

# UAE 15-23/1 2008

## PARTICIPANTS

Trond Haugskott, Kjell Larsen, Magne Myklebust, Andreas Meyer Winnem

## ITINERARY

- 15/1 Dubai Pivot Fields.  
Most of day lost due to rain and extremely heavy traffic.
- 16/1 Green Mubazzarah; Jebel Hafeet; Neima Pools; Al Ain Compost Plant; Qarn Nazwa.  
Jebel Hafeet was covered in thick fog, no birding possible.
- 17/1 Masafi Wadi; Kalba Corniche; Khor Kalba; Qurayyah Beach.  
The tide was high at Khor Kalba, hence not much to see.
- 18/1 Dubai Pivot Fields; Qarn Nazwa; Dibba Park; Fujairah National Dairy Farm.  
Birding with local birder Tommy Pedersen.
- 19/1 Khor al-Beidah; Al Jazeera Khor; Hamraniyah Fields; Wadi Bih.  
At Khor al-Beidah we parked along E11 (off the road shoulder) and walked across the dunes to reach the wader roost. Access from the track described in the Shell guide is difficult due to security. Should be visited at high tide. Al Jazeera Khor was partly destroyed due to construction. The remaining mudflats still held some good birds. We did not walk out to the beach.
- 20/1 Jebel Hafeet; Al Wathba Camel Race Track; Al Wathba Lake; Ghantoot.
- 21/1 Khor Kalba; Al Gurfa Beach; Mushrif Park.
- 22/1 Dubai Pivot Fields; Al Warsan Lakes (Whimpey Pits); Ra's al-Khor; Mushrif Park.  
No owls were found in Mushrif Park despite trying two nights.
- 23/1 Safa Park; Emirates Golf Course; Dubai Pivot Fields; Nouakchott Street Marsh; Al Warsan Lakes (Whimpey Pits).  
Nouakchott Street Marsh was partly destroyed by construction, there was not much marsh left.

## RESOURCES

- Birds of the Middle East (Porter et al.) is the main field guide for the area.
- Collins Bird Guide (Svensson et al.) also covers many of the species encountered.
- Gulls (Malling Olsen and Larsson) is strongly recommended if you intend to try to sort out the large gulls.
- Tommy Pedersen's excellent website about birding in UAE is an invaluable tool when planning a trip (<http://www.tommypedersen.com/UAE.htm>). Here you find updated info on how to reach all important birding sites, an annotated UAE checklist, a comprehensive photo gallery, updated info on rarities, and much more.
- The Shell Birdwatching Guide (Richardson and Aspinall) is started to get a bit outdated but is still useful. Updates are found at Tommy's website.

## ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

176 positively identified category A species, 11 category C species, and 1 category E species were recorded. Categorization is based on Birds of the United Arab Emirates - annotated checklist (<http://www.tommypedersen.com/UAE.htm>). Clements' taxonomy is used.

**Little Grebe**, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Dvergdykker

Common in suitable habitat. Noted 4 days, max 40 ind 23/1. 13 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 18/1 is a high count for the site.

**Persian Shearwater**, *Puffinus lherminieri persicus*, Perserlire

3 ind off Kalba Corniche 17/1, and 10 ind off Khor Kalba and Al Gurfa Beach 21/1. The closest birds were roughly 500 m off shore.

**Great Cormorant**, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Storskarv

Common in suitable habitat. Noted 4 days, max 70 ind 22/1.

**Socotra Cormorant**, *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*, Araberskarv

1 ind N off Kalba Corniche 17/1, 1 2cy at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, and 1 ind N off Khor Kalba 21/1.

**Grey Heron**, *Ardea cinerea*, Gråhegre

Common. Noted 6 days, max 167 ind 22/1, mainly at Ra's al-Khor.

**Purple Heron**, *Ardea purpurea*, Purpurhegre

3 ind 22/1 and 2 ind 23/1 at Al Warsan Lakes.

**Great White Egret**, *Ardea alba*, Egretthegre

14 ind noted on 3 days, max 7 ind 22/1.

**Little Egret**, *Egretta garzetta*, Silkehegre

16 ind noted on 6 days, max 5 ind 23/1.

**Western Reef Heron**, *Egretta gularis*, Strandhegre

Common. Noted on 5 days, max 60 ind 19/1.

**Cattle Egret**, *Bubulcus ibis*, Kuhegre

Common. Noted on 5 days, max 60 ind 18/1.

**Squacco Heron**, *Ardeola ralloides*, Topphegre

1 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 22/1. In addition, an unidentified Squacco/Indian Pond heron was seen briefly at Neima Pools 16/1.

**Indian Pond Heron**, *Ardeola grayii*, Mangrovehegre

10 ind at Khor Kalba 21/1, and 2 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 22/1.

**Glossy Ibis**, *Plegadis falcinellus*, Bronseibis

Noted on 5 days, max 7 ind 18/1.

