

Oman

9th-18th December 2021

including Jaluni Oryx Station/Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve



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Introduction

Oman had been on our wish list for many years. Therefore, with a sudden opportunity to leave the Danish winter, we booked flights and started the planning of a short but intense trip to Oman. Despite having only 9 days we decided to try to cover most of Oman but especially the north was a bit cramped. One of the disadvantages of this particular trip was that the newest reports were from 2019 (except one that came out in Dec 2021).

In short Oman is a very easy country to travel around, the Omanis are often very helpful, food is great, and roads are fine. The target birds however, proved sometimes to be rather tricky while other regional endemics very plentiful and easy to see.

We used Birds of Oman (Jens Eriksen & Richard Porter) and Birdwatching in Oman (Jens Eriksen) with the 2019 update as print-out ([Update to Birdwatching guide to Oman \(birdsoman.com\)](https://www.birdsoman.com/)).

Few bird reports were particular helpful with GPS coordinates:

https://www.cloudbirders.com/be/download?filename=DEVRIES_Oman_11_2018.pdf

https://www.cloudbirders.com/be/download?filename=FREELAND_Oman_12_2017.pdf

Timing and planning

Our timing was not really a discussion point as it had to be in 2021 (due to unused vacation) and we needed target birds like the Hypocolius to have arrived. We ended up skipping a pelagic trip due to the time of the year and we did not manage to see Persian Shearwater from the coast, but we did not try too hard. Maybe birds are slightly easier seen other months, but we dipped on a few birds we had expected (see below). Furthermore, the fairly short time we had didn't allow for re-visiting some of the sites.

We drove straight from Muscat to the Hajar mountains, then headed east to Shannah/Filim and then a long drive to Shalim close to the southern coast and Ash Shuwaymiyyah. We kept a flexible schedule with no hotels booked and planned not to leave the Salalah area before we had done serious attempts to see the target birds there. We were 3 nights in the Salalah area in total and that seemed to be enough but of course chances of seeing some of the missed birds would have been higher with a day or two more. For Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak we needed 3 attempts (3 mornings) to find and had we seen it the first or second morning then we would not have needed the 3rd night. However, that bird is certainly not a bird you are guaranteed to just drive up and see. Also, we could have spent more time looking for owls. We kind of accepted them as heard species. The area around Salalah holds so many good spots so if you have the days, we recommend staying longer than we did.

The areas within Salalah (farm, dumb) did not give us any important birds. Also, we skipped Wadi Mugh sail as we had already heard Desert Owl and we wanted to get to Mudayy with a bit of daylight left. However, we did see one Brown Booby while having lunch at the beach restaurant in Mugh sail. Fantastic to see a beach so beautiful being completely untouched for so many kilometres.

We decided to stay overnight in Mudayy, and we had gasoline, lunch and coffee in Thumrait after visiting Thumrait Landfill en route. The shortest way from Mugh sail to Mudayy (some dirt road) was not recommended by a biologist at the Raysut Dump. Mudayy was as hotel-less as expected. Also, there is no gasoline station. We found a remote place to park the car just 100m south from the oasis to spend the night in the car.

Next morning, we started the long drive to the Jaluni Oryx Station (more often referred to as Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve) situated in the Al Wusta region between Haima and El Duqm. We had investigated this place before going to Oman and had kept it as an option if we could leave the Salalah area earlier than expected. As the (very) optimistic birders we are we had a very faint hope so see or learn more about the MacQueen Bustard. Also, since we left the Salalah area without having seen one single species of sandgrouse, we kept this place a last but good chance.

The Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve itself is managed from Muscat and we got the required permit from a person named Sultan Sulieman (smsalbalushi@diwan.gov.om). His mail served as the permit but there were some discussions and phone calls made to green light our visit. The drive there is less cumbersome as it might sound. From Haima drive around 60 km towards El Duqm and follow the new road with clear signs to the left. The reception which closes at 4pm is still 10 km from the Reserve and you will be met there and taken to the station. The area is not rich in birds and the rangers claimed they had not seen a bustard for 2-3 years, but the plains just outside the station holds large flocks of sandgrouses.

