

# OMAN

A report on birds seen on a trip to Oman  
27 Oktober – 10 November 2022



**Wadi Muayadin**



**Arabian Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugentoides*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In February 1999 I made, together with my brother Frans, a one-week trip to Oman. It was a great experience to travel around and to bird that country.

This year I planned together with my brother and two friends to bird Oman again for two weeks.

Between 1999 and 2022 a lot has changed in that country. It is still an easy country to travel around but meanwhile a lot more info has become available about birding locations and birds in general.

Our trip was rather target species orientated and while trying to find these targets we just waited which species would cross our path.

We planned our trip end of Oktober/beginning of November as this period would give us, in our opinion, the best chances to find our targets.

Personally I had six target species which we all recorded although the Omani Owl was only heard.

## **VISA**

You do need a visa for entering Oman and this visa can easily be obtained online before departure.

I recommend to do so at least two weeks before you actually travel to Oman.

You have to apply for a visa at: <https://evisa.rop.gov.om/en/home>

The cost was 50 Euro.

## **GETTING THERE – FLIGHT**

This turned out to be rather complicated as our flight carrier, KLM, changed twice our flights.

First they changed the date of our departing flight. They just cancelled our flight and put us on a flight two days later. After some effort we could change that flight to the day before our original departure date.

Then suddenly two weeks before our trip would start they cancelled our return flight to Amsterdam and put us on a flight two days earlier. We eventually could change the KLM flight to a Etihad flight on the original date. This was again a hassle and this meant a stopover at Abu Dhabi.

For the return flight Amsterdam – Muscat we paid around 750 Euro.

## **GETTING AROUND**

We booked a very spacious big Toyota 4x4 Fortuner for the whole period. (two weeks)

This car was booked through Sunnycars. [www.sunnycars.nl](http://www.sunnycars.nl)

We paid 1400 Euro including all insurances.

We drove 4500 km and we paid some 0,45 per litre for petrol.

At home we downloaded the map of Oman on Maps.Me. We had no problems to drive and navigate around the country with this app.

We also used a map of Oman: Oman 1:850000

## **MONEY**

The currency used in Oman is the Omani Real.

During our stay the exchange rate was: 1 OR = 2.50 Euro

You can easily obtain cash at ATM machines in Oman but creditcards are also widely accepted.

We obtained some cash twice and also used a creditcard to pay for expenses.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Accommodation in Oman is generally excellent and not expensive.

Together with my brother we booked some hotel/apartments through Booking.com.

In Salalah we booked for six nights two spacious apartments for which we paid 25 Euro pp. per night.

Muscat Gate Airport Hotel Muscat:	booked for 2 nights.	120 Euro for a double room
Hotel Alya Barka:	Booked for one night.	73 Euro for a double room
Karami Apartment hotel Nizwa:	Booked for three nights.	120 Euro for an apartment
Qitbit Motel:	Booked for one night at the spot as it cannot be booked online.	45 Euro for a double room
Thumrait Motel:	Booked for one night.	100 Euro for a 4-person room
Daar Al Maqam Suites Apartment, Salalah:	Booked for six nights.	300 Euro for a large apartment

## **FOOD & DRINKS**

Most of the time we had breakfast and lunch in the field. We brought hot water bottles and some cutlery from home with us and bought bread, food, coffee, tea and drinks in supermarkets.

Most appartments have watercookers so it is easy to take hot water with you in the field for coffee and tea.

Sometimes we had breakfast and lunch at hotels and/or restaurants but dinner was always at a restaurant. Generally the food was ok. Choices of Arabian and Indian food, vegetarian, with meat, chicken or fish.

I did not drink any alcohol during this trip as it was impossible to get some.

Apparently at some of the larger hotels in Salalah it is possible to obtain beer.

## **LANGUAGE**

Most people speak (some) English.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

We had no health issues during our trip and Oman is considered to be a very safe country to travel around. We found the Omani people very friendly and helpful.

## **WEATHER**

The weather during our stay was excellent. Only in the middle of the day it was maybe a bit too hot but generally the temperature was pleasantly hot. Even at night when trying for the Omani Owl it was agreeable.

## **BIRDING**

As I said the birding was rather target species orientated and so for instance we spent quite some time in locating Omani Owl. As a consequence we did not compile a huge list and we could have added easily more species to our list if we would have had more time and would have visited more sites.

With more time I would certainly include a visit to the farm areas near Thumrait, Barr el Hikman and Ash-Shuwaymiyah.

Actually we did not do justice to the real birding potential of this country during our trip.

But we all noticed that we did not see large numbers of birds in the areas we did visit. For instance our two visits to the oasis of Muntasar were in fact rather disappointing and Frans and I saw a lot more twenty years ago at this site.

But having said this Oman is a fantastic birding destination and there are great possibilities in this country to discover rarities, which regularly do turn up. And the fact that more and more birders find their way to this country certainly helps in this respect.

Highlight of the trip for me was the great pelagic trip from Mirbat. Besides the great and close observations of some most-wanted seabirds we had excellent views of Sperm Whales.

Best species seen was no doubt the observation of a single Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak, a species which elude many visiting birders, especially at this time of the year.

## **Some site info about our target species:**

<b>Sooty Falcon</b>	<b>Ras as Sawadi</b>	<b>- 23.781, 57.791</b>	
<b>Omani Owl:</b>	<b>Wadi Muayadin</b>	<b>- 22.9734, 57.671</b>	
<b>Arabian Eagle Owl:</b>	<b>Ayn Razat</b>	<b>- 17.1290, 54.2349</b>	
<b>Arabian Scops Owl:</b>	<b>Wadi Darbat</b>	<b>- 17.0982, 54.4500</b>	
	Common along the road between the two parking areas.		-
<b>Desert Owl:</b>	<b>Wadi Mughsahl</b>	<b>- 16.9196, 53.7427</b>	
<b>Forbes Watson's Swift:</b>	<b>Cliffs, east of Taqah</b>	<b>- 17.0319, 54.4102</b>	
<b>Plain Leaf Warbler:</b>	<b>Wadi Muayadin</b>	<b>- 22.990429, 57.674484</b>	
	<b>Wadi Ghul</b>	<b>- 23.160322, 57.163135</b>	
	<b>Ghubrah Bowl area</b>	<b>- 23.1753, 57.7582</b>	
<b>Arabian Golden Grosbeak:</b>	<b>Camel drinking place</b>	<b>- 17.111, 54.264</b>	

## **EQUIPMENT**

We brought one scope with us which was very useful for scoping waders and birds in open areas.

Photography was done with Canon 7D Mark II and 300 mm lenses and a Sony RX 10 IV.

We used the Merlin App for songs/calls of bird species occurring in Oman but during our trip we found out that additional material from Xeno-Canto was sometimes needed and advisable.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Books**

– **Birdwatching Guide to Oman** – Dave Sargeant & Hanne & Jens Eriksen.

Though this guide is not really up to date anymore it still gives you a wealth of information about birding and birding sites in Oman. You can also download an update of this guide from the internet.

– **Birds of Oman** – Jens Eriksen & Richard Porter

– **Birds of the Middle East** – Richard Porter & Simon Aspinall

### **Trip Reports**

On [www.cloudbirders.com](http://www.cloudbirders.com) you can find several trip reports covering bird trips to Oman.

