian Peafowl, producing hybrids.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

One Al Ain area 30 Nov 2007-2 Dec 2010, joined by another Ain al-Fayda 30 Jan 2008, escaped from nearby Al Ain Zoo (H Roberts *et al*).

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Four Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 9 Jan 1999 (C Richardson).

One Zabeel Ponds/Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 11 Jul-27 Nov 1999 (C Richardson).

One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 11 Jan 2001 (SL James).

Up to five reported Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 20 Nov 2004 onwards (T Pedersen *et al*).

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

One Ruwais 02-03 Sep 1995 (SJ Aspinall *et al*).

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 28 Mar 2011 (R Khan *et al*).

One immature Al-Zora Protected Area 20 Sep 2021 (S Taylor), probably same bird Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 28 Sep 2021 onwards (E Fakie *et al*).

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

A free-flying pair nested at Al Ain Zoo 1993/94/95 and had possibly done so previously, occasionally straying to Ain al-Faydah wetlands.

A resident bird on Zirku Island from 2007 or before to at least 15 Sep 2009, presumed escape (per R Hornby).

A bird photographed near Dubai Safari Park Nov 2023, considered an escape (J Rodgers).

One Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide Nov 2024, presumed escape (M Gochfeld).

Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber*

Free-flying on Sir Bani Yas, where breeding reported 1993 (juvenile observed 30 Sep-1 Oct 1993).

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

One Dubai Pivot Fields 8 Mar 2006 (T Pedersen) and 25 Nov 2006 (D Clark).

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

One Abu Dhabi Island 15 Apr 1988 (JAD Chapman, D Robinson).

A caged individual on Sir Bani Yas in late 1980s and early 1990s said to have been trapped on Dalma, but provenance considered mistaken.

Arabian Bustard *Ardeotis arabs*

Escapees recorded.

10 birds released Sir Bani Yas autumn 2023.

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis canicollis*

One Balghelam Island 2-15 Feb 1996, last survivor of four originally released two years previously.

Purple Swampphen (African) *Porphyrio porphyrio madagascariensis*

Records from Al Warsan Lakes 2005 onwards probably result from releases or hybrids (see under Grey-headed Swampphen in the main list).

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*

A feral population on Sir Bani Yas bred successfully in 1994.

Regularly reported in Dubai and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary 1996 onwards.

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus*

One free-flying Dubai--general area 3 Mar 2010 (T Pedersen *et al*).

One Al Warsan Lakes 24 Oct 2011 (C Temple).

African Jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*)

One Umm Suqeim 8 Oct 2006 (K Hyland).

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* (Category C & E)

Regularly released in the deserts around Dubai, where now considered established and breeding (per SJ Aspinall).

All records prior to 2016 considered category E.

Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus*

One male Al Marmoom DCR--Duck Lake and eastern plain 5 Oct 2018 (S Kirkcaldy, M Beer), with tame groups of birds including Spotted Sandgrouse seen later.

Sporadic records in this area, as well as in Hatta, all presumed escapes.

Bred in captive breeding programs (*pr* P Arras, 2018).

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Up to two Al Warsan Lakes 1 Apr-13 May 2005 (DA Diskin *et al*).

One Al Wathba Wetland Reserve 22 Jun 2005 (SJ Aspinall).

Up to three Dubai--general area 8 Apr 2008-17 Jun 2010 (J Angliss *et al*).

Ringed Turtle Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea 'risoria'*

A domestic variant of African Collared Dove, often called Barbary Dove.

A feral population on Sir Bani Yas in the mid 1990s may longer be present.

Reports of very pale doves from various sites in the UAE might refer to this species.

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

Often sold in pet markets; sometimes noted free-flying in urban centres.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*

One Al Mamzar Park 13 Jan 2004 (DA Diskin).

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicinctus*

One Western Lagoon 21 Dec 2007 (A&I Cunningham).

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Often sold in pet markets; sometimes noted free-flying in urban centres.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Often sold in pet markets; sometimes noted free-flying in urban centres.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Often sold in pet markets; sometimes noted free-flying in urban centres.

Red Lory *Trichoglossus borneus*

Escapees recorded.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

Often sold in pet markets; sometimes noted free-flying in urban centres.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Often sold in pet markets; sometimes noted free-flying in urban centres.

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*

Scarce resident in Dubai since 1996, also recorded Jebel Ali. Not to be confused with escaped Blossom-headed Parakeets in Abu Dhabi.

Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseata*

Escapees recorded regularly in Abu Dhabi, rare Safa Park and Al Ain.

Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis*

Escapees recorded.

Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri*

Escapees recorded.

Lillian's Lovebird *Agapornis lilliani*

Escapees recorded.

Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

One Mushrif Palace Gardens 4 Feb 2012 (A&I Cunningham).

Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*

Escapees recorded.

