

OMAN November 2018



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Oman trip report 8 – 20 november 2018

Participants

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Visa

For Oman a visa is necessary.

The only way to apply for a visa is online: <https://evisa.rop.gov.om/en/home>

You can apply for a 10 or 30 day visa. We applied 2 weeks prior to arrival in Oman. Normally your application is issued within 24-48 hours. It is unclear if your visa starts upon obtaining the visa or when entering the country. For us the latter was the case.

Flights

We flew KLM Amsterdam (return ticket) – Muscat with a stopover at Dammam (Saudi Arabia) departing 10.40 am and arriving 22.00 pm.

From Muscat we drove to Salalah one way and flew back to Muscat (19-11) with Oman Air departing 18.30 am and arriving 20.15 pm, which connected perfectly with our return flight to Amsterdam departing at 23.25 pm.

The cost of the KLM return ticket was € 486 and the one way Oman Air ticket was € 75.

Car rental

For Oman we would recommend to rent a 4WD. We booked a Toyota Landcruiser Prado with car-rental broker Sunny Cars. Returning the car in Salalah (one way) is more expensive. Sunny Cars arranged an advantageous deal for us with Thrifty. We paid a one-way fee of € 300 extra instead of € 500 (other companies). The total cost was about € 1.400 (including 4 drivers) for 11 days.

Gas prices

In Oman the average gas price was € 0,45 per litre.

Hotels

In Muscat on Nov 8 (close to the airport) we stayed at the Muscat Hills Hotel for € 57 per room (including breakfast). Booked with Booking.com.

On November 9 and 10 we stayed at Radisson Blu in Sohar. This is an excellent luxurious hotel with 2 very good restaurants. The price per night was € 75 per room per night (excluding breakfast). Booked with Booking.com

On November 11 and 12 we stayed at Mahout Hotel Apartments in Mahout. The booking of this hotel is not easy. They did not reply to our emails and texting/whatsapping them also did not work. When we arrived there were enough rooms available. The price is about € 57 (25 OMR) per room per night. Although the hotel is a bit basic, the rooms are very spacious and clean. They do not serve breakfast.

Email addresses (from the sign at the hotel, we used different addresses which they didn't respond to, perhaps these do work...) mahoothotel@gmail.com, sas.9948@gmail.com.

Telephone (gsm) +968 9648 5481

On November 13 we stayed at Vanguard House Furnished Apartments in Ash Shuwaymiyyah. Also this hotel is not easily booked. Telephone (gsm) +968 9949 9511 This hotel is very (very) basic, but okay for one night. The price is also about € 57 (25 OMR) per room per night. They also do not serve breakfast, but there is a gas station 10 metres away where they serve coffee/tea and food.

From November 14 – 19 we stayed at Samharam Tourist Village. We booked 2 person villas for about € 64 per villa per night (including breakfast). The villas were nice and clean. The restaurant was ok, but the menu did not offer a large variety of choices. Booked with Booking.com

Arabian – English spelling

Omani place names can be spelled in English in many different ways because of the different use of vowels in the Arabian alphabet. For example, we found the village of Mahout spelled as Mahut, Muhut, Mahawt and Mahoot. In this trip report, we used the spelling of place names as Google Maps (English edition) uses them.

Food

For lunch we bought food at Hypermarkets. In Salalah we can recommend the LuLu Hypermarket. They offer a large variety of freshly made food and salads. We brought the food to the Wadi Darbat owl excursion and had a perfect buffet in the field. In Mahout and Ash Shuwaymiyyah we had diner at local restaurants (Indian and Arabic food). A good restaurant in Salalah is the Baalbek restaurant. Very good Lebanese food and not expensive.

Schedule

November 9

- Al Qurm Beach: **gps 23.623, 58.476**
- Al Awabi: **see 3 and 4 (numbers refer to paragraphs below)**
- Ras as Sawadi: **gps 23.781, 57.791**. This is the best site for ***Sooty Falcon***. We were too late, the birds leave in October
- Drive to Sohar

November 10

- Khatmat Milahah: **see 1**
- Shinas: **see 2**
- Back to Sohar

November 11

- Al Awabi: **see 3 and 4**
- Al Ghubrah Bowl: **see 4**
- Drive towards Mahout

November 12

- Filim: **see 6**
- Shannah: **see 7**

- Mahout Sewage ponds: **see 5**
- Small “park” in Mahout: **see 5**

November 13

- Small “park” in Mahout
- Drive towards Ash Shuwaymiyyah
- Birding at Khawr Dhurf: **see 8**

November 14

- Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah: **see 9**
- Drive towards Salalah. Some birding along the way.
- Khawr Rawri: **see 10 K**
- Drive to Samharam Tourist Village

November 15

- Ayn Tobruk: **see 10 E**
- Ayn Hamran: **see 10 C**
- Tawi Atayr: **see 10 H**
- Jabal Samran view point: **see 10 I**

November 16

- Mirbat Pelagic from 7.30 to 13.30 hrs: **see 10 J**
- Khawr Taqah: **see 10 F**
- Al Balid Archeological site: **see 10 A**

November 17

- Golden-winged Grosbeak site: **see 10 D**
- Jarziz Farm. These fields are completely dried out. Not worth visiting
- Raysut waste disposal / sewage plant: **see 11**
- Ayn Tobruk
- Wadi Darbat: **see 10 G**

November 18

- Mudayy Oasis: **see 12**
- Ayn Hamran
- Mughsayl beach: **see 13**

November 19

- Raysut waste disposal / sewage plant
- East Khawr: **see 10 B**
- Al Balid Archeological site
- To Salalah airport



Khatmat Milahah



Al Ghubrah Bowl

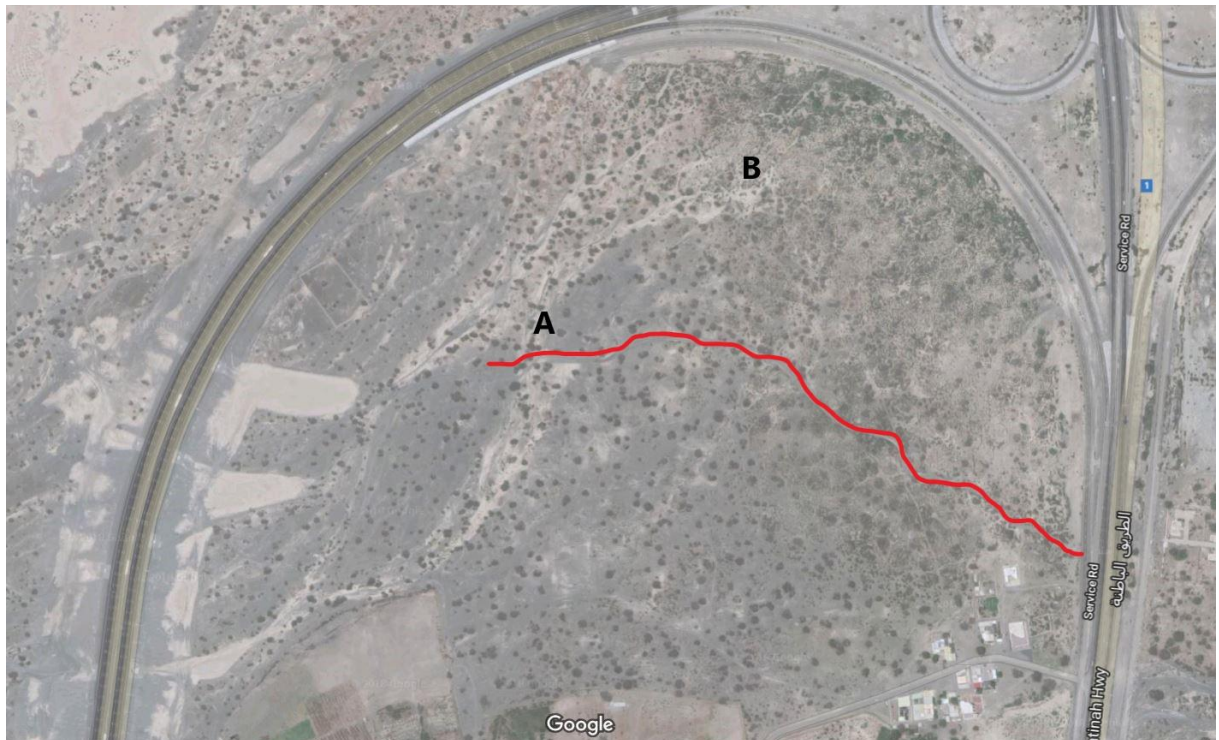


Filim

Description of sites:



1. Khatmat Milahah (A: GPS 24.948, 56.365)



The best way to reach this place, is to approach from the North as it is not possible to cross the road (road 1) when approaching from the South.

Khatmat Milahah is open country with a lot of acacia trees. The western part (A) is more open than the northern part (B).

It is one of the best places in Oman to find the **Variable Wheatear**. We found 2 birds (male and female) in the more open area (see map: A).

Also at this site we found **Namaqua Doves, Asian Desert Warbler, Menetrie's Warblers, Indian Rollers, Green Bee-eaters, Isabelline Shrikes, Great Grey Shrike, Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks, White-eared Bulbuls, Arabian Babblers, Eastern Black Redstarts, Common Redstart, Purple Sunbirds, Indian Silverbills, Richard's Pipit and Striolated Bunting.**

Khatmat Milahah is also a good place for finding **Plain Leaf Warbler**, but we did not find any. Also it is one of the best places to find **Striated Scops Owl**, but during the day the birds are very difficult to find.