We found one trip report particularly valuable and that was the report of Kees de Vries:

– **Oman** – November 2018 – Kees de Vries.

With this report and some additional info from other reports and observations/info from [www.observado.org](http://www.observado.org) you can easily plan an excellent bird trip to Oman.

### **Articles**

- [DB\\_2013\\_35\\_5.pdf \(dutchbirding.nl\)](#) The article about the (re)discovery of the Omani Owl
- [DB\\_2022\\_44\\_3.pdf \(dutchbirding.nl\)](#) Article about identification of Little Tern and Saunders's Tern.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank Jan Hein van Steenis and Eduard Sangster for pre-trip info about birding and birding sites in Oman.

## **USEFULL CONTACTS & ADRESSES**

Hatem is the organiser of the pelagic trip out of Mirbat.

He can be contacted at [say\\_ary@hotmail.com](mailto:say_ary@hotmail.com)

I do not know if this email adres is still correct as I contacted him through whatsapp.

Normally he quickly responds to your message.

Telephone: +96899088815



## **SHORT ITINERARY**

- Oktober 27: Flight Amsterdam – Muscat with KLM.
- Oktober 28: Drive to Barka. Birding along the coast and visit to Ras as Sawadi.  
Drive to Nakhl and birding in the wadi west of Nakhl.  
Hotel Barka.
- Oktober 29: Drive to wadi near Al Awabi and later the Ghubrah Bowl area and birding untill noon.  
Drive to Nizwa. Evening and night at Wadi Muayadin.  
Hotel Nizwa.
- Oktober 30: All day and evening Hajar Mountains, Wadi Muayadin.  
Hotel Nizwa
- Oktober 31: Drive Nizwa to Qitbit. Afternoon visit to Oasis Muntasar.  
Resthouse Qitbit.
- November 1: Early morning visit to oasis Muntasar. Drive to Thumrait.  
Afternoon visit Oasis Mudhayy.  
Thumrait Motel.
- November 2: Drive from Thumrait to Taqah. Birding around Taqah.  
Drive to Salalah. Afternoon and evening in Wadi Darbat.  
Appartement Salalah.
- November 3: Early morning Camel drinking place.  
Visit to Ayn Razat.  
Afternoon to Tawi Atayr, sink hole.  
Visit to Ayn Razat.  
Appartement Salalah
- November 4: Pelagic Mirbat.  
Ayn Razat early afternoon.  
Late afternoon visit to Raysut dump/sewage works  
Appartement Salalah.
- November 5: Morning to Wadi/Ayn Tobruc and Wadi Athun.  
Late morning Ayn Razat.  
Afternoon and evening at Wadi Mughsaal.  
Appartement Salalah.
- November 6: Morning at Wadi/Ayn Hamran and later Khawr Taqah.  
Afternoon visit to Al Balid Archeological site.  
Late afternoon visit to Jabal Samhan Viewpoint.  
Appartement Salalah.
- November 7: Drive Salalah – Nizwa. Morning visit to Thumrait Dump.  
Evening/night at Wadi Muayadin.  
Hotel Nizwa.
- November 8: Morning visit to Wadi Ghul and Jabal Shams.  
Evening at Wadi Muayadin.  
Hotel Nizwa. Some
- November 9: Drive to Ghubrah Bowl – Wakan village.  
Afternoon drive to Barka and Muscat Airport Hotel.
- November 10: Early morning flight Muscat – Abu Dhabi – Amsterdam

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1: Oktober 27

My brother Frans and I had travelled in the evening of the previous day to Best Western Airport Hotel, Schiphol Airport. At 8 am we checked in which was surprisingly fast paced.

With a full hour delay because of a sick passenger who had to be transported from the plane, we left for our flight to Muscat at 12.40 am. We had a short stop at Dammam Airport, Saudi Arabia and landed at Muscat Airport at 11 pm.

After collecting our luggage, we got some cash from an ATM and then we continued to Thrifty to collect our car. We drove the short distance to our airport hotel.

Night: Muscat Gate Airport Hotel, Muscat.

### Day 2: Oktober 28

We had breakfast at our hotel and at 7.30 am we drove from Muscat to Barka and further to Ras as Sawadi. Our main target was **Sooty Falcon**, a lifer for my brother Frans.



Ras as Sawadi

When we arrived at Ras as Sawadi we started to scope the small island in front of us from the beach and it did not take long before we found a **Sooty Falcon**, perched on top of the hill on the island.

We had good but rather distant views of the bird. Some boats men approached us and asked if we wanted to have a boat trip around the island. We agreed on a one-hour trip for which we paid 20 OR. Hopefully we could have better, closer views of the falcon and take some pictures of it.

Though we did get closer to the falcon during our boat trip we could not get close enough for good pictures.

Other species observed during the trip were **Great Crested Terns**, **Lesser Crested Terns**, a couple of **Socotra Cormorants**, an **Osprey** and a single **Brown Booby**.



**Greater Crested Terns** – *Thalasseus bergii*





**Socotra Cormorant** – *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*

Some bee-eaters flying around when we came back on shore, turned out to be **European Bee-eaters**. We then followed the coastal road towards Barka and made some random birding stops along the way but that did not yield much. Some common wader species and a female **Black-crowned Sparrow Lark**. We dropped our luggage at the hotel and had lunch.

After lunch we drove to the town of Nakhl and visited the wadi west of Nakhl.

We had problems finding the exact locations of previous observations of **Pallid Scops Owl** and **Omani Owl**.

We birded the afternoon and early evening in the wadi and we ate some food we had bought on the way in. A sighting of a female **Common Rock-Thrush** was nice.

After sunset we tried for both owl species but drew a blank. We did hear an **European Nightjar**.

In the evening we drove back to our hotel in Barka.

Night: Hotel Alya, Barka.

### **Day 3: Oktober 29**

Before dawn we drove to the wadi, west of Al Awabi where we had breakfast in the field. We birded the wadi for 1½ hour and observed the following species: An obliging pair of **Hume's Wheatear**, twice a single **Red-tailed Wheatear**, **Desert Lesser Whitethroat**, **European Golden Oriole**, **Brown-necked Raven** and **Purple Sunbird**. A **Long-billed Pipit** was a nice find.

An adult **Eastern Imperial Eagle** flew by a couple of times.



wadi, west of Al Awabi





**Hume's Wheatear** – *Oenanthe albonigra*



**Red-tailed Wheatear** – *Oenanthe chrysopygia*

We decided to continue to a wadi close to the village of Wakan in an area, called the Ghubrah Bowl. When we arrived at the wadi it was already soaring hot. We made an extensive walk in the wadi and it did not take long before we heard the unmistakable calls of a **Plain Leaf Warbler**, a target species for two of us. We saw twice a bird and were able to take some nice pictures of one individual. Another important species was **Pallid Scops Owl** which is regularly observed in the larger trees in this wadi. Despite an extensive search we failed to find one.



Wadi in the Ghubrah Bowl area

We decided to leave and started our rather long drive to Nizwa. Before we arrived at our apartment we bought food at a local super market and we had lunch in our apartment.

