

# Birding in OMAN

02nd- 14th December 2016



Sykes's Nightjar. © Albert Burgas.



Members of the trip: Pere Serrano, Albert Burgas, Àlex Ollé, Ricard Font and Anna Planela.



The aim of this report is to show the surprisingly great diversity for a desert country such the Sultanate of Oman, where more than 200 species of birds may be easily seen in a few days. Most of the species are very interesting for European ornithologists willing to acquire experience in rare eastern species and subspecies of the Western Palearctic.



For general information on the country, there are other reports that can be much more informativelike the ones below:

<http://www.avesibericas.es/oman0.htm>  
[http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Oman2008\\_MG.pdf](http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Oman2008_MG.pdf)  
<http://www.birdtours.com.uk/tripreports/oman/Oman-5/Oman-jan-08.htm>  
[https://www.cloudbirders.com/tripreport/repository/COOK\\_Oman\\_01\\_2014.pdf](https://www.cloudbirders.com/tripreport/repository/COOK_Oman_01_2014.pdf)  
<http://www.stephenmenzie.com/oman2013/>

Our aim is to provide a brief and visual systematic list of the observed species, including a commented list of those species that may be more interesting for the European ornithologists and with comments that we think that can be of some utility from the point of view of identification. For the best known spots we have adopted the same location coding used in the second edition of the book *Birdwatching guide to Oman*. In all other places not shown in this book we have written down the coordinates.

Additionally, because for some members of the team this is the second trip to Oman, we also include some comments and species of the first trip, which was in January 2015 by Miguel Ángel Fuentes, Gerard Dalmau, Ferran Vaquero, Pere Serrano and Àlex Ollé. Thus we have included an appendix with those species seen in the first trip that has not been seen in the second one.

The lists shown below follow the classification recommended by AERC (<http://www.aerc.eu/>). In those species that are not listed there we follow the



list of birds of Oman in the last version (7.6), published online (<http://www.birdsoman.com/>). From a taxonomic point of view we have also followed the Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive (<http://www.hbw.com/>).

Finally, we have also included a list of the mammals and amphibians seen.

We hope this report will be useful for future ornithological trips aiming to know this natural paradise.

## CONTACT:

For any comment related to this report you can contact us to the following e-mail addresses:

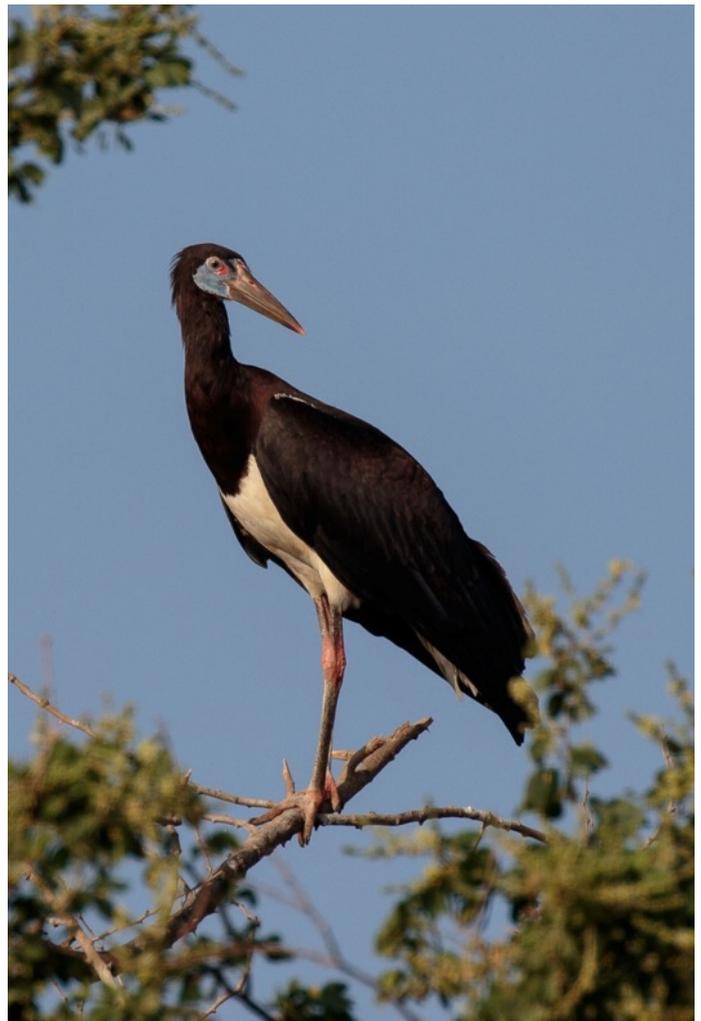
[aolletorner@gmail.com](mailto:aolletorner@gmail.com) / [aburgas@gmail.com](mailto:aburgas@gmail.com).



