

# 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 in *Sandgrouse*.

## 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](mailto:janestycy@yahoo.co.uk) to whom claims should be sent. The committee has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 41(1).

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*. One Akrotiri marsh, 18 October 2018 (D Schmeits). Third record.

**Levant Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter brevipes*. One Phasouri beehives, 13 October 2018 (A Turtle, P Chambers). Rare passage migrant.

**Rufous Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia (orientalis) meena*. One juvenile Akrotiri marsh, 3 October 2018 (N Bell). Third record. The first record is described in full elsewhere in this issue.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*. One Mandria (Paphos), 11 April 2018 (I & K Bloomer). Sixth record.

**Ménétriés's Warbler** *Curruca mystacea*. One male Cape Greco, 3 April 2018 (K & R Howard). Fourth record.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*. One Paphos headland, 29 April 2018 (A Waller, C Bell); one Cape Kormakitis (Koruçam) 27 October 2018 (C Richardson). Rare passage migrant.

**'Caspian Stonechat'** *Saxicola maurus hemprichii*. One Akrotiri gravel pits, 19 March 2018 (A Waller). Rare passage migrant.

**'Eastern' White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba ocularis*. One Phasouri, 28 March 2018 (J Moss). First record.

**Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewskii*. One Mandria, 27 April 2018 (A Saunders). Third record.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. A juvenile Zakaki marsh, 29 October 2018 (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](mailto:eorc.secretary@gmail.com). See also <http://www.chn-france.org/eorc/eorc.php> where claim forms can be downloaded. EORC has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 40(2).

**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*. One 23km south of Safaga, 29 April 2015 (P-A Crochet, J Renoult). First record.

**Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*. An adult male Wadi Shalal, Gebal Elba, 10 May 2016 (Ali Dora). Second record.

**African White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*. One Shalatein, Hala'ib triangle, 25 March 2017 (H Krätzel, Plate 1). First record.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*. One Makadi Bay golf course, Hurghada, 27 March 2018 (O Jönsson). Third record.



**Plate 1.** African White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* 25 March 2017, Shalatein, Hala'ib triangle, Egypt. © Heiko Krätzel

**Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus*.

One Abu Simbel, 29 September 1995 (S Pfützke, A Halley); one adult Abu Simbel, 4-5 May 1997 (S Haavisto). Second and third records.

**Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus*. A male Ebruh, Gebel Elba, 18 November 2017 (M Elshamy); two Wadi El Gemal National Park, 20 January 2018 (I Saad); 25 Wadi Shallal, Gebel Elba, 21 February 2018, (Ali Dora). Fourth to sixth records.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*. One El Gouna, 11 April 2010 (M Weissensteiner). One Wadi Lahami, Marsa Alam, 5-6 May 2016 (K De Rouck, G Beck, E Davies). One Hamata around 23 December 2016 (present for two weeks) (I Saad). One Gebel Elba, Hala'ib triangle, 9-11 April 2018 (Ali Dora). First and third to fifth records (the April 2015 record reported in *Sandgrouse* 40(2) now becomes the second record).

**Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis*. One Wadi Lahami, 25 April 2017 (M Nilsson). Third record, and the first outside Sinai.

**Black Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe*. One Rihanna resort, El Gouna, 4 February-19 March 2008 (O Jönsson, J Dahlén, A Holgersson, S Magnusson, K Christensen). One Berenice T-club resort, Marsa Alam, 19 March 2012 (P Nilsson, A Soegaard, S Nielsen, A Hammergart). One Wadi Shallal, Gebel Elba, 8 March 2016 (Ali Dora). Seventh to ninth records.

**Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*. A first-winter male Shams Alam, Marsa Alam, 27 January 2012 (C Farinelle); a male Shams Alam, Wadi Gemal, 8 March 2015 (A Bujanowicz, A Jonczyk, J Nalepa); a



**Plate 2.** Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* 27 March 2018, golf course west of Makadi Bay, Egypt. © O Jönsson

female Abu Ghussum, Lahami, 12 March 2015 (A Bujanowicz, A Jonczyk, J Nalepa); a male at golf course west of Makadi Bay, 27 March 2018 (O Jönsson, Plate 2). First to fourth records.

**Red-tailed Wheatear** *Oenanthe chrysopygia*. One Al Sheikh Shazli, 8 November 2012 (E Benzzone, M Bailo, A Gargioni, G Feroldi). Second record.