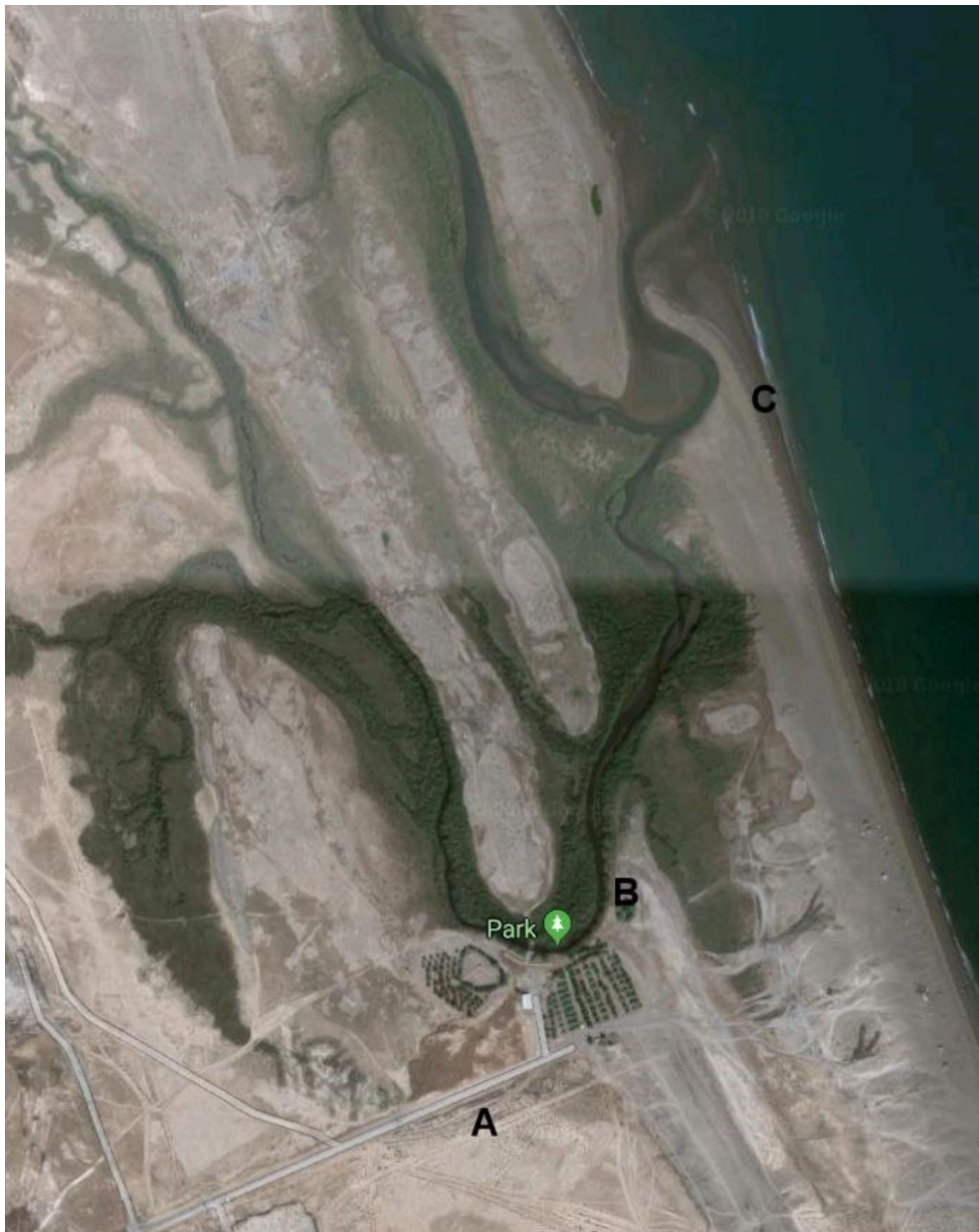
2. Shinas (C: GPS 24.719, 56.482)

This site we visited in the early afternoon of 10 November. It can be divided in 3 types of habitat. A. Marshy area, B. Mangrove and C. Beach and mudflats.

A. The marshy area is situated on the southside of the main road entering the area.

Here we found a lot of ducks, waders, gulls and terns. The most interesting birds we found were: **Red-wattled Lapwings, Ruff, Little Stints, Temminck's Stints, Pin-tailed Snipe, Common Snipe, Slender-billed Gulls, Black-headed Gulls, Whiskered Terns, Isabelline Wheatear and Water Pipits**

- B. The mangroves are the place to find ***Collared Kingfisher*** and ***Sykes's Warbler***. Both species are very difficult to find, especially at mid-day. So we skipped this area after a short try. Species we did see were ***Greater Spotted Eagle*** and many ***White-eared Bulbuls***.
- C. The beach and mudflats are easily reached with a 4WD.
We found this was an amazing place for birding. In the time spent here we managed to see 11 species of Tern and many Gull species. Also it is worth doing some sea watching.
The most interesting species we saw were: **5 Persian Shearwaters, Lesser Sand Plovers, Greater Sand Plovers, Red-necked Phalaropes (at sea), Slender-billed Gulls, 2 Pallas's Gulls, many Sooty Gulls, 1 Caspian Gull, Steppe Gulls, Siberian Gulls, 1 Common Gull, Gull-billed Tern, 3 Caspian Terns, Greater and Lesser Crested Terns, Little Terns, Saunders's Terns, Bridled Terns (at sea), White-cheeked Terns and Pomarine Jaeger.**



3. Wadi west of Al Awabi



This wadi is situated west of the village Al Awabi. You can enter the wadi with a 4WD at **B** (see map). It is a good place to find **Plain Leaf Warbler (A)**. We (November 9) managed to see 4 birds. Also it is supposed to be good for **Red-tailed Wheatear**. We saw 1 bird at the electric house (**C**). Other good birds we saw were: **Isabelline Shrikes, 3 Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse and Purple Sunbird**.

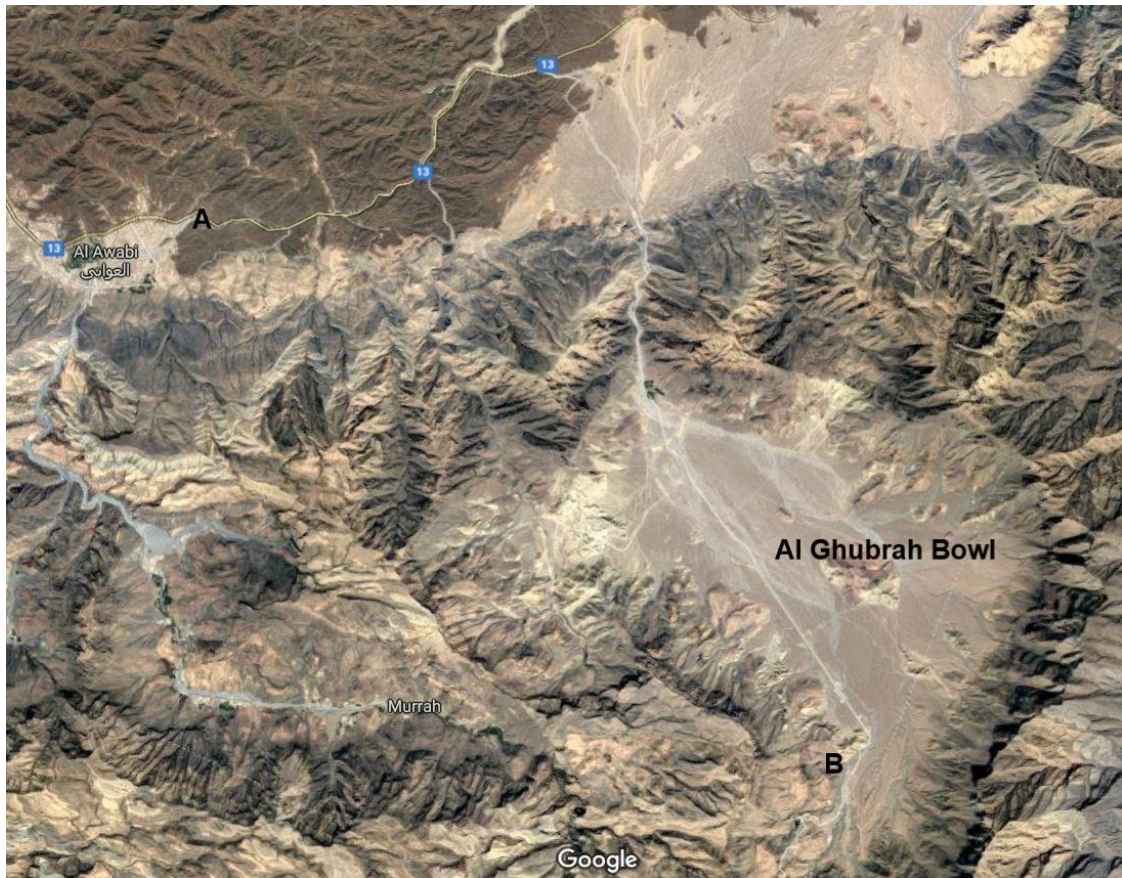
A. gps 23.334, 57.487

C. gps 23.341, 57.492

4. Al Awabi and the Al Ghubrah Bowl

On 9 November while driving from Nakhal to Al Awabi we did not see any **Hume's Wheatear**. But on the morning of 11 November we saw about 10 birds. The birds sing

in the morning on the electric wires next to road (road 13). We saw the first bird just east of Al Awabi (**A. gps 23.321, 57.564**) and saw the others on the wire going east. A nice bonus was a pair of Desert larks (**A**).



After this we went to the Al Gubrah Bowl which is a very spectacular place. Amazing scenery, but not a lot of birds. You can enter the Bowl by taking the exit from road 13 at the sign to the small village Wakan (which is situated at the south end of the “Bowl”). Before entering the open plain of the Bowl you drive through a gorge with steep cliffs. Here we saw **Arabian Babbler** and **Striolated Bunting**. We drove on through the “Bowl” (very good road) until B (see map). Here we visited a nice wadi with acacia trees and found a **Pallid Scops Owl** (**gps 23.173, 57.756**). This area is also very good for **Lappet-faced Vultures**. We were lucky and saw 2 birds flying over. Other nice birds we saw were many **Desert Wheatears** and a **Plain Leaf Warbler**.

5. Barr al Hikman

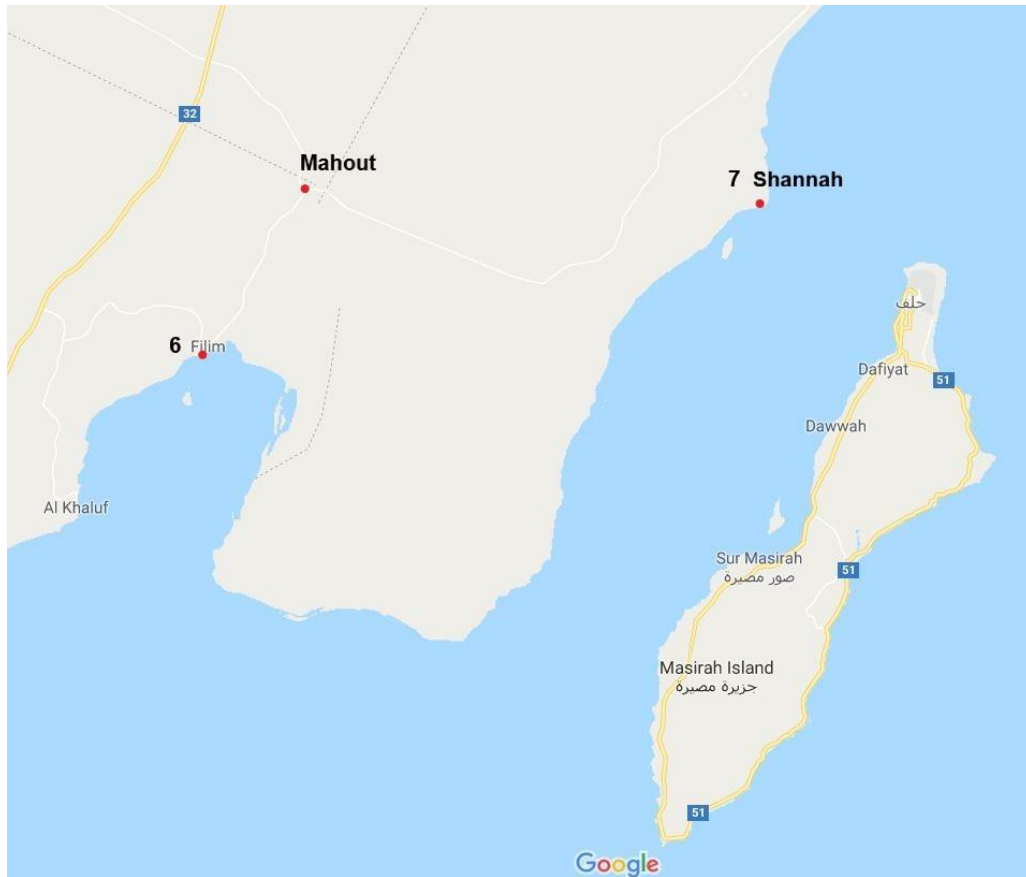
When visiting (12-11) Barr al Hikman we experienced that you need to know the tide schedule, because the best time to visit this tidal area is when the water is coming up (2-3 hours before high tide). Also you have to keep in mind the light conditions. The afternoon conditions are much better than in the morning.

