

# SOUTHERN OMAN

A two owl quest

18 UNTIL 23-11-2019



*Arabian Eagle Owl, one of the two "needed" owls.*

## Legenda:

\*AAAA = New (Holarctic) Species (2)

AAAAA = Good species for the trip or for me (because not often seen)

*The list order is conformed the WP checklist with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue mainly based on publications in the "important magazines". Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field. The totals of birds per species are just a total of the birds I saw to give an idea how many of a species you encounter during a trip. Only species seen are mentioned, and heard when, no lifer.*

On this trip the weather was good with no rain, mostly sunny with (dry) temperatures above in the 20 C and often no wind except the for last evening and last day when a stormy wind was blowing from the north force 6/7.



East Khwar..

### Itinerary

**18-11** Flew with a three hour delay to Dubai and then to Salalah to arrive in night around 03.40.

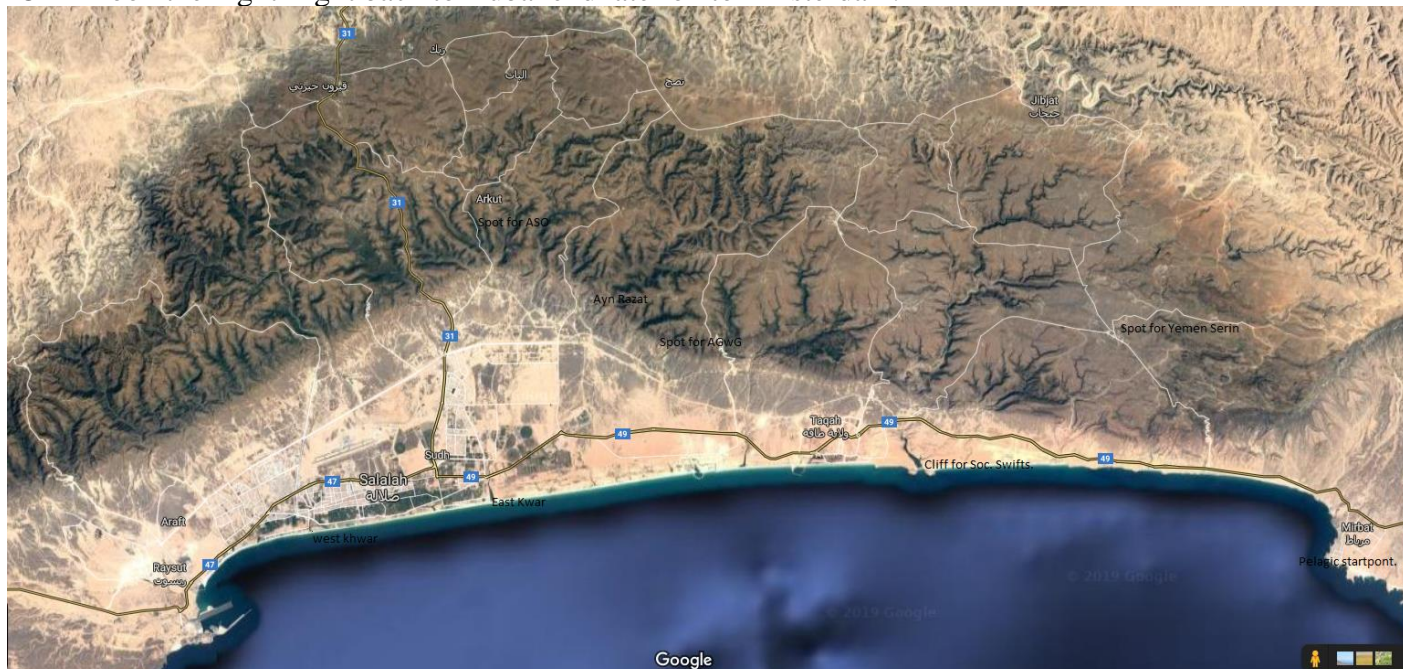
**19-11** Birded around Salalah, Taqah and Ayn Razat. In the evening did some successful owling south of Arkut.

**20-11** In the morning did a pelagic out of Mirbat. In the afternoon did some birding east of Salalah mainly in the mountains end ended the day at the East Khwar. In the evening did some owling without success.

**21-11** Birded all day around Salalah (also the famous sink hole) end ended the day at the western Khwar.

**22-11** Birded all day around Salalah end ended the day at the East Khwar.

**23-11** Took the night flight back to Dubai end later on to Amsterdam.





## **THE BIRD SPECIES**

**01 Cotton Pygmy Goose – *Nettapus coromandelianus***

Two birds in immature/female plumage present at all visits at the Eastern Khwar.

