

AROUND THE REGION

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Records and photographs for *Sandgrouse* 38 (2) should be sent by 15 June 2016 to atr@osme.org.

AZERBAIJAN

A Swedish birding group monitored the migration site Besh Barmag (BB) on the Caspian coast north of Baku 26–28 Oct and counted c250 000 birds, mainly starlings, larks and corvids, but also thousands of waterfowl. Shirvan national park (SNP) and the inland lake Haji Gaboul (HG) were visited 29 Oct. 63 **Marbled Ducks** *Marmaronetta angustirostris* SNP and 3000 **Pygmy Cormorants** *Microcarbo pygmeus* BB. Two **White-tailed Lapwings** *Vanellus leucurus* SNP and two **Black-winged Pratincoles** *Glaerola nordmanni* BB. Second or third record **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* HG and one **Great Black-headed Gull** *Ichthyiaetus ichthyiaetus* BB. Several **Caucasian Chiffchaffs** *Phylloscopus (collybita) lorenzii* and first record **Yellow-browed Warbler** *P. inornatus* (28 Oct) BB. Probably fifth modern record **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* (a female) BB and a **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* SNP.

BAHRAIN

Fourth record **Woodlark** *Lullula arborea* Adhari 21 Oct while fifth record **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Jidhaf 15 Oct. Eighth record **Eurasian Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* 20 Oct Buri.

CYPRUS

First **Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis* since 2002 (eighth record) Larnaca sewage works 4–23 Nov. A **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* Zakaki marsh 15 and 22 Aug first August record. Also one Bishop's pool 17 Aug and one Oroklini lake 3–6 Nov. Another Larnaca sewage works 22 Sep—at least 24 Nov, two there 14–21 Dec and two eastern Mesaoria 10 Dec. One **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina* Oroklini marsh 3 Nov (rare migrant, recent



Plate 1. White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* 21 December 2015, Oroklini marsh, Cyprus. © Colin Richardson

breeding species). 40 **Ferruginous Ducks** *Aythya nyroca* Kouklia dam wetlands 30 Aug, 75 Kapouti 3 Sep and 79 Lefkoniko reservoir 7 Nov. Three **White-headed Ducks** *Oxyura leucocephala* Oroklini marsh 14–31 Dec (Plate 1) and into 2016 (16th record since 1989).

Large numbers **Scopoli's Shearwaters** *Calonectris diomedea* off north coast at Agios Amvrosios mid Oct with 380 floating offshore there 11 Oct, 320 migrating west 14 Oct, 88 moving east 16 Oct and 155 heading west 18 Oct. Single **Red-necked Grebes** *Podiceps grisegena* (different birds) Polis Chrysochou bay 2 and 27 Aug and five Paphos harbour 4 Nov (seven previous records). A melanistic **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* seen March present in the flock Akrotiri and Larnaca salt lakes from 8 Jun (still present Akrotiri 21 Dec). Eighteen **Black Storks** *Ciconia nigra* Vasilia 11 Sep, three Akrotiri 21 Sep, two Kouklia dam wetlands and two Phasouri 5 Oct, four Acheleia dam 19 Oct. 350 **Glossy Ibises** *Plegadis falcinellus* Polis Chrysochou bay 15 Aug was largest daily number recorded on autumn migration. 24 **Eurasian Spoonbills** *Platalea leucorodia* Kouklia dam wetlands 9 Sep. Two groups of **Great White**

Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, 27 birds, arrived from northwest 2–4 Jul remaining to 14 Jul. They travelled up to 200 miles/day visiting numerous wetlands. 25 Kouklia dam wetlands 7 Jul and nine there 30 Oct while 28 migrated southeast over Gallinoporni 11 Oct (very rare summer, otherwise scarce migrant usually late autumn). One **Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus* off Paphos headland 18 Nov.

Juvenile **Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus* Akrotiri gravel pits 16 Sep and a sub-adult Akrotiri 6 Oct. One **Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circus gallicus* (not annual Cyprus) over Akrotiri 23 Sep, and a juvenile there 30 Sep and two 3 Oct. Single immature **Lesser Spotted Eagles** *Aquila pomarina* Bishop's pool 5 Oct, Akrotiri 6 Oct and Phasouri reed-beds 8 Oct (possibly same bird) and one cape Aspro 16 Oct. At least 20 **Western Marsh Harriers** *Circus aeruginosus* Kouklia dam wetlands 23 Sep. A good autumn for less than annual **Levant Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter brevipes*: two Akrotiri 23 Sep and 6 Oct, singles Agia Varvara (Paphos) 7 Oct, Phasouri 8 Oct, Achelia dam 16–17 Oct and Konia lower farm 27 Oct. Up to three **Lesser Kestrels** *Falco naumanni* Androlikou area Paphos June and July but no proof of breeding (last recorded breeding 1929). 10 **Eurasian Hobbies** *F. subbuteo* Karpasia (near Davlos) 1 Oct. A **Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla* Bishop's pool 16 and 19 Aug, with one, probably the same bird, dead under overhead wires Akrotiri 19 Aug. Three **Spotted Crakes** *P. porzana* Kouklia dam wetlands 15 Oct. 1400 **Eurasian Coots** *Fulica atra* Kouklia dam wetlands 9 Sep. 86 **Common Cranes** *Grus grus* over northern coast of Agios Therissos 9 Oct and 80 on 11 Oct. c280 **Demoiselle Cranes** *G. virgo* Mandria, Paphos, 28 Aug and smaller numbers migrated south several dates: Akrotiri salt lake 25 Aug–18 Sep with largest flocks 13 on 25 Aug, 25 on 26 Aug, 92 on 29 Aug and 11 on 2 Sep. Also, one Evretou dam 3 Sep, two Paphos sewage plant 11 Sep and one Kouklia dam wetlands 5–6 Oct.