Late afternoon we drove to the nearby famous Wadi Muayadin, one of the wadis where the Omani Owl resides. We birded the wadi until dusk and took positions at a strategic site where we thought we would have the best chance of hearing the **Omani Owl**. We stayed in the wadi until 9.30 pm. We checked several sites where the **Omani Owl** had been recorded in the past but we dipped. On our way out we heard several times a **Pallid Scops Owl** call but the bird refused to show itself. We also bumped into Birdquest with Jannu Hannes. They were also not successful in locating the owl.

Several independent birders were also searching in the area while we were there.

We decided to leave, to eat something, to have some sleep and to return to the wadi very early in the morning.

Night: Karami Apartment, Nizwa.

#### **Day 4: Oktober 30**

We returned to the wadi Muayadin at 3.45 am. and tried for the **Omani Owl** until dawn.

Not a sniff. After breakfast in the field we started to bird the wadi until 11.30 am.

We did not see much but saw the following species: **Egyptian Vulture, Common Kingfisher, Arabian Green Bee-eater, White-eared Bulbul, Plain Leaf Warbler, Chiffchaff, Desert Whitethroat, Bluethroat, Purple Sunbird, African Silverbill and Grey Wagtail.**



**Plain Leaf warbler** – *Phylloscopus neglectus*

Around noon we drove back to our apartment, had lunch and a long rest in the afternoon.

After an early dinner we drove again to wadi Muayadin and we tried for the owl until midnight.

As we did not hear anything we drove back to our apartment, rather disappointed.

#### **Day 5: Oktober 31**

We had a rather late breakfast and we left at 8 am for our long drive to the south.

At Al-Ghaftayn we ate something and checked the bushes around the petrol station for birds.

**Brown-necked Raven, Bluethroat, Desert Wheatear** and best was a single **Masked Wagtail**.

After an uneventful drive we arrived at Qitbit motel around 3 pm. We had to wake the receptionist to give us a room in the motel. We were a bit worried that there were not enough rooms available at Qitbit as we knew that Birdquest had also planned to stay here. But we got two rooms quickly so that the receptionist could go back to have his siesta.

We decided to drive to the nearby Muntasar Oasis to bird the area. We birded around the oasis until dusk but the birding was rather disappointing. Best species were **Desert Wheatear, Siberian Stonechat**, a single **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and a single **Pin-tailed Snipe**.

No Sandgrouse were heard or seen. What a contrast with our visit in 1999 when we observed hundreds of **Spotted Sandgrouse** and a few **Crowned Sandgrouse** at this site.

We returned to Qitbit and had dinner together with the Birdquest group at the restaurant next door.

In the evening we were entertained by some very showy **Barn Owls** flying around our accommodation.

Night: Qitbit Motel.



### **Day 6: November 1**

Just after dawn we paid Muntasar Oasos another visit. On our way in we observed a **Tawny Pipit** just next to the track. We met the BQ team again at Muntasar. The first hour or so we walked around the oasis which was again not very birdy. A nice male **Pallid Harrier** was seen and a accipiter which was either a sparrowhawk or a Shikra flew by.



Muntasar Oasis

Later we positioned ourselves with our cars some distance from the actual waterhole with the main goal to observe incoming sandgrouse. After a wait eventually four **Spotted Sandgrouse** flew by but landed behind us in the desert at some distance. Another **Tawny Pipit** was observed and after another half hour we decided to leave the area and to continue our journey south.



**Desert Wheatear** – *Oenanthe deserti*

After collecting our luggage at Qitbit Motel we first spent another hour in the area, just around the motel. Not much activity and we only added a **Spotted Flycatcher** to our list.

Then we left for Thumrait. Our plan was to stop and bird some farm areas near Thumrait but we had difficulties to locate and access the most productive areas.

So we decided to continue straight to Thumrait. When we tried for accommodation at Thumrait Motel they told us that all rooms were booked but it was possible to rent a four-person apartment in the same building.

In the afternoon we drove to Mudhayy Oasis. This site is supposed to be THE site to observe **Hypocolius** in Oman. Most birders see the species in the palm trees just next to the waterhole.

We stayed and birded around the oasis untill late afternoon but we failed to find the Hypocolius.

We found out later that the first observation of *Hypocolius* this year at Mudayy was made at November 7. They start to arrive in Oman from the beginning of November.



Mudhayy Oasis



**Blackstart** – *Oenanthe melaneura*

Other species seen were some **African Collared Doves**, **Nile Valley Sunbirds**, **Blackstart** etc. We drove back to Thumrait where we spent the night.  
Night: Thumrait Motel, Thumrait.

### **Day 7: November 2**

We talked about a repeat visit to Mudhayy but as we had all seen **Hypocolius** before we opted to drive straight to the coast near Salalah, more specific the Taqah area.

We arrived at the cliffs near Taqah around 9.30 am. As soon as we left the car we observed our first **Arabian Wheatear** and soon after that **Forbes Watson's Swifts** cruising along the cliffs. This was a lifer for all of us and the next hour we birded around the cliff face, observing and photographing the swifts.

An **Osprey** was found perched on a cliff face and we scoped through the gull flocks on the beach below. At least two **Caspian Gulls** were identified between the flocks of **Steppe Gulls** and **Heuglin's Gulls**.





Cliffs, just outside Taqah. Breeding site of Forbes Watson's Swifts



**Forbes Watson's Swift** – *Apus berliozi* A bird with a full crop suggesting breeding at this site.



**Forbes Watson's Swift** – *Apus berliozi*. Great and close views of one of our target species

We decided to drive back to Salalah and to drop our luggage at our apartment in Salalah. After checking in we visited the nearby Lulu Supermarket to buy food and drinks. In the afternoon we drove to Wadi Darbat which turned out to be rather tourist orientated. Until dusk we birded the wooded area between the two parking lots. Some species encountered included a soaring **Long-legged Buzzard**, **Bruce's Green Pigeon**, **Abyssinian White-eye**, **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** and a single **Striolated Bunting**.



Wadi Darbat

At dusk we immediately heard the unmistakable calls of **Arabian Scops Owls**. We heard many but difficult to say how many precisely. It did not take long before we had one, beautifully, in the spotlight.



**Arabian Scops Owl** – *Otus pamela*

The second target, the **Arabian Eagle Owl** turned out to be a lot more difficult to get views of. It took a while before we heard our first one but too far from the road to have a real chance to actually stand a chance of seeing it. The second bird we heard was a lot closer to the road and we decided to go for it. We succeeded in getting very close to the calling bird but it kept hidden in thick cover and could not be persuaded to show itself. So we decided to leave and to try another night.

Night: Daar Al Maqam Suites Apartment, Salalah



### **Day 8: November 3**

We knew that the **Omani Owl** would be our most difficult target species to find but the second difficult target species was no doubt the **Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak**. Frans and I failed to find it in 1999 and we could not find any recent observation of this species on [www.observado.org](http://www.observado.org).

The species is supposed to be easier in January/February than Oktober/November/December.

We decided to check a site, described among others by Kees de Vries in his report.