**02 Eurasian Wigeon – *Anas Penelope***

About 30 birds each present at both Khwars.

**03 Northern Shoveler – *Anas clypeata***

About 40 birds each present at both Khwars.

**04 Gadwall – *Anas Strepera***

22-11

1 male at the Eastern Khwar.

**05 Mallard – *Anas platyrhynchos***

A total of 15 birds seen spread over the trip, mainly in the Khwars.

**06 Northern Pintail – *Anas acuta***

About 40 birds each present at both Khwars.

**07 Garganey – *Anas querquedula***

About 100 birds each present at both Khwars and the most abundant duck recorded, all in immature or eclips plumage.

**08 Common Pochard – *Aythya ferina***

About 12 birds each present at both Khwars.

**09 Ferruginous Duck – *Aythya nyroca***

A total of 4 birds recorded at both Khwars and Wadi Darbat.



*The two birds at the western khwar by Bram Ubels*

**10 Tufted Duck – *Aythya fuligula***

23-11

5 ex. in one flock at the Eastern Khwar.

**11 Little Grebe – *Trachybaptus ruficollis***

23-11

10 ex. at the Eastern Khwar

**12 Persian Shearwater – *Puffinus persicus***

20-11

15 ex. nice views of flying and swimming birds near the boat on the pelagic.. Obvious dark neck sides.

**13 Flesh-footed Shearwater - *Puffinus carneipes***

20-11

2 ex. reasonable views of these big, bulky all dark shearwaters with less elegant and long wings than Jouanin's on the pelagic. One bird came close enough to see the thin grey bill.



*Swinhoe's Storm Petrel (one of the two) by Hughes Dufourny*

**14 Jouanin's Petrel – *Bulweria fallax***

20-11

30 ex. seen very well during the pelagic. Great

views again (after 2011). The “elephantshead” with the big bill was again nice to see.



**15 Swinhoe's Storm Petrel – *Oceanodroma monorhis***

20-11

2 ex. seen very well, in flight and swimming. Very

molted birds. The birds showed almost a square tail because of there moult.

**16 Masked Booby – *Sula dactylatra***

20-11

1 ex. flying by quite far way during the Pelagic.

**17 Greater Flamingo – *Phoenicopterus roseus***

A total of 4 birds seen at both Khwars.

**18 Abdim's Stork – *Ciconia abdimii***

20-11

3 ex. flying over Mirbat when we entered the

harbor after the pelagic.

**19 Glossy Ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus***

22-11

A total of 15 birds in one flock at the eastern

Khwar.

**20 Black-crowned Night Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax***

About 10 birds seen spread over the trip

**21 Eastern Cattle Egret – *Bubulcus ibis* ssp: *coromandus***

19-11

2 ex at Ayn Razat in the little stream

21-11

1 ex. at the Eastern Khwar, all birds quite

remarkably different with a different structure, longer more elongated and a longer bill.



*Eastern Cattle Egret and Red-knobbed Coot at the Western Khwar.*

**22 Western Cattle Egret – *Bubulcus ibis***

Common during the trip in flocks.

**23 Squacco Heron – *Ardeola ralloides***

Quite common ?? seen during the trip, based on the color of the back.

**24 Indian Pond Heron – *Ardeola grayii***

Quite common ?? seen during the trip, based on the dark brown color of the back

**25 Grey Heron – *Ardea cinereal***

Quite common during the trip.

**26 Great White Egret – *Egretta alba***

About 20 birds seen in suitable places during the trip.

**27 Intermediate Egret – *Egretta intermedia***

21-11 3 ex. at the Eastern Khwar. Coming in with the  
(Western) Cattle Egrets to roost. Classical birds.

**28 Little Egret – *Egretta garzetta***

Quite common during the trip seen daily in low numbers.

**29 Western reef Heron – *Egretta gularis***

Quite common during the trip seen daily in low numbers, most dark face birds.

**30 Great Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax carbo***

20-11 3 ex. in flight over the harbor of Mirbat.

**31 Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus***

A total of 3 birds spread over the trip along the coast.

**32 Crested Honey Buzzard – *Pernis ptilorhynchus***

22-11 1 classical pale adult flying over the palm  
plantation in eastern Salalah.

**33 Short-toed Eagle – *Circus gallicus***

A total of 4 birds seen spread over the days of the trip.