The best places to check the mudflats are Filim bay (**see 6**) and near Shannah (**see 7**). At Shannah the waterlevel tends to be too high quite quickly, so we did Filim in the morning (before high tide) and Shannah in the afternoon (low tide).

There are better places to check the mudflats, but these are not reachable safely by car (even in 4WD), because of quicksand. Don't take these dirt roads!

Other good spots near Mahout:

- The Sewage ponds can be quite good for ducks and waders (gps 20.759, 58.316)
- A small fenced "park" on the North east of town (gps 20.766, 58.296) is a good place for *Asian Koel*. We saw a female and a few *White-eared Bulbuls*.

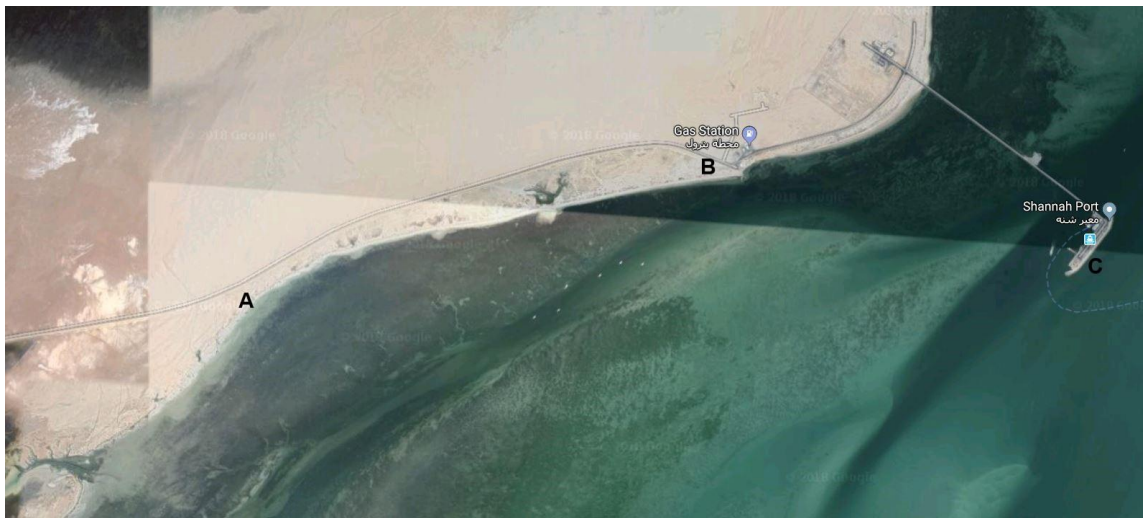


6. Filim bay (GPS 20.616, 58.194)



We scanned the mudflats from the left (A) just before reaching the village of Film. From here you have a very good view and the birds are easily scanned. Here we managed to see **200+ Crab Plovers, 25+ Great Knots, 5 Broad-billed Sandpipers, 50+ Terek Sandpipers, Bar-tailed Godwits, Marsh Sandpipers, Whimbrels, Eurasian Curlews, Little Stints, Dunlins, Curlew Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, Red-tailed Shrikes, Tawny Pipit, Red-throated Pipit, Menetrie's Warbler and Clamorous Reed Warbler.**

7. Shannah (A: GPS 20.743, 58.713)



The mudflats are best viewed where the road is close to the sea (A). You can also choose to walk west from here (probably better views over the mudflats). Because we were here at low tide it was difficult to find the rarer waders. Nevertheless we did see **Eurasian Spoonbills, Crab Plovers (10+), Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, Sanderling,** and many normal waders.

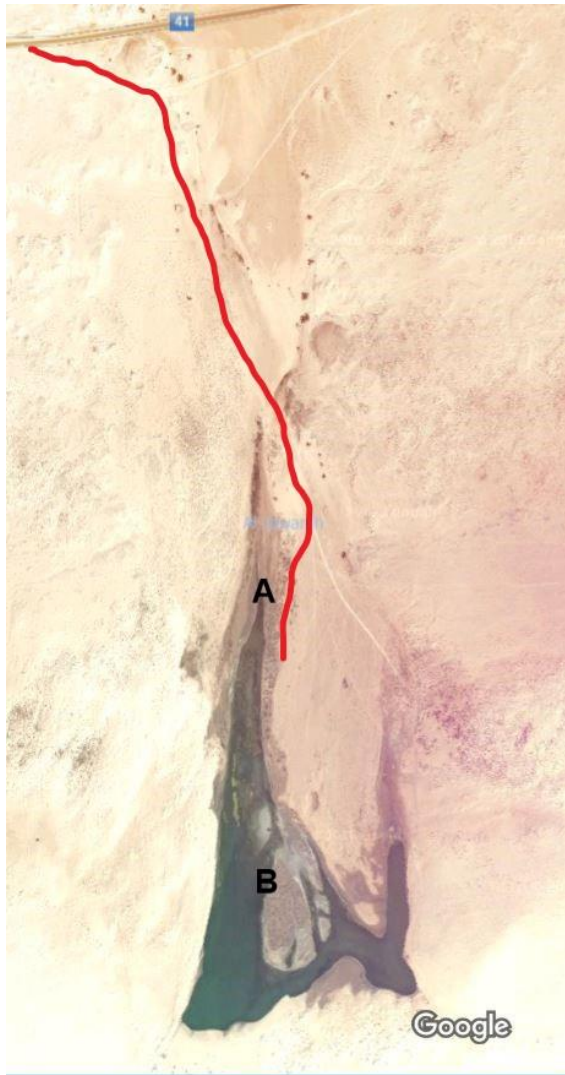
Also it is worthwhile to check the bushes around the fishing huts for migrating passerines. We saw a lot of **Red-tailed Shrikes, 1 Red-backed shrike** and many **Desert Wheatears.**

The beach at the village Shannah (B) is also worth visiting because of the hundreds of Gulls. **Sooty Gull (1000+), Steppe Gulls, Siberian Gulls, Slender-billed Gulls.** Another nice bird was a **Blue Rock Thrush** foraging on the buildings.

The Ferry pier (C)(to Masirah Island) is a nice spot to scan the sea for terns and gulls (very good for photographing) such as: **Sandwich Tern, Caspian Tern, Greater and Lesser Crested tern and Sooty Gull**

8. Khawr Dhurf

This is an excellent site for a break on a long drive to the South. It is situated on the southside of the road between Ras Madrakah and Lakabi (road 41), but only accessible by 4WD. **GPS 18.933, 57.346**



The lagoons are best viewed from the Northeast side **(B)**. Also check the mangroves and bushes **(A)** in the area as they are good for passing passerines. During our stay we found: ***Masked Booby (at sea), 15 Eurasian Spoonbills, Eurasian Hobby, Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Pied Avocet, Pin-tailed Snipe, Sanderling, Slender-billed Gull, 10+ Little Terns, 100+ Saunders's Terns, 100+ White-cheeked Terns, 15+ Gull-billed Terns, 15+ Red-tailed Shrikes, Siberian Chiffchaff and a Green Warbler***

9. Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah



One of the most beautiful wadis in Oman. It is accessible from the nearby village Ash Shuwaymiyyah with a 4WD. The road was bad; we did not drive all the way to the end of the wadi. **Arabian Wheatears** are quite common. The first birds we saw near **A** (see map). At the point where the road was too bad to continue (**B**) we walked around in the wadi and managed to find a few nice species: **Arabian Partridge**, **Arabian Scops Owl (gps 17.23, 55.513)**, **Arabian Wheatears**, **Menetrie's Warblers** and **Tristram's Starlings**.



Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah



Ayn Hamran

10. Salalah Area:



- A. Al Balid Archeological site
- B. East Khawr
- C. Ayn Hamran
- D. Golden-winged Grosbeak site
- E. Ayn Tobruk
- F. Khawr Taqah
- G. Wadi Darbat
- H. Tawi Atayr
- I. Jabal Samhan view point
- J. Mirbat
- K. Khawr Rawri

10 A. Al Balid Archeological site (A:GPS 17.010, 54.138)



This site is the only reliable spot for the ***Spotted Thick-Knee***.

You can park your car west of the museum. The parking fee is 2 Omani rial per car which can be paid at the entrance of the parking area.

The ***Spotted Thick-Knees*** are easily found underneath the trees (A) (and also from the main road). We found 5 birds (also during the day).

Also this site is good for herons (B) as there are many ***Indian Pond Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons and Cattle Egrets***.

Other nice birds we saw here: ***Greater Spotted Eagle, Pacific Golden Plovers (250+), Gull-billed Terns, Caspian Terns, Whiskered Terns, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters (70+ in the evening) and Clamorous Reed Warbler***.

There is a watch tower from which you can scan the east side of the area (C).



10B. East Kwahr (B: GPS 17.012, 54.175)



This Khawr is best viewed from the entire western side and from the beach (**B**). In the north (**A**) you can check the reeds up close. We did not see more than **Greater-Spotted Eagle, Osprey, a few Yellow Wagtails and a few Clamorous Reed Warblers**. We dipped the **Yellow Bittern** as checking this site at the end of the day is much better.

From the beach you have the best views of waders and terns. The best birds we saw were: **Black-tailed Godwits, Siberian Gulls, Sooty Gulls, Gull-billed Terns, Greater and Lesser Crested Terns, White-cheeked Tern, Whiskered Terns and White-winged Terns**.

Don't forget to scan the sea here as well. We saw: **Masked Booby, Brown Noddy**.

10C. Ayn Hamran (A: GPS 17.099, 54.283)

Ayn Hamran is one of the best and easiest places to see a lot of the Salalah specialties. There are not many trees so the birds are easy to find. The main road ends at a roundabout, here you can enter the site off-road.

The northern part (**A**) was good for **Blackstart, Black-crowned Tchagra, Shining Sunbird and Eurasian Wryneck**.