Localitzation	Bird species
Shannah	<i>Dromas ardeola</i> , <i>Limicola falcinellus</i> , <i>Xenus cinereus</i> , <i>Larus cachinans</i> , <i>Larus canus</i>
Ferry	<i>Sternula saundersi</i>
Sur Masirah (8.3)	<i>Lanius palidirostris</i> , <i>Buteo rufinus</i>
Hilf (8.2)	<i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Anser anser</i> , <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus x apivorus</i> , <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i> , <i>Turdus atrogularis</i> , <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> , <i>Turdus atrogularis</i> , <i>Iduna pallida</i>
Khawr Dhurf (9.2)	<i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Anser anser</i> , <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i> , <i>Butorides striatus</i> , <i>Netta rufina</i>
Al Lakbi	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
Khawr Ghawi (9.3 F)	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>
Filim (8.1 C)	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> , <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i> , <i>Limicola falcinellus</i> , <i>Butorides striatus</i> , <i>Ficedula parva</i>
Wadi As Shuwaymiyya (9.4)	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i> , <i>Strix hadorami</i>
Ras Nuss (Hasik)	<i>Strix hadorami</i>
Ras Abu Rasas (8.4)	<i>Larus ichthyæetus</i> , <i>Puffinus persicus</i>
Tawi Atayr (10.9)	<i>Crithagra menachensis</i>
Ras Janjari (10.11)	<i>Bulweria fallax</i> , <i>Puffinus persicus</i>
Jabal Samhan	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i> , <i>Buteo rufinus</i>
Taqah (10.6)	<i>Glareola lactea</i> , <i>Milvus aegyptius</i> , <i>Calidris temminckii</i>
Khawr Rawri (10.7)	<i>Ceryle rudis</i> , <i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Wadi Darbat (10.8)	<i>Iduna pallida</i> , <i>Ficedula parva</i> , <i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>
Jarziz Farms (10.1)	<i>Falco amurensis</i> , <i>Circus pygargus</i> , <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus x apivorus</i> , <i>Mirafra cantillans</i>
Ayn Hamran (10.4)	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i> , <i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i> , <i>Iduna pallida</i> , <i>Ficedula parva</i>
Raysut lighthouse	<i>Sula leucogaster</i> , <i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>
Raysut Sewage Plant	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i> , <i>Grus virgo</i> , <i>Vanellus leucurus</i> , <i>Luscinia megarhynchos golzii</i> , <i>Ficedula parva</i> , <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Al Mughsayl (10.15)	<i>Gallinago stenura</i> , <i>Porzana pusilla</i> , <i>Sterna represa</i> , <i>Egretta intermedia</i> , <i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>
Fazaya Beach	<i>Anous stolidus</i> , <i>Phaeton anathereus</i> , <i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Mudhay (10.19)	<i>Hypocolius ampelinus</i> , <i>Hedydipna metallica</i> , <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> , <i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
Road between Mudhay and Al Mazyunah	<i>Eremalauda dunni</i>
Wadi Aydam	<i>Amomanes cinctura</i> , <i>Pterocles coronatus</i>
Rub' al Khali Desert	

Ubar	<i>Falco naumani</i> , <i>Lanius pallidirostris</i>
Al Balid Farm (7.5)	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i> , <i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i> , <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Qatbit (7.4)	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i> , <i>Sylvia curruca blithi</i> , <i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i> , <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Muntasar (7.3)	<i>Caprimulgus mahrattensis</i>
Sayq Plateau (4.3 N)	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i> , <i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>
Wadi Bani Habib (4.3 L)	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
Wadi Al Muaydin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> , <i>Turdus atrogularis</i>
Al Ansab Wetland (1.1)	<i>Aquila clanga</i>

## List of main locations and species



Abdim's Stork © Albert Burgas.