**34 Western Marsh Harrier – *Circus aeruginosus***

A total of 10 birds seen spread over the trip, all wintering birds I presume.

**35 Greater Spotted Eagle – *Aquila clanga***

A total 3 birds seen well, two first winters and an adult



*Nice mystery pic Greater Spotted Eagle*



*A Steppe Eagle in a tree near a dead donkey by Maarten Zorgdrager*

**36 Steppe Eagle – *Aquila nipalensis***

The commonest aquila seen during the trip, seen daily in low numbers but no concentrations.

**37 Eastern Imperial Eagle – *Aquila heliaca***

A total of 3 birds seen spread over the trip all immatures



*Nice immature Eastern Imperial near the famous sink hole by Bram Ubels*

**38 Booted Eagle – *Hieraaetus pennata***

A total of 3 seen mostly over Salalah, hunting.

**39 Bonelli's Eagle - *Aquila fasciatus***

21-11

2 ex. a pair giving breathtaking views above the

visited sink hole.

**40 Common Kestrel – *Falco tinnunculus***

Quite common during the trip, seen daily.

**41 Spotted Crane – *Porzana porzana***

21-11

1 giving nice views at the eastern Khwar.

**42 Common Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus***

Very common in both the khwars.

**43 Red-Knobbed Coot - *Fulica cristata***

21-11

1 giving nice views at the eastern Khwar. No big

red knobs though but different structure, also of the white forehead and greyish wash on the bill. See photo's above.

**44 Eurasian Coot – *Fulica atra***

21-11

2 giving nice comparison with 43 at the eastern

Khwar.

**45 Black-winged Stilt – *Himantopus himantopus***

Common on all the suitable places.

- 46 Pheasant-tailed Jacana – Hydrophasianus chirurgus**  
21-11 1 giving nice views at the eastern Khwar, a winter/first year bird.
- 47 Grey Plover – *Pluvialis squatarola***  
A total of 5 birds seen on both khwars
- 48 Kentish Plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus***  
Common, mostly at the east khwar.
- 49 Lesser Sand Plover – *Charadrius atrifrons***  
20-11 1 ex. in winter plumage, seen very well (tame) at the eastern Khwar.
- 50 Common Snipe – *Gallinago gallinago***  
About 10 birds seen in suitable habitats.
- 51 Black-tailed Godwit – *Limosa limosa***  
A total of 50 birds seen mostly in both khwars.
- 52 Bar-tailed Godwit – *Limosa lapponica***  
A total of 10 birds mixed in with the Black-Taileds in both khwars.
- 53 Eurasian Curlew – *Numenius arquata***  
22-01 1 ex. at the eastern khwar.
- 54 Common Redshank – *Tringa tetanus***  
About 100 birds seen mostly at both khwars.
- 55 Marsh Sandpiper – *Tringa stagnatilis***  
21-01 2 ex. at the western khwar in winter plumage.
- 56 Common Greenshank – *Tringa nebularia***  
A total of 50 birds seen spread over the two khwars.
- 57 Wood Sandpiper – *Tringa glareola***  
21-01 5 ex. at the western khwar, in a small flock.
- 58 Common Sandpiper – *Actitis hypoleucos***  
Quite common during the trip in many habitats also in the desert.
- 59 Little Stint – *Calidris minuta***  
A total of 50 seen spread over both khwars.
- 60 Temminck's Stint – *Calidris temminckii***  
A total of 40 seen spread over both khwars
- 61 Dunlin – *Calidris alpina***  
A total of 15 seen spread over both khwars
- 62 Curlew Sandpiper – *Calidris ferruginea***  
20-01 3 ex. at the eastern khwar.
- 63 Ruff – *Philomachus pugnax***  
22-01 2 ex. at the eastern khwar.
- 64 Red-necked Phalarope – *Phalaropus lobatus***  
20-01 100+ ex. seen in flocks on the pelagic out of Mirbat.





*Phalarope flock by Bram Ubels on the pelagic a day before (same birds)*

**65 Sooty Gull – *Larus hemprichii***

Common along the coast, mostly on the beaches and khwars.



*Sooty Gulls and*

*a Baltic Gull Eastern Khwar.*

**66 Slender-billed Gull – *Chroicocephalus genei***

About 400 birds seen mostly at the eastern khwar.

**67 Heuglin's Gull – *Larus heuglini***

Quite common on the beaches in the mixed gull flocks.

**68 Steppe Gull – *Larus barabensis***

Common on the beaches in the mixed gull flocks.