The area along the stream (**B**) holds the most birds such as: ***Bruce's Green Pigeons (in fruiting trees), Grey-headed Kingfisher, Green Bee-eaters, Eurasian Hoopoe, African Paradise Flycatchers, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Abyssinian White-eyes, Ruppell's Weavers, African Silverbills, Long-billed Pipits and Cinnamon-breasted Buntings.***

Other good birds we saw were: ***Short-toed Snake-eagle, 1 Jacobin Cuckoo (present since October) and a Brown Shrike (very rare in Oman).***



Golden-winged Grosbeak site

10D. Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak site (GPS 17.111, 54.264)



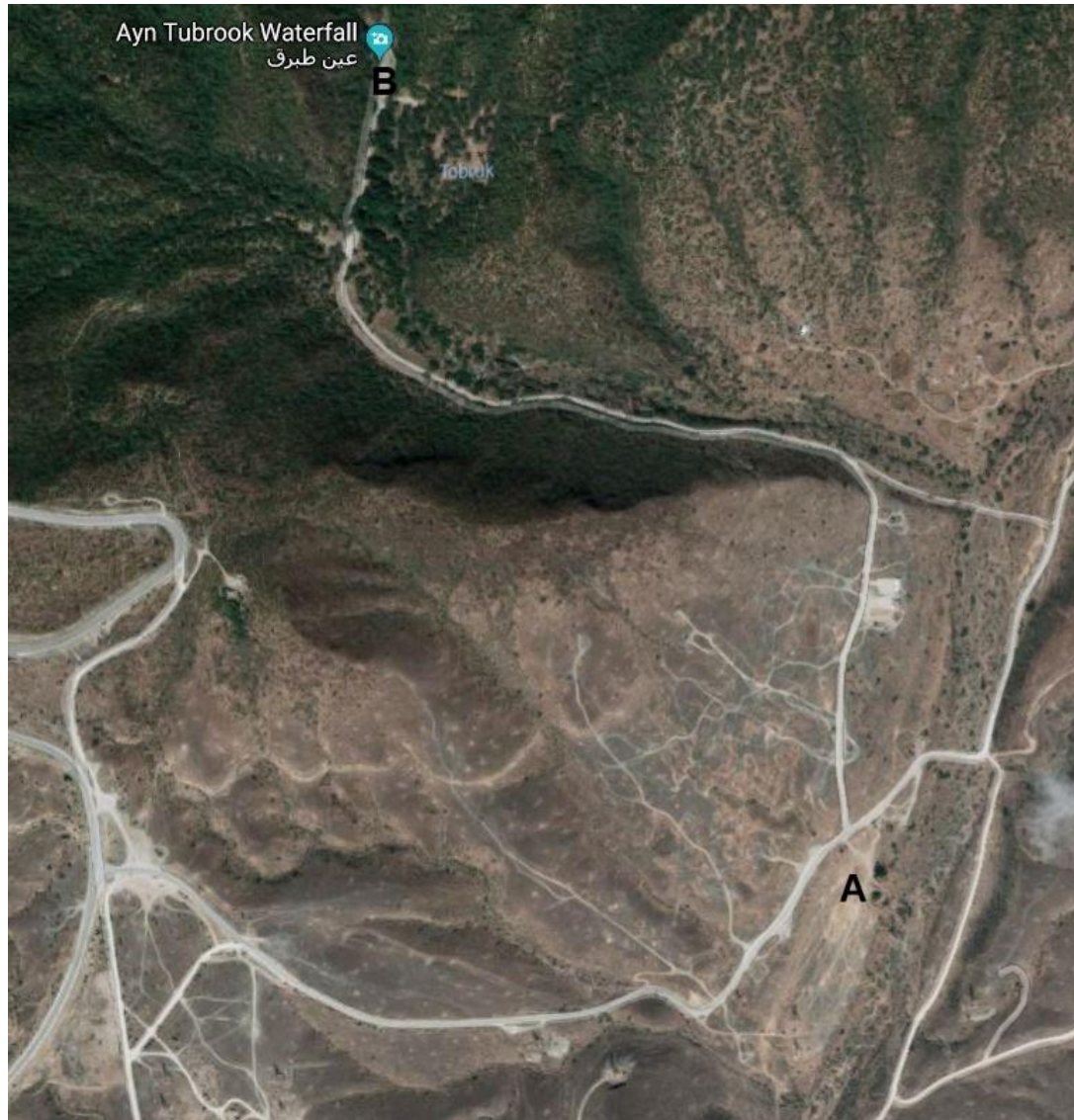
The **Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak** was not easy to find. The last try for us was this site. Here we saw 4 birds.

The valley can be reached by taking the most southern of 3 roads from the main road to Ayn Hamran. The north road is too steep, the middle road is prohibited. See map: follow the red line. Just after passing the north road you go right and enter the valley until you reach a Camel drinking spot (A). Here you can park your car.

We found a singing male around 08.15 AM in a tree just south of the drinking spot. After this we only saw flying birds. Probably the birds forage on the eastern hill above the drinking spot (this is where all the flying birds flew towards).

Other good birds we saw were **7 Arabian Partridges, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, 3 Black-crowned Tchagra's, African Paradise Flycatcher, Abyssinian White-eyes, 3 Palestine Sunbirds, Shining Sunbirds and Striolated Bunting.** *Isabelline Wheatear* is common on the plains going back towards Ayn Hamran.

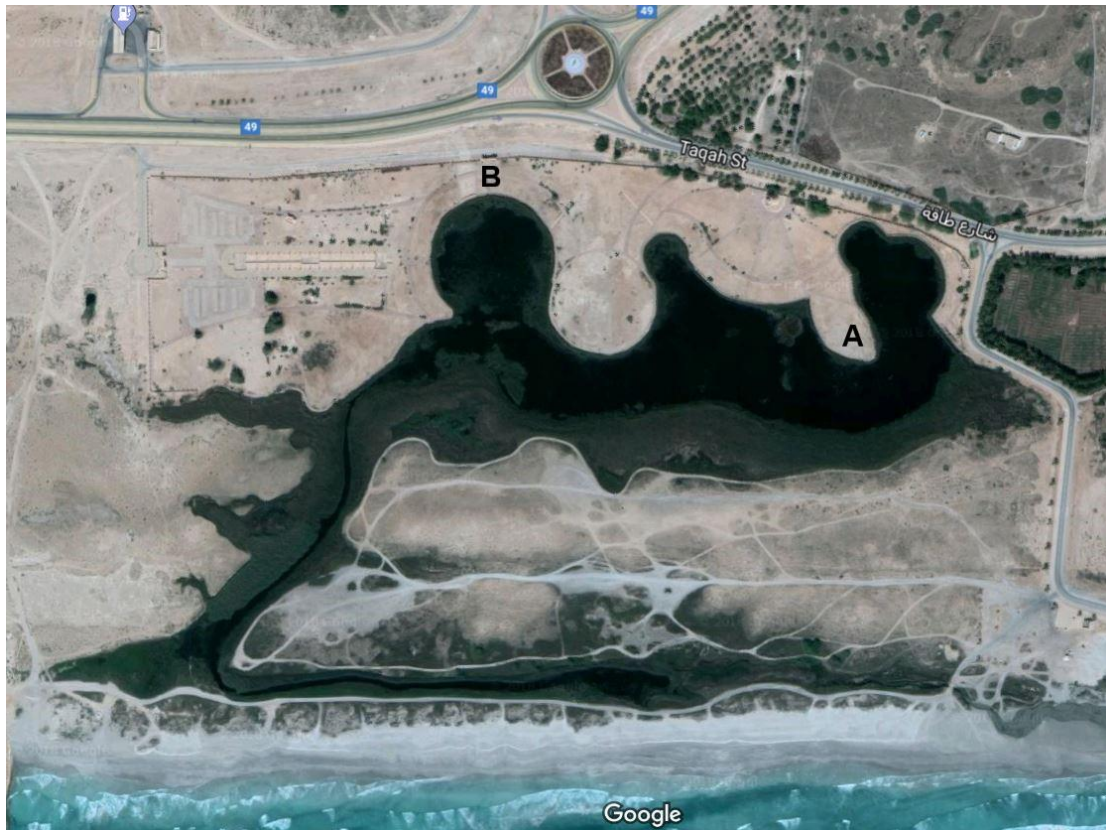
10E. Ayn Tobruk (A: GPS 17.090, 54.333)



Ayn Tobruk is supposed to be the site for the **Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak**, despite several visits we did not find any here. Maybe in February there is less water in the region and the birds are more likely to visit the Camel drinking spot (A). You can also visit the Waterfall (B) where there are a lot of drinking opportunities for birds.

Birds we saw at Ayn Tobruk were **Steppe Eagles, Imperial Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Booted Eagle, Short-toed Snake-eagle, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Forbes-Watson's Swifts, Abyssinian White eyes (B), African Paradise Flycatchers (B), Long-billed Pipit (A), African Silverbills, Ruppel's Weavers, Striolated Bunting, Cinnamon-Breasted Buntings.**

10F. Khawr Taqah (B: GPS 17.039, 54.372)



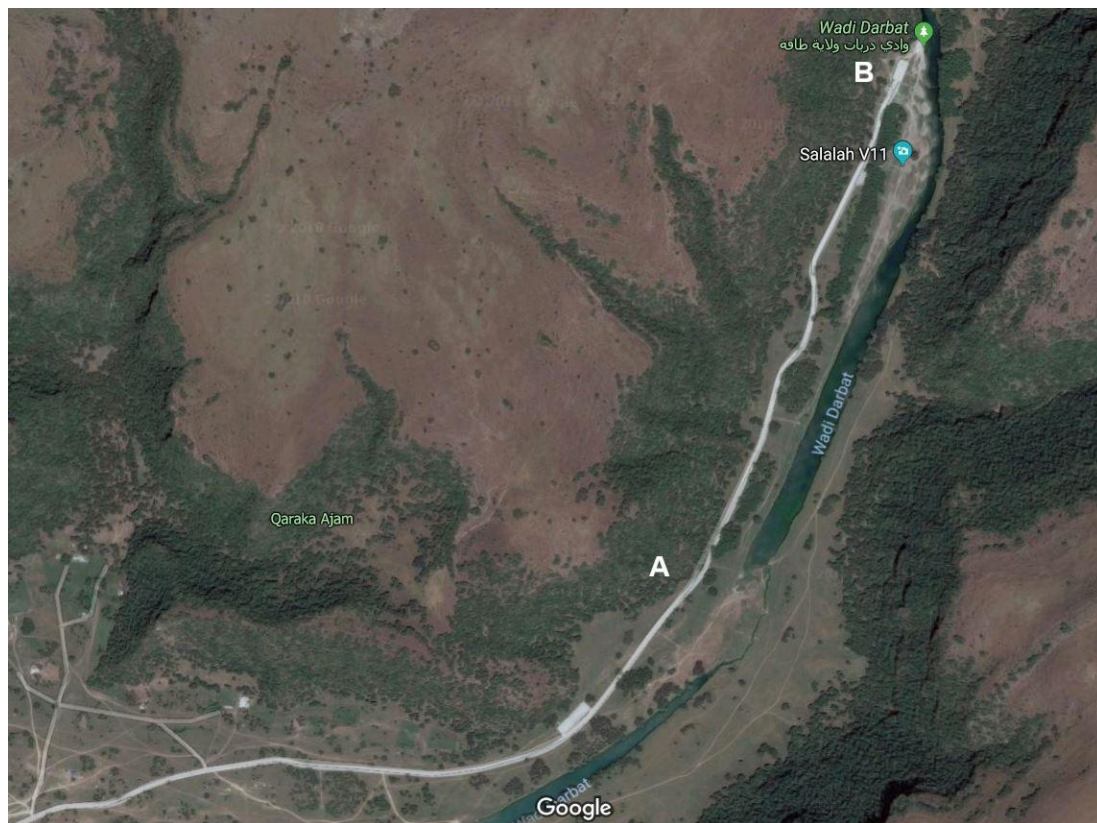
This is one best the Khawrs in the area. It holds open water, mudflats and reedbeds. You can park your car along Taqah street (southeast exit of the roundabout). You can enter the area through a large gap in the broken fence east of the tower. The water level on the eastern side (A) is higher than on the western side (B).