Nanday Parakeet *Nandayus nenday*

Regular Jumeirah Jun 2007-Feb 2010 (T Pedersen *et al*).

One bird Ra's al-Khaimah Dec 2007 to Sep 2015 (B McKay).

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Two birds in a nest-like structure in Safa Park, Dubai 27 Oct 2005-7 Feb 2006.

Also recorded elsewhere in the Dubai, Al Ain and Abu Dhabi area.

Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloropterus*

Escapees recorded.

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

Three Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club 20 Jan 2006 (N Moran).

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

One Fujairah 10 Feb 2010 (MK Shuriqi).

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

One Jebel Ali Hotel 20 Mar 2003 (DA Diskin).

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Recorded Abu Dhabi Island 24 May 1998 to year-end at least (R Hornby *et al*), presumed escaped.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* (Category C up to 2016)

Recorded quite regularly Mushrif Palace Gardens to 21 Sep 2012, singletons recorded erratically there to 14 Oct 2014 (OJ Campbell *et al*).

One Al Ain Cement Factory quarries 16 Nov 2013 (P Arras).

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*

Escapees recorded.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*

One Abu Dhabi Golf Club 13-22 Jan 1997 (SL James).

One Ain al-Fayda 7 Oct 2011 (D Clark).

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*

One Safa Park 28 Oct 1999, one Sharjah Rubbish Tip 11 Aug 2004 (DA Diskin).

Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*

Several present on Sir Bani Yas in the early 1990s, with two 7 Feb 2008 (SJ Aspinall); not reported since.

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*

Recorded Abu Dhabi in late 1980s, released birds failed to become established.
One Abu Dhabi 8 Mar 2004.

Bali Starling *Leucopsar rothschildi*

One adult in Abu Dhabi's Bateen area 31 Aug 2004.

Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprotornis regius*

One along the Abu Dhabi International Airport road 02 Oct 1995.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* (Category C & E)

Recorded Abu Dhabi 1989-90, Dubai area 2006-09, Ra's al-Khaimah 2006-07. Confirmed breeding Sharjah University City from 2005 onwards.
All records prior to 2016 considered category E.

Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*

One Sir Bani Yas 9 Mar 1998 (SJ Aspinall).

Black-headed Canary *Alario alario*

Two Dubai--general area 15 Jul 1977 (J Armitage).

Sudan Golden Sparrow *Passer luteus*

One Umm al-Qaiwain 23 Feb 2010 (A Dittman, M Schulz).

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

Over 100 birds released ca 1984 and bred in Sharjah (Al Jazirah Park in Khor Khalid). Also recorded Zabeel Ponds and Dubai Poivot Fields.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

One Khalidiyah, 11-17 Oct 2008 (N Moran *et al*), one nest-building in Al Mamzar Park 24 Mar-7 Apr 2009 (SJ Aspinall, T Pedersen).

Rueppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula*

One Abu Dhabi--Third Crossing 9 May 2004 (C Clark) and Abu Dhabi--Hilton/Spinneys area 22 Sep 2006 (A&I Cunningham).

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Recorded nesting in Abu Dhabi near Hotel Intercontinental 2005 onwards; still present and building nests in that area, June 2020.
Also recorded Dubai Pivot Fields Jun-Sep 2006.

Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus*

One Ra's al-Khaimah Airport 26 Mar 1995, one Jebel Ali Hotel, November 1996, up to two Khalidiyah 12 May 2006-8 Nov 2008.

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*

Recorded Ruwais 12-13 Oct 1995.

One male Dubai Pivot Fields 23 Aug 2006 (T Pedersen) and up to six same place 15 Jul-8 Aug 2007 and 16 July 2009 (D Wilby *et al*).

One Wamm Farms 27 Aug 2010 (SL James).

One Wadi Al Ain 26 Sep 2011 (M Barth *et al*).

Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis*

Up to two Dubai Pivot Fields 1-24 Sep 2006, 10 Jul-10 Aug 2007 and 15 Aug 2008, nest-building observed 2007 (D Wilby *et al*).
One Wamm Farms 4-10 Sep 2010 and 20 May 2011 (SP Lloyd *et al*).

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythropus*

One Dubai Pivot Fields 6 Sep 2013 (S Sreevalsan).

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Two pairs Hamraniyah Fields 15 Dec 1995, recorded Dubai Pivot Fields 2006-2009 and on Abu Dhabi Island 2010.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

Recorded Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ramtha Rubbish Tip, Wasit Nature Reserve and Ruwais, 2000-2021.

Zanzibar Bishop *Euplectes nigroventris*

One Dubai Pivot Fields 24 Sep-21 Oct 2006 (T Pedersen *et al*) and same place 15 Aug 2008 (S Jahan).