# Systematic List of observed bird species

Scientific name	English name	Observations and ssp.* (*según hbw alive - december 2016-)
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Greater White-fronted Goose	
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	Eastern Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i>
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Common Shelduck	
<i>Anas penelope</i>	Eurasian Wigeon	
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall	
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Eurasian Teal	
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey	
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler	
<i>Netta rufina</i>	Red-crested Pochard	
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck	
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck	
<i>Alectoris melanocephala</i>	Arabian Partridge	
<i>Ammoperdix heyi</i>	Sand Partridge	
<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	Grey Francolin	
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe	
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Black-necked Grebe	
<i>Bulweria fallax</i>	Jouanin's Petrel	
<i>Puffinus persicus</i>	Persian Shearwater	
<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	Masked Booby	
<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Brown Booby	
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	
<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>	Socotra Cormorant	
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Eurasian Bittern	Feather
<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Yellow Bittern	
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron	
<i>Butorides striata</i>	Striated Heron	
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron	
<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Indian Pond Heron	

<i>Bulbucus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	
<i>Egretta gularis</i>	Western Reef Heron	
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	
<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Intermediate Egret	
<i>Egretta alba</i>	Great Egret	
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	
<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	Abdim's Stork	
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Western White Stork	
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis	
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian Spoonbill	
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Greater Flamingo	
<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Crested Honey Buzzard	Two intermediates with European Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>
<i>Milvus (migrans) aegyptius</i>	Yellow-billed Kite	'arabicus'
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian Vulture	
<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	Lappet-faced Vulture	negevensis
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake Eagle	
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh Harrier	
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier	
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier	
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard	Presumed ssp. <i>rufinus</i>
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	
<i>Aquila pennata</i>	Booted Eagle	
<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	Verreaux's Eagle	
<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	Bonelli's Eagle	
<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle	
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle	
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel	Some influence of ssp. <i>pekinensis</i>
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	
<i>Falco amurensis</i>	Amur Falcon	
<i>Falco (peregrinus) pelegrinoides</i>	Barbary Falcon	
<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Baillon's Crake	
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen	
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Eurasian Coot	
<i>Grus virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane	

<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	<b>Spotted Thick-knee</b>	Listened
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt	
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian Oystercatcher	
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific Golden Plover	
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover	
<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	
<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Red-wattled Lapwing	
<b><i>Vanellus leucurus</i></b>	<b>White-tailed Lapwing</b>	
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover	
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sand Plover	
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover	
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit	
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	
<b><i>Calidris tenuirostris</i></b>	<b>Great Knot</b>	
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Ruff	
<b><i>Calidris falcinellus</i></b>	<b>Broad-billed Sandpiper</b>	
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	
<b><i>Calidris subminuta</i></b>	<b>Long-toed Stint</b>	
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Temminck's Stint	
<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin	
<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Little Stint	
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked Phalarope	
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Terek Sandpiper	
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper	
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Spotted Redshank	
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank	
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Marsh Sandpiper	
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper	
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	