Here we saw a lot of good species: ***Common Pochard (A), Ferruginous Duck (A), Garganey (A), Shoveler (A), Northern Pintail (A), Purple Heron, Intermediate Egret, Osprey, Crested Honey Buzzard, Greater Spotted Eagle, Yellow-billed Kite, Little Ringed Plover, Pheasant-tailed Jacana (B), Curlew Sandpiper, Dunlins, Little Stints, Common Snipe, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Isabelline Shrike, Clamorous Reed Warblers, Bluethroat, Siberian Stonechat, Yellow Wagtails, Citrine Wagtails, Red-throated Pipit and Scaly-breasted Munia.***

10G. Wadi Darbat

Wadi Darbat is situated in the hills northeast of Taqah. It is a very pretty valley with forested hills. We went here once, in late afternoon/early evening to find the owls. We tried to find the Spotted Eagle Owl in daylight, but we did not see any. At dusk the first ***Arabian Scops Owls*** started calling and just after dark the ***Spotted Eagle Owl*** started calling. We heard 2 birds calling near **A: gps 17.094, 54.448** (see map) and 1 at the parking lot at the end of the road (**B: gps 17.105, 54.453**). In total we heard about 20 ***Arabian Scops Owls*** calling and managed to see one with the flashlight. We also heard a ***Barn Owl*** calling at A and B.

Other birds we saw were: ***Common Cuckoo and Bruce's Green Pigeon.***



10H. Tawi Atayr (A: gps 17.116, 54.558)

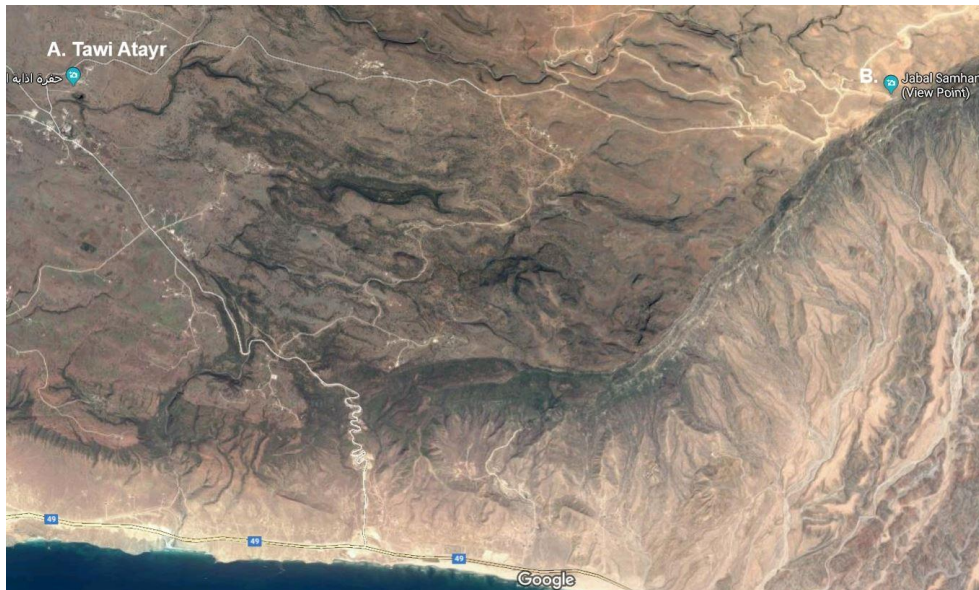


Tawi Atayr is the site to find ***Yemen Serin***. There is a large sink hole (**B**) which is a tourist attraction. A very dilapidated, closed coffee house is a reminder of better times for this

location. The ***Yemen Serins*** are easy to find around the stone walls on the hill just north of the parking lot (A). Another good bird at this site was our only ***Singing Bush Lark***.

There is a short, paved track that leads towards the sink hole. Here you have a nice view of the sink hole. This spot is also good for birds: a **pair of *Bonelli's Eagle*** (which breed in the sink hole), ***Arabian Warbler***, ***Siberian Chiffchaff***, ***Fan-tailed Raven***, and also ***Yemen Serin*** (coming down from the hill).

101. Jabal Samhan viewpoint (B) GPS 17.112, 54.711



The Jabal Samhan viewpoint has a spectacular view looking down towards Mirbat and is the best place in the region to see ***Verreaux's Eagle***. We were there in late afternoon when light conditions were superb. 2 adults flew by very close at eye height a couple of times. An immature bird was seen more distant.

Sometimes it can be very cloudy at this site so you will not be able to see the birds. Other good birds which are around: ***Eastern Imperial Eagle***, ***Booted Eagle***, ***Barbary Falcon***, ***Arabian Wheatears*** and ***Fan-tailed Ravens***.



10J. Mirbat (pelagic)

Very good pelagic trips are being organised by Hatem. The pelagic departs from the harbour of Mirbat. You can contact him by email say_ary@hotmail.com, telephone +968 9908 8815 or Facebook: Mirbat Pelagics Birding Oman.

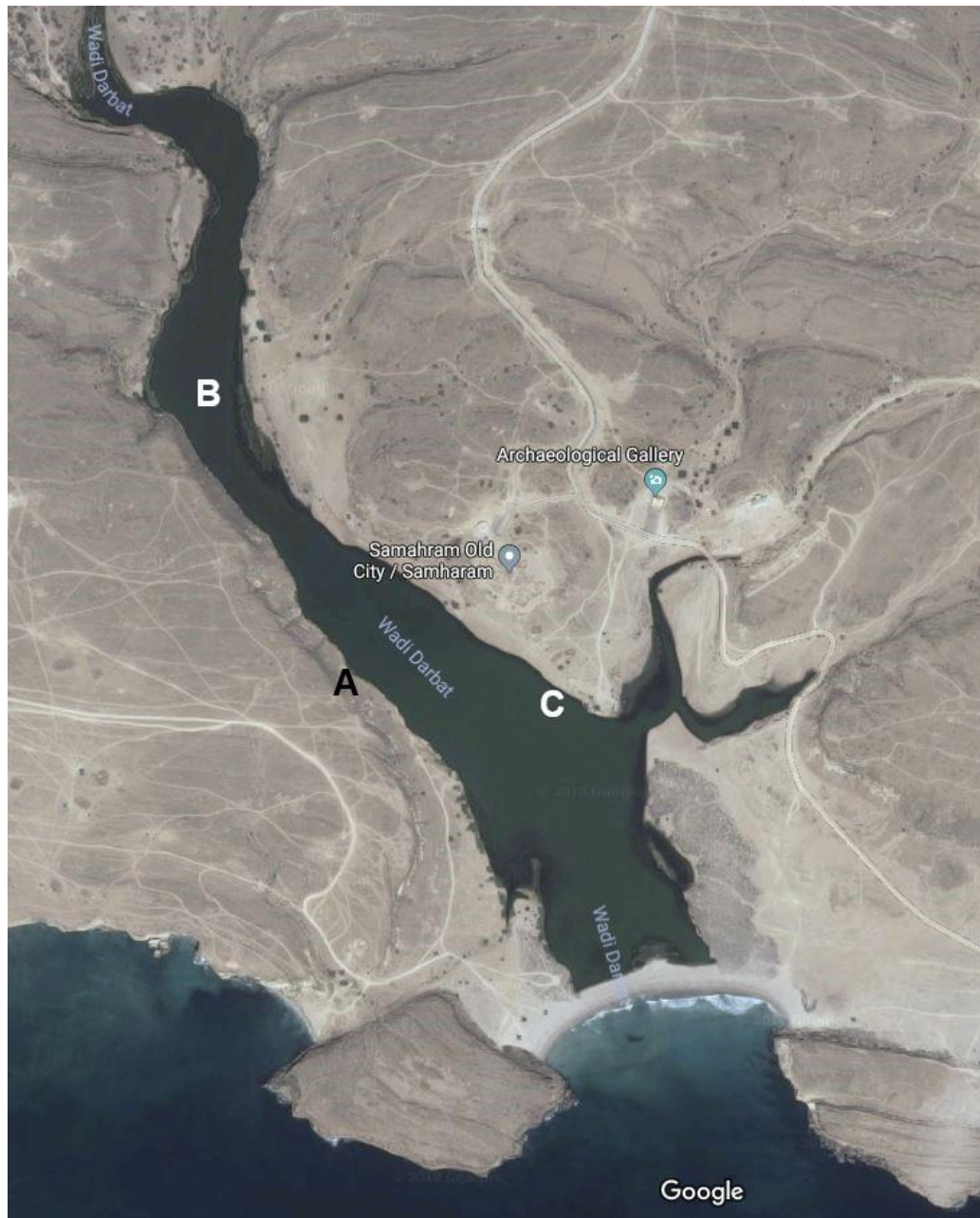
The cost of this trip is variable:

- 1 person -> he will have to try and book you in with another group.
- 2 persons -> 25 OMR per person.
- 3-8 persons -> 20 OMR per person.
- for bigger groups he can fix a second boat. Prices were accurate at January 2019.

During our trip we saw a lot of good birds: **2 Flesh-footed Shearwaters, 15+ Persian Shearwaters, 10+ Jouanin's Petrels, 30+ Masked Booby's, Socotra Cormorants, 350+ Red-necked Phalaropes, Sooty Gulls, Steppe Gulls, Siberian Gulls, Lesser Crested Terns, Greater Crested Terns, 1 Bridled Tern.** Other nice observations were large group of 500+ **Common Dolphins** and a few **Green Turtles**.



10K. Khawr Rawri (A: GPS 17.036, 54.431)



Khawr Rawri is where Wadi Darbat enters the sea. Before May 2018 it was one the best places to find ducks, herons, rails and waders, but a tropical storm/hurricane flushed all the vegetation into the sea in May 2018. We did see some species of duck (B), a reasonably good amount of waders (A) and a **Black Stork**, but all the good birds such as **Cotton Teal, crakes, Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Malachite Kingfisher** are no longer present.

We watched the site from the west (dirt road from Taqah), because of the light conditions, but the area is mostly viewed from the eastern site (Samharam Old City ruins).



