

# 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 as a note or paper for publication.

## CYPRUS

Cyprus Rarities Committee: Jane Stylianou (chair), Melis Charalambides, Stavros Christodoulides, Chris Stavrou, Martin Hellicar, Johannes Honold, Filippos Georgiades. A full list of Cyprus birds requiring rarity descriptions and rare bird report forms are available from Jane Stylianou janestycy@yahoo.co.uk to whom claims should be sent. Since the report in Sandgrouse 39(1) CRC has accepted the following records.

**Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*. An individual shot Larnaca area mid December 2016. Accepted from photographs. First record.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*. A male Paphos, 22 April 2016 (J Higgins). Fifth record.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*. One Akrotiri gravel pits, 16 December 2016 (T Reeves) and one Phasouri reed beds, 25 September 2016 (M Smith). 18th–19th records.

**Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax*. One Paphos headland, 28 December 2016 (J Wozencroft) and another Mandria (Paphos), 31 December 2016 (R Cheke, J Coles, R Borello). Third & fourth recently accepted records although previous anecdotal reports of shot birds.

**Levant Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter brevipes*. One juvenile Phasouri beehives, Akrotiri, 19 September 2016 (M Smith). Rare, less than annual passage migrant.

**Steppe Grey Shrike** *Lanius (meridionalis) pallidirostris*. One Akrotiri salt lake, 31 March 2016 (J Stylianou, B Harrison, T Reeves), another there 26 October–18 November 2016 (W Stacey, T Reeves) and another cape Greco 21 November–15 December 2016 (N Tuinov). 12th–14th records.

**Bar-tailed Lark** *Ammomanes cinctura*. One Akrotiri gravel pits, 2–3 April 2016 (S Spyrou). Fourth record.

**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*. A male and female, Artemis trail, Troodos, 25 October 2016 (B Robertson). Fourth record.

**'Caucasian Chiffchaff'** *Phylloscopus [collybita] lorenzii*. One Avagas gorge, Paphos, 6 November 2016 (C & D Lamsdell). Third record.

**Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus [bonelli] orientalis*. One Souni, Limassol, 16 August 2016 (J Neal). Quite common in spring but rare in autumn (all autumn records considered by CRC).

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. Two Paphos sewage treatment plant, 8 November–2 December 2016 (C Richardson). Second record (first 1967).

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*. One Platania, Troodos, 4–16 November 2016 (J Stylianou) and another Larnaca, 20 November 2016 (C & D Lamsdell). 16th–17th records.

**Olive-tree Warbler** *Hippolais olivetorum*. One Tsada, Paphos, 24 May 2016 (C Richardson) and one Nicosia, 12 September 2016 (J Stylianou). 15th–16th records since 1994.

**Asian Desert Warbler** *Sylvia [nana] nana*. One Anarita park, Paphos, 26–30 March 2016 (R Shiret, J Willson). 16th record.

**Ménétries's Warbler** *Sylvia mystacea*. A female Agios Theodoros, Larnaca, 8 April 2016 (H von Rohr). Third record.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*. Two Troodos, 5 November 2014 (N Bucknell). 13 records 1993–end 2016.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula [hypoleuca] hypoleuca*. One Troodos 30 August 2016 (S Christodoulides, A P Leventis). Rare in autumn (autumn records are considered by CRC).

**Semi-collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula semitorquata*. A female Asprokremmos dam, Paphos, 12–19 September 2016 (D & J Walker, I & K Bloomer). First autumn record (fairly common spring migration).

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula [parva] parva*. One cape Greco, 7 April 2016 (C

Kehoe); one ringed Larnaca salt lake, 19 September 2016 (A Kirschel, M Moysi); one ringed Prodomos, Troodos, 1 October 2016 (A Kirschel, M Moysi). Rare, less than annual passage migrant, possibly becoming more frequent.

**'Caspian Stonechat'** *Saxicola maurus hemprichi*. A female Karpasia peninsula, 24 March 2016 (C Richardson). Rare passage migrant, less than annual.

**'Western Siberian Stonechat'** *Saxicola maurus*. A male cape Greco, 4 March 2016 (J Stylianou); different bird there 12–13 March 2016 (J Stylianou, F Georgiades); one Karpasia peninsula, 2 April 2016 (M Hellicar, K & R Howard). Rare, less than annual passage migrant.

**White-crowned Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucopyga*. A male sea caves, cape Greco, 7 May 2016 (CRC). Ninth record.

**Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia*. Five Syngrasis, Famagusta, 24–27 November 2016 (G Constantinou, B Gokeri). At least eleven previous records.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*. One Nicosia, 6 November 2016 (V Vasiliou). Sixth record.

**Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus (rubescens) japonicus*. One Nicosia, 8 November 2016 (S Christodoulides); one Akhna dam 19 November–early December 2016 (C & D Lamsdell). Fourth & fifth records.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Two ringed Polis reedbeds, 24 October 2016 (M Jeffery, M Preston, B Roberts). 12th record.

**Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*. A female Livadi tou Pashia, Troodos, 4 November 2016 (D & J Walker); two Troodos, 15 November 2016 (C & D Lamsdell); three, Giant Junipers, Troodos, 17 November 2016 (C Richardson). At least 13 records.

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*. First winter female Paphos STP, 24 November 2016 (J Stylianou). First record.

## EGYPT

The Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee comprises Sherif Baha El Din (chair), Frédéric Jiguet (secretary), Wed Abdel Latif Ibrahim, Richard Bonser, Andrea Corso, Pierre André Crochet, Andrew Grieve, Richard Hoath and Manuel Schweizer. Official external advisers 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.

## IRAN

The Iran Bird Records Committee comprises Abolghasem Khaleghizadeh (recorder), Mohammad Tohidifar, Ali Adhami-Mirhosseini, Seyed Babak Musavi, Meysam Ghasemi, Ramezanali Ghaemi, Ali Sangchooli, Mohammad Safrang, Parviz Bakhtiari, Mohammad E Sehhatiasabet, Abbas Ashoori, Alireza Hashemi and Ahmad Barati plus Derek Scott, Magnus Ullman, Raffael Ayé, Ian Harrison, Mike Blair and Richard Porter as external consultants when necessary. Claims should be sent to Abolghasem Khaleghizadeh: akhaleghizadeh@gmail.com.

## ISRAEL

The Israel Rarities and Distribution Committee comprises Avner Cohen (secretary), Barak Granit, Yosef Kiat and Yoav Perlman. Claims should be sent to Avner Cohen [israbirding@gmail.com](mailto:israbirding@gmail.com). See also [www.israbirding.com/irdc](http://www.israbirding.com/irdc) where claim forms can be downloaded.

## JORDAN

The Jordan Bird Records Committee comprises Fares Khoury (secretary), Feras Rahahleh, Richard Porter and Ian Andrews. Claims should be sent to Fares Khoury at [avijordan2000@yahoo.com](mailto:avijordan2000@yahoo.com). See also: [www.jordanbirdwatch.com/jbrc.html](http://www.jordanbirdwatch.com/jbrc.html). JBRC has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 38(2).

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*. 17 north of Azraq, 21 January 2017 (R Isaksson). 12th record.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*. One female, Kafrein dam, Jordan valley, 9–12 December 2016 (F Khoury, R Massis, R Al-Khatib, O Rabayah). First record.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*. One juvenile Aqaba bird observatory, 12 November 2016 (F Rahahleh). First for this site; previous records mainly from Aqaba coast.

**Pygmy Cormorant** *Microcarbo pygmeus*. 60 Wadi Arab dam, Jordan valley, 6 July 2016 (F Khoury, R Massis). First record for almost 20 years.

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*. One near Madaba, 8–15 November 2016 (F Khoury). One Jordan valley, 13 November and 9 December 2016 (F Khoury, R Massis). Two Khirbet Samra, 20 November 2016 (M Al-Shamlih). One Azraq and one Shoumari, 13 January 2017 (F Khoury, R Massis). 9th–13th records.

**Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus*. One immature Mudawwara, 19 January 2017 (R Isaksson). Eighth record.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo buteo*. Two Madaba STP, 15 November 2016, one staying till 7 March 2017. One Kafrein dam, Jordan valley, 13 December 2016 (F Khoury). Second–fourth records of nominate subspecies.

**Daurian Shrike** *Lanius (isabellinus) isabellinus*. One adult airport area, east of Madaba, 29–30 April 2017 (F Khoury). First confirmed record after taxonomic separation.

**Turkestan Shrike** *Lanius (isabellinus) phoenicuroides*. One adult Aqaba, 20 May 2017 (F Rahahleh). 2nd confirmed record after taxonomic separation.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*. One south of Aqaba, 25 November 2016 (A Riad). Sixth record.

The following claim was rejected: Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (Aqaba BO, 5 December 2016).

## KUWAIT

The Kuwait Ornithological Rarities Committee comprises Mike Pope (chair), AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan (secretary), Markus Craig, Neil Tovey and Humoud Al-Shayji. Oscar Campbell and Peter Kennerley are both external adjudicators with voting rights. Claims should be sent to the secretary at alsirhan@alsirhan.com or the chair at mikeinq8@gmail.com.

## LEBANON

The Lebanon Bird Records Committee comprises Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi (executive director & recorder), Georges Tohme, Gaby Khalaf, John Waterburry and Ryad Sadq. Claims should be sent to Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi grjaradi@hotmail.com from whom claim forms can be obtained.