Over 100 **Eurasian Stone-curlews** *Burhinus oedinenus* Filia 5 Dec while 300 **Black-winged Stilts** *Himantopus himantopus* Kouklia dam wetlands 7 Jul. One **Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*, a scarce passage migrant, Polis Chrysochou bay 28 Jul, three there 19 Aug two Agios Amvrosios

5 Sep and one Spiros beach 10 Sep. A **Jack Snipe** *Limnocryptes minimus* Nicosia 6 Nov and 65 **Common Snipes** *Gallinago gallinago* Kouklia dam wetlands 15 Oct. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* Spiros beach 3–9 Oct. A juvenile **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* Akrotiri gravel pits 3–24 Sep and another Larnaca sewage works 4–23 Nov (10th & 11th records in last 10 years). One **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* Lady's Mile 4 Sep and two Kouklia dam wetlands 7–9 Sep (unusual autumn). A **Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor* Akrotiri gravel pits 20 Aug first for August. One **Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni* Akhna dam 3 Oct (ninth record since 2005). Four **Great Black-headed Gulls** *Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus* Paphos headland 27 Nov and two cape Greco 18 Dec. A juvenile **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus* cape Drepanum 1 Dec. Two **Caspian Terns** *Hydroprogne caspia* Paphos lighthouse 21 Jul, two Polis Chrysochou bay 8 Aug and three there 10 Aug and 27 Sep.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*, formerly an accidental visitor but now increasing as a breeding resident, with two Kouklia, Paphos, 29 Jun, one Athalassa 12 Sep, one Asprokremmos dam 21 Oct and seven Kouklia from 27 Oct. 18+ **European Nightjars** *Caprimulgus europaeus* after dark Mandria coastal ploughed fields 4 Sep, with 32 there 7 Sep. Flock of 250 **Alpine Swifts** *Tachymarptis melba* Tsada and Armou 22 Oct, with 110 there 31 Oct (very late passage). One **Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Akrotiri gravel pits 4 Sep. A **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis* Kouklia soakaways 23–29 Sep and probably same bird Paphos airport beach 12 Oct, with one Phasouri reed-beds 21 Nov and 9 Dec. Single **Pied Kingfishers** *Ceryle rudis* Achelia dam 15–16 Oct, Achelia/Timi canal 4 Nov (possibly same bird) and Oroklini marsh 21 Dec. A probable juvenile **Turkestan Shrike** *Lanius (isabellinus) phoenicuroides* Meneou beach 7 Sep. One male and one female **Bearded Reedling** *Panurus biarmicus* lower Ezousas pool 14–19 Nov and singles Zakaki marsh 16 Nov and Phasouri reed-beds 21 Nov (sixth–eighth records since 1999). A **Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens* Akrotiri gravel pits 3 Nov. One **Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus orientalis* Souni 11 Aug (unusual autumn record) while a

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* lower Ezousas pools 14 Nov (rare migrant). **Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina* is a rare autumn migrant but singles Minthis hills 2 Sep and Armou hills 3 Sep. Two **Barred Warblers** *Sylvia nisoria* Agia Napa sewage works 6 Sep only autumn record. A female **Rüppell's Warbler** *S. rueppelli* Agios Nikolaos 30 Sep.

Almost annual **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* first reported Avagas gorge 1 Nov with up to three present there that month and another Kensington cliffs 7 Nov. Single juvenile **Rose-coloured Starlings** *Pastor roseus* (rare migrant) Phasouri reed-beds 9 Aug and Larnaca airport coast 24 Aug. A **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* Troodos 20 Nov only tenth record since 1994. One **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* Troodos area 9 Nov (14th record past 10 years). Black and white *Ficedula* flycatchers rare autumn passage though a **Eurasian Pied Flycatcher** *F. hypoleuca* Asprokremmos dam 5 Sep and single **Collared Flycatchers** *F. albicollis* Akrotiri gravel pits 29 Aug and Agios Nikolaos 2 Oct. One **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *F. parva* ringed Polis reed-beds 13 Oct and one near Larnaca sewage works 19 Oct. **Two Richard's Pipits** *Anthus richardi* Phasouri reed-beds 6 Nov, five Paphos headland 15 Nov and one Germasogeia dam 19 Nov (rare autumn migrant). Five **Yellowhammers** *Emberiza citronella* Livadi tou Pashia (Troodos) 14 Nov, two Almirolivado 17 Nov and one there 20 Nov (previously less than annual, now more frequent).

EGYPT

An adult **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* off Wadi Lahami 10 Sep. One second-year **Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* Hurghada sewage works 9 and 12 Sep while up to 33 Abu Simbel, 12–14 Sep. An adult **White-tailed Plover** *Vanellus leucurus* Ragaba village (north of Aswan) 11 Sep, one juvenile **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* Wadi Lahami mangroves 11 Sep, a **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* there 8 Sep and one juvenile **Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni* Hamata mangroves 10 Sep.

GEORGIA

Several **Crested Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* Batumi (Shuamta) 28 Aug–30 Sep and Batumi (Makhinjauri) 5, 13 and 21

Sep. A **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* Chorokhi delta, (just south of Batumi) 19 Sep and 1 Oct while first record of **Audouin's Gull** *Ichthyaeetus audouinii* there 28 Aug. A **Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* there 4 and 8 Aug. One **Daurian Shrike** *Lanius* (i.) *isabellinus* Chorokhi delta 1 Oct and an adult male there 11–12 Oct while another male Batumi 8–9 Oct. First record **Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula* Ajaria 31 Oct and first record **Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps* (a male) Chorokhi delta 2–3 Oct. One **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Ajaria 16 Oct (second record). First record **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *P. proregulus* Batumi park 29–31 Oct. One **Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus (rubescens) japonicus* Ajaria 31 Oct and a **Lapland Longspur** *Calcarius lapponicus* Chorokhi delta 26 Oct.

