

Oman - Birds, Desert & Culture

Naturetrek Tour Report

28 October - 7 November 2017

Report compiled by Andrew Bray



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Tour participants: Andrew Bray (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 28th October

London Heathrow - Dubai

Most group members caught the plane from Heathrow for an overnight flight to Dubai with Emirates.

Day 2

Sunday 29th October

Dubai – Muscat, Al Sawadi Peninsula

On arrival at Dubai, we took the bus from the plane to the terminal. It took a long while to navigate around and through the terminals to reach our plane for Muscat, but we reached it in good time. On arrival at Muscat it took also long while to get through passport control. After leaving the airport, we drove to Sawadi for lunch with rice.

Afterwards, we drove to the creek on the Al Sawadi Peninsula with various egrets and herons. There were Greater Sand Plovers, Kentish Plovers and Ringed Plovers. By the entrance to the creek there were lots of Slender-bill Gulls and Lesser Crested and Greater Crested Terns, and we had a lesson in the differences in the large white-headed Gulls with Steppe, Caspian and Heuglin's all represented. There was an Osprey on the islands near the car park. The Al Sawadi Hotel was chained shut so we looked in the grounds from both sides, finding Tawny Pipit and Black Redstart. Near the coastal highway there were lots of Collared Doves and not a lot else. It was time to head for the hotel.

Day 3

Monday 30th October

Al Ansab Wetlands, Al Ghubrah Bowl

This morning we had a later start than normal, as the Al Ansab Wetlands could not take us until 9am. We spent an hour on the concrete plinth looking at all the birds, with lots of Black-winged Stilts, Red-wattled Lapwing, Dunlin and Little Stint. There were lots of Mallard and Shoveler but only a few Teal. We had three species of Eagle, and Marsh Harrier. We saw Pheasant-tailed Jacana, White-tailed Lapwing and different types of Sandpiper. Eventually, we walked behind the raised banks to the stream and to the hide by the full lake, next to the spill way. Here there was a Temminck's Stint, Intermediate Egret, Striated Heron and Sanderling amongst the many birds.

It was a wrench to leave despite the heat. We travelled to Nakhal for lunch then followed a new road into the Al Ghubrah Bowl. We stopped in the gap to find Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, then turned off the new road to admire the stunning view but found birds as well. The bowl is surrounded by cliffs and steep mountains. We did re-join the new road that went all the way to Wakan and, parking near a junction, we found Desert Whitethroat and Southern Grey Shrike. We had a 90-minute drive back to the hotel, arriving at 6pm.

Day 4

Tuesday 31st October

Al Fahal Island, Mutrah Souq, Old Muscat, Qurm Park and Estuary

The day started with a boat trip that went straight out to see pods of Indo-Pacific Dolphins, including Hump-backed and Bottlenose. We then headed for Al Fahal Island, somewhere close to Muscat. The Island held Sooty Falcon and Red-billed Tropicbird, of which we all had great views. Around the island the water was so clear that we could see the fish. As we headed back to the marina there were some large rafts of Red-necked Phalarope.

Our next stop was the old souq at Mutrah, with its myriad of passageways, selling everything from pashminas to gold to cooking pots. We had lunch just outside, with cold mango drinks, before driving to the old palace and seeing the old forts of Al Jalali and Al Mirani. Either side of the old palace were the UK and US embassies, but they are now part of the palace. Then it was on to Qurm Park where we met a group travelling Bird Holidays, and the creek with Common Sandpiper and Red-wattled Lapwing. We also saw Kingfisher, European Roller and White-cheeked Bulbul. The trees by the Auditorium were vacant except for Rose-ringed Parakeet. At Qurm Estuary there was Whimbrel, Black-crowned Night Heron and Bridled Tern. It was a very busy road at the bridge, but drivers were content to stop for us as we crossed the road.

Day 5

Wednesday 1st November

Grand Mosque, Al Multaqa Rubbish Dump, Wadi Shabt, Wadi Tiwi, Sur

We started with a tour of the Grand Mosque with Jamil. This is a magnificent building that was completed in 2001, after six years, and is the second biggest mosque in the world. The chandeliers are by Swarovski, and the centre one weighs 8 tonnes and contains 1,122 bulbs. The carpet was woven by hand in Iran by 620 women and was stitched in place so there is no join. The carpet in the women's mosque came from Scotland. The mosque is unique in that it has five pillars, representing the faith of Islam. We learnt about washing and prayers and when it is time to pray. The gardens were delightful, and we saw a Red-vented Bulbul that had eluded us until now.