**Dead Sea Sparrow** *Passer (moabiticus) moabiticus*. Ten Nuweiba, Sinai, 30 October-3 November 1987 (K Dijkstra). Record originally published in *The Courser* (Dijkstra 1992). First record.

**Yellow-throated Sparrow** *Gymnoris xanthocollis*. One Lahami Bay, 19-20 September 2018 (B Rasmussen *et al.*). Second record.

**Grey-necked Bunting** *Emberiza buchanani*. One Ras Shukeir, Hurghada, 29 March 2013 (H Nielsen). First record.

**Red-headed Bunting** *Emberiza bruniceps*. A male Shams Alam, Marsa Alam, 7 May



**Plate 3.** Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* 7 May 2016, Shams Alam, Marsa Alam, Egypt. © Kris De Rouck

2016 (K De Rouck, G Beck, E Davies, Plate 3). First record.

## Corrigendum

**Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*. Bardawil Lagoon, north Sinai, 17 August 1981. The record concerned three individuals and not a single bird as reported in *Sandgrouse* 40(2).

## IRAN

The Iran Bird Records Committee (IBRC) 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 (IRDC) 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](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: <http://www.jordanbirdwatch.com/jbrc.html>

## KUWAIT

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

Mike Pope, Humoud 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](mailto:alsirhan@alsirhan.com) or the chair at [neiltovey@gmail.com](mailto:neiltovey@gmail.com). KORC has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 41(1).

**Black Throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*. One Jahra Pools reserve, 25 January 2019 (Abdulrahman Al-Sirhan). First record.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*. One Ras Al Salmiya, 30 April 2019, two Jahra Pools reserve, 16 May 2019 (all O Al Shaheen); four Jahra Pools reserve 21 May 2019 (O Al Shaheen, N Tovey). Sixth and seventh records.

**Eurasian Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*. One Sulabiya pivot fields, 15 December 2018 (M Pope, N Tovey, P Scott). 14th record.

**Western Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*. One Al Abra, 30 January 2019 (O Al Shaheen, Plate 4). 13th record.

**'Arabian Grey Shrike'** *Lanius (excubitor) aucheri*. One Salmi, 3 March 2018 (A Habeeb) (fourth record); two Sabah Al Ahmad Natural Reserve (with a nest with 4 eggs), 26 February 2019 (K Al Fahad) (seventh record); one Al Liyah north, 24 April 2019 (A Al-Sirhan) (eighth record). There are now eight records of this subspecies (see previous issues of *Sandgrouse* for details).



**Plate 4.** Western Stock Dove *Columba oenas oenas* 30 January 2019, Al Abra, Kuwait. © Omar Al Shaheen



**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*. One Shuwaikh Free Trade Zone 14 February 2019 (Neil Tovey). First record, category E.

**Pale Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*. One Al Abra, 14 April 2018 (A Al-Sirhan). 11th record.

**Hume's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei*. One Fintas Park, 12 November 2018 (A Al-Sirhan, M Dettori); one Jahra Farm, 3 December 2018 (G Jenniskens). 12th-13th records.

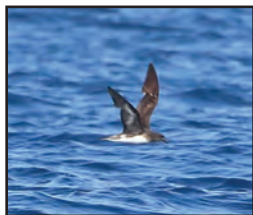
## LEBANON

The Lebanon Bird Records Committee comprises Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi (executive director & recorder), Georges Tohme, Gaby Khalaf, John Waterbury 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, Zahrán 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* 41(1).

**Tahiti Petrel** *Pseudobulweria rostrata trouessarti*. One of this New Caledonia race 8 km south of Mirbat, 23 February 2019 (B Simpson & C Barkóczi, Plates 5, 6). First record (also for Arabia).



**Plate 5** (left). Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata trouessarti* 23 February 2019, 8 km south of Mirbat, Oman. © Bill Simpson

**Plate 6** (right). Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata trouessarti* 23 February 2019, 8 km south of Mirbat, Oman. © Csaba Barkóczi

## QATAR

The Qatar Birds Record Committee comprises Gavin Farnell (Recorder), Richard Porter (Honorary President), Neil Morris and Simon Tull. Claims should be sent to gavin.farnell@gmail.com. Refer to qatarbirds.org for the Qatar Birds official list.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*. One West Saliya lagoons 8 March 2019 (S Tull, G Farnell). Second record, last recorded 2014.

