

Egypt

Southern Red Sea Coast

13th – 20th March 2008



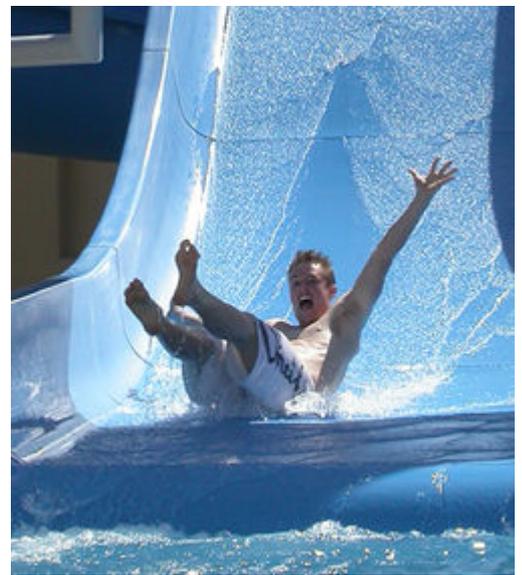
Black Scrub Robin, El Gouna, 14/3. Photo: Olof Jönsson

Participants

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Olof Jönsson
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Introduction

During the winter 2007/2008 we were four guys that decided to visit the southern Red Sea Coast of Egypt during the Swedish Easter break week. The main reasons of the trip, apart from getting away from Sweden, was to see some Western Palearctic specialities as well as doing some soft birding in an interesting but unfortunately not very often visited region during spring migration. With this in mind we booked a week's charter to El Gouna 13th-20th March. We stayed at Rihanna Inn Resorts in El Gouna and rented a car that we pre-booked online at the Hertz office in Hurhada. Don't forget to check that the AC works!



Janne enjoying the comfort at Rihanna Inn. Photo: Olof

Itinerary

13/3 – Flew Copenhagen – Hurghada, birded El Gouna (Southern Lagoon and Möwenpick Resort)

14/3 – Birded El Gouna (Golf Course, Farms, Southern Lagoon, Möwenpick) and Hurghada Sewage Plant

15/3 – Drove from El Gouna to Shams Alam, birded Shams Alam and Wadi Gimal

16/3 – Birded Shams Alam, Wadi Lahami, Bir Shalatein, Hemira Mangrove and Wadi Lahami again

17/3 – Birded Shams Alam, Hamata Mangroves, Dream Lagoon Resort (Marsa Alam) and Möwenpick Resort (El Qesir), drove back to El Gouna

18/3 – Birded El Gouna Golf Course, El Gouna Farm, Magawish Resort (Hurghada), Hurghada Sewage Plant and Southern Lagoon (El Gouna)

19/3 – Birded Hurghada Sewage Plant, Rihanna Resort (El Gouna), El Gouna Farm (northern), El Gouna Fish Ponds, El Gouna Farm (southern), El Gouna Sewage Plant and Möwenpick Resort (El Gouna)

20/3 – Birded El Gouna Golf Course, flew Hurghada – Copenhagen

Desert landscape near Shalatein. Photo: Arne



Notes about some areas and sites visited

(Coordinates taken from Google Earth, expressed in degrees°, minutes' and seconds'')

We didn't use any site guides at all since Stefan had visited the area a few years earlier and the sites aren't very hard to find. However, apart from his expertise we did do some research on Google Earth before the trip.

El Gouna Golf Course (27°23'1.53"N, 33°40'40.62"E)

Since we lived in El Gouna we often started our day by walking around in the big golf course in the early morning hours before the golfers invaded the area. The lawns and bushes around the golf course were often full of birds such as larks, wagtails, pipits, wheatears, stonechats, warblers, swallows etc. The best birds we saw there included a Sociable Plover, a Senegal Thick-knee and a party of four Richard's Pipits. After birding the golf course for a couple of hours the golfers started to drop in and we went back to our hotel breakfast buffet – comfortable!