[*Sacred Ibis, Threskiornis aethiopicus, Helligibis – cat E*]  
2 ind at Neima Pools 16/1.

**Eurasian Spoonbill**, *Platalea leucorodia*, Skjestork  
2 ind at Al Jazeerah Khor 19/1, and 20 ind at the Mangrove Hide at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Greater Flamingo**, *Phoenicopterus ruber*, Flamingo  
Common in suitable habitat. Max 1500 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Greater White-fronted Goose**, *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Tundragås  
1 ad and 6 2cy at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1, and 1 ad and 4 2cy at the lawn in front of the Grand stand at Al Wathba Camel Race Track 20/1. Remaining birds from an influx november 2007.

**Greylag Goose**, *Anser anser rubirostris*, Grågås  
2 ind at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1 with the Greater White-fronted Geese.

Egyptian Goose, *Alopochen aegyptiacus*, Niland – cat C  
2 ind at Neima Pools 16/1.

**Ruddy Shelduck**, *Tadorna ferruginea*, Rustand  
8 ind at Neima Pools 16/1. Present since 2/11 -07.

**Common Shelduck**, *Tadorna tadorna*, Gravand  
77 ind at Al Wathba Lake 20/1, and 40 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Eurasian Wigeon**, *Anas penelope*, Brunnakke  
Noted 4 days, max 20 ind 23/1.

**Gadwall**, *Anas strepera*, Snadderand  
1 M + 2 F at Al Wathba Lake 20/1, 1 couple + 1 2cy M at Dubai Pivot Fields 22-23/1, and 2 M at Emirates Golf Course 23/1.

**Common Teal**, *Anas crecca*, Krikkand  
Common, max 300 ind at Al Wathba Lake 20/1.

**Mallard**, *Anas platyrhynchos*, Stokkand  
Common, max 150 ind at Al Wathba Lake 20/1.

**Northern Pintail**, *Anas acuta*, Stjertand  
40 ind at Al Wathba Lake 20/1, 2 M at Dubai Pivot Fields 22-23/1, and 1 M at Safa Park 23/1.

**Garganey**, *Anas querquedula*, Knekkand  
1 F at Neima Pools 16/1.

**Northern Shoveler**, *Anas clypeata*, Skjeand  
Common, max 200 ind at Al Wathba Lake 20/1.

**Common Pochard**, *Aythya marina*, Taffeland

1 F flying over Dubai Pivot Fields 22/1, 13 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 22/1, and 26 ind here 23/1.

**Ferruginous Duck**, *Aythya nyroca*, Hvitøyeand

1 F at Al Warsan Lakes 23/1.

**Tufted Duck**, *Aythya fuligula*, Toppand

24 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 22/1, and 44 ind here 23/1.

**Osprey**, *Pandion haliaetus*, Fiskeørn

1 ind at Khor Kalba 21/1, and 2 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Western Marsh Harrier**, *Circus aeruginosus*, Sivhauk

Seen each day, max 8 ind 22/1.

**Pallid Harrier**, *Circus macrourus*, Steppenhauk

1 3cy M at Dubai Pivot Fields 22/1. The bird had been present for a while.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, *Accipiter nisus*, Spurvehauk

1 ind at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1, and 1 ind noted 20/1.

*Lesser Spotted Eagle*, *Aquila pomarina*, Småskrikørn

A medium brown eagle with black remiges was seen at Hamraniyah Fields 19/1. No spotting above ages the bird as a 3cy+. Likely a Lesser Spotted Eagle, but the views were not good enough for a positive ID. A Lesser Spotted Eagle was reported from this site 19/12 -07, with another possible sighting 18/1.

**Greater Spotted Eagle**, *Aquila clanga*, Storskrikørn

7+ ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, 1 ind (probably 3cy due to active primary moult while still showing spotting above) at Al Wathba Lake 20/1, and 1 ind at the Flamingo Hide and 10 ind (in view simultaneously) at the Mangrove Hide at Ra's al-Khor 22/1. Most birds seen showed rather extensive spotting to upperparts.

**Booted Eagle**, *Hierraetus pennatus*, Dvergørn

1 dark ind (probably 1cy) at Al Wathba Camel Race Track 20/1.

**Common Kestrel**, *Falco tinnunculus*, Tårnfalk

10 ind noted on 6 days.

*Large falcon sp*, *Falco sp*

1 along E44 close to Lahbab 16/1 was only seen briefly from the car.

**Chukar**, *Alectoris chukar*, Berghøne

2 ind heard at Masafi Wadi 17/1, and 2 ind heard and seen well at Wadi Bih 19/1.

**Sand Partridge**, *Ammoperdix heyi*, Beduinhøne

2 M + 1 F at Green Mubazzarah 16/1, 10 ind at Masafi Wadi 17/1, and 7 ind at Jebel Hafeet 20/1.

Grey Francolin, *Francolinus pondicerianus*, Gråfrankolin – cat C  
Common, max 65 ind 21/1.