## OMAN

The Oman Bird Records Committee comprises Jens Eriksen (recorder), Ian Harrison, Dave Sargeant, Graham Searle, John Atkins, Peter Cowan, Waheed Al Fazari, Zahran Al Abdulasalam and Manal Al Kindi. Claims should be sent to Jens Eriksen hjoman@gmail.com from whom claim forms can be obtained. OBRC has



**Plate 1.** Lesser White-fronted Geese *Anser erythropus* 23 November 2017, Al Mouj golf course, Muscat, Oman. © Hanne & Jens Eriksen



**Plate 2.** Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* 4 November 2017, off Mirbat, Oman. © Mathias Schäfer



**Plate 3.** Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*, Raysut, Oman, 29 November 2017. © Nassar Al Kindi & Khaled Ateeq

accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 39(2).

**Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*.  
Three Al Mouj golf course, Muscat, 15 November–21 December 2017. (R Victor, H & J Eriksen, Plate 1). Fourth record.

**White-faced Storm Petrel** *Pelagodroma marina*.  
One off southeast coast of Oman, 3 June 2017 (N Marcus). Third record.

**Black-bellied Storm Petrel** *Fregatta tropica*.  
One off southeast coast of Oman, 3 June 2017 (N Marcus). Fourth record.





**Plate 6.** Streak-throated Swallows *Petrochelidon fluvicola*, Hilf, Oman, 7 November 2017. © Robert Lee



**Plate 7.** Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola*, Hilf, Oman, 7 November 2017. © Robert Lee

**Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula [benghalensis] benghalensis*. Adult male Khawr Kalba (Oman side), 13 October 2017 (P Arras, Plate 5). Ninth record.

**Streak-throated Swallow** *Petrochelidon fluvicola*. Two Hilf, 7 November 2017 (R Lee, Plates 6 & 7). Seventh record.

## QATAR

The Qatar Bird Records Committee comprises Neil G Morris (secretary), Richard F Porter (honorary president), Jonathan Hardacre and Gavin C Farnell (recorder). Claims should be sent to



**Plate 8.** Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus vociferus* 18 November 2017, Irkayya farm, Qatar. © G Farnell



**Plate 9.** Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* 3 November 2017, Irkayya farm, Qatar. © G Farnell



**Plate 10.** Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo [rufinus] rufinus* 1 December 2017, Irkayya farm, Qatar. © G Farnell



**Plate 11.** Spur-winged Lapwings *Vanellus spinosus* 4 August 2017, West Sailya sewage treatment plant, Qatar.  
© G Farnell



**Plate 12.** Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* 6 October 2017, Abu Dalouf park, Al Shamal, Qatar. © G Farnell





**Plate 13.** Masked Wagtail *Motacilla (alba) personata* 25 November 2017, Irkayya farm, Qatar. © G Farnell



**Plate 14.** Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* 2 December 2017, Abu Dalouf park, Al Shamal, Qatar. © G Farnell

gavinfarnell@yahoo.co.uk. QBRC has accepted the following records since the report in Sandgrouse 39(2).

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta ruffina*. One Irkayya farm (IF), 30 December 2017 (V Gopal). Third record.

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*. One IF, 16 September–2 December 2017 (G Farnell, J Hardacre, D Sanders, Plate 8). Ninth record.

**Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*. One IF, 29 September–5 December 2017 (G Farnell, J van Duffelen, J Hardacre). 21st record.

**Eastern Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*. One IF, 3 November 2017 (G Farnell, Plate 9). Sixth record.

**Black-eared Kite** *Milvus (migrans) lineatus*. Singles IF, 7 October 2017 (J Hardacre, J van Duffelen) and 25 October 2017 (G Farnell). 18th & 19th records.

**Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo [rufinus] rufinus*. Minimum four birds IF, 23 October–31 December 2017 (G Farnell, J van Duffelen, J Hardacre, Plate 10). One West Sailiya sewage treatment plant, 8 December 2017 (G Farnell). One Abu Naklah, 8 December 2017 (G Farnell). 26th–31st records.

**‘Northern’ Steppe Buzzard** *Buteo buteo vulpinus*. Singles IF, 19 October 2017 (Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani) and 1 December 2017 (G Farnell). Sixth & seventh records.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*. One Shamal park, 3 September 2017 (J van Duffelen, J Hardacre). 11th record.

**Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus*. Three West Sailiya STP, 4 August 2017 (G Farnell, Plate 11). One IF, 1 October 2017 (D Sanders). Fifth & sixth records.

**Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius*. One juvenile IF, 14 October 2017 (G Farnell). Tenth record.

**Caspian Plover** *Anarhynchus asiaticus*. One Wakra shoreline, 2 August 2017 (G Farnell). Four IF, 25 August 2017 (G Farnell, J Hardacre). Three IF, 10 October 2017 (G Farnell, J Hardacre). One West Sailiya STP, 30 October 2017 (J van Duffelen). 14th–17th records.