It is the camel drinking place at – **17.111, 54.264**

Just after dawn we arrived at this site which took some time/searching to reach. We positioned ourselves at some distance from the water trough and waited. Some common species visited the water trough like **Cinnamon-breasted Buntings** and **Rueppell's Weavers** but at 7.30 am suddenly an **Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak** appeared at the edge of the water trough where it stayed for a full 20 seconds. It never drank at the trough and just as sudden as it appeared it also left, never to be seen again. We consider ourselves very lucky to observe this species during this trip. We stayed for another half hour and then started to bird the surrounding area.

We observed **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Palestine Sunbird** and heard **Arabian Partridge**.

Suddenly in front of me a **Jacobin Cuckoo** popped up and could be observed for several minutes.



**Jacobin Cuckoo** – *Clamator jacobinus*

When we walked back to our car we met two Swiss birders who were also eager to observe the Grosbeak. They gave us information about a day roost of **Arabian Eagle Owl** at Ayn Razat. I knew that this species was observed at this site in the past but not during the last couple of years.

So we decided to drive to Ayn Razat to check this site out. Unfortunately when we arrived at Ayn Razat, which is partly a Botanical garden, people were working right under the roosting tree of the **Arabian Eagle Owl**. We asked permission to enter the garden but were denied access.

It was obvious that we had to return to the site at another date. Some species observed at Ayn Razat were **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, many **Arabian Sunbirds** and **Cinnamon-breasted Buntings**. An accipiter which flew in and was observed perched during a full 10 seconds gave me an opportunity to take some record shots. When checking my pictures later I concluded that it was a juvenile **Shikra**, which is a rare bird in Oman.

We returned to the camel drinking place where we met the Swiss birders again. They were unsuccessful in observing the grosbeak so far. They gave us directions to a farm area close to Salalah where between the **Pacific Golden Plovers** some **Social Plovers** were observed by them.

We decided to check that site out. When we arrived at the entrance of the farm we asked permission to enter the area but access was denied. Instead we decided to walk along the fence for a couple of hundred meters and to scope the area from outside. When we arrived at an area with shorter vegetation we quickly located a few **Social Plovers** between the **Pacific Golden Plovers**.

In the afternoon we drove to Tawi Atayir where our main target was the **Yemen Serin**, a lifer for one of us. When we arrived the weather was rather overcast. We walked around the impressive sink hole and had absolutely fantastic views of a soaring **Bonelli's Eagle**. Initially we failed to find the serin but finally we first stumbled upon a family of **Arabian Partridges** with young and then we discovered some **Yemen Serins** on the rocky slope between the sink hole and the village. A single **Singing Bushlark** was briefly observed by me in the same area. Night: Daar Al Maqam Suites Apartment, Salalah





Tawi Atayir sink hole



**Bonelli's Eagle** – *Hieraaetus fasciata*



**Yemen Serin** – *Crithaga menachensis*

On our way back we decided to check the roosting site of the **Arabian Eagle Owl** again at dusk. When we walked along the fence of the Botanical garden towards the roosting tree of the owl I suddenly discovered the owl, perched at eye-level and very close. I pointed the others on the bird but only Wiel managed to observe the bird before it flew off, which was ofcourse disappointing to the others. We drove back to Salalah. Night: Daar Al Maqam Suites Appartment, Salalah.

### **Day 9: November 4**

I have been looking forward to this day, as today we would do the pelagic out of Mirbat. We left Salalah already at 6 am as we wanted to be sure to be on time at Mirbat harbour. In Mirbat harbour we met Hakem and three British birders (West Coast Birdwatching) who would accompany us on the trip.



Mirbat harbour

At 7.30 am we left Mirbat harbour and we returned at 12 am. This was not planned but halfway the pelagic we were confronted with engine failure and Hatem had to call for assistance from his brother. It took some 40 minutes before his brother arrived with a new battery. Because of this inconvenience Hateem extended the trip until noon.



Photographing Sperm Whales during our Mirbat pelagic

And it was a great pelagic trip. We had fantastic and close views of **Persian Shearwater**, **Jouanin's Petrel** and two **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**. We did not encounter any real rarity but I do not think we will ever forget the close encounters we had with several Sperm Whales. An estimated 20 in total.





Sperm Whale



**Masked Booby** – *Sula dactylatra*





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



**Flesh-footed Shearwater** – *Ardenna carneipes*





**Persian Shearwater** – *Puffinus persicus*



**Red-necked Phalarope** – *Phalaropus fulicarius*



Surprisingly no other marine mammals were observed on this trip. Other species seen were a couple of **Masked Boobies**, **Bridled Terns**, groups of **Red-necked Phalaropes** and a small flock of **Little Terns** with possibly a winter-plumaged **Saunders's Tern** among them.

At noon we arrived back at the harbour and had lunch at a small fish restaurant in the harbour.

After lunch we decided to go birding at the other side of Salalah, namely the Raysut Dump and Sewage Works. During our drive we paid another short visit to Ayn Razat but drew a blank again on the **Arabian Eagle Owl**.

The Raysut Dump area was rather disappointing as we did not encounter the raptor species we were counting on. Large flocks of **Abdim's Storks** with smaller numbers of **White Storks** were seen but no raptors.



**Abdim's Storks and White Storks**

At the entrance of the sewage works we got permission to bird the area for 30 to 40 minutes.

Species seen at the ponds were some duck species, **Greater Flamingo**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Spur-winged Plover**, **Red-wattled Lapwing**, **Pacific Golden Plover**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Eurasian Curlew**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Ruff**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Temminck's Stint**, **Little Stint**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Common Redshank**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Wood Sandpiper** and a single **Spotted Redshank**. A passing **Western Marsh Harrier** caused some disturbance and above the ponds a small flock of **Forbes Watson's Swifts** was observed.

We certainly would have liked to stay some time longer in the area but we had to leave after we paid the guard some money.

Night: Daar Al Maqam Suites Apartment, Salalah.

#### **Day 10: November 5**

At 6 am we drove to the Ayn Tobruc/Ayn Athun area. First we birded the junction to either Ayn Tobruc and Ayn Athun. The camel drinking place at this junction is supposed to be visited from time to time by **Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeaks**. We did not see the grosbeak but observed a pair of **Namaqua Doves** and had great views of **Arabian Warbler**.



**Namaqua Dove – *Oena capensis***





**Arabian Warbler** – *Sylvia leucomelaena*

We then visited Ayn Tobruc and later Ayn Athun. Both are very nice wadis but these did not yield anything special for us.



Ayn Tobruc

At 11 am we left for another visit to Ayn Razat and this time we had excellent views of an **Arabian Eagle Owl** in his favourite roosting tree.



**Arabian Eagle Owl** – *Bubo milesi*



Drove back to our apartment in Salalah and did some shopping in Lulu's supermarket. After lunch in our apartment we drove straight to Al Mughsayl wadi where we arrived at 3.30 pm. We started to bird the open wadi just next to the road. We observed some heron species including a couple of **Purple Herons** and a few **Gull-billed Terns**.

At 4.30 pm we continued into the wadi and drove slowly to the end of the road where we were hoping to observe **Desert Owl**, a target species for two of us.



Wadi Al Mughsayl

During the drive we observed **Arabian Partridge**, **Sand Partridge**, **Isabelline Wheatear**, **Arabian Wheatear** and **Desert Wheatear**.