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*. One *vociferus* ssp. Irkayya farm 18 May 2019 (D Adams). 11th record.

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*. A sub-adult male with some characteristics suggesting a hybrid European-Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*, Shahiniya 30 April 2019 (Sh. M al Thani). Seventh record.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*. One Shamal park 17 May 2019 (G Farnell). 20th record.

**Baillon's Crake** *Zapornia pusilla*. One West Saliya lagoons 10-12 March 2019 (G Farnell, J van Duffelen, Sh. M al Thani). Fourth record, last recorded 2013.

**Little Crake** *Zapornia parva*. Up to three individuals West Saliya lagoons 9 March-5 April 2019 (G Farnell, S Tull, J van Duffelen, Sh. M al Thani *et al*). Sixth record, last recorded 2013.

**Grey-Headed Swamphen** *Porphyrio [porphyrio] poliocephalus*. One Irkayya lagoons 22 May 2019 (J van Duffelen). Fourth record.

**Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus*. Two West Saliya lagoons 1 March 2019 (G Farnell, S Tull). Seventh record.

**White-tailed Lapwing** *Vanellus leucurus*. One Irkayya farm 1 February 2019 (J Mohanen). 19th record.

**Caspian Plover** *Anarhynchus asiaticus*. A summer plumage bird Irkayya farm 30 April 2019 (S Parappanangadi). 19th record.

**Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*. An adult female Irkayya lagoons 3-10 May 2019 (D Adams, S Tull, G Farnell, J van Duffelen). First record.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*. One Al Khor 23 March 2019 (G Saunders). 15th record.

**Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*. A flock of at least 40 birds at Irkayya farm

16-22 February 2019 (G Farnell, S Tull). Second record.

**Black Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe*. One Irkayya farm 10 May 2019 (Sh. M al Thani). 12th record.

**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*. One Irkayya farm, 1-29 March 2019 (D Saunders, G Saunders, V Gopal). Seventh record.

**Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*. One Al Shamal park 26 April 2019 (G Farnell). 17th record.

**Semi-collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula semitorquata*. A female Al Shamal Park 26 April 2019 (G Farnell). 16th record.

**Yellow-Throated Sparrow** *Gymnoris xanthocollis*. Two Abu Dhalouf park 22-29 March 2019 (G Farnell). 11th record.

## TURKEY

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

**Tundra Bean Goose** *Anser serrirostris*. Three Manyas Gölü 1-7 January 2019 (Ali Şenel). Two other records have been re-visited since Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* was split into two species: one Amasya Yedikır Gölü, 26 February 2013 (Soner Bekir, Mehmet Zenginer) and one Kızılırmak, 3 February 2015 (Kiraz Erciyas Yavuz, Nizamettin Yavuz, Mustafa Sözen, Tuncer Tozsın).

## 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, according to the timetable outlined at <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 also available at <http://www.uaebirding.com/uaechecklist.html>, along with recently published annual reports for 2010 to 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 report forms downloadable from <http://www.uaebirding.com/ebrc.html> should be sent to [ebrcuae@gmail.com](mailto:ebrcuae@gmail.com) or to Tommy Pedersen ([tommypepe63@gmail.com](mailto:tommypepe63@gmail.com)).

EBRC has accepted the following records since the report in *Sandgrouse* 41(1).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*. Two adults Ras al Khor wildlife reserve 7 January 2019 (F Itani) and presumed the same birds, Bhalghelam Island, 11 January 2019 (N Williams, P Hellyer). Sixth record regarded as wild, last recorded 2017.

**Marbled Duck** *Marmaronetta angustirostris*. One Ras al Khor wildlife reserve, 10 November 2018 (F Rietkerk). Seventh record, last recorded 2012.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*. One Ras al Khor wildlife reserve, 29 December 2018 (M Smiles, L Smiles *et al*). 13th record, last recorded 2004.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*. One immature Qasr Al Sarab protected area, 4-5 November 2018 (R Gubiani). Seventh record, last recorded 2004.

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*. One Ras al Khor wildlife reserve, 12 October 2017 (H Heaton); one Al Badia Golf Club 21 October-14 November 2018 (A Schmidt *et al*, Plate 7) and probably the same individual Ras al Khor wildlife reserve, 16 November 2018 (H. Heaton). Fourth and fifth records, last recorded 2007.