Next day we drove the last long drive, now to the city Nakhl north of the Hajar mountains to try a last time for the Scrub Warbler at Wadi Hadik.

Accommodation and food

If you do not plan for a camping trip, then you need to be a bit cautious about hotels. There are no problems in the Hajar Mountains and Salalah. Booking.com has very few hotels outside Salalah and Muscat and if you see a hotel on Google maps and hope to find a nice little hotel there you will almost certainly get disappointed as they are often not there.

For visiting Ash Shuwaymiyyah, we recommend staying in Shalim (2 hotels) which is a 30 minutes' drive from the wadi.

Taqah (city east of Salalah perfectly placed for most of the good sites) had not a single hotel. We drove to the city centre, got some locals activated and after some discussion fourth and back (English is not easily used here) a person was contacted, and we ended staying two nights at a very large house (named A Sahwa House) just as you enter Taqah (we paid 30 Riales for 2 nights) and we had an apartment with separate bedrooms and bathrooms. However, it was not a hotel you could just arrive to or book beforehand. It was more like a long-term rent place where we were lucky to get to stay just a few nights. It is of course also an option to stay in Salalah, but it will add to your morning driving time.

In Mudayy we chose to sleep in the car – not particular pleasant but there is absolutely no hotel and not even a room for rent and no gasoline stations either. We did not check carefully but it seemed like Thumrait was another semi large city without clearly marked hotels.

At the Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve, the standard accommodation seems to be a tented camp 5-6 km away from the station, hosted by someone who is not working at the station. We drove there in darkness, almost impossible to follow our ranger who drove fast off and on road. We quickly realised that it would be difficult if not impossible to navigate the 5-6 Km back to the station at dawn. We asked to stay at the station, also because the tents and beds did not look that comfortable. They agreed and at the station, the rooms were great, and the price was the same (30 rials + 10 rials for dinner/breakfast). If you stay in Haima or Duqm it is possible to visit the reserve (10 rials per car) without staying there (especially if you cannot make the 4pm curfew), but you will need an early start.

Our last night on the trip we hoped to find a hotel in the city Nakhl (which is not a small town but much closer to Wadi Hadik than the closest Muscat/Barka hotels. Also, here we were challenged and ended staying in local house where some local coffee drinkers activated their network. However, it was a surprise how few hotels (and we just wanted a bed and a sink) there were outside Muscat and Salalah. Mirbat also have several hotels but then Salalah is a better choice.

We often brought bananas, cookies, and nuts for the early breakfast. Sometimes we had the evening restaurant to make us a few extra paratha breads. These are breads made in the pan in butter, VERY delicious and still great the morning after.

In Salalah we had dinner at the fantastic Indian Restaurant Art of Spices. Highly recommended which were our only "fine dining" experience. However even the most basic restaurant had great curries with these parathas. Often there were no menus but in Taqah the chef took us in his basic kitchen and opened the lid for all his dishes and we could choose. All dishes we had were very tasty. Some places they could make a paratha with an omelette, wrapped and to go, which was an excellent meal on the way.

Outside Muscat and Salalah, there are very few places to get coffee but then here and there you see small coffee stands (often a small stand-alone building) where coffee of the highest standard is brewed. More often the word "coffee shop" does not even guarantee you an instant coffee.

Car rental and getting around

We rented a Renault Duster 4x4 from the local company Sight Tours (31 Rials per day). It is not the most powerful 4x4, but the car was excellent for our purpose, and we drove both off road and on rather difficult stony tracks. We rented a GPS for the car, but it turned out to be an outdated TomTom model and it was literally worthless outside the large cities. Small old roads were not on and large newer roads were not on either. We used Google Maps on our phones, and we purchased a SIM card in Muscat (8 GB was more than enough) and this is by far the most recommendable option. We were refunded the GPS costs from the rental company, which was only fair.