Khawr Rawri

West of Salalah:

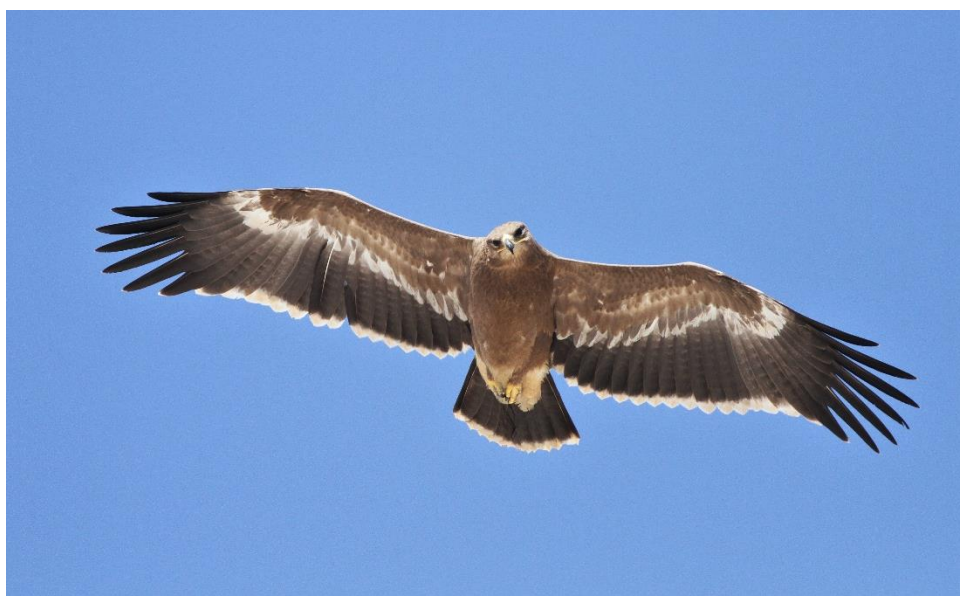


11 Raysut Waste disposal (A) / Sewage plant (B)



The Raysut waste disposal is a very good place for seeing (and photographing) a lot of eagles. The site is only accessed with a permit. We did not have a permit, but when we asked at the gate (**A: GPS 16.988, 53.957**), we were allowed to drive in for about 15 minutes (we gave the staff a courtesy fee consisting of some food and drinks). You can watch the eagles from the main road as well, as they often fly past very low. When we were here we saw about **250+ Steppe Eagles, 50+ Greater Spotted Eagles and 4 Eastern Imperial Eagles.**

The Sewage plant (**B: GPS 16.995, 53.939**) a couple of hundred metres west of the waste disposal is also worth visiting. It can only be viewed from the road, but you are still able to check the site well. Good birds are: **150+ Abdim's Storks, 2 Glossy Ibises, Spur-winged Lapwing and White-tailed Lapwing.**



12 Mudayy Oasis (A: GPS 17.477, 53.353)



Mudayy Oasis is worth visiting because of the wintering ***Grey Hypocolius***. It is about a 2-hour drive from Salalah. The best place to see the ***Grey Hypocolius*** is near the water basin (**A**) which you can easily scan from the ridge overlooking the area. The birds often sit in the palm trees, but can also be in the northern part of the area (in scrub and acacias). You can park your car at the car park just south of **A**.

We saw 4 birds (2 males and 2 females). Other good species we saw were **50+ Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** (only 1 on the ground), **5+ African Collared Doves** (there are also a lot of Collared Doves), **Clamorous Reed Warbler**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Eurasian Golden Oriole** and **5+ Nile Valley Sunbirds**.



Mudayy Oasis

13 Mughsahl: (GPS 16.879, 53.773)

Mughsahl used to have a very good Khawr, but after the hurricane in May 2018 all the vegetation has been washed away. The nearby wadi is still good (Desert Owl), but we did not have time to visit this wadi.



We visited the beach just west of the village. A lot of birds are attracted, by the water flowing into the sea. Good birds were: **10+ Brown Booby's, 100+ Socotra Cormorants, Kentish Plovers, Slender-billed Gull, many Sooty Gulls, Steppe Gulls, Siberian Gulls, 30+ Greater Crested Terns, Lesser Crested Terns and Saunders's Tern**

List of recorded bird species

1. Garganey – *Spatula querquedula*:
 - 2 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 15 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
2. Northern Shoveler – *Spatula clypeata*:
 - 5 at Sewage ponds near Mahout on Nov 12
 - 15 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 10 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
3. Eurasian Wigeon – *Mareca Penelope*:
 - 2 at Sewage ponds near Mahout on Nov 12
 - 3 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
4. Mallard – *Anas platyrhynchos*:
 - 10 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 5 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
5. Northern Pintail – *Anas acuta*:
 - 2 at Sewage ponds near Mahout on Nov 12
 - 5 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 2 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 2 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
6. Eurasian Teal – *Anas crecca*:
 - 3 at Sewage ponds near Mahout on Nov 12
 - 3 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
7. Common Pochard - *Aythya ferina*:
 - 2 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
8. Ferruginous Duck – *Aythya nyroca*:
 - 1 Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
9. Arabian Partidge – *Alectoris melanocephala*:
 - 1 at Wadi Ash Shuwaymyyah on Nov 14
 - 7 at the Golden-winged grosbeak site on Nov 17
10. Grey Francolin (i) – *Francolinus pondicerianus*:
 - 10+ birds near Radisson Blu hotel on Nov 10
 - 5 birds seen on route on Nov 10
11. Flesh-footed Shearwater – *Ardenna carneipes*:
 - 2 on Mirbat Pelagic on Nov 16
12. Persian Shearwater – *Puffinus persicus*:
 - 5 seen from the beach at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 15+ on Mirbat Pelagic on Nov 16



13. Jouanin's Petrel – *Bulweria fallax*:
- 1 seen from the coast south of Hasik
 - 10+ on Mirbat Pelagic on Nov 16



14. Little Grebe – *Tachybaptus ruficollis*:
- 5 at Raysut Sewage plant on Nov 17 and 19
15. Greater Flamingo – *Phoenicopterus roseus*:
- Common along the coast
16. Abdim's Stork – *Ciconia abdimii*:
- 1 Mirbat (along road 49) on Nov 16
 - 150+ at Raysut Sewage plant on Nov 17 and 19
17. Black Stork – *Ciconia nigra*:
- 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
18. Glossy ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus*:
- 2 at Raysut Sewage plant on Nov 17
19. Eurasian Spoonbill – *Platalea leucorodia*:
- 4 at Shannah on Nov 12
 - 15 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 2 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
20. Black-crowned Night Heron – *Nycticorax nycticorax*:
- 1 at Ash Shuwaymiyyah on Nov 13
 - 2 at Samahram Tourist Village Hotel on Nov 14
 - 5 at Mirbat harbour on Nov 16
 - 75+ at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16
 - 10 at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
 - 20+ at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 19
21. Indian Pond Heron – *Ardeola striata*:
- 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 50+ at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16
 - 5 at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16
22. Cattle Egret – *Bubulcus ibis*:
- 2 on route near Ad Duqm on Nov 13
 - 20 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16

- 40 at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16
- 23. Grey Heron – *Ardea cinerea*:
 - Fairly common along the coast
- 24. Purple Heron – *Ardea purpurea*:
 - 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 2 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
- 25. Great Egret – *Ardea alba*:
 - Fairly common along the coast
- 26. Intermediate Egret – *Ardea intermedia*:
 - 3 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
- 27. Little Egret – *Egretta garzetta*:
 - 3 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 10+ at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
- 28. Western Reef Heron – *Egretta gularis*:
 - Common along the coast
- 29. Masked Booby – *Sula dactylatra*:
 - 4 flying along the coast at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 500+ seen from the coast south of Lakabi on Nov 13
 - 25+ seen from the coast south of Hasik on Nov 14
 - 30+ on the Mirbat pelagic on Nov 16



- 30. Brown Booby – *Sula leucogaster*:
 - 10+ at Mughsahl beach on Nov 18
- 31. Great Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax carbo*:
 - Common along the coast except around Salalah
- 32. Socotra Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax nigrigularis*:
 - 2.000+ seen from the coast south of Lakabi on Nov 13
 - 1.000+ seen from the coast on route to Mirbat on Nov 14
 - 5 on the Mirbat pelagic on Nov 16
 - 100+ at Mughsahl beach on Nov 18

33. Western Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus*:
 - Fairly common along the coast
34. Egyptian Vulture – *Neophron percnopterus*:
 - 1 seen on route (road 32) south of Sinaw on Nov 11
35. Crested Honey Buzzard – *Pernis ptilorhynchus*:
 - 1 at (drak phase) Mlrbat on Nov 16
 - 1 at near Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
36. Lappet-faced Vulture – *Torgos tracheliotos*:
 - 2 flying over in the Al Ghubrah Bowl on Nov 11
37. Short-toed Snake-eagle – *Circaetus gallicus*:
 - 1 seen on route in Al Wusta desert on Nov 13
 - 1 at Ash Shuwaymiyyah on Nov 14
 - 1 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - 1 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
 - 1 near Mughsahl on Nov 18
38. Greater Spotted Eagle – *Clanga clanga*:
 - 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 3 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 1 at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16
 - 50+ at Raysut waste disposal on Nov 17
 - 1 near Mughsahl on Nov 18
 - 1 at Samahram Tourist Village Hotel on Nov 19
 - 30+ at Raysut waste disposal on Nov 19
 - 1 at East Khawr on Nov 19
 - 2 at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 19



39. Booted Eagle – *Hieraaetus pennatus*:
 - 1 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - 1 at Jabal Samhan view point on Nov 15
 - 1 east of Salalah on Nov 17
 - 2 in Salalah on Nov 18

40. Steppe Eagle – *Aquila nipalensis*:
- 5 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - 250+ at Raysut waste disposal on Nov 17
 - 100+ at Raysut waste disposal on Nov 19
41. Eastern Imperial Eagle – *Aquila heliaca*:
- 2 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - 3 at Jabal Samhan view point on Nov 15
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 1 adult near Jarziz Farm on Nov 17
 - 2 at Raysut waste disposal on Nov 17
 - 1 at west of Raysut on Nov 18
 - 1 at Samharam Tourist Village on Nov 19
 - 4 at Raysut waste disposal / Sewage plant on Nov 19
42. Verreaux's Eagle – *Aquila verreauxii*:
- 3 (2 adults + 1 first calender) at Jabal Samhan view point on Nov 15



43. Bonelli's Eagle – *Aquila fasciata*:
- 1 immature east of Mahout on Nov 12
 - 1 immature at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 2 immature at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - 2 adults at Tawi Atayr sink hole on Nov 15
44. Western Marsh Harrier – *Circus aeruginosus*:
- Fairly common near mashes along the coast
45. Yellow-billed kite – *Milvus aegyptius*:
- Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
46. Long-legged Buzzard – *Buteo rufinus*:
- 1 seen on route in Al Wusta desert on Nov 13
 - 1 seen on route to Mirbat on Nov 14
 - 1 at Jabal Samhan view point on Nov 15
 - 1 at near Mughsahl on Nov 18
47. Common Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus*:
- 4 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 15 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 1 at Mudayy Oasis on Nov 18
 - 1 at East Khawr on Nov 19

48. Eurasian Coot – *Fulica atra*:

- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 5 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13

49. Spotted Thick-knee – *Burhinus capensis*:

- 5 at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16
- 1 at Samharam Tourist Village on Nov 16 (calling)
- 1 at Samharam Tourist Village on Nov 18 (calling)
- 4 at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 19



50. Eurasian Oystercatcher – *Haematopus ostralegus*:

- 2 at Al Sawadi on Nov 9
- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 10 at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
- 4 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14

51. Crab Plover – *Dromas ardeola*:

- 1 at ringed at ring site (and many heard) on Nov 11
- 200+ at Filim on Nov 12
- 50+ south of Shannah on Nov 12

52. Avocet – *Recurvirostra avosetta*:

- 4 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13

53. Black-winged Stilt – *Himantopus himantopus*:

- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 5 at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
- 2 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
- 4 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
- 10 at Raysut sewage plant on Nov 19
- 5 at East Khawr on Nov 19

54. Red-wattled Lapwing – *Vanellus indicus*:

- 15 at Al Qurm Beach on Nov 9
- 25 at Shinas on Nov 10



55. Spur-winged Lapwing – *Vanellus spinosus*:

- 1 at Raysut sewage plant on Nov 19

56. White-tailed Lapwing – *Vanellus leucurus*:

- 1 at Raysut sewage plant on Nov 19

57. Pacific Golden Plover – *Pluvialis fulva*:

- 8 at Al Qurm Beach on Nov 9
- 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
- 270+ at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16

58. Grey Plover – *Pluvialis squatarola*:

- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 2 heard at Barr al Hikman ringing site on Nov 11
- 20+ at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
- 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13