El Gouna Golf Course. Photo: Olof

El Gouna Farms (27°21'27.27"N, 33°38'32.03"E)

If you are staying in El Gouna as we did, one option is to try the raptor migration in the mountains west of El Gouna after breakfast, which we did two of the days we visited. We stood in the farm area to the east of the ridge and got decent views of the raptors, even though many of them seemed to pass further west and out of range for us. The majority of the raptors probably migrate over the mountains further inland. However, during two late mornings we did see Black Stork 33, Black Kite 70, Egyptian Vulture 3, Steppe Buzzard 850, Booted Eagle 1, Steppe Eagle 9 and Imperial Eagle 4(!).

Apart from the raptors, the farm lands attracted decent numbers of passerines, especially the southern parts. Apart from some warblers there were good numbers of wheatears and among other birds we managed to find two Pied and one Cyprus Pied Wheatear in the area during our visits. On our last visit we unfortunately found out that we were not welcome in the southern area of the farms as Arne was “arrested” and had to spend an hour or so with the security staff in the area. Fortunately all they did to him, except talking, was giving him tea and watching the bird pictures in his camera, so future visits are probably still possible...

Hurghada Sewage Plant (27°14'55.11"N, 33°45'52.10"E)

We were surprised to find the surrounding bushes and reeds full of mist nets when we first arrived to this site. It turned out that Steve (István Moldován) uses this site for ringing together with a few other people. Fortunately they arrived a little later than us so we got to see some nice birds in the hand! The area was pretty good for all kinds of passerines, for example we saw a flock of about 500 Greater Short-toed Larks foraging in the fields constantly harassed by a magnificent Lanner. We also saw some waders on the small flooded spots along the reeds between the huts and the tarmac road. On both our visits we also had several observations of Spotted Sandgrouse, probably using some of the smaller pools in the area to drink. At dusk Pharaoh Eagle Owl is said to be hunting regularly close to the pools and reeds.



Isabelline Wheatear. Photo: Janne



Greater Short-toed Lark. Photo: Olof

Hotels in the southern parts

Shams Alam Resort (24°41'28.36"N, 35° 4'59.71"E) is probably the most known since it is one of the southernmost hotels along the coast and situated close to Wadi Gimal. We stayed there two nights and were stunned by all the tired passerines jumping around at close range after flying through the desert. Some records of African Collared Doves were claimed from the hotel garden at Shams Alam Resort during spring 2008, but all we could find on our three days there was a breeding pair of Eurasian Collared Doves (both song and call heard) with a fledging.

On our third day at Shams Alam Resort we understood that it was almost the same birds in the garden as our first day there, so we decided to move back north towards El Gouna rather early, making stops at all suitable hotel gardens strategically situated in desert areas along the coast. In total we visited three other hotels on our way north, which all provided decent numbers and species of passerines. We had no problems at all entering any of the hotel gardens. We just stopped at the gates, asked if it was possible to buy some cold drinks in the hotel bar, and were let in, in exchange for the driver's licence.

Wadi Gimal (24°39'59.64"N, 35° 5'25.03"E)

This was the only place where we managed to clinch African Collared Doves thanks to singing birds. Eurasian Collared Doves were abundant along the whole coast making it difficult to pick out the African ones. Apart from them, the only interesting bird we found in the wadi was an Asian Desert Warbler.

During 2008 it became known to public that Hume's Owls occur in the inner parts of the wadi. But you will need a 4x4 getting there since the terrain is rough. To get there, ask the Wadi Gimal park rangers that are situated opposite the Shams Alam Resort if they can take you there. We never tried for this, but another Swedish crew lead by Tomas Haraldsson did in April 2008 and successfully heard a singing Hume's Owl at dusk with help from the park rangers.