By way of contrast, we left Muscat and headed for Al Multaqa Waste Disposal Site. There were over 100 Egyptian Vultures and a '*fulvescens*' or pale morph Greater Spotted Eagle. Our next stop was at Wadi Shabt; however, this place is so commercialised there was little there, though there were plenty of Pale Crag Martins flying high. We then had lunch in Tiwi, with the fantastic warm parathas, before continuing on to Wadi Tiwi. The guide told the driver to stop and reverse, and sitting not far from us was a Hume's Wheatear. By the ford we de-bussed and a Blue Rock Thrush posed for us very close. There was little else besides the Pale Rock Finch posing on a rock. Back at the Wheatear site was a pair of Red-tailed Wheatear, plus one posing a bit further on. At the entrance to the creek there were plenty of Terns and also a Crab-plover. In Sur we visited the traditional dhow building yard; the only one left in Oman. It takes about a year to build a dhow (a traditional sailing ship). We then settled into our hotel in Sur.

That night we drove to Ras Al Jinz for the turtle tour, with 200 people booked in for the night. We were in group six and did not start until 10pm. Unfortunately, the two Green Turtles had finished laying their eggs, and were heading back to sea. We did see hatchlings coming up to the surface. The guides took 65 of them out of the hole where the turtle had laid her eggs and they were released by the sea. The three the guide released from his pocket earlier were almost forgotten, compared with this hatchlings' spectacle. We were back at the hotel at midnight.

Day 6

Thursday 2nd November

Khawr Gramma, Bar Al Hikman, Mahut, Al Duqm, Al Ghaftain

This was going to be a long drive. We left at 6.30am to drive to Khawr Gramma, where the tide peaked at 7.30am. There were lots of birds, including distant views of the nine Crab-plovers. There was Osprey, together with waders, terns and gulls in all directions. After a while we dragged ourselves away and drove to Bar Al Hikman. We drove to short of the ferry crossing and caught the birds as the tide was going out. As far as the eye could see there were thousands of birds from Flamingos to Little Stint. It was a truly amazing site; however, the tide was going out quickly, so we did not go to another point of the coast, as the Godwits would be too far out to spot other birds amongst them. We did stop beside the salt sellers along the road.

It was only a short drive to Mahut where we had lunch. It was then another long drive to the fish-landing point at Al Duqm. Here skiffs bring the fish from the dhows to the shore. Awaiting us was a gull spectacle with thousands of Hüglin's Gulls, plus a few Steppe and Sooty Gulls. It was then a very long drive to Hayma, stopping only once to admire the Brown-necked Ravens before it became dark. At the town we had a break before the final push to the rest house at Al Ghaftain.

Day 7

Friday 3rd November

Al Ghaftain, Muntasar, Qatbit, Dawkah Farm, Thumrait, Mudday, Beach Villas

We started birding in the grounds of the rest house at 6am, with all three species of Bee-eater, Black Redstart and a Lesser Whitethroat that joined us in the quadrangle at breakfast. We were at Muntasar oasis by 8am, ready for the Crowned Sandgrouse, followed by Spotted Sandgrouse, to fly in. There was also Golden Eagle perched a long way from us, reflecting in the sun. Our next stop was at Qatbit Motel where we found a Common Rosefinch as well as European Roller and Common Redstart. It was then on to Dawkah Farm which had shut down completely. There were a few birds about, including a Kestrel and a Scrub Warbler.

We then drove to Thumrait and had lunch at 2pm, rather than stop at a petrol station on the way. We continued on to Mudday and parked up at the park before a short walk back into the village. Highlights included Nile Valley Sunbird, African Collared Dove and Blackstart. On the way back to the roundabout we stopped at a Water Melon field where there was another Southern Grey Shrike and Desert Wheatears. After our two-day experience, it was then a relatively short drive to Beach Villas hotel. Here we settled into the new hotel by the beach.

Day 8

Saturday 4th November

Omani Golf Course, West Khawr, Raysut, Al Mughsayl

We started the day at the Omani Air Force golf course, with seven Spotted Thick-knees and three Shining Sunbirds. We then drove to West Khawr where we went for a walk, seeing Honey Buzzard, Marsh Harrier, Flamingo, and Isabelline and Desert Wheatears. An Osprey flew over us, and around us were Crested Larks. It was then time to drive past the cement factory and a proper link road to the rubbish site had been built from the roundabout. At the rubbish site there were 150+ Steppe Eagles and a Black Kite. At the corner of the sewage works there were two Yellow Wagtails of the *lutea* race. Inside the sewage works there were over 200 Abdim

Storks and over 150 White Storks. The place was a haven for birds, with ducks, gulls, terns and waders galore. Highlights included two Spur-winged Plovers and six White-winged Black Terns.