**Common Quail**, *Coturnix coturnix*, Vaktel  
3 ind flushed at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1.

**Purple Swamphen**, *Porphyrio porphyrio ssp*, Sultanhøne  
2 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 23/1. Not seen well enough for subspecific identification.

**Common Moorhen**, *Gallinula chloropus*  
Common in suitable habitat. Max 10 ind several days.

**Red-knobbed Coot**, *Fulica cristata*, Knoppsothøne  
1 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 22/1. The bird had small, but obvious, red knobs, rounded feather edge above bill, a bluish tinge on the outer half of the bill, and somewhat fluffed feathers on lower back, pushing the highest point of the body far towards the rear. This bird is believed to be a pure Red-knobbed Coot. In addition, a second bird was seen with barely discernable red markings near the top of the front shield, but the other field marks still looked good for Red-knobbed. This bird was probably one of the intergrades with Eurasian Coot that are regularly reported from this site.

**Eurasian Coot**, *Fulica atra*, Sothøne  
8 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 22/1, and 3 birds here 23/1.

**Crab Plover**, *Dromas ardeola*, Krabbeeter  
198 ind counted at Khor al-Beidah and 9 ind at Al Jazeerah Khor 19/1.

**Oystercatcher**, *Himantopus ostralegus*, Tjeld  
1 ind at Khor Kalba 17/1, 141 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, 2 ind noted 21/1, and 2 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Black-winged Stilt**, *Himantopus himantopus*, Stylteløper  
Common, max 200 ind 20/1 ad 22/1.

**Cream-coloured Courser**, *Cursorius cursor*, Ørkenløper  
31 ind at Ghantoot Polo Club 20/1.

**Collared Pratincole**, *Glareola pratincola*, Brakksvale  
1 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 18/1, and 3 ind here 22/1.

**Northern Lapwing**, *Vanellus vanellus*  
1 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 18/1 and 22-23/1.

**Red-wattled Lapwing**, *Vanellus indicus*, Brilleveipe  
Common. Max 80 ind 18/1.

**Sociable Lapwing**, *Vanellus gregarius*, Steppeveipe  
1 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 18/1 and 22-23/1, and 2 ind at Ghantoot Polo Club 20/1. All were well-known wintering birds.

**White-tailed Lapwing**, *Vanellus leucurus*, Sumpvipe  
5 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 15/1, 19 ind here 22/1, and 8 ind here and 14 at Nouakchott Street Marsh 23/1.

**Eurasian Golden Plover**, *Pluvialis apricaria*, Heilo  
2 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 22-23/1. One (?) bird had been present for a while.

**Grey Plover**, *Pluvialis squatarola*, Tundralo  
150 ind at Khor al-Beidah and Al Jazeera Khor 19/1, and 50 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Common Ringed Plover**, *Charadrius hiaticula*, Sandlo  
Common. Max 150 ind 22/1.

**Little Ringed Plover**, *Charadrius dubius*, Dverglo  
2 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 15/1.

**Kentish Plover**, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Hvitbrystlo  
Common. Max 100 ind 19/1 and 22/1. 2 pullus at Al Wathba Lake 20/1.

**Lesser Sand Plover**, *Charadrius mongolus*, Mongollo  
500 at Khor al-Beidah and Al Jazeera Khor 19/1, and 5 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Greater Sand Plover**, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, Ørkenlo  
15 ind at Qurayyah Beach 17/1, 75 ind at Khor al-Beidah and Al Jazeera Khor, and 1 ind at Khor Kalba 21/1.

**Pintail Snipe**, *Gallinago stenura*, Sibirbekkasin  
At least 1 ind (probably 2) flushed at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1 together with Common Snipes. Lacked white trailing edge and had dark undersides to the wings, otherwise very similar to Common Snipes.

**Common Snipe**, *Gallinago gallinago*, Enkeltbekkasin  
Common. Noted 5 days, max 130 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields and 74 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Black-tailed Godwit**, *Limosa limosa*, Svarthalespove  
4 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 15/1, and 50 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**, *Limosa lapponica*, Lappspove  
2 ind at Qurayyah Beach 17/1, 250 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, 2 ind at Al Wathba Lake 20/1, and 200 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Whimbrel**, *Numenius phaeopus*, Småspove  
Noted 4 days, max 90 ind at Khor al-Beidah and Al Jazeera Khor 19/1.

**Eurasian Curlew**, *Numenius arquata*, Storspove  
Noted 5 days, max 50 ind at Khor al-Beidah and Al-Jazeera Khor 19/1. Some birds looked extremely long-billed compared to the ones we are used to see in Norway.

**Spotted Redshank**, *Tringa erythropus*, Sotsnipe

1 ind at Al Ain Compost Plant 16/1, 1 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields (?) 18/1, and 4 ind at Al Wathba Lake 20/1.