ISRAEL

One **Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha*, a returning bird from 2014, Hazeva, north Arava, 19 Nov onwards (second record if accepted as wild origin). A **Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens* (eighth record) Harod and Jizreel valleys during September until at least 13 Oct while one reported Agamon Hula 10 Nov possibly same bird. A **Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* Tirat Zvi, Bet Shean valley, 17–18 Sep. One immature **Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotus* (first record since 2001) Hai Bar reserve, Mt Carmel, Haifa, 14 Jun (taken into care 24 Jun). A **Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii* Judean desert 28 Nov. One immature **Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* southern Judean plains June–13 Aug (sightings Beer Sheva 20 Sep, Oranit 17 Oct and south Judean plains 13 Nov probably this long-staying individual). A **Demoiselle Crane** *Grus virgo* IBRCE, Eilat, 11 Nov. One **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* Yotvata, 10–20 Oct, a **White-tailed Lapwing** *V. leucurus* Ein Hamifratz, north coastal plains, 8–30 Jun and a **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* Bet Shean valley 24–31 Oct. **Pin-tailed Snipes** *Gallinago stenura* Nir Oz, northwest Negev, 5–7 Oct, Kfar Ruppim 7–17 Oct and Habesor reservoir, northwest Negev, 12 Oct, were ninth–11th records. One **Great Snipe** *G. media* Nizzana 5 Nov. A **White-eyed Gull** *Ichthyaeetus leucophthalmus* Zikim beach, Mediterranean coast, 3 Oct. A

Saunders's Tern *Sternula (albifrons) saundersi* Eilat 18 Aug. First breeding record **White-cheeked Tern** *Sterna repressa* Eilat (pair with two eggs, probably failed). A **Rufous Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia (orientalis) meena* Yotvata 12 Nov. Injured fledgling **Pallid Scops Owl** *Otus brucei* in date plantation near Mitzpe Shalem (Dead sea) 2 Jun followed by survey of most of potential range in Israel indicated that several tens of pairs breed in date plantations along Jordan valley and Dead sea (first breeding records since 1904). One **Steppe Grey Shrike** *Lanius (meridionalis) pallidirostis* Yotvata 8–17 Oct and another Beer Sheva 20 Oct. A female **Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus* KM76, Arava, 21 Nov. An **Arabian Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda dunni eremodites* Bet Yanay beach, Mediterranean coast, 23 Oct. One **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Kiryat Gat 28 Oct and a **Hume's Warbler** *P. humei* Bat Shlomo, Carmel, from 12 Nov onwards. A **Basra Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus griseldis* ringed Agamon Hula 19 Aug while a **Paddyfield Warbler** *A. agricola* was ringed IBRCE, Eilat, 5 Oct (tenth record). One **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* Nafha, central Negev, 14 Nov. A pair **Black Scrub Robins** *Cercotrichias podobe* breeding Yotvata June successfully raised two young. A male **White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis* Sde Boker July–7 Aug and a first year bird ringed Jerusalem bird observatory 4 Aug. Unprecedented influx **Cyprus Wheatears** *Oenanthe cyprica* along Mediterranean coast 28 Oct, with c100 in total observed numerous locations (a few singles earlier in the month). Highest concentration 40 Tel Barukh beach, northern Tel Aviv. One **Pied Wheatear** *O. pleschanka* KM20 salt pans, Eilat, 24 Oct and another KM76, Arava, 20 Nov. A male **Kurdistan Wheatear** *O. (x.) xanthoprymna* Arsuf, north of Tel Aviv, 7 Nov and another male mount Gilboa 21 Nov onwards. Fourth record **Yellow-throated Sparrow** *Gymnoris xanthocollis* Kfar Ruppim, Bet Shean valley, 25 Sep (previous record 2001–2002). A **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* Tel Aviv, 11 Nov and another KM76, Arava, 27 Nov.

KAZAKHSTAN

One **Lesser Flamingo** *Phoeniconaias minor* northeast bay Maly Tengiz 8 Sep while a **Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana* Aktau, Mangystau, 1 Sep. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

Calidris acuminata Almaty Sorbulakskaj sistema ozer 25 Jul and a **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* Almatinskaja obl Sorbulakskaja sistema ozer 25 Jul. One **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus* eastern Caspian sea 19 May (70 km northwest from Buzachi peninsula). A **Great Grey Owl** *Strix nebulosa* Lebazie village SKO 10 Oct.

LEBANON

Lebanese hunters' use of social media to post photos of killed birds produced some records of interest autumn 2015. A male **Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* shot Labwe, east Bekaa, 18 Oct, while two more shot 24 Oct Okaybeh Keserwan, mount Lebanon, and Qaa, east Bekaa (2nd–4th records). One **Common Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla* shot 13 Nov Zayneye lake (above Yammouneh) prompted debate among hunters, bringing to light a record of a bird shot Oct 2013, Behouita, northern Lebanon (2nd & 3rd records). Following reports of 'many' **Rose-coloured Starlings** *Pastor roseus* shot in the north and west Bekaa in spring, a juvenile was shot Qab Elias early Sep, suggesting possible breeding. Lebanon's first **White-crowned Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucopyga* 14 Sep Beit Mery, mount Lebanon was shot following day.