Black-winged Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

Recorded Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club and Wasit Nature Reserve, 2007-2009.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

Up to 13 birds of the nominate subspecies recorded Dubai Pivot Fields 2005-2011 (T Pedersen, OB Hansen *et al*).
Also recorded Al Wasit Nature Reserve 2006-2009 (N Tovey *et al*) and Abu Dhabi Island 2005 (A Twyman).

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

One Dubai Pivot Fields 14 Oct 2006 (N Tovey, C Temple).

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

Four Al Mamzar Park 8 Dec 2002 (OB Hansen *et al*) and one 31 May 2004 (DA Diskin).
One Dubai Pivot Fields 20 Apr 2006 (N Tovey).

Lavender Waxbill *Glaucostrelda caerulea*

One Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 16 Jan 2010 (P Jaquith).

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Three Jumeirah 17 Jan 2007 (T Pedersen) and four Al Jimi Oasis 30 Dec 2010 (H Roberts).

Blue-capped Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*

One Mushrif Palace Gardens 30 Oct 2004 (NJ Moran).

Zebra Waxbill *Sporaeeginthus subflavus*

One Wamm Farms 18 Nov 2005 (N Moran *et al*).
One The Meadows 1 Apr 2006 (B Beardsall).

Green Avadavat *Sporaeginthus formosus*

One Eastern Lagoon 12 May 1989 (P Hellyer).

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*

Reported nesting Sharjah City 1988, recorded Ramtha Rubbish Tip and Zabeel area until 1997.
Records from Dubai Pivot Fields and Wamm Farms 2006-2011.

Tricolored Munia *Lonchura malacca*

One Dubai Pivot Fields 2 Jan 2006 (T Pedersen, J Wilkins).

White-headed Munia *Lonchura maja*

One Dubai Pivot Fields 2 Dec 2009 (M Smiles).

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*

Recorded Safa Park, Zabeel area, Emirates Golf Club, Dubai Creek Park, Bateen Woods.

Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora*

Sporadic records Abu Dhabi Island and Dubai City 1977-2010.
Also recorded Sila'a--general area.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Previously breeding in several locations in Jumeirah suburbs, Dubai. Also recorded Abu Dhabi.

Cut-throat *Amadina fasciata*

Escapees recorded.

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagnosticta rhodopareia*

Recorded Abu Dhabi.

Arabian Waxbill *Estrilda rufibarba*

Recorded Abu Dhabi.

Paradise Whydah sp. *Vidua sp.*

One Dubai; Jumeirah 27.07.2004.

Grey-crowned Goldfinch *Carduelis canipeps*

- One at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah 17-23 Feb 2015. (P Arras).

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Escapees recorded.

Category F - Species that either:

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

Unlike species in Category B, species in Category F are invariably ones that are very difficult to identify, needing detailed and precise documentation and, in many cases, are species in which identification criteria have evolved in recent years. Whilst it is likely that some or all Category F species have indeed occurred in a natural, wild state at least once, there is insufficient evidence to admit them to Category A. Category F species are not included in the UAE List.

Northern Raven *Corvis corax*

- One Khalidiyah 11 Nov 2005 with the same bird seen Abu Dhabi; Western Lagoon 12 Nov 2005. **

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*

- One Sir Abu Nuair Island 18 Apr 1985. **

Desert Whitethroat *Sylvia minula*

- This species is no longer thought to reach Arabia; formerly widely reported September to April but the taxon involved has now been determined to involve *Sylvia curruca halimodendri*.

Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*

- Many records in the past; particularly prior to 1998 but very few since. All claims are listed below but few of these have ever been formally submitted, and documented claims are insufficient to establish the definite identity of the birds involved as Finsch's Wheatear.

Several reports previously accepted as Finsch's Wheatear were found, after review, to be attributable to Eastern Black-eared *O. melanoleuca* x Pied Wheatear *O. pleschanka* hybrids.

- One Abu Dhabi Island Mar 1984. **
- One Jebel Ali Village 3 Feb 1985. **
- One Asab Oilfield 24 Oct 1987. **
- One Emirates Golf Club 21 Jan 1988. **
- One Abu Dhabi Island 1-2 Mar 1989. **
- One Umm al-Qaiwain Breakwater 3 Mar 1990. **
- One Gerain Al Aish 23 Mar 1990. **
- One Khor al-Khan 2 Apr 1991. **
- One adult male Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 14 Mar 1993. **
- One adult male Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 16 Mar 1993. **
- One Emirates Golf Club 18 Mar 1993. **
- One male Abu Al Abyadh Island 25-26 Mar 1993.
- One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 28 Mar 1993. **
- One adult male Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club 17 Mar 1994. **
- One Al Wathba Camel Racetrack 25 Mar 1994.
- One Jebel Faiyah 27 Feb 1995. **
- One Qarn Nazwa 7 Mar 1997. **
- One adult female Dubai; Al Sufouh 26 Oct 1997.