**Redshank**, *Tringa totanus*, Rødstilk

Common, max 285 ind at Khor al-Beidah and Al-Jazeera Khor 19/1.

**Marsh Sandpiper**, *Tringa stagnatilis*, Damsnipe

3 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, and 5 ind at Al Wathba Lake 20/1.

**Common Greenshank**, *Tringa nebularia*, Gluttsnipe

Common, max 70 ind at Khor al-Beidah and Al-Jazeera Khor 19/1.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**, *Tringa flavipes*, Gulbeinsnipe

1 ind at Neima Pools 16/1. The bird had been present since 28/11 -07 and constitutes the first record for UAE.

**Green Sandpiper**, *Tringa glareola*, Skogsnipe

2 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 15/1, 1 ind noted 19/1, and 1 ind noted 22/1.

**Wood Sandpiper**, *Tringa glareola*, Grønnstilk

11 ind noted on 3 days, max 7 ind 22/1.

**Terek Sandpiper**, *Xenus cinereus*, Tereksnipe

50 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1.

**Common Sandpiper**, *Actitis hypoleucos*, Strandsnipe

Noted 5 days, max 15 ind 23/1.

**Ruddy Turnstone**, *Arenaria interpres*, Steinvender

155 ind at Khor al-Beidah and Al Jazeera Khor 19/1.

**Great Knot**, *Calidris tenuirostris*, Sibirsnipe

4 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1 roosting with Bar-tailed Godwits.

**Sanderling**, *Calidris alba*, Sandløper

8 ind at Kalba Corniche 17/1, and 4 ind at Al Gurfa Beach 21/1.

**Little Stint**, *Calidris minuta*, Dvergsnipe

Common. Seen most days, max 500 ind 20/1.

**Temminck's Stint**, *Calidris temminckii*, Temmincksnipe

Noted 6 days, max 10 ind 22/1.

**Curlew Sandpiper**, *Calidris ferruginea*, Tundrasnipe

Common. Noted 4 days, max 100 at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.



**Dunlin**, *Calidris alpina*, Myrsnipe

15 ind at Qurayyah Beach 17/1, 500 ind at Khor al-Beidah and Al Jazeerah Khor 19/1, and 20 ind noted 21/1.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper**, *Limicola falcinellus*, Fjellmyrløper

4 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Ruff**, *Philomachus pugnax*, Brushane

Common. Noted 6 days, max 100 ind 20/1.

**Red-necked Phalarope**, *Phalaropus lobatus*, Svømmesnipe

10 ind at Kalba Corniche 17/1, of which one was swimming in a small rainwater dam by the road, while the remaining birds flew by off the beach. Also 1 ind 18/1 at Fujairah National Dairy Farm, swimming in the puddles in the cattle pens. A new species to the site according to Tommy. The birds had probably been blown ashore during the bad weather the previous days.

**Pomarine Skua**, *Stercorarius pomarinus*, Polarjo

1 ad off Al Gurfa Beach 21/1. Additionally, 6 unidentified Pomarine/Arctic Skuas were seen at the same site and day.

**Arctic Skua**, *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Tyvjo

1 ind off Al Gurfa Beach 21/1. Additionally, 6 unidentified Pomarine/Arctic Skuas were seen at the same site and day.

**Sooty Gull**, *Larus hemprichii*, Sotmåke

Common on the east coast. 1500 ind 17/1 and 500 ind 21/1.

**Caspian Gull**, *Larus cachinnans*, Kaspimåke

2 ind at Kalba Corniche 17/1, 1 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 22/1, and 1 ind the same place 23/1. Only fully adult birds (unmarked primary coverts) with characteristic wingtip pattern of (western) *cachinnans* were identified. The birds showed limited black in wingtip compared to *barabensis* (and typical eastern *cachinnans*), with long grey tongues eating into the black wingtip, and large white mirrors on P10 and P9. All birds had all white, unstreaked heads (except lower hindneck), long slender bills without a pronounced gonys angle, and slightly paler grey mantle and wings compared to surrounding large gulls. Most large gulls were left unidentified.

**Steppe Gull**, *Larus barabensis*, Kasakhmåke

2 ind Kalba Corniche 17/1, and 1 ind at Al Gurfa Beach 21/1. Only fully adult birds (unmarked primary coverts) with characteristic wingtip pattern of *barabensis* were identified. The birds showed extensive black wingtips, with short, if any, grey tongues into the black in outer primaries, and smaller white mirror to P10 compared to *cachinnans*. One bird had a very small white mirror to P9. All birds had weak streaking to crown and hindneck. The shade of grey on mantle and wings was somewhat darker than on the palest birds (presumably *cachinnans*), but the darkness of mantle and wings depends on light, viewing angle, wet/dry plumage etc and may be difficult to judge exactly in field.