**69 Baltic Gull – *Larus fuscus ssp: fuscus***

22-01

2 adults, at the eastern khwar.

**70 Gull-billed Tern – *Gelochelidon nilotica***

22-01

2 adults, at the eastern khwar.

**71 Caspian Tern – *Hydroprogne caspia***

22-01

3 adults, at the eastern khwar.

**72 Lesser Crested Tern – *Sterna bengalensis***

19-11

3 birds on the beach at the Swift place.

**73 Swift Tern – *Sterna bergii***

Common along the coast in big flocks.

**74 Sandwich Tern – *Sterna sandvicensis***

A total of 15 seen spread over the tern flocks along the coast.

**75 Bridled Tern – *Onychoprion anaethetus***

20-11

30 birds seen at the pelagic, many birds in non

breeding plumage



**76 Sooty Tern – Onychoprion fuscata**

20-01

all dark also on the belly.

1 first winter flying past the boat, the bird looked

**77 Saunders's Tern – Sternula saundersi**

22-01

1 ex, at the eastern khwar, with a grey rump.

**78 Whiskered Tern – Chlidonias hybrida**

Common throughout the trip.

**79 White-winged Black Tern – Chlidonias leucopterus**

About 25 birds seen at both khwars. all in winter plumage.

**80 Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse – Pterocles exustus**

22-11

the farms seen in flight.

30 ex. in two small flocks in Salalah near one of

**81 Rock Dove – Columba livia**

Quite common seen on most days, all the birds I saw looked like wild colored birds.

**82 Bruce's Green Pigeon – Treron waalia**

22-11

views.

2 ex. at Ayn Razat botanical gardens. Very close



*Nice Green Pigeon and*



*Aranbian Scops Owl (one of my targets)*

**83 Eurasian Collared Dove - Streptopelia decaocto**

Common throughout the trip.

**84 Laughing Dove – Spilopelia senegalensis**

The commonest dove seen during the trip.

**85 Namaqua Dove – Oena capensis**

21-11

1 female seen in Salalah while searching for birds.

**86 Rose-ringed Parakeet – Psittacula krameria**

About 5 birds seen in Salalah spread over the days.

**87 \*ARABIAN SCOPS OWL – Otus pamelae**

19-11

15 birds heard (off which four seen very well) south of Arkut. This is a common bird in the foothills of southern Oman. Very nice call, a bit different from African.

**88 \*ARABIAN SPOTTED EAGLE OWL – Bubo (africanus) milesi**

19-11

1 ex. seen very well on the edge of the overhanging trees of the botanical garden at Ayn Razat. Quite small eagle owl and quite reddish. The spot is this place; <https://observation.org/waarneming/view/182371661>



*Very happy with this find, because it was gone three days later, maybe due to a storm*

**89 Forbes-Watson Swift – *Apus berlozi* ssp: *bensoni***

19-11

10 ex. at a colony along the beach east of Taqah.

Like an over exaggerated Pallid Swift with a big pale throat and nice white scalloping on the belly.



*F.W.Swift at the colony by Bram Ubels*

**90 European Roller – *Coracias garrulus***

A total of 4 birds seen at visited grass farms in Salalah.

**91 Eurasian Hoopoe – *Upupa epops***

A total of 5 birds seen at spread over the trip.

**92 Arabian Green Bee-eater – *Merops cyanophrys***

22-11

1 ex. seen in Salalah.

**93 Black-crowned Tchagra – *Tchagra senegalus***

21-11

2 ex. at a camel drinking spot NE of Salalah, feeding on the ground.

**94 Turkestan Shrike – *Lanius phoenicuroides***

22-11

1 ex. seen at Ayn Razat. Nice views. Maybe more birds but this bird attracted my attention.



*Turkestan Shrike*



*and African Paradise Flycatcher*

**95 Daurian Shrike – *Lanius isabellinus***

Seen daily with a few birds.

**96 Steppe Grey Shrike – *Lanius (excubitor) pallidirostris***

21-11

1 ex. seen along the way while birding NE of

Salalah.

**97 African Paradise Flycatcher - *Terpsiphone viridis***

About 20 birds spread over the trip, both males and females.

**98 House Crow – *Corvus splendens***

Common mostly along the coast.

**99 Brown-necked Raven – *Corvus ruficollis***

Seen daily in low numbers along the coast.

**100 Fan-tailed Raven – *Corvus rhipidurus***

Seen daily in low numbers in the hills.

**101 White-spectacled Bulbul – *Pyconotus xanthopygos***

Common throughout the trip.