OMAN

One **Greater White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons* 9 Nov Khawr Rawri, increasing to two 18 Nov, and one remained to 28 Dec. Three **Ruddy Shelducks** *Tadorna ferruginea* Raysut lagoons 16 Nov increasing to six 11 Dec and still there 25 Dec (Plate 2). Two **Cotton Pygmy Geese** *Nettapus coromandelianus* Khawr Rawri 17–18 Nov. A **Gadwall** *Anas strepera* Al Ansab wetland 16 Dec. **Garganeys** *A. querquedula* Raysut sewage treatment plant (STP) on several occasions, max 44 (21 Sep). 200 **Eurasian Teals** *A. crecca*, 100 **Northern Shovelers** *A. clypeata* (130 on 4 Nov) and 20 **Ferruginous Ducks** *Aythya nyroca* Al Ansab wetland 16 Dec. Five **Wilson's Storm Petrels** *Oceanites oceanicus* (100 off Ras Abu Rasas 28 Sep) and ten **Swinhoe's Storm Petrels** *Oceanodroma monorhis* Ras Janjari 17 Nov (and ten Mirbat 26 Nov). 480 **Persian Shearwaters** *Puffinus persicus* and 214 **Jouanin's Petrels** *Bulweria fallax* Mirbat 26 Nov. Two **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters** *Puffinus pacificus* Ras Abu



Plate 2. Ruddy Shelducks *Tadorna ferruginea* 6 December 2015, Raysut, Oman. © H & J Eriksen

Rasas 28 Sep. 103 **Little Grebes** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Al Ansab wetland 4 Sep and 84 there 4 Nov with three **Black-necked Grebes** *Podiceps nigricollis*.

One **Lesser Flamingo** *Phoeniconaias minor* Khawr Rawri 26 Dec and seven there 28 Dec are seventh record. One **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* Wadi Baqlat 10–17 Nov and one Wadi Darbat 17 and 25 Nov. **Abdim's Storks** *C. abdimii* Raysut STP from 27 Oct (max 625 on 20 Nov) while 500 over Salalah 9 Dec. An **African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Qatbit 2 Dec. 80 **Glossy Ibises** *Plegadis falcinellus* Al Baleed 19 Sep and 90 East Khawr 19 Oct. A juvenile **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* Al Ghaftayn, central desert, 1 Sep. A **Yellow Bittern** *I. sinensis* Al Qurm park 22 Oct (very rare north). 15 **Indian Pond Herons** *Ardeola grayii* Al Baleed park 21 Oct, an unusually high number. **Intermediate Egrets** *Egretta intermedia* Al Ansab wetland (up to two, Jul–Dec), one central desert 12 Sep (Dawqah farm) and in the south (Al Baleed, Khawr Rawri, Raysut, Al Mughsayl) up to two Nov–Dec). 2000 **Great Cormorants** *Phalacrocorax carbo* 20 Nov Al Qurm beach. 17 **Western Ospreys** *Pandion haliaetus* Raysut 6 Dec. Two adult **Black-winged Kites** *Elanus caeruleus* Barka 19 Oct. 260 **Egyptian Vultures**



Plate 3. Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* 13 November 2015, Shelim, Oman. © H & J Eriksen



Plate 4. Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* 10 December 2015, Jarziz farm, Salalah, Oman. © H & J Eriksen

Neophron percnopterus Fahud 2 Oct. **Crested Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* East Khawr park 26 Nov (two)–30 Dec (one), max four 10 Dec. One **Eurasian Griffon Vulture** *Gyps fulvus* Tawi Atayr 10 Nov, five Wadi Darbat 25 Nov, two Raysut STP 26 Nov and four Al Mazyunah 28 Nov. 14 **Lappet-faced Vultures** *Torgos tracheliotus* Al Mazyunah 28 Nov. A *fulvescens* **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Clanga clanga* Raysut STP 3 Nov and 12 Al Ansab wetland 16 Dec. Two **Yellow-billed Kites** *Milvus aegyptius* East Khawr park area



Plate 5. Corncrake *Crex crex* | September 2015, Al Ghaftayn, Oman. © H & J Eriksen



Plate 6. Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* 3 November 2015, Raysut, Oman. © H & J Eriksen

17 Nov–30 Dec. First record **Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus* Wadi Darbat 20 Nov. **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* Dawkah farm 28 Aug. **Amur Falcons** *Falco amurensis* Shelim 13 Nov (Plate 3), Hilf 15 Nov, Jarziz farm 10 Dec (Plate 4).

One **Corncrake** *Crex crex* Al Ghaftayn 1 Sep (Plate 5). Single **White-breasted Waterhens** *Amaurornis phoenicurus* Khawr Rawri 9 Nov, Hilf 14–19 Nov, Al Mughsayl 18–27 Nov. **Little Crakes** *Porzana parva* Rakhyut 20 Sep, Al Mazyunah STP 24 Nov, Al Mughsayl 27 Nov while **Baillon's Crakes** *P. pusilla* Raysut STP 21 Sep (three), Khawr Rawri 18 Nov (two), 25 Nov (two) and 28 Dec (one), Al Mughsayl 27 Nov (two), Taqah 23 Dec and one East Khawr 24 Dec. Two **Spotted Crakes** *P. porzana* Al Mazyunah STP 24 Nov and singles Khawr Rawri 25 Nov (two there 28 Dec) and Taqah 23 Dec. Sixth record **Watercock** *Gallicrex cinerea* Khawr Taqah 16 Nov. Six **Red-knobbed Coots** *Fulica cristata* Khawr Rawri 28 Dec and smaller numbers there other dates. Unseasonal **Eurasian Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedipnemos* Raysut lagoons 11 Dec. One **Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* frequented both Raysut lagoons and Raysut STP 26 Aug–11 Dec (Plate 6) while a juvenile **Sociable Lapwing** *V. gregarius* Qatbit 27 Oct and 56 Sahanawt farm 16 Nov. A **Eurasian Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* Qatbit 2 Dec. Seventh record **Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis* (an adult female)