**Heuglin's Gull**, *Larus heuglini*, Samojedmåke

Less numerous but easier to identify than *cachinnans* and *barabensis*. 10 ind at Kalba Corniche 17/1, 1 ind at Al Gurfa Beach and 1 ind at Khor Kalba 21/1, and 1 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 22/1. Only birds with adult type feathers on mantle and wings were identified. Darker grey on mantle and wings compared to *cachinnans* and *barabensis*, one bird approaching *intermedius* in colour. Some paler birds were likely *heuglini* but were left unidentified. All birds had dark streaking on crown, neck and around eye, on most birds more prominent than on *barabensis*. On the most heavily marked birds the dark around the eye made the white eye stand out. Some birds seemed to have a shorter bill than the other large gulls. One adult bird was still growing P10.

*Caspian/Steppe/Heuglin's Gull*, *Larus sp*, Stormåke *sp*

Commonly seen in suitable habitat, especially on the east coast. Max 3000 ind 17/1. An unidentified Caspian/Steppe/Heuglin's Gull was resting in the rain at Dubai Pivot Fields 15/1, apparently not a common bird here?

**Great Black-headed Gull**, *Larus ichthyaetus*, Steppemåke

130 ind at Quarrayah Beach 17/1, and 2 ind at Al Gurfa Beach 21/1. Most birds had started to obtain dark hoods.

**Black-headed Gull**, *Larus ridibundus*, Hettemåke

Common. Max 2000 ind 17/1, mainly at Quarrayah Pools.

**Slender-billed Gull**, *Larus genei*, Smalnebbmåke

Common. Max 2000 ind 17/1, mainly at Quarrayah Pools.

**Gull-billed Tern**, *Sterna nilotica*, Sandterne

50 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, and 3 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Caspian Tern**, *Sterna caspia*, Rovterne

1 ind at Qurayyah Beach 17/1, 1 ind noted 19/1, 20 ind at Ra's al-Khor 22/1, and 1 ind at Al Wathba Lake 23/1.

**Lesser Crested Tern**, *Sterna bengalensis*, Bengalterne

40 ind at Kalba Corniche, Khor Kalba and Qurayyah Beach 17/1, 3 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, and 10 ind at Khor Kalba and Al Gurfa Beach 21/1.

**Sandwich Tern**, *Sterna sandvicensis*, Splitterne

20 ind at Kalba Corniche, Khor Kalba and Qurayyah Beach 17/1, 5 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, and 30 ind at Khor Kalba and Al Gurfa Beach 21/1.

**Swift Tern**, *Sterna bergii*, Hinduterne

10 ind at Kalba Corniche 17/1, and 2 ind at Al Gurfa Beach 21/1.

**Common Tern**, *Sterna hirundo*, Makrellterne

5 ind at Kalba Corniche 17/1, and 100 ind at Al Gurfa Beach 21/1. One bird had a broken lower mandible. A couple of birds had almost complete summer plumage.

**White-cheeked Tern**, *Sterna repressa*, Hvitkinnterne

5 ind at Al Gurfa Beach 21/1. Grey rump and tail with same shade of grey as back. Some Common Terns also had grey rumps, but the grey was lighter, contrasting with back, and it was less extensive than on the White-cheeked Terns. Two birds had obtained a few darker feathers on the chest.

**Bridled Tern**, *Sterna anaethetus*, Tøyleterne

1 2cy bird flew N off Kalba Corniche 17/1 roughly 300 m off shore. Probably brought to shore by the recent bad weather.

**Whiskered Tern**, *Chlidonias hybridus*, Hvitkinnsvarterne

Common, but in small numbers. Noted 6 days, max 8 ind 22/1.

**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**, *Pterocles exustus*, Brunbuksandhøne

Ca 20 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 18/1, 9 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, 23 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 22/1, and 3 ind at Nouakchott Street Marsh 23/1.

Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove, *Columba livia*, Bydue – cat C

Common. Also seen in mountains, e.g. at Wadi Bih and Jebel Hafeet, but many birds still looked feral.

**Eurasian Collared Dove**, *Streptopelia dacocto*, Tyrkerdue

Common. Max 1500 ind 16/1.

**Laughing Dove**, *Streptopelia decaocto*, Palmedue

Common. Max 500 ind several days.

**Namaqua Dove**, *Oena capensis*, Maskedue

1 F at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1, just N of the “shit pits”.

**Pharaoh Eagle-owl**, *Bubo ascalaphus*, Ørkenhubro

1 ind seen and heard well at Qarn Nazwa at dusk 16/1.

**Little Owl**, *Athene noctua*, Kirkeugle

1 ind seen at Masafi Wadi 17/1.

**Egyptian Nightjar**, *Caprimulgus aegyptius*, Ørkennattravn

1 ind seen very well in flight and perched in the car headlights along the goat farm gravel road at Fujairah National Dairy Farm after dark 18/1. Seen down to 5 m perched on the road in front of the car. Very pale and plain, without any head markings. Faint pale markings in wingtips visible at close range. Additionally, two very brief observations of unidentified nightjars were made here (possibly the same birds).

