

FROM THE RARITIES COMMITTEES

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EGYPT

The second report of the Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee (EORC) was published online (www.chn-france.org/eorc/eorc.php?id_content=5). The following is a summary. Claims should be sent to eorc.secretary@gmail.com for species recorded fewer than ten times (details on EORC website). In 2011 26 records were considered. 19 of these were accepted, three were considered as not proven and four are still pending. The updated checklist of the birds of Egypt now includes 452 species: 435 (category A), 11 (cat B), 6 (cat C).

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*. One male found at a Port Said market 11 March 1990 had according to the merchant been shot at lake Burullus (31° 30' N, 30° 50' E) the previous week (G Nikolaus, R van Westrienen; Nikolaus & van Westrienen 1991 *Dutch Birding* 13: 93–94). First record.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. One lake Zagam (30° 15' N, 30° 20' E), Wadi el Natrun, 14 May 1990 (F Schepers, O Pineau, R Geene, AI Abdelsamad; Schepers *et al* 1991 *Dutch Birding* 13: 95). First record.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*. An adult, Crocodile island, Luxor, 12 March 2011 (M Dennis). First record.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*. A winter survey of Egyptian wetlands along the Mediterranean coast in December 1989/January 1990 recorded a minimum of 442 individuals (P Meininger, UG Sørensen). This species has now been proved to be regular in winter in northern Egypt and is no longer considered by EORC.

Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*. Two Abu Simbel 28 December 2010 (K de Rouck, D Colin *et al*; de Rouck 2011 *Birding World* 24: 24, de Rouck & Colin 2012 *Dutch Birding* 34: 104–107). Last reported 11 May 2012 (G Joynt). First record, apparently of wild origin.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*. One Abu Simbel 20 October 1990 (SC Madge; Madge 1992 *Courser* 3: 50–51). First record.

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*. One Luxor 3 January 2011 (SR van der Veen; van der Veen 2011 *Dutch Birding* 33: 121–122). First record, apparently of wild origin.

Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius pallidirostris*. A first-winter Marsa Alam 5–11 December 2010 (A, P & G Bujanowicz). First record.

Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus*. One Wadi Gemal 2 March 2009 (J Sykes *et al*). Third record.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*. Two Naama Bay (Sharm el Sheikh), Sinai, 14 October 1990 (SC Madge; Madge 1992 *Courser* 3: 48–49). First record.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. One Naama Bay 12 October 1988 (M Baha el Din; Baha el Din 1996 *Sandgrouse* 18: 69). First record.

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. One Gebel Afsar sewage site (northeast of Cairo) 5 January 1990 (SM Lister, MC Hall; Lister & Hall 1992 *Courser* 3: 57). First record.

Black Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*. One Marsa Alam 5–11 December 2010 (A, P & G Bujanowicz). Fifth record.

Red-Tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe chrysopygia*. One male Wadi Aidieb, Gebel Elba, 22° 13' 40" N, 36° 24' 21" E, 1 December 2010 (S Baha el Din, A Badry Sayed). First record.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*. One male Abu Simbel 1 May 2006 (P-A Crochet, E Didner, P Geniez). First record, apparently of wild origin.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*. One first winter Sharm el Sheikh, 24 September 2007 (Anon). First record. Two Sharm el Sheikh 24 October 2010 (N Scatassi, M Biasioli, M Gagliardone, A Corso *et al*). Second record.

Buff-Bellied Pipit *Anthus (rubescens) japonicus*. One Naama Bay 11–13 January 2009 (S Skaarup). First record. One Naama Bay 30 December 2010–3 January 2011 (J & V Mazenauer, W Wind). Second record.

Records considered not proven: Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* (Quseir, 24 Nov 1983), Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* (Hamata mangroves, 20 Mar 2004),

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* (Hamata, Red sea, 18 Sep 2005).