- One female Masafi Wadi 9 Mar 1998. **

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

- One female/juvenile Das Island 8-9 Dec 1994.

Confusion with Yellowhammer or White-capped Bunting a possibility; a review found that it was not possible to eliminate either on the basis of the details archived.

EBRC CONCISE CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Prepared by Tommy Pedersen & Mark Smiles

www.uaebirding.com

Category A, B & C

Species are Category A unless annotated.
 English names and systematics follows AviList 2025.

[] Cotton Pygmy Goose <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	[] Great Spotted Cuckoo <i>Clamator glandarius</i>	[] Eurasian Dotterel <i>Charadrius morinellus</i>
[] Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	[] Jacobin Cuckoo <i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	[] Common Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
[] Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	[] Asian Koel <i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	[] Little Ringed Plover <i>Thinornis dubius</i> - X
[] Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	[] Grey-bellied Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	[] Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
[] Greylag Goose (Eastern) <i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i>	[] Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i> - x	[] Spur-winged Lapwing <i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
[] Lesser White-fronted Goose <i>Anser erythropus</i>	[] Pin-tailed Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles alchata</i> - CX	[] Red-wattled Lapwing <i>Vanellus indicus</i> - X
[] Greater White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>	[] Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles exustus</i> - X	[] Sociable Lapwing <i>Vanellus gregarius</i>
[] Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i> - CX	[] Spotted Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles senegallus</i>	[] White-tailed Lapwing <i>Vanellus leucurus</i> - X
[] Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	[] Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i> - X	[] Caspian Plover <i>Anarhynchus asiaticus</i>
[] Ruddy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	[] Laughing Dove <i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i> - X	[] Tibetan Sand Plover <i>Anarhynchus atrifrons</i>
[] Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>	[] Red Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	[] Greater Sand Plover <i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>
[] Marbled Duck <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	[] Oriental Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	[] Kittlitz's Plover <i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>
[] Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	[] European Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> - X	[] Kentish Plover <i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i> - X
[] Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	[] Eurasian Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> - X	
[] Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	[] Common Wood Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	[] Greater Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
[] Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	[] Rock Dove (Feral) <i>Columba livia</i> - CX	
[] Greater Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	[] Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	[] Pheasant-tailed Jacana <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
[] Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	[] Namaqua Dove <i>Oena capensis</i> - X	
[] Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	[] Demoiselle Crane <i>Grus virgo</i>	[] Little Curlew <i>Numenius minutus</i>
[] Gadwall <i>Anas strepera strepera</i>	[] Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i>	[] Whimbrel (European) <i>Numenius phaeopus phaeopus</i>
[] Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>		- Whimbrel (Steppe), <i>N. phaeopus alboaxillaris</i>
[] Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> - X	[] Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> - X*	[] Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
[] Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	[] Corn crane <i>Crex crex</i>	[] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>
[] Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca crecca</i>	[] Spotted Crane <i>Porzana porzana</i> - X*	[] Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>
	[] Common Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> - X	[] Long-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
[] Grey Francolin <i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i> - CX	[] Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i> - X	[] Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>
[] Black Francolin <i>Francolinus francolinus</i> - CX	[] Red-knobbed Coot <i>Fulica cristata</i> - X*	[] Eurasian Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
[] See-see Partridge <i>Ammoperdix griseogularis</i> - CX	[] Purple Swamphen (Grey-headed) <i>P. p. poliocephalus</i> - X	[] Great Snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>
[] Sand Partridge <i>Ammoperdix heyi</i> - X	[] Watercock <i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	[] Pin-tailed Snipe <i>Gallinago stenura</i>
[] Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> - x	[] White-breasted Waterhen <i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>	[] Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
[] Chukar Partridge <i>Alectoris chukar</i> - X	[] Little Crane <i>Porzana parva</i>	[] Terek Sandpiper <i>Xenus cinereus</i>
	[] Baillon's Crane <i>Porzana pusilla</i>	[] Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
[] Lesser Flamingo <i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	[] Great Stone-curlew <i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	[] Wilson's Phalarope <i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>
[] Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> - X	[] Eurasian Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedecnemus</i>	[] Red Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulcarius</i>
[] Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> - X	[] Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> - X	[] Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
[] Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	[] Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> - X	[] Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>
[] Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> - X*	[] Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	[] Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
[] Asian Houbara <i>Chlamydotis macqueenii</i> - x IX*		[] Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>
[] Little Bustard <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	[] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	[] Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
	[] European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	[] Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>
	[] Pacific Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	[] Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>
		[] Common Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>
		[] Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>
		[] Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>
		[] Great Knot <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>
		[] Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
		[] Broad-billed Sandpiper <i>Calidris falcinellus</i>