Unless you know exactly where to go and know the road conditions, we will recommend renting a 4x4. To enter more deeply in the wadis, you need a 4x4 and you will not only save some walking, also many birds don't fly away if you approach them in the car vs walking towards them. However, most places can of course be reached in a 2WD and they are considerable cheaper and the km per litre of gasoline was rather low for the Duster. Regarding gasoline – when your tank is half or below, fill it up if when you get the chance. We underestimated the mileage a few times and drove on the spare tank for 30-40 km once, this can be rather stressful.

A bit about the birds we did not see

Scrub warbler: This was a bird we actually planned for and spent several hours looking for. It is a tricky bird, and we were sure we looked at the right habitat and we were fully aware of their voice. However, we did not encounter this bird anywhere in the Hajar mountains. We see in other reports that this is a bird that a fair number of birders miss.

Arabian Babbler: We did not plan for this bird. We might have put in the category of gregarious Indian Babblers you tend to see many places when visiting that area. We learned that it is more of a hit or miss bird and reliable places are few, but they are not rare sightings of course. We did not spend time in the west of Muscat but have hoped to see it some of the other northern places we went.

Sandgrouses: We guess most birders dream to tick off all 4 species of sandgrouse found in Oman. We see in other reports that is rarely happens. 1 to 3 of the 4 species is normal. We did visit all the places where sandgrouses were reported to be coming for a morning or evening drink, but we did not see a single sandgrouse in southern Oman. We could have been just unlucky and with more days in the area, we could of course have increased our chances, but in the end Al Wusta Nature Reserve saved that page in the book. Liechtenstein Sandgrouse are also to be found in Al Wusta, but we were happy with our 3 species.

Itinerary

9-Dec. Arrival Muscat 07:30am

Pick-up car at Sight Tours near airport (met by person in airport). Birding near the office. Birds: Delicate Prinia, Arabian Green Bee-eater. Drive to Birkat Al Mouz with a stop along the way. Late afternoon/evening Wadi Muaydin (first Desert Whitethroat). We stayed at the very stylish hotel, Al Sabah Heritage Inn.

10-Dec. Sayq plateau and drive to Shannah

Sayq plateau morning (Hume's Wheatear). Breakfast until 12am at hotel. Afternoon drive to Shannah Port. Stayed at only hotel in Shannah (very basic and the most expensive we stayed at).

11-Dec Shannah, Filim and drive to Shalim

Morning was spent at the beach and lagoon around Shannah. Then drive to Filim where we eventually saw the only Crab-plovers on the trip. Then a long drive to Shalim just north of Ash Shuwaymiyyah. Few quick and rather unproductive stops on the way.

12-Dec. Ash Shuwaymiyyah

Early start for Desert Owl (heard only) and on the way through the wadi our torches caught a rock climbing Arabian Wild Cat. Afternoon drive to Wadi Darbat. Night in Taqah (A Sahwa House)

13-Dec Salalah area

Morning Ain Tobruq intersection (Grosbeak 1st attempt)
East Khawr
Tawi Attair
Jabal Samhan (Verreaux's eagle 1st attempt)
Night in Taqah

14-Dec Salalah area

Morning in Ayn Kheesh (Grosbeak 2nd attempt)
Ayn Hamran
Sahnawt Farm (midday)
Al Baleed Archaeological site (Spotted Thick-knee)
Jabal Samhan (Verreaux's eagle 2nd attempt)
Night in Salalah (Beach Resort Salalah)

15-Dec: Salalah, Mughsayl and Mudayy

Morning in Ayn Hamran and Ayn Kheesh (Grosbeak 3rd attempt)
Plains south of Ayn Hamran
Raysut Waste Site
Mughsayl beach (not the Wadi, skipped to see the Thumrait landfill and reach Mudayy before dark)
Thumrait Landfill. Night in Mudayy

16-Dec: Mudayy drive to Al Wusta Nature Reserve

After having seen both Nile Valley Sunbird (eclipsed) and one Hypocolius we visited the camel farm on the way out for the almost guaranteed Sand Partridges.