**Sand Partridge** – *Ammoperdix heyi*



**Arabian Partridge** – *Alectoris melanocephala*

Just before dusk we arrived at the cliff face at the end of the dirt road. During our wait we heard several times gun shots from further into the wadi. Later during the night two 4x4 vehicles came out of the area, probably locals, who practised their shooting skills in the mountain. But they just waved friendly at us. Meanwhile we decided to take position closer to the cliff face and when we briefly played the call of

**Desert Owl** we got an immediate response from high up the cliff face. Too far for our spotlights.

We waited and suddenly the bird called closer and when we scanned the hill with our spotlights we found the bird and put it in the scope. Mission accomplished. For me the second time I observed the species after finding it in the Sinai, Egypt in 2005.

When we walked back to our vehicle another **Desert Owl** called from the cliff just above our car!

And this bird was also found and scoped in the spotlight.

Satisfied we drove out of the wadi and back to Salalah.

Night: Daar Al Maqam Suites Apartment, Salalah.

#### **Day 10: November 6**

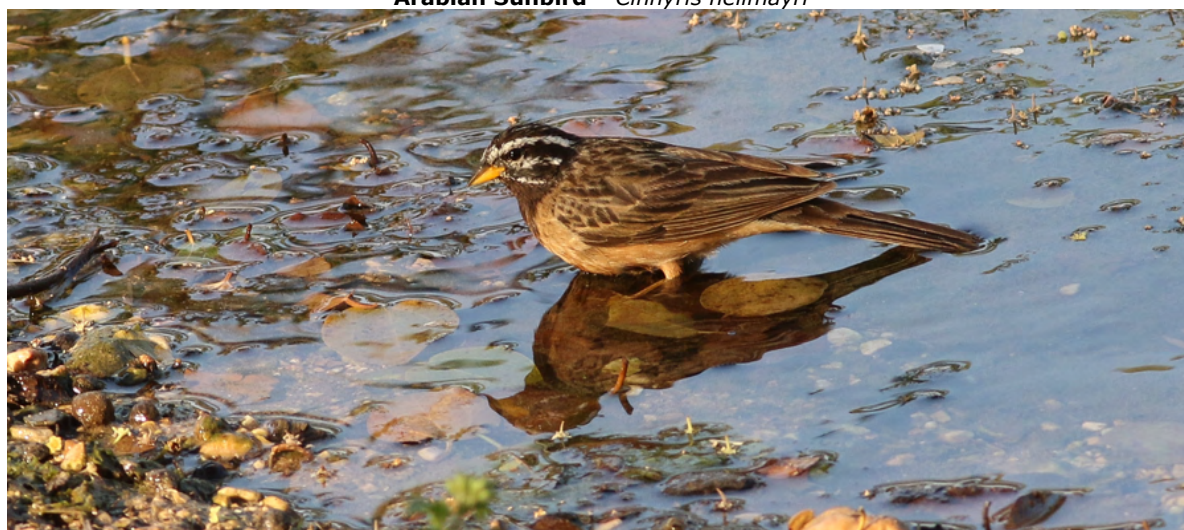
In the morning we drove to Wadi Hamran. On our way we checked the Balid Archeological site to try to observe **Spotted Thick-knee** from outside of the fence. The site is open only for the public from 3 am, so if you want to try for this species earlier in the day, you have to scan from outside. Most birders have no problems observing the bird at this site but we dipped. Luckily we had all seen the species at other sites but still....

We birded Wadi Hamran from 7 to 9 am.

Species seen included **Bruce's Green Pigeon, Green Sandpiper, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Graceful Prinia, African Paradise Flycatcher, Arabian Sunbird, Abyssinian White-eye, Chiffchaff, Desert Whitethroat, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**



**Arabian Sunbird** – *Cinnyris hellmayri*



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



At 9. am we continued to Khawr Taqah where we birded untill 11 am. **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, a fine jimm. **Greater Spotted Eagle** and two **Steppe Eagles** were seen. An perched **Osprey** was nice and other species encountered were **Pacific Golden Plover**, **Daurian Shrike**, **Clamorous Reed Warbler** and **Common Reed Warbler**.

Then we made a mistake. We should have travelled to the view point Jabal Samhan from Taqah but we thought we would have better light conditions at the site in the late afternoon so we drove back to Salalah to do some shopping and to have lunch.

At 2.30 pm. we briefly checked the Balid Archeological site for a second time from outside the fence without result before we drove to the viewpoint.

We arrived at the viewpoint at 4 pm., only to found the area completely covered in fog.

So back to Salalah and this time we entered the Balid Archeological site itself and walked the area inside the fence to try for the **Spotted Thick-knee**. But we failed again to find the species. Later we found out that some birders saw the Thick-knee only 30 minutes before we tried. What did we do wrong!

At dusk we entered the museum and spent a full hour in this very interesting museum.

We drove back to Salalah and in the evening we discussed our options for the remaining days.

Only two targets were left for us: The **Omani Owl** for all of us and **Pallid Scops Owl** for one of us.

Originally we had planned another day in the Salalah area and then travel back to Muscat via Barr al Hikman.

But as our targets were in the north we decided to leave the Salalah area one day earlier and try again for the two species in the north.

Night: Daar Al Maqam Suites Appartment, Salalah.

### **Day 11: November 7**

We left Salalah at 6 am and drove straight to the Thumrait dump site where we spent two hours.

Many **Steppe Eagles**, a single **Greater Spotted Eagle**, a single **Eastern Imperial Eagle** and an interesting **Black Kite** with some characteristics of **Black-eared Kite**.



**Steppe Eagle** – *Aquila nipalensis*

After this visit we drove straight to Nizwa with a lunch stop at Al-Ghaftayn.

We arrived at Nizwa and booked two appartments for two nights at Karami Appartment hotel where we also stayed at the start of our trip.

After a nice dinner at the restaurant next door we spent from 9 pm untill 1.30 am the next day at Wadi Muayadin.

In the course of the evening we met Nick Bray and his group of Zoothera Birding. Nick told us that they had heard the Omani Owl at a wadi, close to Nakhl but no views.

But we did not hear anything this evening and night at wadi Muayadin.

Disappointed we left for our accommodation.

Night: Karami Appartment, Nizwa.



### **Day 12: November 8**

We took it easy this morning. After a lie-in and a late breakfast we left our apartment at 9 am. After some discussion we decided to do some casual birding in Wadi Ghul and along the way to Jabal Shams. At Wadi Ghul we had lunch in the field.

We did not add anything new to our list but we had nice views of a pair of **Egyptian Vultures** and several **Plain Leaf Warblers**.



Wadi Ghul

In the evening we had an early dinner and after dinner we drove for the last time to Wadi Muayadin. And again we took position at our by now well known site.

And suddenly at around 8 pm. we heard very clearly the advertising call of a male **Omani Owl** from the opposite slope. Adrenalin was running but the bird stopped calling.

Some time later we met Dutch birder Eduard Sangster and a group of Danish birders. They tried several sites in the wadi and left the wadi after an hour or so without any trace of the owl.

We decided to stay but at 11 pm we had to admit defeat. We had to be satisfied with the fact that at least we had heard the species.

Night: Karami Apartment, Nizwa.

### **Day 13: November 9**

Our last day in the field in Oman.

At 9 am we left Nizwa and decided to pay a repeat visit to the wadi close to the village of Wakan in the Ghubrah Bowl area.