Bir Shalatein

We had a really hard time getting all the way down to Bir Shalatein. It would have been impossible for us to pass the military checkpoint (24° 8'39.07"N, 35°25'20.77"E) south of Wadi Lahami if we hadn't gotten help from Steve (István Moldován). The young, unarmed guards didn't understand any English and simply wouldn't let us through. But after having them talking to Steve (who knows Arabic) on the phone we wrote some papers and were allowed to go through. Once again, thanks Steve for helping us! A strategy that is regularly used to get through the checkpoint is to say that you need to go to Shalatein to buy petrol, which often works since it is in fact the closest petrol station from the checkpoint.

Species list

(Observation sites only mentioned for more interesting species. Daily observed numbers of all species are written anyway to give a picture of what one can expect during a similar trip.)

1. **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*
2-3 on island off shore Shams Alam Resort 15/3.
2. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*
1 14/3, 6 15/3, 2 17/3, 2 18/3 and 1 19/3.
3. **Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*
1 14/3, 1 15/3, 1 17/3, 1 18/3 and 2 19/3, all seen along the coast.
4. **Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*
2 14/3, 1 15/3, 1 16/3, 2 18/3 and 3 19/3.
5. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
Common. Seen every day with highest count 100 on 14/3.
6. **Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis schistacea*
2 13/3, 4 14/3, 5 15/3, 10 16/3, 15 17/3, 5 18/3, 12 19/3 and 1 20/3.
7. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
2 13/3 and 2 19/3.
8. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
5 14/3, 1 15/3, 2 16/3, 4 17/3, 5 19/3 and 3 20/3
9. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
2 13/3, 1 16/3 and 2 17/3.
10. **Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*
1 Wadi Lahami Mangroves 16/3. We visited the site twice during the day. On our first visit it took us about ten minutes before we flushed the bird in the southernmost part of the Mangrove. It flew a few hundred meters south to a small reef and started to fish. When we revisited the site later in the afternoon we flushed a Goliath Heron again, but now in the central part of the mangrove.
11. **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*
16 18/3 and 17 19/3, both flocks migrating north over the mountains west of El Gouna Farms.
12. **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*
1 flying north over Hamata Mangroves 17/3.
13. **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*
1 14/3, 1 3cy 16/3, 3 17/3, 2 19/3 and 1 20/3.
14. **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*
10 14/3.
15. **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*
1 female Hurghada Sewage Plant 19/3.



Squacco Heron, Shams Alam. Photo: Janne



Spoonbill and Western Reef Heron, El Gouna. Photo: Stefan.

16. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans migrans*
12 14/3, 20 18/3 and 50 (including one *lineatus* type bird) 19/3. The birds 18/3 and 19/3 were migrating north over the mountains west of El Gouna Farms.
17. **Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*
15 around Bir Shalatein 16/3, 2 adults migrating north 18/3 and 1 adult migrating north 19/3 over the mountains west of El Gouna Farms.
18. **Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotus nubicus*
About 15 around Bir Shalatein 16/3. We had a hard time getting there, read more under site notes above
19. **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
1 13/3, 2 14/3, 5 16/3, 7 18/3, 4 19/3 and 3 20/3.
20. **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*
10 (8 adult males, 2 adult females) migrating on different sites during the day 16/3.
Strangely we only saw Pallid Harriers on one day, but then a rather amazing total of ten birds!
21. **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
1 14/3, 1 16/3, 2 18/3 and 3 19/3.
22. **Common Buzzard (Steppe Buzzard)** *Buteo buteo vulpinus*
100 14/3, 350 18/3 and 500 19/3, all migrating north.
23. **Booted Eagle** *Aquila pennata*
1 pale bird migrating north over the mountains west of El Gouna Farms 18/3.
24. **Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*
8 18/3 and 1 19/3, all migrating north over the mountains west of El Gouna Farms.
25. **Eastern Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*
4 (1 adult, 1 older immature, 2 younger immatures) migrating north over the mountains west of El Gouna Farms 18/3. Four out of thirteen Eagles this day were Eastern Imperial Eagles!
26. **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*
Surprisingly common in some places. 2 13/3, 4 14/3, 5 15/3, 20 16/3, 30 17/3, 5 18/3 and 3 19/3.
27. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
5 14/3, 4 15/3, 3 16/3, 3 17/3, 7 18/3, 7 19/3 and 2 20/3.
28. **Lanner** *Falco biarmicus tanypterus*
3 14/3, 1 15/3, 2 16/3, 1 18/3 and 1 19/3. All birds seen were adults. One pair seemed to be resident in the mountains west of El Gouna Farms and another pair was seen hunting several times at Hurghada Sewage Plant.
29. **Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*
1 14/3, 1 15/3, 2 16/3, 1 17/3, 5 18/3 and 4 19/3. Some of the birds were seen walking open on the lawns of Shams Alam Resort.
30. **Common Coot** *Fulica atra*
8 14/3, 8 18/3 and 12 19/3 in the pools at Hurghada Sewage Plant.



