

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

The Cyprus Rare Birds Committee comprises 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. The committee has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 40(2)

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*. One juvenile Larnaca sewage treatment plant 9 September 2017 (A Kyriacou). Tenth record.

White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus*. One Larnaca airport coast 23 June 2017 (J Stylianou, Plate 1). First record.



Plate 1. White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus* 23 June 2017, Larnaca airport coast, Cyprus. © J Stylianou

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*. One juvenile Lady's Mile 7 December 2017 (V Tjernberg). Latest date for this species.

Turkestan Shrike *Lanius [isabellinus] phoenicuroides*. One immature Asprokremmos dam 18 September 2017 (A Crane). Rare, less than annual passage migrant.

Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*. One Larnaca STP 24 April 2017 (M Charalambides & group). Seventh record.

'Western Siberian Stonechat' *Saxicola maurus maurus*. One Mandria (Paphos) 6 April 2017 (M Hodgson). Rare, less than annual passage migrant.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*. One Livera (Sadrazamköy) 18 May 2017 (V Vasiliou, G Konstantinou). 13th record.

Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta*. One cape Greco 20 April 2017 (E Roualet) and two there 30 April 2017 (N Antcliff). Second and third records.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*. One Livadi tou Pashia (Troodos) 24 March 2017 (M Smith). 14th record.

EGYPT

The Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee comprises Sherif Baha El Din (chair), Pierre André Crochet (vice-chair), Frédéric Jiguet (secretary), Lukasz Lawicki (joint secretary), Wed Abdel Latif Ibrahim, Richard Bonser, Andrea Corso, Andrew Grieve, Richard Hoath and Manuel Schweizer. Claims should be sent to eorc.secretary@gmail.com. See also <http://www.chn-france.org/eorc/eorc.php> 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, Yoav Perlman. Claims should be sent to Avner Cohen israbirding@gmail.com. See also 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. See also: <http://www.jordanbirdwatch.com/jbrc.html>. JBRC has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 40(1).

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*.

One Aqaba Bird Observatory, first seen 20 February 2018 remaining to 19 November 2018 (Feras Rahahleh, Plate 2). Third record. (This bird moved between Aqaba and Eilat.)

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus*.

An adult female Aqaba BO 5 May 2018 (Fares Khoury). Fourth record, previous records also from Aqaba.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*.

One near the international airport, east of Madaba, April 2017 and April 2018, seen on several occasions (Fares Khoury). First record, considered an escape.

The following claims were rejected: Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*. Al-Hafayer area, Aqaba, 8 April 2018, Tala bay, Aqaba, 9 April 2018. Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus*, one immature male (2cy), Aqaba BO, 11 March 2018, three adults (2m, 1f) there, 10 April 2018.

KUWAIT

The Kuwait Ornithological Rarities Committee comprises Neil Tovey (chair), AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan (secretary), Markus Craig, Mike Pope, Humoud



Plate 2. Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* 30 October 2018, Aqaba BO, Jordan. © Feras Rahahleh



Plate 3. Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* 18 October 2018 Boubyan island, Kuwait. © Abdulaziz Al Yousef

Al-Shayji and Omar Al Shaheen. 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 neiltovey@gmail.com. KORC has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 40 (2).

Corrigendum: In the Kuwait entry in *Sandgrouse* 40 (2) 2018 the scientific name of Grey-throated Martin (p192) should be *Riparia chinensis*

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*. One en route from Kubbar island, 18 May 2018 (B Jummaa, S Raju). Fifth record.

Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*. One Jahra Pools reserve 12 May 2018 (M Craig, M Pope). First record.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*. One Sulaibakhat bay, 2 February 2012 (M Bally, J Mazenauer). Third record.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*. One JPR, 7 July 2018 (P Choudhary). Sixth record.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*. All Boubyan island: three 9 May 2017 (J Al Ajmi), one 23 March 2018 (K Nasrallah), two 18 October 2018 (A Al Yousef, Plate 3). Ninth–eleventh records.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina*. One Khuwaisat, 17 September 2018 (O Al Shaheen). Fourth record.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. One Sabah A Ahmad natural reserve 26 September 2018 (O Al Shaheen). Twelfth record.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*. One Jahra East outfall 2 March 2016 (O Al Omar). Fifteenth record.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*. One JEO, 23 December 2015 (A A Sirhan). One JPR, 24 June 2018 (O Al Shaheen). Sixth–seventh records.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* One JPR 13 May 2018 (O Al Shaheen). Seventh record.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. One Al Shalla farm, 24 November 2006 (G Gregory *et al*), one JPR, 16 December 2015 (A Ragab). Eighth–ninth records.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*. One JPR, 24 September 2018 (N Tovey). Fifteenth record.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*. One JPR, 4 July 2018 (Omar Al Shaheen). Tenth record.