Our main target was **Pallid Scops Owl** which was the final target species of one of us. We noticed on [www.observado.org](http://www.observado.org) that a few days earlier some birders had seen the owl at his daytime roost in the wadi we also visited on Oktober 29.

We arrived at the wadi at 11.30 and birded in the wadi until 2 pm but we failed to find the **Pallid Scops Owl**. A pair of **Desert Larks** and a few **Plain Leaf warblers** were observed.

In the afternoon we continued to Muscat and drove to our accommodation. We packed our stuff, chilled and slept a bit in our room. In the evening we had a nice final dinner in Oman.

We dropped the car at the airport at 0.30 the next day.

The people of the hire company discovered some damage to the bumper of the car and we had to pay 120 OR for this damage.

When we returned home, Sunny Cars refunded that amount to us.

**Day 14: November 9**

At 5 am we flew from Muscat to Abu Dhabi with Etihad. After a three-hour stopover we flew from Abu Dhabi to Amsterdam where we arrived at 2 pm.

**Henk Hendriks**

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Ghubrah Bowl area.



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



**SYSTEMATIC IST OF OBSERVATIONS**  
**Taxonomy of this list follows 2022 IOC World Bird List**

1. **Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*  
6 Raysut sewage works. .
2. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
4 Raysut sewage works.
3. **Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*  
10 Raysut sewage works.
4. **Common Teal** *Anas crecca*  
30 Raysut sewage works.
5. **Sand Partridge** *Ammoperdix heyi*  
28-10: six birds around our airport hotel, Muscat.  
05-11: 20+ at Wadi Mughshah.
6. **Arabian Partridge** *Alectoris melanocephala*  
03-11: Heard at Camel drinking place and a pair with pulli at Tawi Atayir.  
05-11: Two pairs with pulli at Wadi Al Mughshah.  
06-11: Single birds along the road between Sink hole Tawi Atayir and Jabal Shams viewpoint.
7. **Grey Francolin** *Ortygornis pondicerianus*  
28-10: 10 around our hotel in Muscat in the morning.  
29-10: Heard at wadi west of Al Awabi.
8. **European Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*  
28-10: Heard in the evening at wadi west of Nakhl.
9. **Forbes-Watson's Swift** *Apus berliozi*  
02-11: 30+ at the cliffs near Taqah.  
04-11: 10\_ at Raysut sewage works.
10. **Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*  
03-11: One at Camel drinking place.
11. **Spotted Sandgrouse** *Pterocles senegallus*  
31-10: Heard at Muntasar Oasis.  
01-11: Four seen at Muntasar Oasis.
12. **Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*  
Observed
13. **Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*  
Observed.
14. **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*  
Observed.
15. **African Collared Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea*  
01-11: Six at Mudhayy Oasis.
16. **Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*  
05-11: A pair at the junction to Ayn Tobruc and Ayn Athun.  
07-11: A male near Wadi Ghul.
17. **Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*  
Observed Wadi Darbat, Ayn Hamra and Ayn Tobruc.
18. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*  
01-11: A single bird at Mudhayy  
06-11: Four at khawr Taqah.
19. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
04-11: Eight birds at Raysut sewage works.
20. **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*  
04-11: 20+ at Raysut sewage works.
21. **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*  
Common along the coast near Barka.  
Common wetland areas around Salalah.
22. **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis pacificus*  
04-11: A few at an agriculture field of a farm near Salalah.  
06-11: 50+ at Khawr Taqah.
23. **Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*  
Observed at coastal area near Barka.
24. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*.  
28-10: A single bird near Barka.  
04-11: A single bird Raysut sewage works.

- 25. Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
06-11: A single bird at Khawr Taqah.
- 26. Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*  
28-10: Two near Barka.
- 27. Spur-winged Plover** *Vanellus spinosus*  
04-11: Two birds at Raysut sewage works
- 28. Red-wattled Plover** *Vanellus indicus*  
04-11: Four birds at Raysut sewage works.
- 29. Sociable Plover** *Vanellus gregarius*  
03-11: Four birds on agriculture fields of a farm near Salalah.
- 30. Pin-tailed Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*  
30-10 and 01-11: A single bird at Muntasar Oasis.
- 31. Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*  
04-11: Two at Raysut sewage works.
- 32. Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*  
06-11: A single bird at Khawr Taqah.
- 33. Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata orientalis*  
28-10: A single bird near Barka.  
04-11: Two at Raysut sewage works.
- 34. Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*  
04-11: A single bird at Raysut sewage works.
- 35. Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*  
04-11: Two at Raysut sewage works.  
06-11: A single bird at Khawr Taqah.
- 36. Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*  
04-11: Four at Raysut sewage works.
- 37. Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*  
06-11: 100 at Khawr Taqah.
- 38. Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*  
Regularly observed in the wadis around Salalah.
- 39. Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*  
04-11: Two at Raysut sewage works.
- 40. Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Observed.
- 41. Sanderling** *Calidris alba*  
06-11: A single bird on the beach near Taqah.
- 42. Little Stint** *Calidris Minuta*  
31-10/01-11: A single bird at Muntasar Oasis.  
04-11: 10+ at Raysut sewage works.
- 43. Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*  
31-10/01-11: two birds at Muntasar Oasis.  
04-11: 20 at Raysat sewage works.
- 44. Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*  
04-11: Two at Raysat sewage works.
- 45. Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*  
04-11: A single bird at Raysat sewage works.
- 46. Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*  
04-11: Four at Raysut sewage works.
- 47. Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*  
04-11: 50+ Mirbat pelagic.
- 48. Sooty Gull** *Larus hemprichii*  
Observed.
- 49. Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*  
02-11: A few identified at Taqah beach.
- 50. Steppe Gull** *Larus barabensis*  
Observed
- 51. Heuglin's Gull** *Larus heuglinii*  
Observed.
- 52. Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei*  
04-11: Four birds Mirbat.  
06-11: Four near Salalah.



- 53. Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*  
05-11: Two birds at the start of wadi Mughsaahl.
- 54. Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis*  
28-10: 10 at Ras as Sawadi.
- 55. Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*  
28-10: 40+ at Ras as Sawadi.  
06-11: Common along the beach Khawr Taqah.
- 56. Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*  
06-11: 10 along the beach at Khawr Taqah.
- 57. Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*.  
04-11: Observed along the coast near Mirbat.
- 58. Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*  
04-11: Several small flocks during the Mirbat pelagic and near Mirbat harbour.
- 59. Saunderson's Tern** *Sternula saundersi*  
04-11: One probably in winter plumage among the Little Terns, Mirbat pelagic.  
Our pictures of the bird were unfortunately not good enough for a positive id.
- 60. Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus*  
04-11: Observed during the Mirbat pelagic.
- 61. Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*  
Regularly observed in wetland areas around Salalah.
- 62. Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus*  
04-11: A single bird observed during the Mirbat pelagic.
- 63. Jouanin's Petrel** *Bulweria fallax*.  
04-11: 50+ during the Mirbat pelagic.
- 64. Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Ardenna carneipes*  
04-11: Two birds observed during the Mirbat pelagic.
- 65. Persian Shearwater** *Puffinus persicus*  
04-11: 30+ during the Mirbat pelagic.
- 66. Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii*  
04-11: 100+ at Raysut sewage works and dump area.  
06-11: 100+ near Taqah.
- 67. European White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*  
04-11: 20 Raysut sewage works.
- 68. Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*  
04-11: Four during the Mirbat pelagic.
- 69. Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*  
28-10: A single bird at Ras as Sawadi.  
04-11: A single bird during the Mirbat pelagic.
- 70. Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
28-10: 10+ at Ras as Sawadi.
- 71. Socotra Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*  
28-10: Two at Ras as Sawadi.
- 72. Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*  
04-11: 10+ at Raysut sewage works.
- 73. Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*  
28-10: Two at coastal wetland near Barka.  
06-11: Two at Khawr Taqah.
- 74. Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*  
Observed in wetland areas around Salalah.
- 75. Western Reef-Egret** *Egretta gularis*  
28-10: Six at Ras as Sawadi.  
Regularly observed at coastal sites, Salalah area.
- 76. Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*  
Observed on eight dates.
- 77. Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*  
05-11: Two at the start of Wadi Al Mughsayl.  
06-11: Two at Khawr Taqah.
- 78. Great Egret** *Ardea alba*  
Observed in small numbers.
- 79. Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*  
Observed.

