

# FROM THE RARITIES COMMITTEES

Ian Harrison (compiler)

Observers who have had a country first record accepted by a rarities committee are encouraged to write it up for publication.

## CYPRUS

BirdLife Cyprus Rarities Committee members: Colin Richardson (chair), Melis Charalambides, Stavros Christodoulides, Jeff Gordon, Hugh Buck, Nigel Cottle. Claims should be sent to Colin Richardson at richar@cytanet.com.cy

## EGYPT

The Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee comprises: Sherif Baha El Din (chair), Frédéric Jiguet (secretary, non-voting), Web Abdou, Richard Bonser, Andrea Corso, Pierre André Crochet, Andrew Grieve, Richard Hoath, Manuel Schweizer. Official external advisors are Istvan Moldovan, Ahmed Riad and Mary Megalli. Claims should be sent to eorc.secretary@gmail.com. See also [www.chn-france.org/eorc/eorc.php?id\\_content=1](http://www.chn-france.org/eorc/eorc.php?id_content=1) where claim forms can be downloaded.

## ISRAEL

Avner Cohen (Secretary), James P Smith, Barak Granit, Rami Lindroos, Killian Mullarney, Eyal Shochat, Eran Banker and Tomer Landsberger. Claims should be sent to Avner Cohen at [israbirding@gmail.com](mailto:israbirding@gmail.com). See also [www.israbirding.com/irdc](http://www.israbirding.com/irdc) where submission forms can be downloaded.

## JORDAN

The Jordan Bird Records Committee (JBRC) comprises: Fares Khoury (secretary), Richard Porter, Ian Andrews, Feras Rahahleh, Khaldun Al-Omari. Claims should be sent to Fares Khoury at [avijordan2000@yahoo.com](mailto:avijordan2000@yahoo.com). JBRC has accepted one record since the report in *Sandgrouse* 35(1).

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*. One Al Azraq wetland reserve 5 and 12 November 2012 (T Qaneer). Second record.

## KUWAIT

The Kuwait Ornithological Rarities Committee (KORC) comprises: Mike Pope (chair), AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan (secretary), Pekka Fagel, Oscar Campbell (external adjudicator), Peter Kennerley (external adjudicator), Brian Foster (honorary member). Claims should be sent to AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan at [alsirhan@alsirhan.com](mailto:alsirhan@alsirhan.com). KORC has accepted the following claims since the last report in *Sandgrouse* 35(1).

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*. Two Jahra pools reserve (JPR) 18 February 2013 (M Pope). Tenth record.

**Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*. Two JPR 1 January 2013 (R Al Hajji). Second record.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*. One Jahra East outfall (JEO) 28 May 2013 (R Al Hajji). Fifth record.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*. One JEO 29 May 2013 (R Al Hajji). 12th record

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*. One Fahaheel park 5 February 2013 (N Hulet). Third record.

**White-crowned Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucopyga*. One Mutla ridge 12 January 2013 (R Al Hajji). 15th record.

**Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis*. One Al Abra (AA) 10 April 2013 (A & A Nava). First record.

**Masked Wagtail** *Motacilla (alba) personata*. One JPR 2 March 2013 (M Al Saddni). Third record.

**Dead Sea Sparrow** *Passer moabiticus*. One JPR 4 March 2013 (K Al Ghanem). 15th record

**European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*. One AA 10 April 2013 (A & A Nava). First record.

**Desert Finch** *Rhodospiza obsoleta*. Two Khiran area 5 February 2013 (O Al Shaheen). Tenth record.

First breeding records for Kuwait:

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*. First breeding proven JPR 12 April 2013 (J Judaa).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*. First breeding proven JPR 6 April 2013 (German bird group).

**Desert Finch** *Rhodospiza obsoleta*. First breeding proven Khiran 14 February 2013 (O Al Shaheen).

Records not proven: Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* (Al Kout-Fahaheel 4 Apr 2013), Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus* (20 Apr 2013), Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* (23 Apr 2013); Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus* (Khiran chalets 24 Apr 2013).

## OMAN

The Oman Bird Records Committee (OBRC) comprises: Jens Eriksen (recorder), Ian Harrison, Dave Sargeant, Graham Searle, John Atkins, Peter Cowan, Simon Tull, Waheed Al Farsi, Zahran Al Abdulasalam. Claims should be sent to Jens Eriksen at hjoman@gmail.com from whom claim forms can be obtained. As of June 2013 the Oman list stands at 516. OBRC has accepted the following claims since the report in *Sandgrouse* 35(1).