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☐ Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	☐ Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	☐ Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
☐ Red-necked Stint <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	☐ Brown-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>	☐ Eurasian Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
☐ Temminck's Stint <i>Calidris temminckii</i>	☐ Franklin's Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	☐ Cinnamon Bittern <i>Botaurus cinnamomeus</i>
☐ Long-toed Stint <i>Calidris subminuta</i>	☐ Pallas's Gull <i>Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus</i>	☐ Little Bittern <i>Botaurus minutus</i> - X*
☐ Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	☐ Mediterranean Gull <i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>	☐ Western Reef Heron <i>Egretta gularis schistacea</i> - X
☐ Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	☐ White-eyed Gull <i>Ichthyaeetus leucophthalmus</i>	☐ Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta garzetta</i> - X*
☐ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	☐ Sooty Gull <i>Ichthyaeetus hemprichii</i> - X	☐ Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> - X
☐ Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	☐ Common Gull (Russian) <i>Larus canus heinei</i>	☐ Little Heron (Striated) <i>Butorides atricapilla</i> - X
☐ Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	☐ Caspian Gull <i>Larus cachinnans</i>	☐ Indian Pond Heron <i>Ardeola grayii</i> - x
☐ White-rumped Sandpiper <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	☐ Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	☐ Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> - X*
☐ Crab-plover <i>Dromas ardeola</i> - X	☐ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	☐ Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>
☐ Cream-coloured Courser <i>Cursorius cursor</i> - X	☐ - Baltic Gull <i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>	☐ Medium Egret <i>Egretta intermedia</i>
☐ Small Pratincole <i>Glareola lactea</i>	☐ - Heuglin's Gull <i>Larus (fuscus) heuglini</i>	☐ Western Cattle Egret <i>Ardea ibis</i> - X
☐ Oriental Pratincole <i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	☐ - Steppe Gull <i>Larus (fuscus) barabensis</i>	☐ Eastern Cattle Egret <i>Ardea coromanda</i>
☐ Black-winged Pratincole <i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	☐ Red-billed Tropicbird <i>Phaethon aethereus</i> - X	☐ Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i> - X*
☐ Collared Pratincole <i>Glareola pratincola</i> - X*	☐ Wilson's Storm Petrel <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	☐ Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i> - x
☐ Parasitic Jaeger <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	☐ Swinhoe's Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates monorhis</i>	☐ European Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
☐ Long-tailed Jaeger <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	☐ Leach's Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates leucorhoa</i>	☐ Egyptian Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i> - X
☐ Pomarine Jaeger <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	☐ Jouanin's Petrel <i>Bulweria fallax</i>	☐ Sykes's Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus maharattensis</i>
☐ Brown/South Polar Skua <i>S. antarcticus/maccormicki</i>	☐ Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris borealis</i>	☐ Alpine Swift <i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
☐ Brown Noddy <i>Anous stolidus</i>	☐ Wedge-tailed Shearwater <i>Ardenna pacifica</i>	☐ Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i>
☐ Lesser Noddy <i>Anous tenuirostris</i>	☐ Short-tailed Shearwater <i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i>	☐ Little Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>
☐ Sooty Tern <i>Onychoprion fuscata</i>	☐ Sooty Shearwater <i>Ardenna grisea</i>	☐ Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>
☐ Bridled Tern <i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i> - X	☐ Flesh-footed Shearwater <i>Ardenna carneipes</i>	☐ Pallid Swift <i>Apus pallidus</i> - X
☐ Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	☐ Persian Shearwater <i>Puffinus persicus</i>	☐ Western Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i> - X
☐ Saunders's Tern <i>Sternula saundersi</i> - X	☐ African Openbill <i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	☐ Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i> - X
☐ Caspian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> - X*	☐ Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	☐ Eurasian Scops Owl <i>Otus scops</i>
☐ Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	☐ White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	☐ Pallid Scops Owl <i>Otus brucei</i> - X
☐ Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	☐ Frigatebird sp. <i>Fregata sp</i>	☐ Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>
☐ White-winged Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	☐ Red-footed Booby <i>Sula sula</i>	☐ Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>
☐ Black Tern (Eurasian) <i>Chlidonias niger niger</i>	☐ Brown Booby <i>Sula leucogaster</i>	☐ Pharaoh Eagle-Owl <i>Bubo ascalaphus</i> - X
☐ Sandwich Tern <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	☐ Masked Booby <i>Sula dactylatra</i>	☐ Arabian Eagle-Owl <i>Bubo milesi</i> - X
☐ Greater Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bergii</i> - X	☐ Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	☐ Omani Owl <i>Strix butleri</i> - x ?
☐ Lesser Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i> - X	☐ Socotra Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i> - X	☐ Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus haliaetus</i>
☐ Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	☐ Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	☐ Black-winged Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus vociferus</i>
☐ Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	☐ Eurasian Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	☐ Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> - X
☐ White-cheeked Tern <i>Sterna repressa</i> - X	☐ African Sacred Ibis <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> - CX	☐ European Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>
☐ Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>	☐ Great White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	☐ Crested Honey Buzzard (Northern) <i>P. ptilorhynchus orientalis</i>
☐ Little Gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		☐ Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i>
☐ Black-legged Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla tridactyla</i>		☐ Lappet-faced Vulture <i>Torgos tracheliotos</i> - x
☐ Sabine's Gull <i>Xema sabini</i>		
☐ Slender-billed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>		