White-eyed Gull *Ichthyophaga leucophthalmus*. One JPR, 22 May 2018 (O Al Shaheen). First record.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*. One JPR, 13 June 2018 (Omar Al Shaheen). Ninth record.

Rufous Turtle Dove *Streptopelia (orientalis) meena*. Two JPR, 15 October 2018 (O Al Shaheen). One Pivot fields, 13 November 2018 (N Tovey, M Dettori *et al*). 15th–16th records.

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*. One JPR, 9 May 2018 (L Ashor). Third record.

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*. One JPR, 15 June 2018 (B Jummaa). First record.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*. One JPR, 16 July 2018 (O Al Shaheen). Third record.

'Arabian Grey Shrike' *Lanius (excubitor) aucheri*. One Kabd reserve, 1 May 2018 (R Al Hajji). One Pivot fields, 3 November 2018 (M Pope). Fourth–fifth records.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*. Three Dairy Farm pivot fields 24 November 2018 (K Webb, M Ahmed, M Pope). Fourth record.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* Two Al Abraq 4 November 2018 (O Al Shaheen). One Jahra farms 3 December 2018 (G Jenniskens). 11th–12th records.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*. One Mutla'a ranch 4 August 2018 (M Pope, N Tovey). One JPR 24 October 2018 (O Al Shaheen). Fifth–sixth records.

Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*. One Mutla'a ranch 15 September 2016 (M Craig, N Tovey), one there 16 September 2017 (N Tovey, B Jummaa), one Pivot

fields, 20 August 2018 (N Tovey, M Pope), one JPR, 28 August 2018 (H Boerseli), one Mutla'a ranch 6 October 2018 (M Pope, P Scott). 12th–16th records.

Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*. One JEO 1 September 2015 (R Al Hajji), one there, 24 August 2018 (R Al Hajji), one SAANR 30 August 2018 (O Al Shaheen). Fifth–seventh records.

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*. One Al Abraç 19 May 2018 (M Craig, M Pope). Fifth record.

Eversmann's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus*. One Al Abraç 4 November 2018 (O Al Shaheen), one Green island 25 November 2018 (K Webb, M Ahmed). 14th–15th records.

Pied Stonechat *Saxicola caprata*. One Jahra farms, 12 May 2018 (A Alawadhi). Second record.

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.

LBRC has accepted the following record:

Black-eared Kite *Milvus (migrans) lineatus*. One Kfar-habou area, northern Lebanon, 7 November 2017 (M Sawwan). First record.

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 accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 40(1).

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. Adult Shannah (Barr Al Hikman) 6 November 2018 (D Fisher). Fourth record.

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*. First winter Raysut 24 November 2018 (T Holmgren). Second record.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*. One Ayn Sahnawt 11 April 2016 (R Tovey). First record, probable escape.



Plate 4. Pied Crow *Corvus albus* 21 November 2018, Al Ajaiz, Oman. © K de Jager



Plate 5. Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola* 15 November 2017, Raysut lagoons, Oman. © Mathias Ullman

Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius*. One adult Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah, 11 December 2017 (L Freeland-Haynes, A White). Fourth record.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*. One Masirah island resort, 3 October–30 November 2018 (D Pinto), one Al Ajaiz, 21 November 2018 (K de Jager & S Bot, Plate 4). First and second records.

Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola*. One Raysut lagoons, 15 November 2017 (M Ullman, J Fagefors, Plate 5). Eighth record.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*. Five Ayn Sahnawt 10 April 2016 (R Tovey). First record, considered escape.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*. Three Riyam park (Muscat) 19 May–2 June 2018 (B Panikkaserry). First record, considered escape.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*. One Mudday (Dhofar) 19 February 2016 (R Tovey). Fifth record.

QATAR

The Qatar Bird Records Committee comprises Neil Morris (secretary), Richard Porter (honorary president) and Gavin Farnell (recorder). Claims should be sent to gavinfarnell@yahoo.co.uk.

QBRC has accepted the following records since the last report in *Sandgrouse* 40(1).

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*. One Irkayya farm 25 September–2 December 2018 (S Odeh, Sh Mohammed). Tenth record.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. One Al Shamal park 21 September 2018 (G Farnell). Sixth record.

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*. One Al Shamal park 19 November 2018 (S Abdullah). Fifth record.

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*. One Al Wakra 4 October 2018 (J van Duffelen), one IF 2 November 2018 (S Sanders), one IF 17 December 2018 (Z AbdulRahman). 24th–26th records.

'Northern Shikra' *Accipiter (badius) cenchroides*. A 1st CY bird Al Shamal park 3 August–7 September 2018 (G Farnell, D Antithad). Second record.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo [rufinus] rufinus*. One IF 30 November 2018 (G Farnell). 33rd record.

Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*. Three IF 15 October 2018 (J van Duffelen). 11th record.

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*. One IF 15 September 2018 (F Ilias). 18th record.