It was then on to the pools at Al Mughsayl by the beach, where a Caspian Tern flew past and there were lots of Tristram's Starlings. There were even more after lunch! Lunch was taken by the social housing, and was rice with camel meat; there was fish as well. There were plenty of fishermen on the golden sandy beach, with lots of Sooty and Heuglin's Gulls. We then visited the blow holes near a restaurant that was shut as it was Saturday. The tide was well out and everywhere quiet. We looked out to sea and all we found were the plastic containers that indicate nets for the fishermen, and so we ended up looking at the rock pools!

There was very little about, so we drove along the Yemen Road to the Frankincense trees where we had a quick lesson. It was then ice cream and bags of frankincense at the garage, before driving up the wadi with lots of camels. The drive produced two Collared Pratincoles, shrikes, ducks and terns. At the parking area there was Hooded Wheatear, Sand Grouse and two Bruce's Green Pigeons. At dusk we heard two Desert (Hume's) Owls calling to each other. It was then a drive back to the hotel past the Al Deeb Archaeological Park, the Palace and the souk.

Day 9

Sunday 5th November

Ayn Tobraq, Ayn Hamran, Wadi Darbat, Tawi Atair, Dahariz Park, Ayn Tobraq

We tried to see the Golden-winged Grosbeak at dawn, but the area was pretty devoid of birds early in the morning. We spent only an hour at Ayn Tobraq, then came back for breakfast. Our first stop afterwards was Ayn Hamran, with Black-crowned Tchagra, Arabian Partridge, Arabian Warbler, Abyssinian White-eyes and African Paradise Flycatcher. This was a lovely area and we could see why bird watchers can spend hours there. We then went to Wadi Darbat, where we saw Fan-tailed Raven, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle and Steppe Eagle. There were plenty of Swifts and an Arabian Wheatear. The whole place is much commercialised with boat trips on the water, so we did not stay too long as we had a park to go to.

We then drove to Tawi Atair, negotiating the cattle and camels that were on the road. The sinkhole is over 300 feet deep and the result of the ground collapsing into a cave. There were plenty of Fan-tailed Ravens. The cafe is being expanded and there were some workmen there. We stood in the field behind the cafe and a pair of Arabian Wheatears flew around. There was a mix of other birds but eventually we saw two Yemen Serin. We drove back to the restaurant at the top of Wadi Darbat, where the roads join. The next stop was at the park by East Khawr. This is a well-kept park, and we saw Diederik Cuckoo, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Scaly-backed Munia and Asian Koel. Our final stop was back at Ayn Tobraq and, with the lights of the cars on the water point, all had good views of Lichtenstein Sandgrouse that flew in to gather water.

Day 10

Monday 6th November

East Khawr, Ayn Razat, Khawr Rawri, Sumhura Archaeological Park, Sahnawt Farm

It was our last day in Oman. We started at East Khawr, with Glossy Ibis, Caspian Tern, and lots of waders, including a Temminck's Stint. There was even four Squacco Herons amongst the many birds. From there we headed east to Ayn Razat, turning left at the roundabout with Oryx models. It is the roundabout closest to the

Sultan's Palace. The gardens are only open on Thursdays and Fridays, so we had to view birds from outside the fence. We saw both Shining and Palestine Sunbirds. We also had great views of Bruce's Green Pigeon, with one bird filling the view through a telescope. There was a Short-toed Snake Eagle on a distant tree, and a Sparrowhawk flew past us. We then drove to Khawr Rawri, where we stopped on the western side of the water with Clamorous Reed Warbler showing, as well as a Graceful Prinia.

We then drove into the Sumhuran ruins. The town was the centre of the Frankincense trade from the Third Century BC to the Fifth Century AD. We also visited the museum and the dhow, destroyed in 2004. The dhow was known as a Sambuq and they were the traditional ships and still are. Only the aft section remained, and a replica was built of the Sambuq al-dhi'b (the name of the ship). Watching the birds around the Khawr, we saw Red-knobbed Coot, Flamingo, wheatear, waders, ducks and even a Pochard. We drove back to Dahariz for lunch before we drove out of Sahnawt Farm and peered over the wall on the eastern side. We added Turtle Dove and Lesser Grey Shrike to our list.

We then drove to the airport where we said goodbye to our drivers. One couple ended up in the posh seats of the plane; they will remain nameless, but did not come to Dubai with us! At Muscat we got off one bus and then on another to go to the international terminal. We arrived in Dubai and booked into our hotel at 10.30pm.