Almost non-stop drive to Al Wusta Nature Reserve (to be reach before 4pm where the gate closes). Take road south of Haima (Haima-Duqm road), and drive appr. 60 km, then the Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve is clearly signed on the new road to the left. Another clear sign will guide you almost halfway where you take a right turn. A late afternoon drive just around the station gave our only Spotted Sandgrouse on the trip.

17-Dec: Al Wusta Nature Reserve and drive to Muscat area

Early morning checking for sandgrouses just around the station at small waterholes. Rangers claimed that they usually come to the pools between the buildings but this morning they did (of course) not come. Therefore, we drove out in the direction of the tent camp and we quickly saw huge flocks of sandgrouses (Chestnut-bellied and Crowned) flying around and landing. It was impossible to get close as there were no trees or other vegetation to hide behind, however scope views were fine.

At 10am we started another long drive, now for the final stage of the trip, a second attempt for the Scrub Warbler. We drove straight to the Wadi Hadik and had great views of Striolated buntings, Hume's Wheatear and Plain Leaf Warblers. Night in Nakhl (private as we were not able to find a hotel)

18-Dec Drive to hotel near airport. Trip finished

Early next morning, we returned to Wadi Hadik to try for the Scrub Warbler and backtracked around 5 km where the birds had been reported few days before. Despite hours of searching in what seemed to be perfect habitat we gave up and drove to a hotel near the Muscat airport. That bird ended up being trickier than we had expected. We visited a few Muscat locations (Qurum beach and Qurum Natural Park which is more an amusement park) but nothing exciting was seen.

Photos: cover photo: Arabian Green Bee-eater. Below: Blackstart.



Checklist of birds seen and heard:

1. **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*: Good numbers in Khawr Dhurf, Ash Shuwaymiah Beach and Ansab Lagoons
2. **Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*: Seen at Ash Shuwaymiah Beach
3. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*: Ansab Lagoons
4. **Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*: A few in Khawr Dhurf and Ansab Lagoons

5. **Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*: A few in Khawr Dhurf and Ansab Lagoons
6. **Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca*: A couple in Ansab Lagoon
7. **Arabian Partridge** *Alectoris melanocephala*: Enroute to Jebel Samhan Viewpoint
8. **Sand Partridge** *Ammoperdix heyi*: Good numbers at the camel farm in Mundayy
9. **Grey Francolin** *Ortygornis pondicerianus*: Several individual birds flushed in Ansab Lagoons
10. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: Ansab Lagoons
11. **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*: Shannah Port, Filim and Ansab Lagoons
12. **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*: A few birds among the many Abdim's Storks at Mirbat
13. **Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii*: Great numbers in Mirbat, while driving on the main road. Also in Raysut.
14. **White Stork** *Ciconia Ciconia*: Raysut and Thumrait Landfill
15. **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*: Muscat and Sahnawt Farm
16. **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*: Shannah Port and Khawr Dhurf
17. **Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*: A single bird in Filim
18. **Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*: Ash Shuwaymiah Beach
19. **Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*: Sahnawt Farm
20. **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*: A single roosting in Ayn Tobruq
21. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*: Common throughout
22. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*: A single flying in Wadi Darbat
23. **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*: Encountered throughout
24. **Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*: Shannah Port and Taqah Khawr
25. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*: Encountered throughout
26. **Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis*: Common along the coast
27. **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*: A single bird at Ash Shuwaymiah Beach
28. **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*: A single bird at Mughsayl beach
29. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*: Numerous at Shannah Port
30. **Socotra Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*: 500+ in a huge flock at the Ash Shuwaymiah Beach
31. **Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*: Encountered at Shannah Port and Taqah Khawr
32. **Oriental Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: A single bird flying over Taqah
33. **Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus migrans*: One at Taqah Khawr
34. **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Clanga clanga*: Sahnawt Farm and Thumrait Landfill
35. **Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis* : 100+ at Thumrait Landfill
36. **Eastern Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*: Encountered a few times in Dhofar, seen very well at Tawi Attair
37. **Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii* : A pair flying over our heads at Jebel Samhan Viewpoint
38. **Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*: One at Wadi Darbat
39. **Bonelli's Eagle** *Aquila fasciata*: Seen many times in Dhofar, e.g., Tawi Attair, Ash Shuwaymiah Beach and Ayn Hamran
40. **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*: Ayn Kheesh
41. **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*: Encountered many places
42. **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*: Taqah Khawr
43. **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*: One in Muscat
44. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*: Common throughout
45. **Barbary Falcon** *Falco pelegrinoides*: At Jebel Samhan Viewpoint
46. **Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*: A single bird in Al Baleed in Salalah was easily found
47. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*: Ash Shuwaymiah Beach
48. **Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*: Khawr Dhurf and Ansab Lagoons
49. **Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*: Common along coast
50. **Crab-plover** *Dromas ardeola*: 3 birds at Filim
51. **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus Himantopus*: Common along coast
52. **Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*: Raysut and Ansab Lagoons
53. **White-tailed Lapwing** *Vanelus leucurus*: A few birds in Sahnawt Farm
54. **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*: Numerous at Shannah Port
55. **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*: Single birds in Shannah Port
56. **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*: Few nice birds in Ash Shuwaymiah Beach
57. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*: Sahnawt Farm
58. **Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*: Sahnawt Farm
59. **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrines*: Numerous at Shannah Port
60. **Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*: Numerous at Shannah Port
61. **Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultia*: Numerous at Shannah Port and Filim
62. **Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*: Two birds in East Khawr