Steppe Buzzard, El Gouna Farms. Photo: Stefan

31. **Common Crane** *Grus grus*
5 14/3, heard 16/3, 6 17/3 and 117 19/3, the latter migrating north over the mountains west of El Gouna Farms.
32. **Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*
1 17/3 and 1 18/3.
33. **Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis*
1 El Gouna Golf Course 18/3. Probably a major rarity along the Egyptian Red Sea coast. The bird was initially found two weeks earlier by Swedish birder Mattias Ullman.
34. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
6 18/3.
35. **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*
15 13/3, 5 14/3, 10 16/3, 12 17/3, 25 18/3 and 10 19/3
36. **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*
2 13/3, 3 14/3, 12 16/3, 7 17/3, 20 18/3 and 12 19/3.
37. **Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus*
15 16/3, 13 17/3 and 3 18/3.
38. **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
5 13/3, 3 14/3, 2 16/3, 7 17/3, 10 18/3 and 8 19/3.
39. **Spur-winged Plover** *Hoplopterus spinosus*
2 14/3, 5 18/3, 7 19/3 and 3 20/3.
40. **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius*
1 beautiful adult El Gouna Golf Course 14/3. The first record for Egypt since 1994!



Senegal Thick-knee, El Gouna 18/3. Photo: Olof



Spur-Winged Plover, El Gouna. Photo: Stefan



Sociable Lapwing, El Gouna. Photo: Stefan.



Sociable Lapwing, El Gouna. Photo: Olof.

41. **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*
2 14/3, 1 16/3, 3 17/3, 20 18/3 and 3 19/3.

42. **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
2 13/3, 7 17/3 and 2 18/3.

43. **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
10 13/3, 2 14/3 and 7 19/3.

44. **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
1 18/3.

45. **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
6 16/3.

46. **Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*
6 13/3, 8 14/3, 17 16/3, 18 17/3 and 11 19/3. Marsh Sandpiper, Hurhada. Photo: Stefan



47. **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*
2 13/3, 5 14/3, 5 16/3, 9 17/3, 5 18/3 and 3 19/3.

48. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*
2 18/3.

49. **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
2 13/3, 5 14/3, 2 16/3, 3 17/3, 1 18/3 and 6 19/3.

50. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
1 18/3.

51. **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
1 14/3 and 1 18/3.

52. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
1 14/3, 1 18/3 and 6 20/3.

53. **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
10 17/3.

54. **Sooty Gull** *Larus hemprichii*
2 15/3, 17 16/3 and 18 17/3.



Sooty Gull, Wadi Lahami Mangrove. Photo: Olof

55. **White-eyed Gull** *Larus leucophthalmus*
10 13/3, 6 14/3, 10 18/3 and 5 19/3.

56. **Pallas's Gull** *Larus ichthyaetus*
3 (1 ad, 1 3cy, 1 4cy) 13/3, 1 adult 17/3 and 2 2cy 18/3, all seen along the coast.