**Lesser Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica*. Three Al Baleed archaeological park (ABAP) 4 January–18 March 2013 (J Debuck *et al*). Third record.

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*. One at sea off Khatmat Milahah flying into Oman waters from UAE 1 July 2011 (O Campbell). First record of *borealis*, but tenth of Cory's/Scopoli's Shearwater complex.

**Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus*. Four near Tawi Atayr 16–18 February 2013 (H & J Eriksen). Third record.

**Watercock** *Gallinula cinerea*. One Khawr Rawri 6 January 2013 (S Menzie). Fourth record.

**Ruddy-breasted Crane** *Porzana fusca*. One Wadi Darbat 23 November–4 December 2012 (P & P Olson, K & O Fritz). First record.

**Long-tailed Jaeger** *Stercorarius longicaudus*. One off Muscat 15 April 2013 (H & J Eriksen). Sixth record.

**African Collared Dove** *Streptopelia risoria*. One heard Mudday 11 February 2013 (H & J Eriksen). Sixth record.

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*. One Sun farm, Sohar, 13–14 December 2012 (H & J Eriksen, JD Atkins). First record, considered escape.

**Grey-bellied Cuckoo** *Cacomantis passerinus*. One Khawr Rawri (KR) 1 April 2010 (M Becker). Fourth record.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*. Adult female first at East Khawr, then ABAP 5 November 2012–18 March 2013 (H & J Eriksen). Seventh record.

**Black Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe*. One KR 17 December 2009 (R van der Zwan). Second record.

**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*. One A'Sayh 19 November 2004 (I Harrison). Fifth record.

**Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata*. One A'Sayh 12 April 2007 (I Harrison, DE Sargeant). Seventh record.

**Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus orientalis*. One Sayq plateau (SP) 24 February 2013 (M Schilz). Fifth record.

**White-crowned Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucopyga*. One Qurayyat 3 & 17 November 2006 (I Harrison, R Hendrie, SJ Tull). Eighth record.

**Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa latirostris*. One at Ras A' Sawadi 14 October 2012 (R Graf). Third record.

**Taiga Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*. One Qatbit 18–26 November 2009 (B Richards, A Lassey, B Hill). First record.

**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*. One Sall Ala 24 April 2013 (H & J Eriksen). Sixth record.

**Eurasian Siskin** *Spinus spinus*. 11 SP 28 December 2012 with at least four staying till 24 February 2013 (I Robbe, H & J Eriksen). Eighth record.

**Cretzschmar's Bunting** *Emberiza caesia*. Male Dawkah farm 14–23 February 2013 (M Schilz, H & J Eriksen). Third record.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*. One Muntasar 28 January–10 February 2013 (H & J Eriksen *et al*). Tenth record.

## QATAR

Qatar Rare Birds Committee members: Jamie A Buchan (chair/recorder), Michael J Grunwell, Neil G Morris, Simon J Tull.

Claims should be sent to Jamie Buchan at jamie\_buchan@yahoo.com.

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The Emirates Bird Records Committee (EBRC) currently comprises the following voting members: Oscar Campbell (chairman), Nick Moran (secretary), Huw Roberts, Mark Smiles, Neil Tovey, Tommy Pedersen (UAE bird recorder). Ahmed al Ali and Peter Hellyer are non-voting members. Records are circulated and assessments published three times per year, as according to the timetable outlined at [www.uaebirding.com/ebrc.html](http://www.uaebirding.com/ebrc.html). Decisions on assessments, plus EBRC's constitution and information about the assessment process and downloadable report forms are all available at the same location. Claims should be sent to [ebrc@gmail.com](mailto:ebrc@gmail.com) or to Tommy Pedersen at [777sandman@gmail.com](mailto:777sandman@gmail.com).

In addition to ongoing work involving assessment of current records, in August 2013 EBRC will initiate a review of records, some historical and some more contemporary, of a number of species deemed difficult to identify (and perhaps subject to recent confusion) or of questionable origin. The result of this review will be published in due course. EBRC has accepted the following particularly significant records from 2012.

**Cotton Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*. One Zakher pools 8–26 December 2012 (M Parr *et al*). Tenth record and first since 2003.

**Marbled Teal** *Marmaronetta angustirostris*. One Al Warsan lakes 14–29 November 2012 (S Varghese, M Ullman *et al*). Seventh record; the previous one being January 2012.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Puffinus carneipes*. Up to 12 birds seen on pelagic trips off Khor Kalba 28–30 June 2012 (A Al Zaabi, K Al Dhaheri, SL James *et al*) and another 14–16 September 2012 (G Talbot, A Al Zaabi *et al*). Eight and ninth records; last 2010.