63. **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*: More than 30 birds in Ansab Lagoons
64. **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*: Numerous at Shannah Port
65. **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*: Encountered few times
66. **Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*: Shannah Port
67. **Common Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*: Shannah Port and Filim
68. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah
69. **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*: Shannah Port
70. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*: Encountered few times
71. **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*: Shannah Port
72. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*: Seen in many places, both along the coast and more inland
73. **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*: Shannah Port
74. **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*: Shannah Port
75. **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*: Shannah Port
76. **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*: Shannah Port
77. **Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*: One flying bird identified at Shannah Port by its obvious tail pattern
78. **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*: Shannah Port
79. **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*: Shannah Port
80. **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*: Sahnawt Farm
81. **Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor*: Plains south of Ayn Hamran
82. **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*: Shannah Port
83. **Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei*: Common at Shannah Port and seen other places
84. **Sooty Gull** *Ichthyaetus hemprichii*: Common along coast
85. **Heuglin's Gull** *Larus fuscus heuglini*: Shannah Port
86. **Steppe Gull** *Larus fuscus barabensis*: Shannah Port
87. **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*: Common along coast
88. **Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*: Encountered Throughout
89. **Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*: Shannah Port and along the coast
90. **Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis*: Shannah Port
91. **Saunders's Tern** *Sternula saundersi*: A single bird at the coast in Salalah
92. **White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*: Sahnawt Farm
93. **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus*: Big flocks at Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve
94. **Spotted Sandgrouse** *Pterocles senegallus*: A single bird at Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve
95. **Crowned Sandgrouse** *Pterocles coronatus*: Big flocks at Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve
96. **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*: Common
97. **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*: Common
98. **Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*: Common
99. **Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*: Seen at Sahnawt Farm and Mudayy Camel Farm
100. **Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*: Wadi Darbat and Tawi Attair
101. **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameria*: Few sightings in Muscat and Salalah
102. **Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*: One at Ayn Tobruq
103. **Arabian Scops Owl** *Otus pamela*: Several heard at Wadi Darbat
104. **Desert Owl** *Strix hadorami*: Heard in Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah
105. **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*: Ayn Hamran
106. **Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*: Common in north
107. **Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*: Ayn Hamran
108. **Arabian Green Bee-eater** *Merops cyanophrys*: Muscat and Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah
109. **Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*: Ayn Tobruq, Ayn Kheesh, and Ayn Hamran
110. **Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*: East Khawr
111. **Red-tailed Shrike** *Lanius phoenicuroides*: Ash Shuwaymiah Beach and Taqah Khawr
112. **Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*: Seen in Mudayy camel farm and a few other places.
113. **Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah
114. **African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*: Common Dhofar
115. **Grey Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus*: One single bird seen nicely in Mudayy oasis after one hour of searching
116. **White-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucotis*: Common in north
117. **Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*: One bird in Al Qurum NP
118. **White-spectacled Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*: Very common throughout
119. **House Crow** *Corvus splendens*: Common
120. **Brown-necked Raven** *Corvus ruficollis*: Sayq Plateau, common in the desert