Day 11

Tuesday 7th November

Al Mashriff National Park; Ras Al Khor

We were out at 8am and joined the traffic in downtown Dubai, before escaping to the suburbs and Al Masriff National Park. The building work had finished and we soon added Indian Roller and Alexandrine Parakeet to the list. It was a Hoopoe morning and at one stage only a very small hedge separated us from three Hoopoes. We also added Pallid Swift and Black Drongo to the list as well as Grey Francolin and Arabian Babbler. It was time to move on, and the next stop was at Ras Al Khor. Here there were Flamingos as far as we could see, as well as uncountable numbers of Dunlin. Most birds were just ticks as there were so many, but we did see three Avocets and, as we were leaving, two Pintail flew into the water right in front of us. Time was then getting on so we headed for the airport and our flight home. We left one on the minibus as Alan was flying back to Australia the next day. The flight home passed without notice back to a very wet London.

We saw desert including sandy, scrubby and stony as well as coast and mountains. We saw turtles, dolphins and had 193 species of bird (2 owls heard), never mind the vast numbers of butterflies in places. We visited a souq, the Grand Mosque, archaeological sites and the old palace. We visited khawrs, ayns, bays, parks and beach, not forgetting the rubbish dumps and sewage works. We ate lots of rice with meat, fish, curry and even chicken sausages. We experienced Oman in the short time we had, with a range of different days and activities. We all showed consideration to each other's company, travelling the breadth of Oman, visiting a few of the sites that Oman offers. We certainly 'did' birds, desert and culture of Oman.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	October / November									
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓				2			
2	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		✓					31	✓	✓	✓
3	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>							4	6	6	2
4	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>							9			
5	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		6	11				20		20	
6	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>									2	
7	Arabian Partridge	<i>Alectoris melanocephala</i>									8	
8	Sand Partridge	<i>Ammoperdix heyi</i>							6			
9	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>		1								2
10	Persian Shearwater	<i>Puffinus persicus</i>			1							
11	Jouanin's Petrel	<i>Bulweria fallax</i>			17							
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		x	2				12		6	
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>									2	
14	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		9			✓		20		30+	✓
15	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>			4							
16	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>							200+			
17	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>							150+	2	25+	
18	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>							20			1
19	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>										13
20	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			4							
21	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	1	1	3					3	1	
22	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		2					3	1	6	
23	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		2	1							
24	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>							6		3	2
25	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	2	✓	15	4	✓		✓	3	✓	✓
26	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>									1	
27	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	5		4	2	✓		2		2	✓
28	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	1	1	1		✓		2		1	
29	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	1	1	✓		6		5	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	October / November									
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30	Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	2	2	1		✓		2		1	2
31	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>				4						
32	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		6	7	5						✓
33	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2		4		3		1			
34	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>				100+						
35	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivornus</i>							1			
36	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>								1	1	
37	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>		8		1			1		1	
38	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		1						2		
39	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>							150+	3	2	3
40	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>						1				
41	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>		1	1					2		
42	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>									1	
43	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		2			2		1		1	
44	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>					1		1			
45	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>							1		1	
46	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		3	4	2			18		12	
47	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>									6	
48	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				1						
49	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>							7			
50	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	14			10	✓					
51	Crab-plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>				1	✓					
52	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓			✓				50+	✓
53	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>										3
54	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>							2			
55	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	2	✓	✓				1			
56	White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>		1								
57	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>			14							
58	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					✓					2
59	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	6	4	24	1	✓		1			✓
60	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	5		✓		✓		2		✓	
61	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	1			1	✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	October / November									
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	8		✓	2	✓	1				
63	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>		3								
64	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		x					3		1	3
65	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	1	1	2	1					✓	
66	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	2	2	1		✓				2	✓
67	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			8							
68	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	3		1	2	✓		1		1	
69	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		2	4		✓		15		45	✓
70	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>		1					7		1	
71	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	1	1	✓				8	6
72	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		5				1	4		1	
73	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		3					3		1	
74	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>					✓					
75	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1	2	15	7	✓	1	70	10	✓	✓
76	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓					
77	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		1			✓		1		1	4
78	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		✓			✓					
79	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		1	1		✓				1	
80	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					✓				1	
81	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		x			✓		15		10	✓
82	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		3			✓		2		8	✓
83	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>			160							
84	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glaresola pratincola</i>							2			
85	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	✓		✓		2					✓
86	Sooty Gull	<i>Ichthyophaga hemprichii</i>	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	
87	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	5									
88	Steppe Gull	<i>Larus fuscus barabensis</i>	2				✓					
89	Heuglin's Gull	<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
90	Baltic Gull	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>					1					
91	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>			1	1			2		2	
92	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					✓		1		5	2
93	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	✓		5	✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	October / November									
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
94	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	✓									
95	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				✓	2					
96	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>		1	1							
97	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			8	2						
98	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					✓		2			
99	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>							6	2	✓	
100	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>						2				
101	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>						9				
102	Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>						13				
103	Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>								5		
104	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>									1	
106	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓
107	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
108	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	1	2					2			
109	Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>							2	5	5	
110	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>								1		
111	Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>								1		
112	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>							h			
113	Desert (Hume's) Owl	<i>Strix hadorami</i>							h2			
114	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>										1
115	Forbes-Watson's Swift	<i>Apus berliozi</i>							✓	✓	✓	
116	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>										6
117	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			1		2	1	8	1	2	
118	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>								2		
119	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			2			✓				
120	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	12	2	1
121	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>						✓	5			
122	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>									1	
123	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1	h							19
124	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>						1	4	2	3	
125	Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>			19							