Raysut STP 26–28 Aug (Plate 7). **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* records included five Raysut lagoons 26 Nov and 6 Dec, six Taqah 23 Dec and three Khawr Rawri 28 Dec. First record **Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus* Al Ansab wetland 3 Nov—at least 31 Jan 2016 while seventh record **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* Barr Al Hikman 12 Nov. One **Long-toed Stint** *C. subminuta* East Khawr 4 (Plate 8) and 27 Nov and one Filim 12 Nov. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** *C. melanotos* Muscat 18 Nov (Plate 9). 905 **Ruffs** *Philomachus pugnax* East Khawr 11 Nov. 750 **Red-necked Phalaropes** *Phalaropus lobatus* off Mirbat 26 Nov. A **Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* Damaniyat islands 6 Sep and two off Mirbat 6 Nov and at Al Fazayh 9 Nov. One **Lesser Noddy** *A. tenuirostris* Ras Abu Rasas, Masirah island, 28 Sep. An early adult **Pallas's Gull** *Ichthyiaetus ichthyiaetus* Quriyat 21 Nov. Six **Sooty Terns** *Onychoprion fuscatus* Al Fazayh 9 Nov. Fifth record **South Polar Skua** *Stercorarius maccormicki* Muscat 24 Jun. Three **Pomarine Skuas** *S. pomarinus* off Muscat 8 Nov, one Ras A'Sawadi 16 Oct and one Hilf 16 Nov; two **Long-tailed Skuas** *S. longicaudus* off Al Qurm park 19 Sep (eighth record).

One **Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis* Sahanawt farm 2 Oct and two Hilf 19–20 Nov. Three **African Collared Doves** *S. roseogrisea* Dawqah farm 14 Nov (new location, northerly spread?) and six at the more usual Mudhay 4 Dec. A **Pied Cuckoo** *Oxylophus*



Plate 7. Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 28 August 2015, Raysut, Oman. © H & J Eriksen



Plate 8. Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* 4 November 2015, East Khawr, Salalah, Oman. © H & J Eriksen



Plate 9. Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* 18 November 2015, Muscat, Oman. © H & J Eriksen

jacobinus Al Ghaftayn 21 Nov. **Asian Koel** *Eudynamis scolopaceus* records away from Masirah island (Plate 10) included Dawqah farm 14 Nov, Mudhay 4 Dec, Taqah 23 Dec. Third record **Common Hawk-cuckoo** *Hierococcyx varius* Shisr 15 Nov. **Eurasian Scops Owls** *Otus scops* Al Ghaftayn 15–16 Sep, Qatbit 18 Sep, Dawqah farm 22 Sep. One **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* East Khawr 19 Nov. 14 **European Nightjars** *Caprimulgus europaeus* Qatbit and

seven Dawqah farm 18 Sep. An **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* East Khawr park 24 Dec. 2000 **European Rollers** *Coracias garrulus* Hilf 16 Oct (new max count), 70 Rakhyut 23 Oct, 250 Shisr 24 Oct and 100 Dawqah farm 27 Oct. First record **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis* Hilf, Masirah, 2 Nov–13 Dec. Two **Collared Kingfishers** *Todirhamphus chloris* Mahawt island 24 Dec. Up to two **Malachite Kingfishers** *Corythornis cristatus*



Plate 10. Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus* 13 December 2015, Hilf, Masirah Island, Oman. © H & J Eriksen

Khawr Rawri 25 Oct–at least 12 Jan 2016 (tenth record). 75 **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** *Merops persicus* Khawr Rawri 1 Nov was a late date. 14 **Eurasian Hoopoes** *Upupa epops* Dawqah farm 11 Sep, 22 there 22 Sep, 13 Sallan 24 Oct and 19 there 21 Nov, one Damaniyat islands 6 Sep. Four **Eurasian Wrynecks** *Jynx torquilla* Dawqah farm 22 Sep was highest autumn number.

Five **Red-backed Shrikes** *Lanius collurio* Khawr Rawri 23 Oct and 12 **Daurian Shrikes** *L. (i.) isabellinus*, 15 **Turkestan Shrikes** *L. (isabellinus) phoenicuroides* and seven **Steppe Grey Shrikes** *L. (meridionalis) pallidirostris* Dawqah farm 22 Sep, were unusual numbers. A juvenile **Masked Shrike** *L. nubicus* Muqshin 16 Sep. 20 **Eurasian Golden Orioles** *Oriolus oriolus* Dawqah farm 17 Sep (35 there 22 Sep), 18 Mudhay and 20 Shisr 19 Sep highest concentrations. One **Grey Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus* Tudho 1 Nov, seven Mudhay 18 Nov (12 on 4 Dec), five Shisr 21 Nov. An **Arabian Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda dunni eremodites* between Mudhay and Al Maziounah 24 Oct. 400 **Sand Martins** *Riparia riparia* Sahanawt farm 20 Sep. Ninth record **Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* Hilf 19 Nov–4 Dec (one and then two birds) and the tenth record (two birds) Raysut STP 26 Nov–11 Dec. A **Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis*

daurica Sohar 10–11 Jul and one Dawqah farm 12 Sep. An adult **Streak-throated Swallow** *Petrochelidon fluviicola* Raysut 6–11 Dec (sixth record). One **Plain Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus neglectus* Ras A'Sawadi 16 Oct was away from usual winter stronghold Khatmat Milaha where 12 seen 9 Nov. A **Dusky Warbler** *P. fuscatus* Al Mughsayl 9–12 Nov (third record). One **Yellow-browed Warbler** *P. inornatus* Hilf 28 Sep while single **Hume's Leaf Warblers** *P. humei* Al Ghaftayn 21 Nov and Shisr 22 Nov. Third record **Olive-tree Warbler** *Hippolais olivetorum* East Khawr park 21 Nov. 120 **Rose-coloured Starlings** *Pastor roseus* Sahanawt farm 20 Sep and four **Wattled Starlings** *Creatophora cinerea* there 8 Sep. 70 **Spotted Flycatchers** *Muscicapa striata* Dawqah farms 11 Sep and a **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* Hilf 4 Dec (third record).