57. **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
Not very common. 5 13/3, 1 14/3, 1 16/3, 1 17/3, 2 18/3 and 1 19/3.

58. **Slender-billed Gull** *Larus genei*
100 13/3, 80 14/3, 1 15/3, 20 17/3, 30 18/3, 30 19/3 and 2 20/3. A few oiled birds in El Gouna was a sad sight.

59. **Lesser Black-backed Gull (Baltic Gull)** *Larus fuscus fuscus*
20 13/3, 35 14/3, 14 15/3, 8 16/3, 15 17/3, 40 18/3 and 6 19/3. Most of the birds were migrating north.
60. **Caspian/Steppe Gull** *Larus cachinnans cachinnans/barabensis*
50 14/3 and 2 adults 18/3. All birds were migrating and unfortunately not well enough to determine their (sub-)species even though the few features observed pointed towards *barabensis*.
61. **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*
1 16/3 and 1 17/3.
62. **Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*
10 13/3, 7 14/3, 8 15/3, 20 16/3, 22 17/3, 15 18/3, 10 19/3 and 3 20/3.
63. **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*
6 (5 adults, 1 2cy) 14/3 and 1 adult 19/3.
64. **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*
1 13/3.
65. **Crested Tern** *Sterna bergii*
4 13/3, 6 14/3, 3 16/3 and 4 18/3.
66. **Spotted Sandgrouse** *Pterocles senegallus*
22 Hurghada Sewage Plant 14/3, 12 north of Bir Shalatein 16/3, 4 Hurghada Sewage Plant 18/3 and heard at El Gouna Farms 19/3. Unfortunately we didn't see or hear any Crowned Sandgrouses.
67. **Tame Dove** *Columba livia domesticus*
Common and seen daily.
68. **African Collared Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea*
6 Wadi Gimal 15/3. The birds were positively identified thanks to their song. Eurasian Collared Doves were abundant along the whole coast making it difficult to find the African ones. At the known site Shams Alam Resort we only found a pair of breeding (and very vocal) Eurasian Collared Doves feeding a juvenile.
69. **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Common and seen daily.
70. **Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Very common and seen daily.
71. **Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
1 male Hurghada Sewage Plant 14/3, 1 male and 2 females Shams Alam Resort 16/3, 1 north of Wadi Lahami 16/3, 1 Wadi Lahami 16/3 (not the same as the previous) and 1 male Hamata Mangroves 17/3.