- 80. Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*  
02-11: A single bird at Wadi Darbat.
- 81. Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*  
02-11: Two at Wadi Darbat.
- 82. Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*  
04-11: A single bird in the Mirbat harbour.
- 83. Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
04-11: Three birds in the Mirbat harbour.
- 84. Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
28-10: A single bird at Ras as Sawadi.  
02-11: A single bird on the cliffs near Taqah.
- 85. Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*  
07-11: A single bird at Thumrait Dump site which appeared to be different than an "ordinary" Black Kite.  
Apparently some intergrade birds with characteristics of **Black-eared Kite** *Milvus lineatus* are regularly observed in the Dhofar region.
- 86. Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*  
30-10: A single bird near Nizwa, Wadi Muayadin.  
07-11: Two near Wadi Ghul
- 87. Western Marsh-Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*  
31-10: A single bird at Muntasar Oasis.  
04-11: A single bird Raysut sewage works.  
06-11: Two at khawr Taqah.
- 88. Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*  
01-11: A gorgeous male at Muntasar Oasis.
- 89. Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*  
01-11: Accipiter at Muntasar Oasis was probably this species.
- 90. Shikra** *Accipiter badius*  
03-11: A juvenile bird at Ayn Razat.
- 91. Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus*  
02-11: One at Wadi Darbat.
- 92. Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*  
03-11: One along the road to Tawi Atayir  
06-11: A beautiful juvenile bird at khawr Taqah.  
07-11: A single bird at Thumrait Dump.
- 93. Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*  
Observed on four dates in the south, Salalah area.  
07-11: 30+ at Thumrait Dump.
- 94. Eastern Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*  
29-10: A fine adult bird showed nicely at Al Awabi.  
06-11: A juvenile bird at khawr Taqah.  
07-11: An imm. Bird at Thumrait Dump.
- 95. Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciata*  
03-11: Astonishing views of a single bird at the sink hole, Tawi Atayir.
- 96. Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*  
31-10: A pair showed nicely at Qitbit Motel in the evening.
- 97. Pallid Scops-Owl** *Otus brucei*  
30-10: Heard at Wadi Muayadin.
- 98. Arabian Scops-Owl** *Otus pamela*  
02-11: Commonly heard at Wadi Darbat and two birds seen in the spotlight.
- 99. Arabian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo milesi*  
02-11: Twice a bird heard at Wadi Darbat but no views.  
03-11: A single bird seen at dusk at Ayn Razat.  
05-11: Excellent views of one in broad daylight at a day-time roost in Ayn Razat.
- 100. Omani Owl** *Strix butleri*  
08-11: Heard at Wadi Muayadin.
- 101. Desert Owl** *Strix hadorami*  
05-11: Two different birds heard and seen at Wadi Al Mughsahl
- 102. Little Owl** *Athene noctua*  
30/31-10: Heard at Wadi Muayadin.



103. **Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*  
 29-10: Heard Al Awabi area.  
 03-11: Three birds at Tawi Atayir.  
 04-11: Two birds Ayn Razat.
104. **Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*  
 Daily observed in the north.
105. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*  
 30-10: Two at Wadi Muayadin.  
 01-11: One at Mudhayy Oasis.  
 05-11: One at Ayn Tobruc.
106. **Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*.  
 Observed on two dates at Ayn Razat.  
 06-11: A single bird at Ayn Hamran.
107. **European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*  
 28-10: Two/three birds at Ras as Sawadi.
108. **Arabian Green Bee-eater** *Merops cyanophrys*  
 Observed on six dates
109. **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus*  
 31-10: 10 + Muntasar Oasis  
 01-11: 30 at Mudhayy Oasis.
110. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*  
 Observed on five dates.
111. **Sooty Falcon** *Falco concolor*  
 28-10: A single bird at Ras as Sawadi.
112. **Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegallus percivali*  
 03-11: A pair showed fine at the Camel Drinking place.  
 Note: Some authors split this as **Arabian Tchagra** *Tchagra percivali*
113. **Isabelline (Daurian) Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*  
 06-11: Two at khawr Taqah.
114. **Red-tailed (Turkestan) Shrike** *Lanius phoenicuroides*  
 31-10: One at Muntasar Oasis.
115. **Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*  
 29-10: One at wadi Al Awabi.  
 03-11: Heard at Camel Drinking place.
116. **African Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*  
 A total of seven on four dates in the wadi's near Salalah.
117. **House Crow** *Corvus splendens*  
 Observed in the north.
118. **Brown-necked Raven** *Corvus ruficollis*  
 Observed.
119. **Fan-tailed Raven** *Corvus rhipidurus*  
 Observed on five dates.
120. **Singing Bushlark** *Mirafra cantillans*.  
 03-11: A single bird at Tawi Atayir.
121. **Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps*  
 28-10: A female near Barka.  
 01-11: Two near Thumrait in flight.  
 07-11: A male in the same area.
122. **Desert Lark** *Ammomanes deserti*  
 09-11: A pair at the wadi just before the village of Wakan.
123. **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*  
 Observed.
124. **White-spectacled Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*  
 Observed.
125. **White-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucotis*  
 Observed in the north.
126. **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*.  
 02-11: Two at the cliffs, Taqah.
127. **Pale Crag-Martin** *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*  
 Observed.

128. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
 01-11: A single bird at Muntasar Oasis.  
 04-11: 40+ at Raysut sewage works.
129. **Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*  
 28-10: Two at Al Awabi.  
 30-11: Heard at Wadi Muayadin.  
 31-11: One at Muntasar Oasis.
130. **Plain Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus neglectus*  
 29-10: Two at wadi near Wakan village, Ghubrah Bowl area.  
 30-10: Two at Wadi Muayadin.  
 08-11: Three at Wadi Ghul.  
 09-11: Two at wadi near Wakan village, Ghubrah Bowl area.
131. **Common Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
 06-11: A single bird at khawr Taqah.
132. **Clamorous Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*  
 06-11: Heard at two sites. Kwhar Taqah.
133. **Delicate Prinia** *Prinia lepida*  
 28-10: A single bird near Nakhl.  
 30-10: Two in the scrub next to our hotel, Nizwa.
134. **Graceful Prinia** *Prinia gracilis*  
 Common at the sites around Salalah in the south.
135. **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*  
 06-11: One at Ain Hamran.
136. **Desert Whitethroat** *Sylvia minula*  
 Observed.
137. **Arabian Warbler** *Sylvia leucomelaena*  
 05-11: Excellent views of a pair at the junction to Ayn Tobruc/Ayn Athun.
138. **Abyssinian White-eye** *Zosterops abyssinicus*  
 Common in the wadi's in the south.
139. **Tristram's Starling** *Onychognathus tristamii*  
 Observed.
140. **Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*  
 Observed.
141. **Common Rock-Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*  
 28-10: A female in the wadi just west of Nakhl.
142. **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*  
 One present in the area around Qitbit Motel.
143. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*  
 31-10/01-11: One present at Muntasar Oasis
144. **Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*  
 30-10: One at Wadi Muayadin.  
 31-10: One behind Ghaftain petrol station.  
 01-11: One at Muntasar Oasis.
145. **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros semirufus*  
 04-11: A single bird at Ayn Razat.  
 05-11: A single at Ayn Athun.
146. **Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*  
 31-10: two/three birds at Muntasar Oasis.  
 01-11: A single bird at Muntasar Oasis.
147. **Hume's Wheatear** *Oenanthe albonigra*  
 28-10: A single bird near Nakhl.  
 29-10: Three birds in wadi near Al Awabi.
148. **Arabian Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugentoides*  
 02-11: Two near Taqah.  
 05-11: Three at Wadi Al Mughsahl.  
 06-11: One khawr Taqah.
149. **Red-tailed Wheatear** *Oenanthe chrysopygia*  
 29-10: Three birds in wadi near Al Awabi.
150. **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*  
 Observed on four dates.



- 151. Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellinus*  
 03-11: Two at Tawa Atayir.  
 04-11: One near Ayn Razat and two near Raysut sewage works.  
 07-11: One near Thumrait dump.
- 152. Blackstart** *Oenanthe melaneura*  
 01-11: Two at Mudhayy were the first observations.  
 Daily observed in suitable habitat in the Salalah area.
- 153. Nile Valley Sunbird** *Hedydipna metallica*  
 01-11: Three at Mudhayy. All in non-breeding plumage.
- 154. Palestine Sunbird** *Cinnyris osea*  
 03-11: A male near the Camel drinking place.  
 03-11: A male at Ayn Razat.
- 155. Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus*.  
 Observed in the north.
- 156. Arabian Sunbird** *Cinnyris hellmayri*  
 Observed in the south.
- 157. House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
 Observed.
- 158. Rueppell's Weaver** *Ploceus galbula*  
 Observed in the south.
- 159. African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*  
 Observed in the south.
- 160. Indian Silverbill** *Euodice malabarica*  
 Observed in the north.
- 161. White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*  
 Observed on five dates.
- 162. Masked Wagtail** *Motacilla personata*  
 30-10: One behind petrol station Ghaftain.
- 163. Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava spec.*  
 06-11: One calling in flight, Raysut sewage works.
- 164. Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*  
 30-10: Two along stream at Wadi Muayadin.  
 Observed regularly along water in the wadi's in the Salalah area.
- 165. Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*  
 28-10: One near Barka.  
 01-11: Two different birds in the Muntasar area.  
 06-11: One at khawr Taqah.
- 166. Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis*  
 29-10: One in wadi near Al Awabi.
- 167. Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*  
 30-10/01-11: One at Muntasar Oasis.  
 02-11: Four at Wadi Darbat.  
 03-11: Two at Tawi Atayir.
- 168. Yemen Serin** *Crithaga menachensis*  
 03-11: Three at Tawi Atayir.
- 169. Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak** *Rhynchostruthus percivali*  
 03-11: A single bird at the camel drinking place.
- 170. Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*  
 Daily observed in the south
- 171. Striolated Bunting** *Emberiza striolata*  
 02-11: A single bird at Wadi Darbat. (W.P. only)

**SYSTEMATIC IST OF OBSERVED DRAGONFLIES**

**English name**

**(Dutch name)**

**Scientifique name**



**African Bluetail** (Senegalees Lantaarntje) – *Ischnura senegalensis*



**Black-tailed Bluet** *Azuragrion nigradorsum*



**Elegant/Three-striped Blue Dart** *Pseudagrion decorum*





**Common Orange** *Ceragrion glabrum*



**Blue Emperor** (Grote Keizerlibel) – *Anax imperator*



**Vagrant Emperor** (Zadellibel) – *Anax ephippiger*



**Bladetail** (Vaandeldrager) – *Lindenia tetraphylla*



**Epaulet Skimmer** (Epaulet Oeverlibel) – *Orthetrum chrysostigma*



**Slender Skimmer** (Slanke Oeverlibel) – *Orthetrum sabina*



**Eastern Blacktail** *Nesiothernis farinosa*



**Broad Scarlet** (Vuurlibel ) – *Crocothemis erythraea*





**Violet Dropwing** (Purperlidel) – *Trithemis annulata*



**Red-veined Darter** (Rode Zonnewijzer) – *Trithemis arteriosa*



**Orange-winged Dropwing** (Oranje Zonnewijzer) – *Trithemis kirbyi*



**Black Percher** (Moriaantje) – *Diplacodes lefebvrii*



**Wandering Glider** (Wereldzwerver) – *Plantala flavescens*



**Phantom Flutterer** (Vlinderlibel) – *Rhyothemis semihyalina*



**Ringed Cascader** (Watervallibel) – *Zygonyx torridus*



**Coastal Glider** – *Macrodiplax cora*



**SYSTEMATIC IST OF OBSERVED BUTTERFLIES**

**English name**

Dutch name

scientifique name



**Lime Swallowtail** (Limoenvlinder) – *Papilio demoleus*



**Citrus Swallowtail** – *Papilio demodocus*



**African Migrant** (Gele Trekvlinder) – *Catopsilia florella*





**Desert White** – *Pontia glauconome*



**Zebra White** – *Pinacopteryx eripha*



**Small Salmon Arab** – *Colotis calais*



**Plain Orange Tip** – *Colotis aurora*





**Desert Orange Tip** (Woestijn Oranjetipje) – *Colotis liagore*



**Pioneer White** – *Belenois aurota*



**Blue Pansy** – *Junonia orithya*



**Yellow Pansy** – *Junonia hierta*





**One-pip Policeman** – *Coeliades anchises*



**Common Fig-tree Blue** – *Myrina silenus*



**African Ringlet** (Dubbeloog) – *Ypthima asterope*



**Mediterranean Tiger Blue** (Groot Christusdoornblauwtje) - *Tarucus rosacea*





**Little Tiger Blue** (Klein Christusdoornblauwtje) – *Tarucus balkanicus*



**African Babul Blue** (Groot Acaciablauwtje) – *Azanus jesous*



**Grass Jewel** (Heliotroopblauwtje) – *Freyeria trochilus*





**African Grass Blue** (Amethystblauwtje) – *Zizeeria knysna*



**Osiris Smoky Blue/African Cupid** – *Euchrysops osiris*



**Plain Tiger Butterfly** (Kleine Monarchvlinder) – *Danaus chrysippus*