Single **Thrush Nightingales** *Luscinia luscinia* Al Ghaftayn 1 Sep, Qatbit 4 Sep, Dawqah farm 22 Sep. A **White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis* Al Ghaftayn 1 Sep (relatively unusual autumn migration). An **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe (hispanica) melanoleuca* Hilf 15 Nov. A number of **Nile Valley Sunbirds** *Hedydipna metallica*: one Wadi Aydam 19 Sep, one Wadi Rabkhut 27 Oct, four Mudhay 19 Sep, 20 on 5 Nov



Plate 11. Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* 5 December 2015, East Khawr park, Salalah, Oman. © H & J Eriksen

and 4 Dec, two Qatbit 2 Dec, two Shisr 4 Dec. First record **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* Sohar 11 Dec. 50 **Yellow-throated Sparrows** *Gymnoris xanthocollis* Muscat 27 Jul. 1000 **Rüppell's Weavers** *Ploceus galbula* Al Baleed park 21 Oct was a high concentration. One **Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus* Qatbit 14–21 Nov and one East Khawr park 21 Nov—at least 12 Jan 2016 (Plate 11, 10th & 11th records). An **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla (flava) tsutschensis* Khawr Rawri 1 Nov (sixth record). A **Masked Wagtail** *M. (alba) personata* Fahud 2 Oct while fourth record **Amur Wagtail** *M. (alba) leucopsis* Sohar 15 Sep. Single **Richard's Pipits** *Anthus richardi* Al Mazyounah STP 24 Oct, Al Fazyah 29 Dec. Three **Trumpeter Finches** *Bucanetes githagineus* Al Mazyounah STP 23 Nov. Ninth record **Eurasian Siskin** *Spinus spinus* Dawkah farm 14 Nov. An **Eastern Cinereous Bunting** *Emberiza (cinerea) semenowi* Al Ghaftayn 15 Sep. **Ortolan Buntings** *E. hortulana* several locations central desert from 16 Sep, max 25 Dawqah farm 27 Oct. A **Little Bunting** *E. pusilla* Shisr 23 Nov and **Black-headed Buntings** *E. melanocephala* Qatbit 16 Sep (two) and one there 22 Sep, Fahud 2 Oct and Shisr 4 Dec.

QATAR

Single **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* Doha golf course 19 Sep is potential first record (possibly an escape). Autumn raptor influx Irkayya farm (IF) included up to six **Greater Spotted Eagles** *Aquila clanga*, a juvenile **Eastern Imperial Eagle** *A. heliaca*, two **Long-legged Buzzards** *Buteo rufinus* 30 Oct (dark phase) and 28 Nov (pale phase) and a '**Northern**' **Steppe Buzzard** *B. b. vulpinus*. A single **White-tailed Plover** *Vanellus leucurus* IF 27 Nov and a **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis* Sailiya west (aka Al Riffa) 16 Nov. One female **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* IF 26 Oct and four near Simsimah 26 Nov onwards. Five **Hypocoliuses** *Hypocolius ampelinus* Umm Babb 6 Nov, one or two remaining to 13 Nov. First record **Moustached Warbler** *Acrocephalus melanopogon* and two **Paddyfield Warblers** *A. agricola* Nov and Dec Sailiya west. A male **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquata* Sailiya west Nov apparently southwest Asian race *amicorum*. A female/first-winter **Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* 5 Dec IF (first record).

SAUDI ARABIA

Two firsts: **Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* and **Lesser Whistling Duck** *D. javanica* together Malaki dam lake 3 Sep. Eight **Harlequin Quails** *Coturnix*



Plate 12. Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* 30 June 2015, Sabya waste water lagoons, Jizan province, Saudi Arabia. © Jem Babbington



Plate 13. Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus* 28 August 2015, Sabkhat Al Fasl, Jubail, Eastern province, Saudi Arabia. © Jem Babbington



Plate 14. Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 30 June 2015, Sabya waste water lagoons, Jizan province, Saudi Arabia. © Jem Babbington

delegorguei near Jizan 30 Jun including at least two males (species not recorded for many years). Two **Greater Flamingos** *Phoenicopterus roseus* well inland at wetland near Tabuk 25 Sep and one immature **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* there 16 Oct. 26 **Abdim's Storks** *C. abdimii* Sabya wastewater lagoons (SWL), near Jizan, 29–30 Jun (Plate 12). Three **Eurasian Spoonbills** *Platalea leucorodia* Sabkhat Al Fasl (SAF), Jubail, 21 Aug and a **Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* SWL 3 Sep (becoming a regular there). Min 250 **Western Great Egrets** *A. alba* SAF 27 Nov (highest ever count). A juvenile **Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* KAUST 25–27 Nov. A **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus c. caeruleus* Malaki dam lake 3 Sep (first confirmed record of this African subspecies though all previous records in southwest assumed to be this race). Another, Asian subspecies *vociferus*, Ash Shargiyah Dev Co farm 4 Sep (3rd record Eastern province, all *vociferus*). First records *vociferus* for Riyadh region Al Hayer early Oct—at least 18 Oct. One **Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* Rabigh dam 11 Dec. At least 17 **Greater Spotted Eagles** *Clanga clanga* SAF 20 Nov (highest single day count for SAF). A fresh juvenile **Bonelli's Eagle** *Aquila fasciatus* there 10 Dec, an Eastern province vagrant. Three **Grey-headed Swamphens** *Porphyrio poliocephalus* Ash Shargiyah Dev Co farm Fadhili, near Jubail, 4 Sep, others Dammam Second Industrial city Oct (species extending range from SAF). At least 46 **Sociable Lapwings** *Vanellus gregarius* near Tabuk 20–27 Nov (largest flock in recent years) and two satellite-tagged birds wintering near border with Jordan. One moulting adult **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* SAF 21 Aug and two juvenile **Caspian Plovers** *Charadrius asiaticus* there 28 Aug (Plate 13). A male **Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis* SWL 30 Jun (Plate 14), one of only two known sites for the species.