Caspian Plover *Anarhynchus asiaticus*. One IF 17 November 2018 (G Farnell). 18th record.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*. Four Umm Salal Muhammed 1–4 May (Anton Lombard). Third record.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*. Two IF lagoons, 21 December 2018 (K Nair). 14th record.

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*. A 1st CY bird IF, 25 May 2018 (D Sanders). Sixth record.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*. 20 birds IF 9 February 2018 (J van Duffelen, G Farnell, J Hardacre). First record.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. One IF 18 November 2018 (S Abdullah). Sixth record.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*. One IF 25 October 2018 (A Saleem). 16th record.

Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*. One Al Shamal park 19–20 October 2018 (S Abdullah, G Farnell). 15th record.

Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*. One IF 10 November 2018 (G Farnell, S Abdullah). Fourth record.

Yellow-throated Sparrow *Gymnoris xanthocollis*. One Abu Dalouf park, Al Shamal, 20 October 2018 (G Farnell). Tenth record.

Striolated Bunting *Emberiza striolata*. One IF 15 October 2018 (J van Duffelen), four IF 11 November 2018 (Sh Mohammed), one IF 20 November 2018 (R Rayman). Fourth–sixth records.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*. An adult male Al Shamal park, 6 April 2018 (G Farnell). Sixth record.



Plate 6. Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* 28 October 2018 Kozanlı, Konya, Turkey. © Hüseyin Buğday

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 ebird.org. More information can be found at www.kustr.org/kuskayitkomitesi. TBRC has accepted the following records.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*. One 22 December 2001 Istanbul (Graham B Langley), one lake Kozanlı (Konya) 28 October 2018 (Hüseyin Buğday, Plate 6). First and second records.

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), Ahmed al Ali, Peter Hellyer and Jacky Judas (all 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. 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 also available at www.uaebirding.com/uaechecklist.html, along with recently published annual reports for 2010–2015. The annotated checklist was updated extensively in July 2016 with category definitions adjusted, categorisation of a number of species altered, and a number of records of certain species reviewed. Claims, preferably on downloaded report forms should be sent to ebrcuae@gmail.com or to Tommy Pedersen (tommypepe63@gmail.com). EBRC has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 40(2).

Leach's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhoa*.

One during a pelagic trip off Khor Kalba 25 May 2018 (M Smiles, O Campbell, A Alzaabi *et al*). First live record (one specimen from 1969).

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*.

One immature (possibly two) Al Wathba wetland reserve 8 March 2018 (S Khan, S Ahmed, E Al Hammadi). 11th record. Previous record February 2018.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*.

One Markaniyah farm 23 April 2018 (H Roberts, Plate 7). Seventh record; almost annual since first record in 2009.



Plate 7. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* 23 April 2018, Markaniyah farm, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi. © H Roberts



Plate 8. European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* 26 May 2018, Mushrif Palace gardens, Abu Dhabi. © S Lloyd



Plate 10. Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* 22 April 2018, Saih Al Salam oasis lakes, Dubai. © T Pedersen

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*.
One Mushrif Palace gardens 26 May 2018
(S Lloyd, Plate 8).17th record, last 2016.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*. One (or two)
Jebel Hafit and nearby area, 23 April 2018
(N Williams *et al*).16th record, last 2017.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*. One
exhausted Saadiyat golf club 27 April
2018, found dead the next day (S Lloyd,
Plate 9) and one adult Hatta lake 25
June 2018 (AV Bourbon). Second and third
records, last 2002–2004.

Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus*.
One A Sila'a peninsula 16 March 2018 (O
Campbell, S Lloyd, M Smiles, T Lloyd).
Sixth record, last 2009.



Plate 11. Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* 22 April 2018, Saih Al Salam oasis lakes, Dubai. © T Pedersen

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*. One
female Saih al Salam oasis lakes 22 April
2018 (M Iliff, T Pedersen, Plates 10,11).
Third record, last 2006.



Plate 9. Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* 27 April 2018, Saadiyat golf club, Abu Dhabi. © S Lloyd



Plate 12. Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus* 21 April 2018, Safa park, Dubai. © F Itani

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*. One Al Mamzar park 21 April 2018 (M Smiles). 15th record, last 2010.

Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*. One Safa park 21 Apr 2018 (F Itani, Plate 12). 20th record, last 2017.

'Mesopotamian Crow' *Corvus (cornix) capellanus*. One Umm Al Quwain Flamingo beach resort 16 March 2018 (S Taylor). Third record, last 2015.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following assisted in the compilation of this review: Jane Stylianou (Cyprus), Fares Houry, Feras Rahahleh (Jordan), Neil Tovey (Kuwait), Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi, Fouad Itani (Lebanon), Jens Eriksen (Oman), Gavin Farnell (Qatar), Kerem Ali Boyla (Turkey), Oscar Campbell, Tommy Pedersen (United Arab Emirates).

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