59. Common Ringed Plover – *Charadrius hiaticula*:

- 5 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14

60. Little Ringed Plover – *Charadrius dubius*:

- 15+ at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16

61. Kentish Plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus*:

- Very common along the coast

62. Lesser Sand Plover – *Charadrius mongolus*:

- Common along the coast, except around Salalah

63. Greater Sand plover – *Charadrius leschenaultii*:

- Fairly common along the coast, except around Salalah

64. Pheasant-tailed Jacana – *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*:

- 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16

65. Whimbrel – *Numenius phaeopus*:

- 10 at Al Qurm Beach on Nov 9

- 10 at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
66. Eurasian Curlew – *Numenius arquata*:
- 2 at Ras as Sawadi on Nov 9
 - 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 10 at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
67. Bar-tailed Godwit – *Limosa lapponica*:
- 100+ at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
68. Black-tailed Godwit – *Limosa limosa*:
- 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 10 at East Khawr on Nov 19
69. Ruddy Turnstone – *Arenaria interpres*:
- 15 at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - 2 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
70. Great Knot – *Calidris tenuirostris*:
- 25+ at Filim on Nov 12
71. Ruff – *Calidris pugnax*:
- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 1 at Mahout Sewage ponds on Nov 12
72. Broad-billed Sandpiper – *Calidris falcinellus*:
- 1 ringed at Barr al Hikman ringing site on Nov 11
 - 5 at Filim on Nov 12
73. Curlew Sandpiper – *Calidris ferruginea*:
- 2 at Al Qurm beach on Nov 9
 - 2 ringed at Barr al Hikman ringing site on Nov 11
 - 50 at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - 10 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 5 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
74. Temminck's Stint – *Calidris temminckii*:
- 2 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
 - 4 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 1 at Mahout Sewage ponds on Nov 12
 - 10 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
75. Sanderling – *Calidris alba*:
- 20 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 1 at Shannah on Nov 12
 - 20+ at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
76. Dunlin – *Calidris alpina*:
- 10 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - Very common at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - 20+ at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 5 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14

77. Little Stint – *Calidris minuta*:

- 2 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 9
- 10 at Shinas at Nov 10
- Very common at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
- 20+ at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
- 10 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
- 15 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16

78. Pin-tailed Snipe – *Gallinago stenura*:

- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 4 at Khawr Dhurf in Nov 13



79. Common Snipe – *Gallinago gallinago*:

- 1 at Al Qurm beach on Nov 9
- 5 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 2 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
- 3 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
- 5 at Raysut sewage plant on Nov 19

80. Terek Sandpiper – *Xenus cinereus*:

- 50+ at Filim on Nov 12
- 50+ at Shannah on Nov 12
- 20 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14

81. Red-necked Phalarope – *Phalaropus lobatus*:



- 20+ flying by at Ras as Sawadi on Nov 9

- 30+ flying by at Shinas on Nov 10
- 350+ at sea during Mirbat Pelagic on Nov 16
- 82. Common Sandpiper – *Actitis hypoleucos*:
 - Quite common along the coast
 - 1 albino bird at East Khawr on Nov 19
- 83. Green Sandpiper – *Tringa ochropus*:
 - 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 2 at Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah on Nov 14
 - 2 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
- 84. Common Redshank – *Tringa totanus*:
 - 4 at Al Qurm beach on Nov 9
 - 5 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 200+ at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - 1 at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
 - 1 at East Khawr on Nov 19
- 85. Marsh Sandpiper – *Tringa stagnatilis*:
 - 10 at Filim on Nov 12
- 86. Wood Sandpiper – *Tringa glareola*:
 - 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 2 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 1 at Jarziz Farm on Nov 17
 - 1 at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
- 87. Spotted Redshank – *Tringa erythropus*:
 - 5 at Filim on Nov 12
- 88. Common Greenshank – *Tringa nebularia*:
 - 5 at Al Qurm beach on Nov 9
 - 50+ at Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - 5 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 10 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 5 at Mughsaahl beach on Nov 18
 - 2 at East Khawr on Nov 19
- 89. Brown Noddy – *Anous stolidus*:
 - 1 seen foraging at sea from East Khawr on Nov 19
- 90. Slender-billed Gull – *Chroicocephalus genei*:
 - 100+ at Ras as Sawadi on Nov 9
 - 20+ at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 50+ at Shannah on Nov 12
 - 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 2 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 2 at Mughsaahl beach on Nov 18
 - 20 at East Khawr on Nov 19
- 91. Black-headed Gull – *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*:
 - 100+ at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 1 at Shannah on Nov 12

92. Pallas's Gull – *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*:
- 2 at Shinas on Nov 10
93. Sooty Gull – *Ichthyaetus hemprichii*:
- Very common along the coast.
 - Very large groups at Shannah and Mirbat



94. Caspian gull- *Larus cachinnans*:
- 1 first winter at Shinas.
95. Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Larus fuscus*:
- Steppe Gull – *Larus fuscus barabensis*:
Very common along the coast
 - Siberian (Heuglin's) Gull – *Larus fuscus heuglini*:
Very common along the coast
96. Common Gull – *Larus canus*:
- 1 first winter at Shinas on Nov 10
97. Gull-billed Tern – *Gelochelidon nilotica*:
- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 3 at Shannah on Nov 12
 - 15 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 2 at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16
 - 1 at East Khawr on Nov 19
98. Caspian Tern – *Hydroprogne caspia*:
- 3 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 5 at Shannah on Nov 12
 - 2 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 2 at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16 and 19

99. Greater Crested Tern – *Thalasseus bergii*:

- Common along the coast



100. Lesser Crested Tern – *Thalasseus bengalensis*:

- Fairly common along the coast

101. Sandwich Tern – *Thalasseus sandvicensis*:

- 10 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 2 at Shannah on Nov 12

102. Little Tern – *Sternula albifrons*:

- 10+ at Shinas on Nov 10
- 5+ at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13

103. Saunders's Tern – *Sternula saundersi*:

- 2 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 1 ringed at Barr al Hikmann ringing site on Nov 11
- 1 at Filim on Nov 12
- 100+ at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
- 1 at Mughsahl beach on Nov 18

104. Bridled Tern – *Onychoprion anaethetus*:

- 6 at Ras as Sawadi on Nov 9
- 5 flying by at Shinas on Nov 10
- 1 first winter on Mirbat Pelagic on Nov 16

105. Common Tern – *Sterna hirundo*:

- 5 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 50+ Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13

106. White-cheeked Tern – *Sterna repressa*:

- 2 at Al Qurm beach on Nov 9
- 15 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 100+ at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13

- 1 at East Khawr on Nov 19
107. Whiskered Tern – *Chlidonias hybrida*:
- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 2 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 10+ at Al Balid Archeological site on Nov 16
 - 30+ at East Khawr on Nov 19
108. White-winged Tern – *Chlidonias leucopterus*:
- 50+ at East Khawr on Nov 19



109. Pomarine Jaeger – *Stercorarius pomarinus*:
- 1 flying by at Shinas on Nov 10
110. Parasitic Jaeger – *Stercorarius parasiticus*:
- 3 flying by at Ras as Sawadi on Nov 9
 - 1 flying by south of Hasik on Nov 14
111. Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse – *Pterocles exustus*:
- 40+ at Mudayy oasis (mostly small groups flying by. 1 Bird drinking) on Nov 18
112. Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse – *Pterocles lichtensteinii*:
- 20+ (2 groups) flying by along the road (Nakhal to Al Awabi) on Nov 9
 - 3 birds flushed at Wadi east of Al Awabi (map 3) on Nov 9
113. Rock Dove – *Columba livia*:
- 10 at Tawi Atayr on Nov 15
 - Also seen at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
114. Eurasian Collared Dove – *Streptopelia decaocto*:
- Common throughout
115. African Collared Dove – *Streptopelia roseagrisea*:
- 5 at Mudayy oasis on Nov 18 (difficult because of many Eurasian Turtle Doves)
116. Laughing Dove – *Spilopelia senegalensis*:
- Very common throughout
117. Namaqua Dove – *Oena capensis*:
- 5 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
 - 2 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - 1 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17
 - 3 at Mudayy oasis on Nov 18
118. Bruce's Green Pigeon – *Treron waalia*:
- 3 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
 - 2 at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17

119. Jacobin Cuckoo – *Clamator jacobinus*:
- 1 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
120. Asian Koel – *Eudynamys scolopaceus*:
- 1 female in Mahout on Nov 13 (**gps 20.766, 58.296**)
121. Common Cuckoo – *Cuculus canorus*:
- 1 first winter at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
122. Western Barn Owl – *Tyto alba*:
- 2 birds heard at different sites at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
123. Pallid Scops Owl – *Otus brucei*:
- 1 at Al Ghubrah Bowl on Nov 11



124. Arabian Scops Owl – *Otus pamelea*:
- 1 at Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah on Nov 14
 - 20+ heard (and 1 seen with flashlight) at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
125. Spotted Eagle-Owl – *Bubo africanus milesi*:
- 3 heard at Wadi Darbat (at 2 sites) on Nov 17
126. Pallid Swift – *Apus pallidus*:
- 100+ near the Islands of Ras as Sawadi on Nov 9
127. Forbes-Watson's Swift – *Apus berliozi*:
- 100+ at Khawr Rawri in Nov 14
 - 10 in Salalah on Nov 15
 - 30+ at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
- Most birds we saw had full crops which implies the birds are nesting at this time of year.
128. European Roller – *Coracias garrulus*:
- 3 on route towards Asy Shuwaymiyyah on Nov 13
 - 1 near Mirbat on Nov 14
 - 1 at Jarziz farm on Nov 17

129. Indian Roller – *Coracias benghalensis*:

- Fairly common in the north
- 1 at Mahout on Nov 12
- A few seen towards the south on Nov 13. No sightings south of Khawr Dhurf

130. Grey-headed Kingfisher – *Halcyon leucocephala*:

- 1 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 18



131. Common Kingfisher – *Alcedo atthis*:

- 2 at Al Qurm beach on Nov 9
- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
- 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13

132. Green Bee-eater – *Merops orientalis*:

- Common in the north
- 3 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15

133. Blue-cheeked Bee-eater – *Merops persicus*:

- Quite common in the south.
- All family groups with fresh plumaged young birds. The largest group was 130+ birds east of Ash Shuwaymiyyah on Nov 13

134. Eurasian Hoopoe – *Upupa epops*:

- 2 near Raddison Blue hotel on Nov 10
- 5 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
- 2 near Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
- 5 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
- 1 at Mudayy oasis on Nov 18

135. Eurasian Wryneck – *Jynx torquilla*:

- 1 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15

136. Common Kestrel – *Falco tinnunculus*:

- 1 on route to Mahout on Nov 11
- 1 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
- 2 at Jabal Samhan view point on Nov 15
- 2 at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17

137. Amur Falcon – *Falco amurensis*:

- 1 first winter female next to the road between Tawi Atayr and Jabal Samhan view point.