	Common name	Scientific name	October / November									
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
126	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>			✓				✓			
127	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>										✓
128	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>								4		
129	Isabelline Shrike (Darian)	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>		1			1	1	1			1
130	Red-tailed (Turkestan) Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>				1	5	2	2			1
131	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>									2	
132	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	1				2	1				1
133	Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius pallidirostris</i>	1									
134	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>										1
135	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>								10	2	1
136	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
137	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>					x	✓	5		1	
138	Fan-tailed Raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>								12		
139	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	5		1		2		6	2	2	
140	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>						3				
141	White-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>			5							x
142	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>				1						5
143	White-spectacled Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>	2	✓		8	2	1	1	17	11	
144	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>										
145	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	5	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
146	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>					1					
147	Pale Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>		2		✓		2	2	✓	✓	
148	Streaked Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>				3		1				
149	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		1								
150	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>			1				1		2	
151	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>		5				1				
152	Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>		1		1					1	
153	Arabian Babbler	<i>Turdoides squamiceps</i>										1
154	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						2				
155	Desert Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia minula</i>		1								
156	Arabian Warbler	<i>Sylvia leucomelaena</i>								3		
157	Abyssinian White-eye	<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>								✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October / November									
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
158	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
159	Tristram's Starling	<i>Onychognathus tristramii</i>							✓	✓	✓	
160	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>						1				
161	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						4	2			
162	Eastern Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides</i>	2				1					
163	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>						1		1		
164	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				2			1			
165	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>		2					4		2	
166	Hooded Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monacha</i>							2			
167	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>					✓	✓	✓	2	4	
168	Blackstart	<i>Oenanthe melanura</i>	2					2	1	4		
169	Hume's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe albonigra</i>				2						
170	Arabian Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugentoides</i>								3		
171	Red-tailed Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe chrysopygia</i>				3						
172	Nile Valley Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna metallica</i>						3				1
173	Palestine Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris osea</i>									4	
174	Shining Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris habessinicus</i>							3	3	6	
175	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		3	8	6						
176	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
177	Pale Rockfinch	<i>Carpospiza brachydactyla</i>				2		1	1			
178	Rüppell's Weaver	<i>Ploceus galbula</i>								20	✓	
179	African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>						✓	10	✓	✓	
180	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓						
181	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>								15		
182	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			1				2	2		
183	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>		2				3	3		2	
184	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		1						3		
185	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		3	1		1	2	10	2	1	1
186	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>								1		
187	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	2					1				
188	Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>								2		
189	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>								2		

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190	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrurus</i>						1				
191	Yemen Serin	<i>Crithagra menachensis</i>								4		
192	Striolated Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>								✓	2	
193	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>								✓	2	

Other Taxa

Indo-Pacific Humpbacked Dolphin, *Sousa chinensis*

Flying Fish, *Exocoetidae* ssp

Fiddler Crab, *Uca* ssp

African Caper White, *Belenois aurota*

Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*

Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*

Oriental Hornet, *Vespa orientalis*

Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin, *Tursiops aduncus*

Green Turtle, *Chelonia mydas*

Spiny Urchin, *Echinoidea* ssp

Blue Pansy, *Precis orithya*

Zebra White, *Protographium marcellus*

Desert Orange Tip, *Colotis evagore*

Red-legged Golden Orb-web Spider, *Nephila sumptuosa*

Wild Donkey, *Equus africanus asinus*

Shore Crab, *Ocypodinae* ssp

Sea Cucumber, *Holothuroidea* ssp

African Monarch, *Danaus chrysippus*

African Mallow Skipper, *Gomalia elma*

Carmine Darter, *Crocothemis erythraea*

Frankincense Tree, *Boswellia sacra*

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