A male **Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius* Al Atta, near Bani Saad, 3 July (450 km north of previous most northerly location). 15 **Egyptian Nightjars** *Caprimulgus aegyptius* SAF 14–28 Aug (same site where 13 seen Aug–Sep 2014). A pair **Plain Nightjars** *C. inornatus* near Taif 4 Jul evening. A rarely recorded summer breeding species, although records have also occurred this summer from



Plate 15. Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris* 29 June 2015, Al Qahma, Jizan province, Saudi Arabia. © Jem Babbington



Plate 16. Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* 13 November 2015, Sabkhat Al Fasl, Jubail, Eastern province, Saudi Arabia. © Jem Babbington

Najran northwards to Taif, indicating that it may be much commoner than previously realised. One **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis* SAF 14 Aug–27 Nov at least (possibly one that wintered into 2015 remaining through summer). Another Rabigh dam 11 Dec. Nine **Collared Kingfishers** *Todirhamphus chloris* trapped and ringed in a small area of Al Qahma mangroves 29 Jun (Plate 15). A female **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* SAF 23 Oct, numbers increasing there to 12 by 5 Dec. Four remained until at least 31 Dec (Plate 16). Three Al Hyer 16 Dec and one Al Kharj 30 Dec.

Four **Blanford's Short-toed Larks** *Calandrella blanfordi* Sallal Al Dahna, near Tanoumah, 1 Sep. Two '**mangrove**' **white-eye** sp (*Zosterops abyssinicus*?) Either mangroves,



Plate 17. Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak *Rhynchostruthus percivali* 3 July, near Bani Saad, Mecca province, Saudi Arabia. © Philip Roberts



Plate 18. Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* 19 December 2015, Sabkhat Al Fasl, Jubail, Eastern province, Saudi Arabia. © Philip Roberts

Jizan province, 26 Jun (one trapped and ringed). Also, two Al Qahma mangroves 28 Jun. A **European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* SAF from 1 Dec with second bird there 9 Dec (both birds remained until at least 31 Dec). A **Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* there 2 Oct. Up to five **White-throated Robins** *Irania gutturalis* KAUST late Aug, an unusual record from this locality. One **Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis* Al Mefah park, Tanoumah, 1 Sep (species still regarded as a vagrant). A number of sightings of Arabian endemic subspecies of **African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus eximius* at a location June–September first confirmed records since 1990. Three **Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeaks** *Rhynchostruthus percivali*, two adults and a juvenile, near Bani Saad 3 Jul (Plate 17) until late Jul with five birds nearby late Jul. One **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* SAF 19 Dec (Plate 18) second record Eastern province.

TURKEY

Away from Black sea, max four **Common Eiders** *Somateria mollissima* Hersek lagoons 23 Dec. In Istanbul (Güzcelce, Büyükçekmece) a team counted 33 495 **Western White Storks** *Ciconia c. ciconia* 23 Aug and 59 690 on 24 Aug, the highest ever daily count away from Bosphorus. One **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* Dalyan 23 Dec. 142 **Dalmatian Pelicans** *Pelecanus crispus* Acıgöl 3 Oct (record count away from breeding areas). A **Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* near Kasımkuyu, Şanlıurfa, 22 Nov and one **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* Toygartepe, Istanbul, 4 Oct. One **Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* Gediz delta 5 Nov. **Corncrake** *Crex crex* noted Gerede plain 5 Jul suggesting a third breeding site in addition to Posof and nearby Yeniçağa Gölü. One **Demoiselle Crane** *Grus virgo* Enez lagoons 29–30 Aug (only record from west for many decades). A single **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* Kızılırmak delta 11–28 Oct. One **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* Karacabey Longozu 5 Jul and two Filyos delta 2–4 Sep, very unusual records for western half of country.

A **Eurasian Eagle Owl** *Bubo bubo*, possibly *omissus*, Çıldır Gölü 28 Nov (Plate 19)—it might have arrived from Central Asia or Iran. 1200 **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** *Merops*



Plate 19. Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* possibly *omissus* 28 November 2015, lake Çıldır, Ardahan, Turkey.
© Mürin Gökhan Şenocak

persicus Bozova, Şanlıurfa, might represent total national breeding population. Two late **Eurasian Hobbies** *Falco subbuteo* Boğazkent Antalya, 1 Nov. Mild autumn helped to delay some **Common House Martins** *Delichon urbicum* Bursa city centre 22 Nov. Second record **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Kızılırmak delta 1 Nov, and a **Yellow-browed Warbler** *P. inornatus* ringed there 16 Oct and another near Okcular, Dalyan, 30 Oct. **Booted Warblers** *Iduna caligata* Rize coastland 17 and 27 Aug, confirming regular passage. **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* probably bred Bolu and Sinop. One **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* between Kütahya and Bozüyük 30 Aug (new breeding site in NW Turkey?). First **Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* for Antalya at Atatürk Parkı 25 Nov. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* bred Sinop province. A late **Common Rock-thrush** *Monticola saxatilis* METU Campus, Ankara, 10 Oct an addition to the university's species list. One **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* Kızılırmak delta 30 Oct. 10 **Citrine Wagtails** *Motacilla citreola* Daltan delta 14 Oct (late passage date).