**Jouanin's Petrel** *Bulweria fallax*. A major and unprecedented influx in late autumn 2012, with up to 300 birds seen on pelagic trips off Khor Kalba 24 October–16 November

2012 (A Al Zaabi, K Al Dhaheri, T Pedersen *et al*), culminating in 609 birds 21 December 2012 (M Smiles *et al*). Six previous records, five in autumn 2011 and one from 2004. See also *Phoenix* 29: 24–25.

**Cinereous Vulture** *Aegyptius monachus*. One Dubai desert conservation reserve (DDCR) 16–31 October 2012 (M Smiles, S Bell, G Simkins *et al*). First record, although birds in 1995 and 1999/2000 brought to wildlife rescue centres may have been of wild origin.

**Himalayan Griffon Vulture** *Gyps himalayensis*. One DDCR 13–16 October 2012 (SL James, S Bell, N Suseelan *et al*). First record.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*. Resident in greater Dubai area, but only three records away from there: one winter 2009/2010 at Sila, then a juvenile Sila' public park 28 September–6 October 2012 and nearby 1 December 2012 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles, SP Lloyd). A juvenile Kharran water treatment plant 24 November 2012 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles, A Ward).

**Great Stone-curlew** *Esacus recurvirostris*. One Bu Al Siaief marine protected area 27 September 2011 (S Javed, S Khan) and seen again Khor Qirqishan (Musaffah) 27 February–6 March 2012 (SWL Strickland *et al*). First record (see *Tribulus* 20: 57–58).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*. One Al Ain water treatment plant 18–26 May 2012 (OJ Campbell, D O'Mahony *et al*). First record (*Sandgrouse* 35: 36–38).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*. One adult Mafraq rubbish tip 4 February–19 March 2012 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles *et al*). Ninth record; last 2011.

**Brown-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*. One immature Dibba port 11–12 December 2012 (A Jones, T Pedersen, C Papazoglou, P Panayides). Seventh record; first since 2001.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*. One adult Dibba harbour 7–11 December 2012 (M Parr *et al*). Fifth record; last 2010.

**Lesser Noddy** *Anous tenuirostris*. One seen on pelagic trip off Khor Kalba 16 November 2012 (M Smiles *et al*). Fifth record; last 2011.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*. One Wamm farms 20–26 April 2012 (OJ Campbell *et al*). Third record; last 2011.

**Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*. An immature Safa park 18–25 February 2012 (A & M Günther *et al*). First record.

**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*. One Al Barsha pond park 18 January–1 February 2012 (M Charlton *et al*) and possibly same bird Dubai pivot fields 11 March 2012 (T Pedersen *et al*) and 15 April 2012 (N Tovey). Second and third records; first since 2005.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*. One Ain al-Fayda 18 February–26 March 2012 (G Askew *et al*). Sixth record; last 2011.

**Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*. One Wadi Bih (Colin's farm) 20 November 2012 (to 5 January 2013) showing characteristics of *L. c. cristatus* (M Ullman *et al*). Seventh record; first since 2010.

**Mesopotamian Crow** *Corvus (cornix) capellanus*. One Siniyah island 26 November 2012–23 January 2013, also seen at nearby Khor al Beida (R Gubiani *et al*). First record.

**Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*. One Dalma island 3 December 2012 (OJ Campbell, GI Ensor). Seventh record; last 2011.

**Black Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe*. One Sila'a 15 November 2012, until 29 March 2013 (OJ Campbell *et al*). Sixth record; last 2009.

**Kurdistan Wheatear** *Oenanthe xanthopyrmyna*. One male Jebel Dhanna 22 March–2 April 2012 (R Willbond, SL James, K Al Dhaheri *et al*). Second record; last 2004.

**Radde's Accentor** *Prunella ocularis*. One Safa park 10–14 April 2012 (B Baker). First record.

**Taiga Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*. One Wamm farms goat farm 25 November–3 December 2012 (M Ullman *et al*) and another Safa park 30 November 2012–25 March 2013 (M Smiles *et al*). Fourth and fifth records; last 2010.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*. One Wadi Bih 26 October 2012 (S Parr). Seventh record; first since 2001.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following assisted in the compilation of this review: Colin Richardson (Cyprus), Sherif Baha el Din (Egypt), Avner Cohen (Israel), Fares Khoury (Jordan), Mike Pope & AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan (Kuwait), Jens Eriksen (Oman), Jamie Buchan (Qatar), Oscar Campbell and Tommy Pedersen (United Arab Emirates).

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