**Syke's Nightjar**, *Caprimulgus mahrattensis*, Sindnattravn

1 ind seen well in flight in the car headlights and perched 20 m from the track, using a torch, along the goat farm gravel road at Fujairah National Dairy Farm after dark 18/1. The bird had very prominent white markings near the wingtip in flight and no obvious head markings when seen perched. The size was not obviously different from the Egyptian Nightjar. The bird had been present since 20/12 -08.

**Pallid Swift**, *Apus pallidus*, Gråseiler  
Common, max 40 ind 18/1.

**Collared Kingfisher**, *Halcyon chloris kalbaensis*, Jadeisfugl  
1 ind 17/1 and 3 ind 20/1 in the mangroves at Khor Kalba.

**Common Kingfisher**, *Alcedo atthis*, Isfugl  
2 ind at Khor Kalba 17/1, 1 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, and 3 ind at Khor Kalba 21/1.

**Little Green Bee-eater**, *Merops orientalis muscatensis*, Beryllbieter  
Noted 6 days, max 20 ind 18/1 and 19/1.

**Indian Roller**, *Coracias benghalensis*, Bengalråke  
Common, max 50 ind 18/1.

**Eurasian Hoopoe**, *Upupa epops*, Hærfugl  
Common, max 40 ind 23/1.

Alexandrine Parakeet, *Psittacula eupatria*, Alexanderparakitt – cat C  
2 ind at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1.

Ring-necked Parakeet, *Psittacula crameri*, Halsbåndparakitt – cat C  
Common. Max 100 ind 16/1 and 21/1.

**Greater Hoopoe-lark**, *Alaemon alaudipes*, Langnebblerke  
2 ind at Khor al-Beidah 19/1.

**Black-crowned Sparrow-lark**, *Eremopterix nigriceps*, Svartkronelerke  
1 M in the desert behind a resting area along E66 16/1.

**Desert Lark**, *Ammomanes deserti*, Ørkenlerke  
Common in mountainous areas. Max 30 ind 17/1.

**Crested Lark**, *Gallerida cristata*  
Common, max 100 ind 19/1.

**Eurasian Skylark**, *Alauda arvensis*, Sanglerke  
Noted 5 days, max 20 ind 18/1. Only seen at Dubai Pivot Fields, Fujairah National Dairy Farm and Al Wathba Camel Race Track.

**Oriental Skylark**, *Alauda gulgula*, Orientlerke  
1 ind flushed at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1, identified from the call by Tommy. The bird seemed a bit smaller than a Skylark, probably caused by rounder wings and shorter tail. It lacked a white trailing edge to the wings. The call was very different from Skylark.

**Sand Martin**, *Riparia riparia*, Sandvale  
2 ind noted 17/1, and 1 ind at Al Warsan Lakes 22/1.

**Barn Swallow**, *Hirundo rustica*, Låvesvale  
Noted 4 days, max 20 ind 20/1.

**House Martin**, *Delichon urbica*, Taksvale  
8 ind noted on 4 days, max 3 ind 18/1.

**Rock Martin**, *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*, Ravinesvale  
Common, max 20 ind 16/1. The form occurring in the Middle East, Pale Rock Martin (*Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*, Ørkensvale), does not have specific status in the latest edition of Clements Checklist.

**Richards's Pipit**, *Anthus richardi*, Tartarpiplerke  
10 at Dubai Pivot Fields and Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1, 3 ind at Ghantoot Polo Club 20/1, 10 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 22/3, and 5 ind here 23/1.

**Long-billed Pipit**, *Anthus similis*, Langnebbpiplerke  
3 ind at Masafi Wadi 17/1. Compared to Tawny Pipit, it had a different call, faint streaking across breast and a more plain head, lacking the dark marking on the lower cheeks. When seen well, the bill was noticeably longer than on Tawny Pipit.

**Blyth's Pipit**, *Anthus godlewskii*, Mongolpiplerke  
1 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields and 1 probable at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1, 3 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 22/1, and 1 ind here 23/1.

**Tawny Pipit**, *Anthus campestris*, Markpiplerke  
Seen most days in small numbers. Max 10 ind 20/1.

**Meadow Pipit**, *Anthus pratensis*, Heipiplerke  
1 ind at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1, and 3 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 22/1.

**Red-throated Pipit**, *Anthus cervinus*, Lappiplerke  
Fairly common in grassy areas. Max 15 ind 18/1.

**Olive-backed Pipit**, *Anthus hodgsoni*, Sibirpiplerke  
5 ind in Safa Park 23/1. The birds were seen in the shadows under the trees surrounding the amphitheatre hill centrally in the park. Long-staying birds; one bird was found 27/10, and the number had increased to 6 by 22/12.