ISRAEL

The following information is from Bulletin 8:01 Rare Birds in Israel, December 2012 published by the Israel Rarities and Distribution Committee (IRDC). Records of rare species for adjudication by IRDC should be sent to Avner Cohen (israbirding@gmail.com). See also www.israbirding.com/irdc.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*. Two Acre old port 23 December 2009 (A Ben-Dov). One remained to 16 January 2010. Fifth record.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*. One off Jaffa 3 February 2010 (B Granit, E Shochat). Fifth record. One off Shikmona 28 January 2012 (T Kahn). Sixth record.

Swinhoe's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis*. One moribund at Eilat 24 January 2008 (N Weiss). Fifth record.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. Nine (five adults, four immatures) first found at Tel Anafa fields, eastern Hula valley, 4 December 2011 (YL Ari). Seen throughout winter. Fourth record.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*. One Eilat's North Beach 14 March 2007 (JP Smith). Remained to 27 March. First record. One Kefar Baruch reservoir 8 December 2011 (T Khan). Seen until late February 2012. Second record.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*. One male Kefar Rupin fish ponds 14 January 2005 (B Dvir). Eighth record.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. Two females Metzger reservoir, Golan Heights, 8 February 2008 (T Simantov *et al*). Remained for some time. 26th record. A 2nd year female K19 ponds, Eilat, 13–19 May 2012 (N Weiss *et al*). 27th record.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*. One juvenile Eilat 28 March 2008 (N Weiss, R Mizrachi, A Cohen). Seventh record.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*. One Ma'ale Gamla, Golan Heights, 24 January 2008 (A Boldo *et al*). Seventh record.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*. One Ma'agan Michael 21 November 2008 (A Mayrose, S Agmon). First identified as *P. fulva* but re-identified by JP Smith from photographs. Remained to mid December

2008. First record. One Acre beach 24 January 2009 (S Hacham). Seen until late February. Possibly same individual as first record.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. One Yotvata sewage ponds 30 April–3 May 2008 (M Kraig *et al*). Sixth record. One Gesher ponds, Beit She'an valley, 7 May 2008 (A Ben-Dov, O Horine, S Alterman). Seventh record. One Samar sewage ponds 1–4 December 2010 (I Shanni *et al*). Eighth record.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*. One Neve Eitan ponds, Beit Shean valley, 25 September 2008 (P Kinsella, L Gregory, Northern Valleys raptor survey team). Second record.

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*. This species normally occurs March–August so two 8 December 2007 at North Beach, Eilat (R Mizrachi, T Kahn) is an exceptional winter record.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*. One adult 23 October 2007 re-flooded area Hula valley western canal (A Balaban *et al*). Fourth record.

Black-crowned Sparrow Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*. One male Yotvata fields 3–15 November 2010 (I Shanni *et al*). 15th record.

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*. One Rishpon beach, central coastal plains 13 March 2008 (B Granit, T Kahn). Fourth record

Masked White Wagtail *Motacilla alba personata*. One Ma'agan Michael 18 March 2011 (A Ben-Dov). Second record.

Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis*. One Netiv Halamed Hei reservoir 8–19 November 2011 (R Haran *et al*). Second record.

Basalt Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens warriarum*. One Kefar Baruch reservoir, Jezreel valley, 19 January 2010 (U Mackover). Fifth record. One Uvda valley, southern Negev, 1–30 March 2012 (D Berkovitch). Sixth record.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*. One Eilat cemetery 19 November 2011 (M Wolinski, S Ingram *et al*). Second record.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*. A 1st winter male Kerem Ben-zimra, upper Galilee, 26 January 2011 (R Segali, S Luria). 13th record.

Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*. One Lehavot Habashan ponds, Hula valley, 23 May 2012 (E Rimon). One Hula 2 June 2012 (F Argyle). Neither had brood patch or cloacal protuberance. 15th record.

Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*. One Midreshet Ben Gurion, central Negev, 1 May 2008 (D Burns, E Makover). Third record. One Netiv Halamed Hae reservoir 14 October 2009 (R Haran). Fourth record. One upper Wadi Shanni, Eilat mountains, 29 October 2010 (R Shaish). Fifth record. One Ashdod, southern coastal plains, 4 June 2011 (Y Perlman). Sixth record.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. One Ein Afek 25 October 2011 (I Shimshon). Fourth record.

Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus*. One female Kibutz Samar 20/21 May 2011 (E Sadan). 13th record. One male Eilat 28 November 2011 (B Granit). 14th record.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*. One Nafcha, central Negev ridge, 14 November 2009 (B Granit, S Alterman). One Kmahin, Nitzana, 5 November 2010 (Y Koren, U Arad). This species has become much rarer during the last two decades with less than one record a year—descriptions/photographs required for all sightings.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*. One adult male Ezuz, Nitzana, 15 May 2010 (A Ben-Dov). Second record.

The following claims were rejected: European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* (Ashdod, 28 Jan 2012, withdrawn by observer), Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus* (Jerusalem BO, 27 Apr 2008). Both a Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata opistholeuca* (Eilat, Feb 1986) and a Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura* (Eilat, Dec 1982) have been re-identified as **Basalt Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugens warriae*.

JORDAN

The decisions of the 15th meeting of the Jordan Bird Records Committee (JBRC) are as follows. All claims and records should be sent to the secretary Dr Fares Khoury (avijordan2000@yahoo.com).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*. One Aqaba bird observatory 2 April 2011 (K Mild). 11th record.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*. One immature Aqaba BO 19 December 2011 (F Rahahleh). Seen subsequently to February 2012. First record.

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*. One Burqu' 10 February 2005 (M Amano, L Moghrabi, N Hamidan, K Omari). Second record.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. One Azraq 23 April 2004 (A Halah, C Hewson, L Moghrabi, K Omari) was the first record for ten years.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. One Mudawwara 16 December 2003 (P Ellis, A Halah, K Omari). Second record.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*. Two Aqaba BO 2 April 2011 (K Mild, T Pettersson). 12th record. This species occurs regularly in small numbers at Aqaba in winter and spring and there are now over twelve confirmed records for Jordan (1500 recorded near Irbid, northwest Jordan, 5 December 2012). This species does not now require a claim to be submitted to JBRC.

Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*. Five adults Aqaba BO 2 April 2011 (K Mild, T Pettersson). This species may prove to be a regular winter visitor and spring migrant at Aqaba. Until this is proved to be the case, descriptions should continue to be submitted.

Nubian Nightjar *Caprimulgus nubicus*. One Tassan springs and five Fifa, 20–21 March 2011 (K Mild, T Pettersson, P Waern). Seventh and eighth records. JBRC notes that a survey in spring 2012 confirmed the presence of a small population of this species at Fifa. Descriptions of this species are therefore only required for sightings at locations other than the Fifa area.

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*. One Mudawwara 23 March 2011 (K Mild, T Pettersson, P Waern). First record.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*. One Aqaba 26 March 2011 (P Waern). Fourth record.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*. One Azraq 1 May 2007 (J Azar). First record.

KUWAIT

The Kuwait Ornithological Records Committee meets quarterly each year to review and adjudicate submitted rarity forms for species that are considered accidental, vagrant, rare and scarce, as well as other specified species that have low and infrequent abundance. Claims should be sent to the secretary AbdulRahman Al Sirhan (alsirhan@alsirhan.com).

New species for Kuwait:

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*. Four Jahra pools reserve (JPR) 7 November 2012 (O Al-Bathali). First record.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*. One Jahra East outfall (JEO) 5 June 2012 (R Al Hajji). First record.

Mesopotamian Crow *Corvus cornix capellanus*. One 23 October 2012 JPR (K Al Ghanem). First record.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*. One JPR 26 August 2012 (R Al Hajji).

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah *Vidua interjecta*. One Al-Abraq 23 October 2012 (M Pope). First record (category E).

Other accepted records:

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*. One JPR 7 November 2012 (M Pope). Ninth record.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*. One Kuwait city (west) 6 February 2012 (Swiss group). Third record.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*. One Sulaibikhat bay 5 May 2012 (M Pope). 16th record.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*. Two Boubyan island 1 May 2012 (K Al Nasrallah). Seventh record.