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[] Himalayan Griffon <i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	[] Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i>	[] Arabian Lark <i>Eremalauda eremodites</i>
[] Griffon Vulture <i>Gyps fulvus</i>	[] Sooty Falcon <i>Falco concolor</i> - X	[] Turkestan Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella heinei</i> - X*
[] Short-toed Snake Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> - X*	[] Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	
[] Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga clanga</i>	[] Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	[] Delicate Prinia <i>Prinia lepida</i> - X
[] Lesser Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga pomarina</i>	- Barbary Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides</i> - X	
[] Booted Eagle <i>Hieraaetus pennata</i>	[] Lanner Falcon <i>Falco biarmicus</i>	[] Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>
[] Steppe Eagle <i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	[] Saker Falcon <i>Falco cherrug</i>	[] Upcher's Warbler <i>Hippolais languida</i>
[] Eastern Imperial Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i>		[] Booted Warbler <i>Iduna caligata</i>
[] Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> - X*	[] Alexandrine Parakeet <i>Psittacula eupatria</i> - CX	[] Sykes's Warbler <i>Iduna rama</i> - X
[] Bonelli's Eagle <i>Aquila fasciatus</i> - X	[] Rose-ringed Parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i> - CX	[] Eastern Olivaceous Warbler <i>Iduna pallida</i> - X
[] Shikra <i>Tachyspiza badia</i> - CX		
[] Levant Sparrowhawk <i>Tachyspiza brevipes</i>	[] Eurasian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	[] Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
[] Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	[] Black-naped Oriole <i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	[] Moustached Warbler <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
[] Eurasian Goshawk <i>Astur gentilis</i>		[] Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>
[] Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	[] Ashy Drongo (Blackish) <i>Dicrurus l. longicaudatus/nigrescens</i>	[] Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
[] Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	[] Black Drongo <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	[] Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
[] Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>		[] Common Reed Warbler (Caspian) <i>A. scirpaceus fuscus</i> - X
[] Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	[] Indian Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	[] Basra Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>
[] Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>		[] Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
[] Pallas's Fish Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	[] Great Grey Shrike (Arabian) <i>Lanius excubitor aucheri</i> - X	[] Clamorous Reed Warbler (Brown) <i>A. s. brunescens</i> - X
[] Common Buzzard (Steppe) <i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>	- Great Grey Shrike (Steppe) <i>Lanius excubitor pallidirostris</i>	[] River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>
[] Long-legged Buzzard (Northern) <i>Buteo rufinus rufinus</i>	[] Masked Shrike <i>Lanius nubicus</i>	[] Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
- Long-legged Buzzard (Atlas) <i>Buteo rufinus cirtensis</i> - X	[] Lesser Grey Shrike <i>Lanius minor</i>	[] Common Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>
	[] Woodchat Shrike (Eastern) <i>Lanius senator niloticus</i>	
[] Common Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i> - X	[] Bay-backed Shrike <i>Lanius vittatus</i> - X*	[] Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>
	[] Isabelline Shrike (Daurian) <i>Lanius isabellinus isabellinus</i>	[] Pale Martin <i>Riparia diluta</i>
[] Indian Roller <i>Coracias benghalensis</i> - X	[] Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	[] Eurasian Crag Martin <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
[] European Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i> - X*	[] Red-tailed Shrike <i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>	[] Pale Crag Martin <i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i> - X
	[] Long-tailed Shrike <i>Lanius schach</i>	[] Wire-tailed Swallow <i>Hirundo smithii</i>
[] White-throated Bee-eater <i>Merops albicollis</i>	[] Brown Shrike <i>Lanius cristatus cristatus</i>	[] Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i> - X
[] Arabian Green Bee-eater <i>Merops cyanophrys</i> - X	- Brown Shrike (Philippine) <i>Lanius cristatus lucionensis</i>	[] Western House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>
[] European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i> - X*		[] European Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis rufula</i> - X*
[] Blue-cheeked Bee-eater <i>Merops persicus</i> - X	[] Brown-necked Raven <i>Corvus ruficollis</i> - X	[] Eastern Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i>
	[] Fan-tailed Raven <i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>	[] Streak-throated Swallow <i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>
[] Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	[] Carrion Crow (Mesopotamian) <i>Corvus corone capellanus</i>	
[] Pied Kingfisher <i>Ceryle rudis</i>	[] House Crow <i>Corvus splendens</i> - X	[] Streaked Scrub Warbler (Eastern) <i>S. i. (inquieta-group)</i> - X
[] Grey-headed Kingfisher <i>Halcyon leucocephala</i> - B		
[] White-throated Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	[] Greater Hoopoe-Lark <i>Alaemon alaudipes</i> - X	[] Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>
[] Collared Kingfisher (Arabian) <i>T. chloris kalbaensis</i> - X	[] Bar-tailed Lark <i>Ammomanes cinctura</i> - X*	
	[] Desert Lark <i>Ammomanes deserti</i> - X	[] Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
[] Eurasian Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	[] Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark <i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i> - X	[] Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
	[] Oriental Skylark <i>Alauda gulgula</i>	[] Hume's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
[] Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	[] Eurasian Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	[] Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>
[] Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> - X	[] Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i> - X	[] Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscat</i>
[] Red-footed Falcon <i>Falco vespertinus</i>	[] Greater Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> - x	[] Plain Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus neglectus</i>
[] Amur Falcon <i>Falco amurensis</i>	[] Bimaculated Lark <i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>	[] Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
[] Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	[] Calandra Lark <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	[] Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>