**Pin-tailed Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*. One IF, 15 March 2017 (J Hardacre). First record.

**Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni*. Three IF, 4 November 2017 (G Farnell, J van Duffelen). Fourth record.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*. One IF, 31 December 2017 (R Agwin). Fourth record.

**Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculata*. 17 IF, 5–22 December 2017 (J van Duffelen, J Hardacre). Sixth record.

**Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*. One IF, 16 September 2017 (J van Duffelen, G Farnell), one Abu Dalouf park, Al Shamal, 6 October 2017 (J van Duffelen, G Farnell, Plate 12), one Sheraton hotel, 10 October 2017 (G Farnell). 13th–15th records.

**‘Caspian Stonechat’** *Saxicola rubicola hemprichii*. One IF, 8 December 2017 (G Farnell). Ninth record.

**Yellow-throated Sparrow** *Gymnoris xanthocollis*. Two Abu Dalouf park, Al Shamal, 15–29 September 2017 (G Farnell, J Van Duffelen). Ninth record.

**Masked Wagtail** *Motacilla (alba) personata*. One IF, 25 November 2017 (G Farnell, Plate 13). Fourth record.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*. One male Abu Dalouf park, Al Shamal, 2 December 2017 (J van Duffelen, G Farnell, Plate 14). Second record.

**Eurasian Siskin** *Spinus spinus*. Two IF, 23 December 2017 (J Hardacre). Fourth record.

## TURKEY

The Turkish Bird Records Committee comprises Kerem Ali Boyla (secretary), Kiraz Erciyas, Korhan Özkan, Kuzey Cem Kulaçoğlu, Mustafa Erturhan, Nizamettin Yavuz, Ömral Ünsal Özkoç and Ali Atahan (observer). Claims should be entered as a sighting at the eBird portal: <http://ebird.org>. More information can be found at: [www.kustr.org/kuskayitkomitesi](http://www.kustr.org/kuskayitkomitesi).

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The Emirates Bird Records Committee comprises Oscar Campbell (chair), Mark Smiles (secretary), Simon Lloyd, Huw Roberts and Neil Tovey (all voting members) plus Tommy Pedersen (UAE bird recorder) and Ahmed al Ali, Peter Hellyer and Jacky Judas (all non-voting members). Records are circulated and assessments published three times per year, according to the timetable outlined at [www.uaebirding.com/ebrc.html](http://www.uaebirding.com/ebrc.html). Decisions on assessments, plus the EBRC’s constitution and information about the assessment process and downloadable report forms are all available at the same location. The UAE Bird Checklist, in both short and annotated forms, is available at [www.uaebirding.com](http://www.uaebirding.com).

com/uaechecklist.html, along with annual reports for 2010–2015. Claims, preferably on the downloadable report forms, should be sent to ebrcuae@gmail.com or to Tommy Pedersen at tommypepe63@gmail.com. EBRC has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 39(2).

**Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates monorhis*. One 65 km offshore from Khor Kalba, 19 May 2017 (M Smiles, J Judas, A Alzaabi *et al*). Eleventh record, last 2016.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*. One Wamm farms, 16 Sep 2017 (OJ Campbell, M Smiles). First record from east coast.

**Lesser Noddy** *Anous tenuirostris*. One Luo'alou'ayyah beach, 21–25 Sep 2017 (M Smiles *et al*). Ninth record, last recorded 2014.

**Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus [trochiloides] nitidus*. One Al Mamzar park, 31 Aug 2017

(M Smiles) and another there 16 Sep 2017 (M Smiles, SP Lloyd). One Mushrif Palace gardens, 7 Oct 2017 (T Lloyd). 16th–18th records, last 2016.

**Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. One Mushrif Palace gardens, 2 Sep 2017 with two there next day and another 21 Sep 2017 (SP Lloyd *et al*). One Al Mamzar park, 16 Sep 2017 (SP Lloyd, M Smiles). 13th–16th records, last 2016.

**Pied Stonechat** *Saxicola caprata*. One male Wamm farms, 15 Sep 2017 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell). 19th record, last 2016.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following assisted in the compilation of this review: Jane Stylianou (Cyprus), Fares Khoury (Jordan), Jens Eriksen (Oman), Gavin Farnell (Qatar), Oscar Campbell, Tommy Pedersen (United Arab Emirates).

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## CORRIGENDUM

Yousefi, M. & 6 others. 2017. The avifauna of Sabzevar county, Khorasan-Razavi, northeastern Iran. *Sandgrouse* 39(2): 114–121.

In the *Data collection* section (p114), end of the first sentence should read "... in all four seasons (12 months)."