

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* in Makadi bay, Hurghada, Egypt, March 2018

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During the last week of March 2018 I was on a family holiday in Hurghada, Egypt. Our choice of hotel in Makadi bay was partly based on the presence of a golf course in the outskirts of the hotel area, located at 26.982232° N, 33.880212° E. I visited the golf course a few early mornings before the golfers began to play. A group of c500 Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus* (Plate 1) gathered near the golf course every morning which gave a nice desert touch to the birding.

On the morning of 27 March 2018 I was taking pictures of Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava* at one of the ponds in the western part of the golf course, when suddenly a Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* was standing there on a rock looking at me. I took some photos of the bird (Plate 2) that soon flew to the other side of the pond, uttering its typical 'prrrt' call, before it landed and joined two Ruffs *Calidris pugnax*. I suspected that it was a rare species in Egypt so I texted István Moldován who soon told me it was the third record for Egypt. I visited the golf course the following day, but couldn't relocate the bird despite checking all the ponds in the area.

Considering that many of the records of Pectoral Sandpiper in Europe (where it is also a vagrant, but a more common one) consist of birds of Arctic origin it's not very surprising that a few are seen in the Middle East as well. This record was the third for Egypt and was accepted by the Egyptian ornithological rarities committee, following one in Wadi el Natrun 14 May 1990 and one Abassa fish ponds 5 May 2012 (Jiguet *et al* 2014). There were 12 records of Pectoral Sandpiper between 1983 and 2014 in Israel (Tarsiger 2018).

LITERATURE CITED

Jiguet F, S Baha El Din, W Abdel Latif Ibrahim, R Bonser, A Corso, P-A Crochet, A Grieve, R Hoath & M Schweizer. 2014. Third report of the Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee, 2012 and 2013.
Tarsiger 2018. www.tarsiger.com. [Accessed 2018-05-04]

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Plate 1. Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus* Hurghada, Egypt, March 2018. © Olof Jönsson



Plate 2. Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Makadi bay, Hurghada, Egypt, 27 March 2018. © Olof Jönsson