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*. One JEO 13 May 2012 (R Al Hajji). Second record.

Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*. Three JPR 6 October 2012 (H Al Shaygi). Eighth record.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*. One JEO 8 November 2012 (R Al Hajji). 11th record.

Eurasian Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. One Pivot fields 26 February 2012 (K Al Ghanem). 11th record.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*. One Green island 2 February 2012 (P Fagel, R Swan). Sixth record.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*. One JPR 31 August 2012 (R Al Hajji). Second record.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. One Sabah Al Ahmad nature reserve (SAANR) 15 September 2012 (R Al Hajji). Third record.

Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*. One JEO 27 August 2012 (R Al Hajji). Second record. One SAANR 28 August 2012 (R Al Hajji). Third record.

Hooded Wheatear *Oenanthe monacha*. One JEO 22 November 2012 (R Al Hajji). Eighth record.

Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus*. Four Al-Abraq 16 February 2012 (P Fagel). 13th record. Three JPR 14 November 2012 (R Al Hajji). 14th record.

Radde's Accentor *Prunella ocularis*. One SAANR 15 March 2012 (R Al-Hajji). Second record. One Sabriya 6 April 2012 (T Pepper). Third record.

Masked Wagtail *Motacilla alba personata*. One Wafra 10 February 2012 (Swiss group). Second record.

Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta*. One Khiran 17 March 2012 (R Al Hajji). Ninth record.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*. One SAANR 16 March 2012 (K Al Ghanem). Second record.

Record considered not proven: Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* (SAANR, 16 Sep 2012).

OMAN

The Oman Bird Records Committee (hjoman@gmail.com) has accepted the following claims. As of December 2012, the Oman list stands at 512.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*. Three East Khawr 12 December 2011–22 March 2012 (C Cooper *et al.*). Eighth record.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*. One adult Qatbit 20 September 2012 (S Tibbett). Second record.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*. One juvenile Wave, Muscat, 1 January 2012 (H & J Eriksen). Ninth record.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*. One Ayn Hamran 19 February 2011 (R Barnes). Second record.

African Swampphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*. One Al Qurm park 22 October–25 December 2011 (D Bates *et al.*). Second record.

Watercock *Gallixrex cinerea*. One Khawr Al Mughsayl 24–25 November 2011 (H & J Eriksen, D Mackenzie, S Tibbett). Third record.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*. One adult West Khawr 19–27 November 2011 (H & J Eriksen *et al.*). Seventh record. During 2012 three adults were at West Khawr and a pair bred there during the autumn, the first breeding record for Oman. By

December 2012 an adult with four downy chicks was present in addition to two other adults.

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*. One adult Sahnawt farm, Salalah, 3 January 2012 (HG Andersson). First record.

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*. One pair Wadi Rabkut 18 February 2010. One adult male singing Al Balid farm 18 February 2010. Fourth & fifth records (K Mild, T Pettersson).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*. One Raysut waste disposal site 25 December 2010 (DL Velasco, GR Lázaro). First record. One East Khawr 4 November 2011 (S Tibbett, D Mackenzie). Second record.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus (rubescens) japonicus*. One Sun farm, Sohar, 26 December 2011 (H & J Eriksen). Seventh record.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. One Qatbit 14 November 2012 (T Perrier). Fourth record.

Pied Stonechat *Saxicola caprata*. One sub-adult male Qatbit 26–27 October 2012 (A Kullberg, J Garvelink). Sixth record.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*. One Thumrayt 29 September–9 October 2008 (S Tibbett). Second record.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*. One Thumrayt 26–29 January 2010 (S Tibbett). Tenth record.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. One Hilf 22 September 2009 (O Campbell). Fifth record.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. One Mahawt island 31 October 2009 (M Watson). First record.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*. One adult female Thumrayt 7 December 2011 (S Tibbett). First record.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*. One Dawkah farm 7 November 2007 (K Mullarney). Fourth record.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*. One adult male Dawkah farm 11–14 November 2010 (T Perrier). First record.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*. One Qatbit 27 October 2012 (J Garvelink). Ninth record.

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