**Water Pipit**, *Anthus spinoletta coutelli*, Vannpiplerke  
Fairly common in grassy areas. Max 15 ind 22/1.

**White Wagtail**, *Motacilla alba ssp*, Linerle  
*Ssp alba* common. Max 100 ind several days. 2-3 ind of *ssp personata* was seen at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1. One was at the cattle pens early in the day, while two birds were seen by the entrance in the afternoon.

**Yellow Wagtail**, *Motacilla flava ssp*, Gulerle

Common. Ssp *beema*, *feldegg* and *thunbergi* identified. 1 ind 'xantophrys', considered an intergrade between *feldegg* and *lutea*, was seen at Dubai Pivot Fields 18/1. This bird had been present for a while.

**Citrine Wagtail**, *Motacilla citreola citreola*, Sitronerle

14 ind noted on 4 days, max 7 ind 22/1.

**Grey Wagtail**, *Motacilla cinerea*, Vintererle

1 ind at Neima Pools 16/1, and 4 ind in Safa Park 23/1.

**White-spectacled Bulbul**, *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*, Araberbylbyl

Fairly common, max 20 ind 18/1.

White-eared Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucotis*, Himalayabylbyl – cat C

Common. Max 100 ind several days.

Red-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer*, Rødgumpbylbyl – cat C

Noted 5 days, max 10 ind 20/1.

**Song Thrush**, *Turdus philomelos*, Måltrost

2 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 18/1, 50 ind flew over the hypocotylus-plantation at Ghantoot in the evening 20/1, probably heading for a common night roost? 5 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 22/1, and 6 ind at Safa Park and Dubai Pivot Fields 23/1.

**Blue Rock Thrush**, *Monticola solitarius*, Blåtrost

4 M at Green Mubazzarah 16/1, 1 M at Wadi Bih 19/1, and 4 M at Jebel Hafeet 20/1.

**Bluethroat**, *Luscinia svecica*, Blåstrupe

3 ind at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1, and 1 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 22/1.

**Black Redstart**, *Phoenicurus ochrurus*, Svartrødstjert

1 ind at Green Mubazzarah 16/1, 2 M ssp *semirufus* and 2 FF at Masafi Wadi 17/1, 1 M ssp *semirufus* noted 18/1, and 3 M ssp *semirufus* and 1 FF at Jebel Hafeet 20/1. One of the females at Masafi Wadi was very pale, resembling a Common Redstart.

**European Stonechat**, *Saxicola rubicola*, Svartrødstjert

1 F at Dubai Pivot Fields 18/1, 22/1 and 23/1 (always seen close to the entrance), and 1 F at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1. 1 F unidentified Stonechat seen at Dubai Pivot Fields in the rain 15/1, was probably the same bird. Both birds had been present for a while.

**Siberian Stonechat**, *Saxicola maurus ssp*, Asiasvartrødstjert

1 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 18/1, 2 ind here 22/1, and 1 ind again 23/1 (1 ind close to the entrance, the second by the north fence), and 2 ind at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1. 1 M unidentified Stonechat seen at Dubai Pivot Fields in the rain 15/1, was probably the same bird.

**Hooded Wheatear**, *Oenanthe monacha*, Munkesteinskvet

1 M and 1 F (not together) at Jebel Hafeet 20/1 along the road just above the Mercury Hotel. None were seen at the hotel. The female differed from Red-tailed Wheatear by a plainer head with pale lores, lack of grey on sides of neck and a different jizz with a longer bill and a longer looking body. A large wheatear.

**Hume's Wheatear**, *Oenanthe alboniber*, Nonnesteinskvet

Common in the mountains. Max 7 ind 20/1.

**Variable Wheatear**, *Oenanthe picata*, Persersteinskvet

1 ind at Qarn Nazwa and 1 ind Fujairah National Dairy Farm, just N of the "shit pits", 18/1. Both birds seen on stony plains, often perching on the lower branches of small trees. Much duller and paler than Hume's Wheatear, the second bird in particular, and they seemed smaller and with a smaller head. The birds were likely females or first winter males.

**Pied Wheatear**, *Oenanthe pleschanka*, Svartstrupesteinskvet

1 M at the roundabout at Green Mubazzarah 16/1. Not a common bird during winter.

**Red-tailed Wheatear**, *Oenanthe chrysopygia*, Rusthalesteinskvet

Common, mainly in the mountains. Max 8 ind 16/1.

**Desert Wheatear**, *Oenanthe deserti*, Ørkensteinskvet

3 M at Khor al-Beidah 19/1, 1 M and 1 F at Al Wathba Camel Race Track 20/1, and 1 F at Khor Kalba 21/1. Females superficially resembling Isabelline Wheatear, but easily identified by smaller size, blackish wings contrasting with pale back, a rufous wash across breast and by lacking obvious pale eyestripe.

**Isabelline Wheatear**, *Oenanthe isabellina*, Isabellasteinskvet

Fairly common. 15 ind noted, max 5 ind 20/1.

**Scrub Warbler**, *Scotocerca inquieta*, Krattsanger

2 ind at Masafi Wadi in a small side wadi in the mountainside to the left about 1 km from the parking.