African Collared Dove, Wadi Gimal. Photo: Stefan



Male Namaqua Dove, Shams Alam. Photo: Stefan

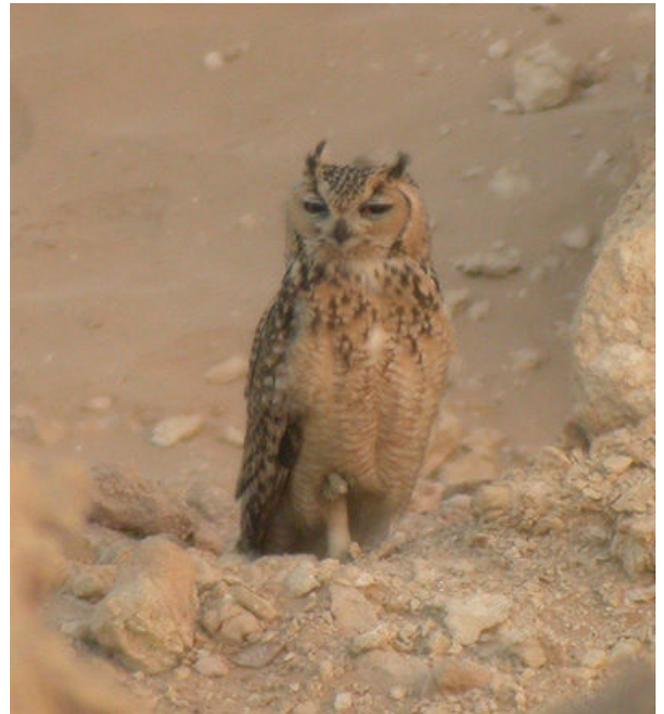


Pharaoh Eagle Owl, Hurghada. Photo: Olof

72. **Pharaoh Eagle Owl** *Bubo (bubo) ascalaphus*
2 (ad female and chick) 14/3 and 3 (ad male, ad female and chick) 19/3 at breeding site in Hurghada.
73. **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*
1 El Gouna Golf Course 14/3 and 18/3 and 1 Hurghada Sewage Plant 14/3.
74. **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*
3 19/3.
75. **Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
1 slowly migrating north over Hamata Mangroves 17/3. A national rarity.
76. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
1 16/3, 1 17/3 and 1 20/3.
77. **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
5 14/3, 3 16/3, 1 17/3, 1 18/3, 3 19/3 and 1 20/3.
78. **European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
1 along the coast 17/3.
79. **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
12 14/3, 5 15/3, 4 16/3, 16 17/3, 6 18/3, 8 19/3 and 5 20/3.
80. **Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
2 16/3, 3 17/3, 4 18/3, 1 19/3 and 2 20/3.
81. **Bar-tailed Desert Lark** *Ammomanes cincturus*
2 north of Bir Shalatein 16/3.
82. **Hoopoe Lark** *Alaemon alaudipes*
2 Bir Shalatein 16/3.
83. **Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculata*
80 14/3 (most of them at Hurghada Sewage Plant), 2 15/3, 2 16/3, 1 18/3, 10 19/3 and 3 20/3.
84. **Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Common. 600 14/3, 300 15/3, 300 16/3, 150 17/3, 150 18/3, 100 19/3 and 90 20/3.
85. **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*
1 El Gouna Farms 19/3 was surprisingly our only observation of this species!



The female Pharaoh Eagle Owl. Photo: Stefan



...and the beautiful pale male. Photo: Olof



Bimaculated and Greater Short-toed Larks, El Gouna Golf Course. Photo: Olof

- 86. **Eurasian Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis*
1 El Gouna Golf Course 18/3.
- 87. **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*
1 13/3, 10 14/3, 10 16/3, 20 17/3, 20 18/3,
100 19/3 and 7 20/3.
- 88. **Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*
4 14/3 and 4 19/3 at El Gouna Farms.
- 89. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica rustica*
Common, hundreds seen daily.
Unfortunately no *transitiva*.
- 90. **House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*
4 14/3, 2 15/3, 2 16/3, 3 17/3, 100 18/3,
100 19/3 and 5 20/3.



Richard's Pipit, El Gouna Golf Course. Photo: Stefan

- 91. **Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*
2 13/3, 50 14/3, 20 15/3, 25 16/3, 30 17/3, 80 18/3, 100 19/3 and 100 20/3
- 92. **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*
A tight party of 4 seen on El Gouna Golf
Course 18/3 and 20/3.
- 93. **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*
3 13/3, 60 14/3, 1 16/3, 10 17/3, 60 18/3,
10 19/3 and 20 20/3.
- 94. **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*
1 13/3, 1 14/3, 1 15/3, 1 16/3, 1 17/3, 4
18/3, 2 19/3 and 10 20/3.
- 95. **Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*
15 14/3, 1 16/3, 6 17/3, 5 18/3 and 3 20/3.



Red-throated Pipit, Shams Alam. Photo: Stefan

- 97. **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flava* and *M. f. feldegg*
25 14/3, 10 15/3, 10 16/3, 50 17/3, 40 18/3, 5 19/3 and 20 20/3.

98. **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
Very common.

99. **Rufous Bush Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes*
1 Magawish Resort, Hurghada 18/3.