<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	
<b><i>Gallinago stenura</i></b>	<b>Pin-tailed Snipe</b>	
<b><i>Dromas ardeola</i></b>	<b>Crab-plover</b>	
<b><i>Glareola lactea</i></b>	<b>Small Pratincole</b>	
<b><i>Anous stolidus</i></b>	<b>Brown Noddy</b>	
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern	
<b><i>Sternula saundersi</i></b>	<b>Saunders's Tern</b>	
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern	
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Whiskered Tern	
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Tern	
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Great Crested Tern	
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	Lesser Crested Tern	
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	
<b><i>Sterna repressa</i></b>	<b>White-cheeked Tern</b>	
<i>Larus genei</i>	Slender-billed Gull	
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Common Black-headed Gull	
<b><i>Larus ichthyaetus</i></b>	<b>Pallas's Gull</b>	
<i>Larus hemprichii</i>	Sooty Gull	
<i>Larus canus</i>	Mew Gull	
<i>Larus (fuscus) heuglini</i>	Heuglin's Gull	
<b><i>Larus (fuscus) barabensis</i></b>	<b>Sttepe Gull</b>	
<b><i>Larus cachinnans</i></b>	<b>Caspian Gull</b>	
<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>	Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	
<b><i>Pterocles coronatus</i></b>	<b>Crowned Sandgrouse</b>	
<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove	
<i>Streptopelia risoria</i>	African Collared Dove	
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove	
<b><i>Streptopelia orientalis</i></b>	<b>Oriental Turtle dove</b>	Listened
<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Laughing Dove	
<i>Oena capensis</i>	Namaqua Dove	
<i>Treron waalia</i>	Bruce's Green Pigeon	
<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Rose-ringed Parakeet	
<b><i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i></b>	<b>Asian Koel</b>	

<i>Otus pamela</i>	Arabian Scops Owl	
<i>Bubo (africanus) miles</i>	Arabian Spotted Eagle-owl	
<i>Athene noctua</i>	Little Owl	One individual of <i>lilith</i> phenotyp
<i>Strix butleri</i>	Omani Owl	
<i>Strix hadoramii</i>	Desert Tawny Owl	
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	Feather
<i>Caprimulgus mahrattensis</i>	Sykes's Nightjar	
<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>	Egyptian Nightjar	
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	
<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Pied Kingfisher	
<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Green Bee-eater	
<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Indian Roller	
<i>Upupa epops</i>	Eurasian Hoopoe	
<i>Mirafra cantillans</i>	Singing Bush Lark	
<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>	Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark	
<i>Eremalauda dunni</i>	Dunn's Lark	Listened
<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>	Bar-tailed Lark	
<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>	Desert Lark	
<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Greater Short-toed Lark	
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Crested Lark	
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Sand Martin	
<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>	Pale Crag Martin	
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	
<i>Anthus richardi</i>	Richard's Pipit	
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Tawny Pipit	
<i>Anthus similis</i>	Long-billed Pipit	
<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Olive-backed Pipit	
<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Tree Pipit	
<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Red-throated Pipit	
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail	
<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Citrine Wagtail	
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail	
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White Wagtail	
<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>	White-eared Bulbul	
<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>	White-spectacled Bulbul	
<i>Hypocolius ampelinus</i>	Grey Hypocolius	

<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin	
<i>Luscinia (megarhynchos) golzii</i>	Eastern Nightingale	
<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Bluethroat	
<i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>	Eversmann's Redstart	
<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Black Redstart	
<i>Cercomela melanura</i>	Blackstart	
<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Isabelline Wheatear	
<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	Desert Wheatear	
<i>Oenanthe chrysopygia</i>	Red-tailed Wheatear	
<i>Oenanthe lugentoides</i>	Arabian Wheatear	
<i>Oenanthe albonigra</i>	Hume's Wheatear	
<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Blue Rock Thrush	
<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>	Black-throated Thrush	
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	
<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	Graceful Prinia	
<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>	Scrub Warbler	
<i>Iduna pallida</i>	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>elaeica</i>
<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	Clamorous Reed Warbler	
<i>Sylvia mystacea</i>	Ménétriés's Warbler	
<i>Sylvia nana</i>	Asian Desert Warbler	
<i>Sylvia leucomelaena</i>	Arabian Warbler	
<i>Sylvia (curruca) halimodendri</i>	Desert Lesser Whitethroat	Presumed
<i>Sylvia (curruca) blythi</i>	Siberian Whitethroat	Presumed
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Eurasian Blackcap	
<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>	Abyssinian White-eye	
<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	Hume's Leaf Warbler	
<i>Phylloscopus neglectus</i>	Plain Leaf Warbler	
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common Chiffchaff	
<i>Ficedula parva</i>	Red-breasted Flycatcher	
<i>Anthodiaeta metallica</i>	Nile Valley Sunbird	
<i>Cinnyris osea</i>	Palestine Sunbird	
<i>Cinnyris habessinicus</i>	Shining Sunbird	
<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	Purple Sunbird	
<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>	Black-crowned Tchagra	
<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	Isabelline Shrike	