**Graceful Prinia**, *Prinia gracilis*, Alveprinia

Common. Max 40 ind 18/1.

**Clamorous Reed Warbler**, *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Stentorsanger

2 ind at Green Mubazzarah 16/1, 1 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields and 2 ind at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1, 1 ind noted 21/1, and 3 ind noted 22/1.

**Syke's Warbler**, *Hippolais rama*, Ramasanger

1 ind seen very well at Khor Kalba in the morning 21/1. It was feeding low in bushes and on the ground.

**Common Chiffchaff**, *Phylloscopus collybita*, Gransanger

Common. Max 10 ind 23/1.

**Plain Leaf Warbler**, *Phylloscopus neglectus*, Persersanger  
2 ind at Masafi Wadi by the parking 17/1.

**Lesser Whitethroat**, *Sylvia curruca ssp*, Møller  
9 ind noted on 5 days.

**Desert Whitethroat**, *Sylvia minula*, Ørkenmøller  
2 ind at Masafi Wadi 17/1, 1 ind at Al Wathba Plantation 20/1, and 1 ind at Mushrif Park 21/1. Pale sandy colour on back, neck and crown, with somewhat darker forehead. No contrast in neck. Contrastingly darker mask. Characteristic rattling call, very different from the 'tak' normally heard from Lesser Whitethroats in Europe. A couple of birds with intermediate backcolour (halimodendri?) also gave this call.

**Asian Desert Warbler**, *Sylvia nana*, Ørkensanger  
2 ind at Al Wathba Camel Race Track 20/1. One was following a Desert Wheatear.

**Eastern Orphean Warbler**, *Sylvia crassirostris*, Sultansanger  
1 ind close to Masafi 17/1, 1 ind noted 18/1, and 2 ind in Safa Park 23/1.

**Menetrie's Warbler**, *Sylvia mystacea*, Steppesanger  
1 M at Al Jazeerah Khor 19/1.

**Arabian Babbler**, *Turdoides squamiceps*, Araberskriketrost  
7 ind at Green Mubazzarah 16/1, and 15 ind at Al Jazeerah Khor 19/1.

**Purple Sunbird**, *Cinnyris asiaticus*, Purpursolfugl  
Noted all days, max 7 ind 19/1.

**Isabelline Shrike**, *Lanius isabellinus isabellinus*, Rødhalevarsler  
Fairly common, 18 noted on 5 days. Max 10 ind 23/1. Ssp *phoenicuroides* was not seen.

**Southern Grey Shrike**, *Lanius meridionalis ssp*, Krattvarsler  
Ssp *aucheri* seen most days, max 4 ind 17/1. 1 ad (F?) Steppe Grey Shrike ssp *pallidirostris* at Ra's al-Khor 22/1.

**Masked Shrike**, *Lanius nubicus*, Hvitpannevarsler  
1 ind by the bird dam in Safa Park 23/1. The bird had been present since 3/11.

**House Crow**, *Corvus splendens ssp*, Huskråke  
Common, especially on the east coast. Max 300 ind 18/1. Birds on the east coast were markedly paler than the ones around Dubai.

**Brown-necked Raven**, *Corvus ruficollis*, Brunnakkeravn  
1 ind along the road and 2 ind at Qarn Nazwa 18/1, and 8 ind at Wadi Bih 19/1.

**Rose-coloured Starling**, *Pastor roseus*, Rosenstær  
1 ind at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1. Probably 2cy due to still yellow basal half of lower mandible. It had obtained adult plumage.



**Common Starling**, *Sturnus vulgaris*, Stær  
Only seen at Dubai Pivot Fields. Max 22 ind 18/1.

Bank Mynah, *Acridotheres ginginianus*, Landsbystær – cat C  
Fairly common, max 200 ind 18/1.

Common Mynah, *Acridotheres tristis*, Hyrdestær – cat C  
Common. Max 800 ind 17/1 coming into a night roost at Qurayyah.

Pied Mynah, *Gracupica contra*, Svartstrupestær – cat C  
8 ind in Safa Park 23/1.

**House Sparrow**, *Passer domesticus*, Gråspurv  
Common. Max 1000 ind 16/1.

**Spanish Sparrow**, *Passer hispaniolensis*, Middelhavsspurv  
1 M on fence along the entrance road to Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1.

**Indian Silverbill**, *Lonchura malabarica*, Indiasølvnebb  
Fairly common, max 50 ind 18/1.

Streaked Weaver, *Ploceus manyar*, Stripevever – cat C  
35 ind at Dubai Pivot Fields 22/1.

**Striated Bunting**, *Emberiza striolata striolata*, Ravinespurv  
10 ind at Masafi Wadi 17/1, and 2 ind at Fujairah National Dairy Farm 18/1. Not yet split from the North African species House Bunting (*Emberiza sahari*, Husspurv) in Clements Checklist.