100. **Black Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe podobe*
1 east of our hotel Rihanna Inn, El Gouna 14/3 and 19/3 favoured the gardens around 27°24'0.99"N, 33°40'33.08"E. The bird was initially found by Danish birder Kenneth Bach Christiansen on 4/2.



Feldegg Yellow Wagtail, El Gouna. Photo: Stefan



Black Scrub Robin, El Gouna. Photo: Stefan

101. **Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*
3 13/3, 3 14/3, 6 15/3, 5 16/3, 10 (2 white-spotted) 17/3, 3 18/3 and 2 white-spotted 20/3.

102. **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

Eastern Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus maurus/armenicus/variegatus*

2 males *variegatus* and 1 female 13/3, 1 male *maurus*, 7 males *variegatus* and 3 females 14/3, 6 males *variegatus* and 3 females 15/3, 6 males *variegatus* and 3 females 16/3, 2 males *maurus*, 20 males *variegatus* and 15 females (giving a total of 37 this day!) 17/3, 1 male *maurus*, 5 males *variegatus* and 1 female 18/3, 1 male 19/3 and 1 male *maurus*, 2 males *variegatus* and 1 female 20/3. Despite trying hard we never saw any white bases on the outer tail feathers on any females. Is it possible to separate a female *maurus* from a female *variegatus* in the field?

European Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus rubicola*

1 female Shams Alam Resort 15/3-17/3.



Caspian Stonechats, Shams Alam. Photos: Stefan



Caspian and Eastern Stonechats, Shams Alam. Photos: Olof

103. **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*
10 13/3, 100 14/3, 7 15/3, 11 16/3, 15 17/3, 30 18/3, 40 19/3 and 30 20/3
104. **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*
2 13/3, 10 14/3, 12 15/3, 12 16/3, 45 17/3, 50 18/3, 20 19/3 and 15 20/3
105. **Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*
1 male Safaga 15/3 and 1 male and 1 female El Gouna Farms 19/3.
106. **Cyprus Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe cypriaca*
1, probably a male, El Gouna Farms 14/3.
107. **Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca*
1 15/3, 2 16/3, 6 17/3 and 2 19/3.
108. **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*
2 13/3, 25 14/3, 10 15/3, 16 16/3, 15 17/3, 18 18/3, 10 19/3 and 12 20/3.



Cyprus Pied Wheatear, El Gouna Farms. Photo: Stefan



Black-eared and Desert Wheatears. Photos: Stefan



Pied Wheatears, El Gouna Farms. Photos: Olof



109. **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*
1 male El Gouna Farms 19/3

110. **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*
1 14/3, 3 16/3, 2 17/3 and 1 18/3

111. **Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*
1 14/3, 3 16/3, 4 17/3 and 3 18/3.

112. **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
2 14/3, 4 15/3, 2 16/3, 7 17/3, 8 18/3, 3 19/3 and 1 20/3.

113. **Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
5 14/3 and 1 19/3.

114. **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*
1 15/3, 2 16/3, 2 18/3 and 1 20/3.

115. **Ménétries's Warbler** *Sylvia mystacea*
1 male Shams Alam Resort 15/3-16/3 and 1 male Hamata Mangroves 17/3.