**102 Black-crowned Finch Lark – *Eremopterix nigriceps***

21+22-11

30 ex. in small flocks seen spread over the stony

desert.

**103 Singing Bush Lark – *Mirafrca cantillans***

22-11

5 ex. seen well at Sahnawt Farm in Salalah, seen

mostly in flight. A small all brown lark with reddish wings and dark spotted striped mantle. Great views closeby. I missed this species in Yemen.

**104 Crested Lark – *Galerida cristata***

Seen in low numbers almost daily on the trip.

**105 Sand Martin – *Riparia riparia***

19-11

2 ex. seen along the way

**106 Pale Rock Martin – *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta***

Common throughout the trip.

**107 Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rusica***

A total of 5 birds seen spread over the days, all looked like migrating birds.

**108 Graceful Prinia – *Prinia gracilis***

Quite common, and seen daily during the trip.

**109 Arabian Warbler – *Sylvia leucomelaena* ssp: *leucomelaena***

21+22-11

2 ex seen and hear (singing) well at a camel

drinking place NE of Salalah. Great views and a long time ago for me.

**110 Lesser Whitethroat – *Sylvia curruca* ssp: *halimodendri*(?)**

21-11

1 ex. at the famous sink hole. Quite pale head but

not small so thought to be this subspecies.

**111 Abyssinian White-eye – *Zosterops abyssinicus***

Common in flocks in all visited green area's.

**112 Common Myna – *Acridotheres tristis***

Quite commonly seen daily often near settlements.

**113 Tristram's Starling – *Onychognathus tristramii***

Common and seen daily in quite big flocks.

**114 Black Redstart – *Phoenicurus erythronotus* ssp: *semirufus***

19-11

1 ex. seen along the way.

**115 Siberian Stonechat – *Saxicola maurus***

21-11

1 immature at the edge of Jarziz Farm in Salalah,

a nice classical pale bird.

**116 Isabelline Wheatear – *Oenanthe isabelline***

Quite common during the trip.

**117 Desert Wheatear – *Oenanthe deserti***

Common during the whole trip

**118 Arabian Wheatear – *Oenanthe lugentoides* ssp: *boscaweni***

21-11

2 males seen very well in the hills NE of Salalah.



*Arabian Wheatear and Yemen Serin, nice birds to find in the mountains north(east) of Salalah.*

**119 Blackstart – *Ceremomela melanura***

About 3 birds recorded spread over the trip.

**120 Palestine Sunbird – *Cinnyris ocea***

About 10 birds seen spread over the trip.

**121 Shining Sunbird – *Cinnyris habessinicus***

Commonly seen spread over the trip, one of the first birds seen at the beginning of the day.

**122 House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus***

A total of 3 bird seen over the trip.

**123 African Silverbill – *Lonchura cantans***

Common in small flocks spread over the trip.

**124 Ruppel's Weaver – *Ploceus galbula***

Quite commonly encountered during the trip in small flocks all of non breeding bird plumaged birds.

**125 White Wagtail – *Motacilla alba***

Quite common during the trip, all looked like normal alba

**126 Grey Wagtail – *Motacilla cinereal***

About 10 birds seen spread over the trip.



**127 Western Yellow Wagtail – *Motacilla flav* ssp: ??**

In total 5 birds seen, all looked and called like western birds but no subspecies could be pointed.

**128 Citrine Wagtail – *Motacilla citreola* ssp: *werae* (??)**

About 20 birds seen spread over the trip and therefore more numerous than thought.



**129 Richard's Pipit – *Anthus richardi* ssp: *richardi***

21-11

2 ex. at the edge of Jarziz Farm in Salalah. The

birds did have pale lores so Paddyfield excluded??

**130 Long-billed Pipit – *Anthus similis***

21-11

1 ex. at the famous sink hole giving great views,

next to the car with the grey mantle.

**131 Tawny Pipit – *Anthus campestris***

21-11

2 ex. at the edge of Jarziz Farm in Salalah.

**132 Yemen Serin – *Crithagra menachensis***

21-11

20 ex. at the famous sink hole giving great views

**133 Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak – *Rhynchostruthus percivali***

21-11

2 ex. at a camel drinking spot NE of Salalah. Nice

views, the birds did not drink but perched in a bush. Nice white cheeks, brown throat and yellow in the wings. Big birds.

**134 Cinnamon-breasted Bunting – *Emberiza tahapisi***

The commonest bird of the trip, abundant in the foothills.

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