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[] Green Warbler <i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>	[] Blue-and-white Flycatcher <i>Cyanoptila cyanomelaena</i>	[] Indian Silverbill <i>Lonchura malabarica</i> - X
[] Large-billed Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>	[] European Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	[] Scaly-breasted Munia <i>Lonchura punctulata</i> - CX
[] Red-vented Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> - CX	[] White-throated Robin <i>Irania gutturalis</i>	[] Radde's Accentor <i>Prunella ocularis</i>
[] White-eared Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i> - CX	[] Thrush Nightingale <i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	[] Pale Rockfinch <i>Carpodacus brachydactyla</i> - X
[] White-spectacled Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i> - X	[] Common Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	[] Yellow-throated Sparrow <i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i> - X
[] Red-whiskered Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	- Common Nightingale (Eastern) <i>L. megarhynchos golzii</i>	[] Eurasian Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>
	- Common Nightingale (Western) <i>L. m. megarhynchos/africana</i>	[] Dead Sea Sparrow <i>Passer moabiticus</i>
	[] Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	[] Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> - X*
[] Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	- Red-spotted Bluethroat <i>L. svecica (svecica-group)</i>	[] House Sparrow (Indian) <i>P. domesticus (indicus-group)</i> - X
[] Eurasian Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	- Caucasian Bluethroat <i>L. svecica luristanica</i>	
[] Barred Warbler <i>Curruca nisoria</i>	[] Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>	
[] Lesser Whitethroat (Northern) <i>C. curruca curruca/blythi</i>	[] Taiga Flycatcher <i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	[] Forest Wagtail <i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
- Lesser Whitethroat (Central Asian) <i>C. curruca halimodendri</i>	[] Semicollared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	[] Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
- Lesser Whitethroat (Hume's) <i>Curruca curruca althaea</i>	[] Collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	[] Western Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>
[] Eastern Orphean Warbler <i>Curruca crassirostris</i>	[] European Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	- Yellow-headed Wagtail <i>M. flava lutea</i>
[] Asian Desert Warbler <i>Curruca nana</i>	[] Red-flanked Bluetail <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	- Blue-headed Wagtail <i>M. flava flava/beema</i>
[] Menetries's Warbler <i>Curruca mystacea</i>	[] Eversmann's Redstart <i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>	- Black-headed Wagtail <i>M. flava feldegg</i> - X
[] Common Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	[] Black Redstart (Eastern) <i>P. ochruros (ochruros-group)</i>	- Grey-headed Wagtail <i>M. flava thunbergi</i>
	[] Common Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	[] Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>
[] Arabian Babbler <i>Argya squamiceps</i> - X	- Ehrenberg's Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamiscus</i>	- Citrine Wagtail (Black-backed) <i>M. citreola calcarata</i>
	[] Common Rock Thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	[] Eastern Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>
[] Grey Hypocolius <i>Hypocolius ampelinus</i>	[] Blue Rock Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>	[] White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>
	[] Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	- Masked Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba personata</i>
[] Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> - X	[] Pied Bush Chat <i>Saxicola caprata</i>	[] Blyth's Pipit <i>Anthus godlewskii</i>
[] Wattled Starling <i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	[] Siberian Stonechat <i>Saxicola maurus</i>	[] Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>
[] Rosy Starling <i>Pastor roseus</i>	- Siberian Stonechat (Caspian) <i>Saxicola maurus hemprichii</i>	[] Long-billed Pipit <i>Anthus similis</i> - X
[] Indian Pied Myna <i>Gracupica contra</i> - CX	- Siberian Stonechat (Amur) <i>Saxicola maurus stejnegeri</i>	[] Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus richardi</i>
[] Brahminy Starling <i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>	[] European Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	[] Paddyfield Pipit <i>Anthus rufus</i>
[] Bank Myna <i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i> - CX	[] Hooded Wheatear <i>Oenanthe monacha</i> - X	[] Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>
[] Common Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> - CX	[] Desert Wheatear <i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	[] Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
[] Violet-backed Starling <i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	[] Pied Wheatear <i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	[] Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>
[] Superb Starling <i>Lamprolornis superbus</i> - CX	[] Eastern Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	[] Siberian Pipit <i>Anthus japonicus</i>
	[] Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	[] Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>
[] Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	[] Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	[] Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
[] Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	[] Blackstart <i>Oenanthe melanura</i>	
[] Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	[] Variable Wheatear <i>Oenanthe picata</i>	[] Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
[] Common Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	[] Hume's Wheatear <i>Oenanthe albonigra</i> - X	[] Eurasian Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
[] Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	[] Mourning Wheatear <i>Oenanthe lugens</i>	
[] Ring Ouzel (Caucasian) <i>Turdus torquatus amicornum</i>	[] Kurdish Wheatear <i>Oenanthe xanthopygma</i>	[] Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
[] Black-throated Thrush <i>Turdus atrogularis</i>	[] Red-tailed Wheatear <i>Oenanthe chrysopygia</i>	[] Trumpeter Finch <i>Rhodopechys githaginea</i> - x
[] Dusky Thrush <i>Turdus eunomus</i>	[] White-crowned Wheatear <i>Oenanthe leucopygia</i>	[] Common Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
[] Eyebrowed Thrush <i>Turdus obscurus</i> - B		[] European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
	[] Purple Sunbird <i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i> - X	[] Eurasian Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>
[] Black Scrub Robin <i>Cercotrichas podobe</i>		
[] Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin <i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i> - X	[] Golden-backed Weaver <i>Ploceus jacksoni</i> - CX	[] Striolated Bunting <i>Emberiza striolata</i> - X
[] Asian Brown Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	[] Streaked Weaver <i>Ploceus manyar</i> - CX	[] Common Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
[] Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>		