121. **Fan-tailed Raven** *Corvus rhipidurus*: Jebel Samhan Viewpoint and Wadi Darbat
122. **Greater Hoopoe-Lark** *Alaemon alaudipes*: Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve and en route. Both single birds
123. **Desert Lark** *Ammomanes deserti*: Common in south
124. **Bar-tailed Lark** *Ammomanes cincture*: Mudayy camel farm
125. **Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps*: A group of birds after leaving Ayn Kheesh on way to the main road
126. **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*: Common in Dhofar
127. **Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*: Plains south of Ayn Hamran
128. **Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculate*: Wadi Yiti
129. **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*: Single birds in north
130. **Pale Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* : Common
131. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*: Encountered throughout
132. **Graceful Prinia** *Prinia gracilis*: Ayn Tobruq and other places in south
133. **Delicate Prinia** *Prinia lepida*: Muscat and Wadi Hadik
134. **Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*: Sayq Plateau among other places
135. **Plain Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus neglectus*: Sayq Plateau and Wadi Hadik
136. **Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*: Ansab Lagoons
137. **Asian Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*: A single bird in Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah
138. **Desert Whitethroat** *Sylvia minula*: Encountered throughout, mostly north
139. **Arabian Warbler** *Sylvia leucomelaena*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymia and Ayn Kheesh
140. **Abyssinian White-eye** *Zosterops abyssinicus*: Common in south, especially at Ayn Tobruq
141. **Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*: Common in towns
142. **Tristram's Starling** *Onychognathus tristramii*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah and common in Dhofar
143. **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*: Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve
144. **Common Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*: One juvenile in Ayn Hamran
145. **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*: Encountered few times
146. **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*: Common in Sayq and other places
147. **Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*: Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve
148. **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*: Common throughout
149. **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe Oenanthe*: East Khawr
150. **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*: Common in south
151. **Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*: A single bird in Muscat
152. **Blackstart** *Oenanthe melanura*: Common in south
153. **Arabian Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugentoides*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah, Jebel Samhan Viewpoint, fairly common in S
154. **Hume's Wheatear** *Oenanthe albonigra*: Sayq Plateau, Wadi Yiti and Wadi Hadik
155. **Hooded Wheatear** *Oenanthe monachal*: Sahnawt Farm
156. **Red-tailed Wheatear** *Oenanthe chrysopygia*: A single bird in Sayq Plateau
157. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah and Ayn Tobruq
158. **Nile Valley Sunbird** *Hedydipna metallica*: Few birds in Mudayy
159. **Palestine Sunbird** *Cinnyris osea*: Ayn Tobruq and Ayn Hamran
160. **Arabian Sunbird** *Cinnyris hellmayri*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah and Tawi Attair
161. **Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus*: Wadi Muaydin
162. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*: Common
163. **Rüppell's Weaver** *Ploceus galbula*: Common in south, especially at Ayn Tobruq
164. **African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*: Common in south
165. **Indian Silverbill** *Euodice malabárica*: Common in north
166. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*: Small numbers throughout the trip
167. **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*: Small numbers throughout the trip
168. **Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*: Khawr Dhurf and Sahnawt Farm
169. **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*: Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve
170. **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*: Encountered few places e.g Tawi Attair, Ayn Hamran
171. **Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis*: Ayn Hamran
172. **Yemen Serin** *Crithagra menachensis*: A distant flock in Ayn Tobruq and numerous at Tawi Attair
173. **Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak** *Rhynchostruthus percivali*: One single bird in Ayn Kheesh
174. **Striolated Bunting** *Emberiza striolata*: Wadi Ash Shuwaymiah and common in Wadi Hadik
175. **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*: Common in south