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

A pair of **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* Al Ain 4 Jun (possible breeding?). Various pelagic trips from Khor Kalba (most birds 30 km offshore) produced: 72 **Wilson's Petrels** *Oceanites oceanicus* 11 Jul, two **Swinhoe's Petrels** *Oceanodroma monorhis* (8th record) 9 Oct, a **Scopoli's/Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea/borealis* 30 Aug, **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus* 2 Jun, 90 **Jouanin's Petrels** *Bulweria fallax* 9 Oct and a **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* 1 Aug. An unseasonal **Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii* Kalba from 23 Jul and one **Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus* Wamm farms (WF) 3 Jul. Two juvenile **Great White Pelicans** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (8th record, last 2003) Ajman water treatment plant 12 Dec with one relocated 26 Dec Ras al Khor, Dubai (other in Oman). One **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra* off Dibba harbour 20–26 Sep. A **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* Al Wathba 31 Oct and **Crested Honey-Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* Abu Dhabi 11 Sep and Sila 23 Sep. Up to five **Lappet-faced Vultures** *Torgos tracheliotus* Al Qudra 18–25 Sep and up to eight there 29–31 Oct. A *fulvescens* **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Clanga*



Plate 20. Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* 21 November 2015, Mafrag, United Arab Emirates. © Oscar Campbell



Plate 21. Eurasian Golden Plover *Vanellus apricaria* 27 November 2015, Hamanriyah, United Arab Emirates. © Oscar Campbell



Plate 22. Caspian Stonechat *Saxicola [torquatus] maurus hemprichii* 27 November 2015, Wamm Farms, United Arab Emirates. © Oscar Campbell

clanga Ras al Khor, Dubai, 26 Dec. Single **Amur Falcons** *Falco amurensis* WF 3 Jul (three 4 Jul) and 13 Nov. **Corncrakes** *Crex crex* Abu Dhabi 11 Oct and Al Ain 16 Oct. One **Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* Mafrag 21–28 Nov (Plate 20, 7th record and first since 2011), a **Eurasian Golden Plover** *V. apricaria* Hamranayah 21–28 Nov (Plate 21) and three **Caspian Plovers** *Charadrius asiaticus* there 12 Sep. Third record **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* Al Qudra 29–31 Oct. One **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus* Fujairah 15 Nov (16th record). An **Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis* WF 26 Sep–early Oct and another there 17 Oct. UAE's fourth **Pied Cuckoo** *Oxylophus jacobinus* WF 4 Jul.

One **Asian Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea* Green Mubazzarah, Al Ain, 27 Nov. **Eurasian Scops Owl** *Otus scops* unseasonal visitor WF several dates July. An **Egyptian Nightjar** *Caprimulgus aegyptius* near Green Mubazzarah on several dates last half December. Influx **Pied Kingfishers** *Ceryle rudis* mid Oct with two Al Wathba camel race track 15 Oct onwards, and possibly a different bird Al Wathba lake 25 Oct and one Ajban farms several days later with two birds still present there 18 Dec (first records since 2011).

Turkestan Shrike *Lanius (isabellinus) phoenicuroides* an unseasonal visitor at a location (several dates Jul), while a **Bay-backed Shrike** *L. vittatus* present 3 Jul and **Woodchat Shrike** *L. senator* several dates that month. A **Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus* Mushreef park 10 Jun seen again Jul, Oct and into Nov. Tenth record **Ashy Drongo** *D. leucophaeus* Mamzar 31 Oct and present there to mid December. **Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus* first recorded (a single) Lulu island 23 Oct; 180 counted going to roost Yas island 14 Nov and 55 Lulu island 28 Nov. First **Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculata* of the winter Hamranayah 28 Nov while first **Hume's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei* Emirates Palace hotel 31 Oct and two more 7–8 Nov. One **Green Warbler** *P. [trochiloides] nitidus* Dubai pivot fields 12 Sep. Several

reports of **Great Reed Warblers** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* October including Abu Dhabi 23 Oct. A **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *A. dumetorum* Mamzar 4 Sep and a possible first record of **Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* Emirates Palace hotel 31 Oct. Two unseasonal reports of **Upcher's Warbler** *Hippolais languida* WF during July and a **Hume's Whitethroat** *Sylvia althaea* Delma 24 Sep.

Fourth record **Dusky Thrush** *Turdus eunomus* WF 31 Oct and two **European Robins** *Erithacus rubecula* Saadiyat island 9 Dec. First record **Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis* Mamzar 3–9 Oct. A **Caspian Stonechat** *Saxicola [torquatus] maurus hemprichii* 7–27 Nov WF (Plate 22) only the second autumn record. One **Pied Stonechat** *S. caprata* WF 7 Nov. A **White-crowned Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucopyga* 29 Oct Jebel Hafeet (13th record, first since 2002) while a very unseasonal **Red-tailed Wheatear** *O. [xanthopyrmyna] chrysopygia* Green Mubazzarah 4 Jul. A **Masked Wagtail** *Motacilla (alba) personata* Hamraniyah 13 Nov. A **Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewskii* at the unusual location of Mushref Palace gardens remained into 2016 while the first **Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit** *A. (rubescens) japonicus* of the winter was at Hamraniyah 21–28 Nov. A **Eurasian Siskin** *Spinus spinus* Dubai 28 Dec.

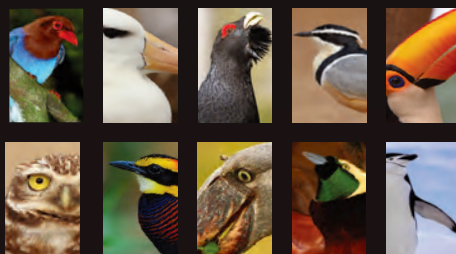
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