Annotations: **X** - confirmed to breed, **X*** - bred in the past or breeding very sporadically, **x** - possibly or

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[] Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*
 [] Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
 [] Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*
 [] Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*
 [] Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*
 [] Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* - **x**
 [] Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani*
 [] Cinereous Bunting (Yellow-bellied) *E. cineracea semenowi*
 [] Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*
 [] Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*
 [] White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti*
 [] Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella* - **B**

Category D - Species that would otherwise appear in Category A, except that there is reasonable doubt that they have occurred naturally. Category D species are not included in the UAE list.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
 White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*
 Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*
 Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

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

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*
 Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*
 Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*
 Vulturine Guineafowl *Acryllium vulturinum*
 California Quail *Callipepla californica*
 Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar*
 Arabian Partridge *Alectoris melanocephala* - **x**
 Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus* - **x**
 Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer*
 Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*
 Green Pheasant *Phasianus versicolor*
 Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* - **X**
 Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*
 Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*
 Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
 Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*
 Hawaiian Goose *Branta sandvicensis*
 Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*
 Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*
 Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melancoryphus*
 Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
 Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*
 Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*
 Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*
 Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
 Radjah Shelduck *Radjah radjah*
 Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
 Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*
 Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*
 Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*
 Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*
 Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*
 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
 Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*
 White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*
 Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
 Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*
 Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*
 Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*
 Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
 Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*
 Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*
 Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber* - **X**
 Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*
 Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*
 Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*
 Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*
 Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
 White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*
 Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
 Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*
 Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
 Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*
 Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*
 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
 Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*
 Arabian Bustard *Ardeotis arabs*
 Macqueen's Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii*
 White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*
 Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum* - **X**
 Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina*
 Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*
 Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*
 Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus*
 Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*
 African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*
 Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*
 Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*
 Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*
 Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*
 Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*
 Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicinctus*
 Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*
 Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*
 Red Lory *Trichoglossus borneus*
 Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*
 Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*
 Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*
 Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala* - **x**
 Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseata*
 Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis*
 Lilian's Lovebird *Agapornis lilianae*
 Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*
 Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloropterus*
 Nanday Parakeet *Aratinga nenday*
 Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* - **x**
 Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*
 Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*
 Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*
 Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
 Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
 Pied Crow *Corvus albus*
 Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*
 Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* (Cat C up to 2016)
 Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
 Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*
 Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus* - **x**
 Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*
 Bali Starling *Leucopsar rothschildi*
 Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*
 Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprolornis regius*
 Sudan Golden Sparrow *Passer luteus*
 Rueppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula*
 Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* - **X**

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Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*
 Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*
 Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* - **x**
 Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus*
 Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis*
 Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*
 Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops*
 Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*
 Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*
 Zanzibar Bishop *Euplectes nigroventris*
 Black-winged Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*
 Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*
 White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*
 Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*
 Blue-capped Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*
 Lavender Waxbill *Estrilda caerulescens*
 Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*
 Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* - **X**
 Green Avadavat *Amandava formosa*
 Zebra Waxbill *Amandava subflava*
 Tricolored Munia *Lonchura malacca*
 White-headed Munia *Lonchura maja*
 Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora*
 Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* - **X**
 European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
 Grey-crowned Goldfinch *Carduelis caniceps*
 Black-headed Canary *Serinus alario*
 Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*