138. Eurasian Hobby - *Falco subbuteo*:

- 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
- 1 on route towards Mirbat on Nov 14

139. Peregrine Falcon – *Falco peregrinus*:

- 1 first calender bird near Shinas on Nov 10

140. Barbary Falcon – *Falco pelegrinoides*:

- 1 adult bird at Jabal Samhan view point on Nov 15

141. Rose-ringed Parakeet (i) – *Psittacula krameri*:

- 2 in Muscat on Nov 9
- 6 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
- 10 in Salalah on Nov 14

142. Black-crowned Tchagra – *Tchagra senegalus percivali*:

- 4 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 11
- 3 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17

143. Red-backed Shrike – *Lanius collurio*:

- 1 first winter bird south of Shannah on Nov 12

144. Isabelline Shrike – *Lanius isabellinus*:

- 1 near Muscat Hills hotel on Nov 9
- 2 at in Wadi east of Al Awabi on Nov 10
- 3 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
- 1 adult male at Khawr Taqah on Nov 10

145. Red-tailed Shrike – *Lanius phoenicuroides*:

- 1 at Al Gubrah Bowl on Nov 11
- 5 at Filim on Nov 12
- 10+ at Shannah on Nov 12
- 3 at Ad Duqm on Nov 13
- 15+ at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
- 3 at Wadi Ash shuwaymiyyah on Nov 14

- 1 at near Ayn Hamran on Nov 17
146. Brown Shrike – *Lanius cristatus*:
- 1 a self-found first year bird at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15



147. Levant Grey Shrike – *Lanius excubitor aucheri*:
- 1 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
 - 1 on route towards Mahout on Nov 11
 - 1 north of Lakabi on Nov 13
 - 1 on route from Mudayy to Salalah on Nov 18
148. African Paradise Flycatcher – *Terpsiphone viridis*:
- 3 at Ayn Tobruk waterfall on Nov 15
 - 7 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
 - 2 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17
 - 3 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 18



149. House Crow (i) – *Corvus splendens*:
- Common throughout
150. Brown-necked Raven – *Corvus ruficollis*:
- Fairly common in the northern part on Oman. Not seen in the Dhofar area

151. Fan-tailed Raven – *Corvus rhipidurus*:
- Common in the Salalah region
152. Grey Hypocolius – *Hypocolius ampelinus*:
- 4 birds (2 male / 2 females) at Mudayy oasis on Nov 18
153. Greater Hoopoe-Lark – *Alaemon alaudipes*:
- 5 birds seen on route towards Mahout on Nov 11
 - 1 east of Mahout on Nov 12
 - 2 birds seen on route on Nov 13



154. Desert Lark – *Ammomanes deserti*:
- 2 birds east of AL Awabi on Nov 11
 - 2 birds at Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah on Nov 14
155. Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark – *Eremopterix nigriceps*:
- 4 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
 - 30+ seen flying by on motorway south of Sohar on Nov 11
 - 2 seen on route towards Mahout on Nov 11
 - 2 seen on route towards Ash Shuwaymiyyah on Nov 13
156. Singing Bush Lark – *Mirafraga cantillans*:
- 1 at Tawi Atayr on Nov 15
157. Crested Lark – *Galerida cristata*:
- Common throughout
158. White-eared Bulbul – *Pycnonotus leucotis*:
- 4 at Al Qurm beach on Nov 9
 - 10 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
 - 20+ at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 4 at Mahout on Nov 13
159. Red-vented Bulbul (i) – *Pycnonotus cafer*:
- 5 in Muscat on Nov 9
160. White-spectacled bulbul – *Pycnonotus xanthoygos*
- Common throughout
161. Sand Martin – *Riparia riparia*:
- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10

- 1 near Mahout on Nov 12
 - 2 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
162. Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica*:
- 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 10 in the Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - Fairly common in the Salalah area
163. Pale Crag Martin – *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*:
- Common throughout
164. Plain Leaf Warbler – *Phylloscopus neglectus*:
- 4 at Wadi east of Al Awabi (see map 3) on Nov 9
 - 3 at Al Gubrah Bowl on Nov 11
165. Common Chiffchaff – *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*:
- 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13 (uncertain for *tristis*)
 - 1 at Tawi Atayr on Nov 15
 - 5 at Mudayy oasis on Nov 18
166. Green Warbler – *Phylloscopus nitidus*:
- 1 found at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13



167. Clamorous Reed Warbler – *Acrocephalus stentoreus*:
- 1 at Filim on Nov 12
 - 1 at Mahout on Nov 13
 - 2 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 1 at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
 - 1 at Mudayy oasis on Nov 18
 - 7 at East Khawr on Nov 19
168. Eurasian Reed Warbler – *Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus*:
- 1 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
169. Graceful Prinia – *Prinia gracilis*:
- 10 at Al Qurm beach on Nov 9
 - 6 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
 - 1 at SamahramTourist Village Hotel on Nov 14
 - 2 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - Common al Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 2 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17
170. Arabian Babbler – *Turdoides squamiceps*:
- 15 at Khatmat Milahahon Nov 10
 - 2 at Al Ghubrach Bowl on Nov 11

171. Central Asian Lesser Whitethroat – *Sylvia curruca halimondenri*:

- 4 around Al Awabi on Nov 9
- 10 at Khatmat Milahahon Nov 10
- 5 at Al Ghubrah Bowl on Nov 11
- 2 at Mahout on Nov 13
- 2 at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
- 2 at Mudayy oasis on Nov 18

172. Arabian Warbler – *Sylvia leucomelaena*:

- 1 at Tawi Atayr on Nov 15
- 2 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17

173. Asian Desert Warbler – *Sylvia nana*:

- 1 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10

174. Menetries Warbler – *Sylvia mystacea*:

- 10 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
- 1 at Al Ghubrah Bwol on Nov 11
- 1 at Filim on Nov 12
- 2 at Wadi Ash Shuawaymiyyah on Nov 14
- 1 at Khawr Rawri on Nov 14
- 1 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17

175. Abyssinian White-eye – *Zosterops abyssinicus*:

- 30+ at Ayn Tobruk waterfall on Nov 15
- 20+ at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
- 20+ at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17



176. Common Myna – *Acridotheres tristis*:

- Common throughout

177. Tristram's Starling – *Onychognathus tristramii*:

- 30+ at Wadi Ash Shuwatmiyyah on Nov 14
- 30+ at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
- 20+ at Tawi Atayr on Nov 15
- 10+ at Jabal Samhan view point on Nov 15

- 50+ at Wadi Darbat on Nov 17
- 10+ at Mughshahl blowholes on Nov 18
- 178. Spotted Flycatcher – *Muscicapa striata*:
 - 1 at Wadi west of Al Awabi on Nov 9
 - 5 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
 - 2 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17
- 179. Red-breasted Flycatcher – *Ficedula parva*:
 - 2 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 18
- 180. Bluethroat – *Luscinia svecica*:
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
- 181. Eastern Black Redstart – *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicurus*:
 - 1 at wadi west of Al Awabi on Nov 9
 - 5 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
 - 1 at Mahout on Nov 13
- 182. Common Redstart – *Phoenicurus phoenicuroides*:
 - 1 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
- 183. Blue Rock Thrush – *Monticola solitarius*:
 - 1 male at Shannah on Nov 12
- 184. Siberian Stonechat – *Saxicola maurus*:
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
- 185. Isabelline Wheatear – *Oenanthe isabellina*:
 - 1 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 1 at Kahwr Rawri on Nov 14
 - 1 at Tawi Atayr on Nov 15
 - 20+ in fields south of Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17
 - 5 south of Ayn Hamran on Nov 17
- 186. Desert Wheatear – *Oenanthe deserti*:
 - Common in dry areas throughout Oman



- 187. Blackstart – *Oenanthe melanura*:
 - 5 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
 - 4 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17
- 188. Variable Wheatear – *Oenanthe picata*:
 - 2 (male and female) at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10

189. Hume's Wheatear – *Oenanthe albonigra*:

- 10+ along the road (Al Awabi to Nakhal) on Nov 11



190. Arabian Wheatear – *Oenanthe lugentoides*:

- 15+ at Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah on Nov 14
- 1 near Tawi Atayr on Nov 15
- 5 at Jabal Samhan view point on Nov 15
- 1 near Mughshahl on Nov 18

191. Red-tailed Wheatear – *Oenanthe chrysopygia*:

- 1 at wadi west of Al Awabi (see map 3) on Nov 9

192. Nile Valley Sunbird – *Hedydipna metallica*:

- 10+ at Mudayy oasis on Nov 18

193. Palestine Sunbird – *Cinnyris osea*:

- 4 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17

194. Shining Sunbird – *Cinnyris habessinicus*:

- 1 female at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15
- 2 (male and female) at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17

195. Purple Sunbird – *Cinnyris asiaticus*:

- Quite common in the north

196. House Sparrow – *Passer domesticus*:

- Common throughout

197. Ruppel's Weaver – *Ploceus galbula*:

- Common at Ayn Tobruk and Ayn Hamran

198. African Silverbill – *Euodice cantans*:

- 10 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
- 20 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17

199. Indian Silverbill – *Euodice malabarica*:

- 20+ at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
- 2 at Filim on Nov 12

200. Scaly-breasted Munia (i) – *Lonchura punctulate*:

- 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16

201. Yellow Wagtail – *Motacilla flava*:

- 2 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
- 2 at Tawi Atayr on Nov 15

- 100+ at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16 (also *thunbergi*)
 - 10+ at East Khawr on Nov 19
202. Grey Wagtail – *Motacilla cinerea*:
- 1 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 1 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - 1 at Ayn Hamra on Nov 15
203. Cirtine Wagtail – *Motacilla citreola*:
- 1 first winter at Mahout Sewage ponds on Nov 12
 - 15+ at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
 - 1 at Jarziz Farm on Nov 17
 - 1 at Mudayy oasis on Nov 18
204. White Wagtail – *Motacilla alba*:
- 3 at Shinas on Nov 10
 - 5 in the Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - 4 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16
205. Richards's Pipit – *Anthus richardi*:
- 1 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
206. Tawny Pipit – *Anthus campestris*:
- 1 near Al Ghubrah Bowl on Nov 11
 - 5 in the Barr al Hikman area on Nov 12
 - 4 at Khawr Dhurf on Nov 13
207. Long-billed Pipit – *Anthus similis*:
- 1 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
 - 5 at Ayn Hamran on Nov 15



208. Tree Pipit – *Anthus trivialis*:
- 1 at Mahout on Nov 12
209. Red-throated Pipit – *Anthus cervinus*:
- 1 at Filim on Nov 12
 - 1 at Khawr Taqah on Nov 16

210. Water Pipit – *Anthus spinoletta coutellii*:

- 1 at Al Qurm beach on Nov 9
- 5 at Shinas on Nov 10

211. Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak – *Rhynchostruthus percivali*:

- 4 at Golden-winged grosbeak site on Nov 17 (see map D)



212. Yemen Serin – *Crithagra menachensis*:

- 20+ at Tawi Atayr on Nov 15 (see map H)



213. Striolated Bunting – *Emberiza striolata*:

- 1 at Khatmat Milahah on Nov 10
- 2 at Al Ghubrah Bowl on Nov 11
- 2 at Ayn Tobruk on Nov 15
- 2 at Golden-winged Grosbeak site on Nov 17

214. Cinnamon-breasted Bunting – *Emberiza tahapisi*:

- Very common in the hills of Salalah
- (I) = introduced species
 - Barr al Hikman area is Filim + Shannah

Observation.org

Most our sightings are found in detail on **observation.org**. Go to **oman.observation.org** to see all Oman records entered into the website.



Arabian Scops Owl