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*. One Jebel Dhanna resort 24-25 March 2018 (K Al Dhaheri). 17th record (the 26 May 2018 record mentioned in *Sandgrouse* 41(1) now becomes the 18th record).

**Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus*. One Dubai desert conservation reserve, 24 January 2018 (G Simkins). Second record, last 2012.



**Plate 7.** Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* 26 October 2018, Al Badia Golf Club, United Arab Emirates. © S Lloyd



**Plate 8.** Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina* 11 November 2013, Siniyah Island, United Arab Emirates. © R Gubiani



**Plate 9.** Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina* 11 November 2013, Siniyah Island, United Arab Emirates. © R Gubiani

**Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Clanga pomarina*. One Siniyah Island, 11 November 2013 (R Gubiani, Plates 8, 9). Fifth record.

**Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*. One immature Wadi Wurayah national park, 3





**Plate 10.** Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 20 October 2018, Mamzar Park, United Arab Emirates. © S Lloyd



**Plate 11.** Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus* 7 September 2018, Mushrif Palace Gardens, United Arab Emirates. © S Lloyd

February 2019 (S Majeed). Seventh record, last recorded 2006.

**Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*. One Ajman WTP 9-16 November 2018 (M Smiles, D Poulton *et al*). Fourth record, last recorded 2015.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*. One Dubai safari park 14-16 October 2018 (R Khan). Seventh record, last recorded 2013.

**Eurasian Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*. One on a private estate near Green Mubazzarah, 30 December 2018 (P Arras). 19th record, last recorded 2013.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*. One juvenile Khor Kalba 3-4 October 2018 (R Khan,

M Smiles); one Fujairah port beach 24 January 2019 (N Moran *et al*). 17th-18th records, last recorded 2015.

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*. One 2nd calendar year, pelagic trip off Khor Kalba, 12 October 2018 (O Campbell *et al*). 22nd record, last recorded 2016.

**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*. One Al Saad farms, Al Ain, 20 November 2018 (X Popp). Seventh record, last recorded 2009.

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. One Al Mamzar park, 20 October-1 November 2018 (S Lloyd, Plate 10). Ninth record, last recorded 2016.

**Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus nitidus*. One Mushrif Palace gardens 7-8 September



**Plate 12.** Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* 20 August 2018, Mushrif Palace Gardens, United Arab Emirates. © S Lloyd



**Plate 14.** Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* 24 November 2017, Hamraniyah Farm, United Arab Emirates. © Oscar Campbell



**Plate 13.** 'Byzantine Stonechat' *Saxicola maurus variegatus* 16 March 2018, Sila, United Arab Emirates. © S Lloyd

2018 (O Campbell, Plate 11); two Al Mamzar park 9 October 2018 (M Smiles).

21st and 22nd records, last recorded April 2018.

**Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. Up to five Mushrif Palace gardens 19 August-8 September 2018 (S Lloyd, T Lloyd *et al*, Plate 12); one Sila'a public park 14 September 2018 (S Lloyd, O Campbell); one Al Mamzar park 15 September 2018 and presumed same bird 25 September-2 October 2018 (M Smiles). 17th-19th records Possibly a regular migrant in small numbers late August-September.

**'Caspian Stonechat'** *Saxicola maurus hemprichii*. One Sila'a harbour marsh 16 November-1 December 2018 (S Lloyd, M Smiles). Fourth autumn record, last recorded 2017 (also an uncommon spring migrant).

**'Byzantine Stonechat'** *S. maurus variegatus*. One Sila'a harbour marsh 16 March 2018 (O Campbell, S Lloyd, M Smiles, T Lloyd, Plate 13). First record.

**Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*. One Hamraniyah farm 10 and 24-26 November 2017 (M Smiles, OJ Campbell, S Lloyd, D Poulton, Plate 14); one Wamm farms 12 October 2018 (M Smiles, O Campbell,





**Plate 15.** Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* 12 October 2018, Wamm Farms, United Arab Emirates. © Huw Roberts

S Lloyd *et al*, Plate 15). First and second records.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The following assisted in the compilation of this review: Jane Stylianou (Cyprus), Frédéric Jiguet, Lukasz Lawicki (Egypt),

Neil Tovey (Kuwait), Jens Eriksen (Oman), Gavin Farnell, Simon Tull (Qatar), Oscar Campbell, Tommy Pedersen (United Arab Emirates).

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