116. **Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala*
1 13/3, 8 14/3, 3 15/3, 6 (3 males, 3 females) 16/3,
10 17/3, 15 18/3, 10 19/3, 4 20/3
117. **Rüppell's Warbler** *Sylvia rueppelli*
1 male 14/3, 1 male 17/3, 1 male 18/3, 3 males
20/3
118. **Asian Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*
1 Wadi Gimal 15/3 and 2 Hamata Mangroves
17/3.
119. **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*
Common during the whole week.
120. **Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*
1 Hurghada Sewage Plant 19/3.
121. **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*
1 female Shams Alam Resort 17/3.
122. **Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus orientalis*
1 14/3, 1 15/3, 1 18/3 and 2 19/3.
123. **Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*
Common during the whole week.
124. **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*
1 13/3 and 2 14/3
125. **Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*
1 female-type (probably *isabellinus*) Shams Alam
Resort 15/3-17/3, 1 adult male (probably
isabellinus) Shams Alam 16/3-17/3, 2 adult males
isabellinus Hamata Mangroves 17/3 and a
female-type of undetermined subspecies at
Möwenpick Resort, El Qesir 17/3. Five birds
totally!
126. **Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*
1 15/3, 1 16/3, 1 18/3 and 3 20/3.
127. **Masked Shrike** *Lanius nubicus*
1 15/3, 1 16/3 and 4 17/3
128. **House Crow** *Corvus splendens*
20 Safaga 15/3.
129. **Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*
Rather common and seen daily except 15/3-16/3
when we birded the southernmost part of the
coast.
130. **Brown-necked Raven** *Corvus ruficollis*
3 13/3, 6 14/3, 40 15/3, 70 16/3, 32 17/3, 8 18/3,
7 19/3 and 2 20/3



Menetrie's Warbler, Shams Alam. Photo: Stefan



Isabelline Shrike, Hamata Mangroves. Photo: Stefan



Isabelline Shrike, Shams Alam. Photo: Olof



Woodchat and Isabelline Shrikes, Shams Alam. Photos: Olof

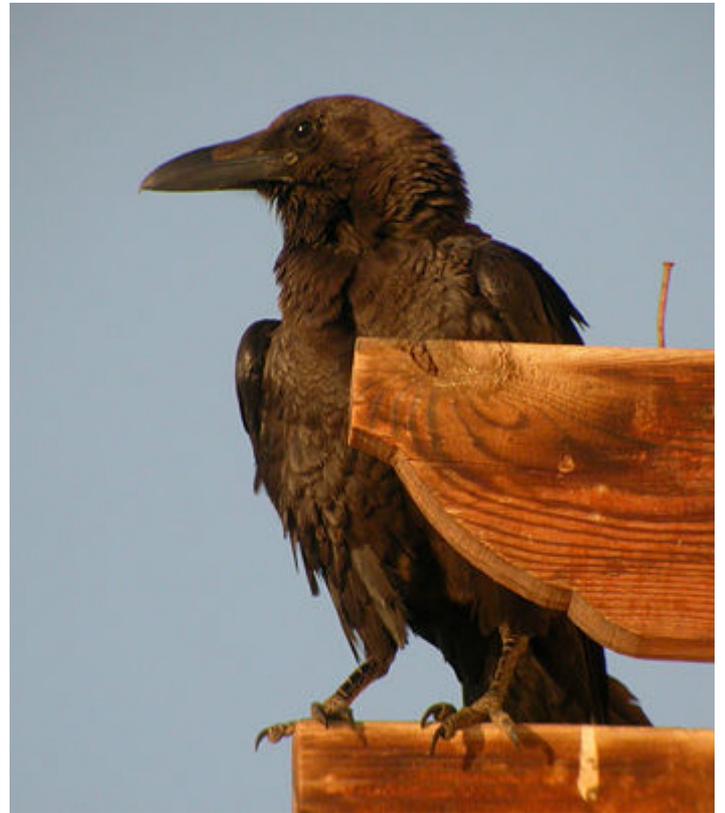


Masked Shrike, Shams Alam. Photo: Olof

131. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
1 15/3 and rather common 17/3-18/3.
132. **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis*
Rather common, seen daily in various numbers.
133. **Cretzschmar's Bunting** *Emberiza caesia*
1 female Shams Alam Resort 16/3-17/3.
134. **Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*
1 El Gouna Golf Course 14/3 and 18/3.



Cretzschmar's Bunting, Shams Alam. Photo: Olof



Brown-necked Raven, Shams Alam. Photo: Olof



Male Spanish Sparrow. Photo: Stefan.