<i>Lanius (isabellinus) phoenicuroides</i>	Turkestan Red-tailed Shrike	
<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	Southern Grey Shrike	
<i>Lanius (meridionalis) pallidirostris</i>	Sttepe Grey Shrike	
<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	African Paradise Flycatcher	
<i>Corvus splendens</i>	House Crow	
<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	Brown-necked Raven	
<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>	Fan-tailed Raven	
<i>Onychognathus tristramii</i>	Tristram's Starling	
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	
<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna	
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	Some <i>Passer (domesticus) indicus</i>
<i>Ploceus galbula</i>	Rüppell's Weaver	
<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	Indian Silverbill	
<i>Euodice cantans</i>	African Silverbill	
<i>Crithagra menachensis</i>	Yemen Serin	
<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	Striolated Bunting	
<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	



\* Species in **bold** are included in the “Commented List”.

Pere Serrano (above) and Àlex Ollé in action !!



## Commented list of most remarkable bird species

**Greylag Goose *Anser anser*.** We saw two individuals in Masirah (8.2 B) and other two in Khawr Dhurf (9.2). All birds we could see properly were of the *rubrirostris* subspecies.

**Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*.** Only one bird flying north in Ras Janjari (10.11), Mirbat.

**Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*.** One bird in Raysut lighthouse 16°55'47.3"N 54°00'19.0"E and up to 4 in Fazaya beach 16°50'25.7"N 53°43'21.4"E.

**Socotra Cormorant *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*.** One bird near Ash Shuwaymiyyah 16°59'38.1"N 53°56'14.2"E, more than 50 in Raysut lighthouse 16°55'47.3"N 54°00'19.0"E, and a few individuals in Fazaya beach 16°50'25.7"N 53°43'21.4"E.

**Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*.** Quite a few feathers of a predated bird in Al Mughsayl (10.15), maybe by some of the juvenile Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* presents in the area.

**Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*.** At least two individuals in Khawr Al Mughsayl (10.15).

**Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* and Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*.** More than 20 *Ardeola* along the trip. We paid attention to few individuals, being approximately half of them pertaining to each species. Indian has the mantle much darker, bolder streaks on neck and especially a dark stripe between the eye and the bill, not present in Squacco.



Indian Pond Heron. Àlex Ollé. Taqah. December 2016.

**Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*.** Three individuals, two in Khawr Rawri (10.7) and another in Al Mughsayl (10.15).

**Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*.** More than 300 birds in Raysut Sewage Plant 16°59'38.1"N 53°56'14.2"E.

**Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*.** Two juveniles in Masirah (8.2 B) and another juvenile in Salalah, Jarziz Farm (10.1 A). One in Masirah and the bird in Salalah had a strong influence of European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*.



Crested Honey Buzzard. Àlex Ollé. Masirah. December 2016. The bird to the left looks as an apparently pure Crested. The one to the right has some influence of *apivorus*, therefore only has three dark bands on the secondaries.

**Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*.** One juvenile of the *aegyptius* 'arabicus' subspecies in Taqah (10.6).



Yellow-billed Kite. Albert Burgas. Taqah. December 2016. Note that the p5, or 6<sup>th</sup> finger, is very short and the base of the bill is already extensively yellow.

**Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*.** Two juveniles in the Dhofar, three juveniles and immature individuals at the camel place in Mudday 17°29'20.1"N 53°21'32.1"E, and four more birds in Wadi Bani Habib (4.3 L), Al Hajar mountains. All birds were of the *negevensis* subspecies.



Lappet-faced Vulture. Àlex Ollé. Muddy. December 2016. A *negevensis* of 2cy, it has pp1-3 already moulted and p4 still growing.

**Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*.** One adult in Masirah, showing characters of *rufinus* subspecies. Also another individual in Dhofar mountains 17°06'09.3"N 54°41'53.1"E.

**Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*.** At least 13 birds going to roost in Al Ansab Lagoons (1.1), Masqat. 15 birds in Raysut Sewage Plant 16°59'38.1"N 53°56'14.2"E, one of them '*fulvescens*'. In Salalah we saw other 10 birds. Most of the individuals were juveniles but all ages were seen.



Greater Spotted Eagle. Àlex Ollé. Salalah. December 2016. Juvenile.



Greater Spotted Eagle. Àlex Ollé. Raysut. December 2016. A juvenile with atypical plumage.

**Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*.** One adult seen quite close and several times in Dhofar mountains 17°06'09.3"N 54°41'53.1"E.



Verreaux's Eagle. Àlex Ollé. Dhofar. December 2016.

**Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*.** More than 400 birds in Raysut dump 16°59'00.1"N 53°57'03.5"E. Some solitary bird in Dhofar mountains.

**Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*.** More than 20 individuals of all ages. Most of them in Salalah farms area, Dhofar and in Raysut dump, but also a few individuals all over south Oman, both coastal and interior.



Eastern Imperial Eagle. Àlex Ollé. Salalah. December 2016. A subadult showing two active moulting centres on primaries; with p10 and some secondaries and rectrices still juvenile.

**Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*.** One adult male moulting p10, s1 and rr1, showing intermediate characters between *pekinensis* and *naumanni* in Ubar 18°14'47.1"N 53°39'03.5"E.



Lesser Kestrel. Àlex Ollé. Ubar. December 2016. This bird shows intermediate features between *pekinensis* and *naumanni*, according to the extension of grey feathers on great coverts, and especially on some median and lesser coverts.

**Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*.** A 2cy male in Lakabi 18°13'10.2"N 56°32'37.7"E, and a female in Jarziz Farm, Salalah 17°02'53.3"N 54°08'05.7"E.



Amur Falcon. Àlex Ollé. Lakabi. December 2016. Male of 2cy with s1 still juvenile.

**Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*.** One adult male in Wadi Dabat (10.8).



Barbary Falcon. Àlex Ollé. Dhofar. December 2016. It has the wing feathers with no active moult, so at this time of the year it cannot be a Nordic Peregrine Falcon.

**Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*.** One bird in Khawr Al Mughsayl (10.15).

**Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*.** One 1st winter individual in the Raysut Sewage Plant 16°59'38.1"N 53°56'14.2"E, with the Abdim's Storks.



Demoiselle Crane. Àlex Ollé. Raysut. December 2016. A 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird.

**Spotted Thick-Knee *Burhinus capensis*.** A few individuals heard in Masirah. During the first trip also two birds seen in Wadi Al Mughsayl (10.15).

**White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*.** One bird with Red-wattled Lapwing in Raysut Sewage Plant 16°59'38.1"N 53°56'14.2"E.



White-tailed Lapwing. Albert Burgas. Raysut. December 2016.

**Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*.** One bird in Filim (8.1 C), two in Khawr Durf (9.2) and one in Khawr Ghawi (9.3 F).

**Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*.** Several birds in Shannah 20°44'41.2"N 58°43'21.0"E and also in Filim (8.1 C).

**Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*.** One bird, previously reported, in East Khawr (10.2).

**Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*.** Only one bird in Khawr Al Mughsayl (10.15). During the first trip two birds in Haima 19°57'39.4"N 56°17'00.7"E.

**Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*.** High numbers in Shannah 20°44'41.2"N 58°43'21.0"E and in Filim (8.1 C).



Crab Plover. Àlex Ollé. UAE. January 2015. A first winter bird.

**Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*.** One bird at evening in Khawr Taqah (10.6).

**Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*.** Two birds on a buoy in Fazaya beach 16°50'25.7"N 53°43'21.4"E.

**Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi*.** At least one bird from the ferry to Masirah 20°39'33.6"N 58°51'08.1"E. We could see five outer primaries totally dark from their base. Also many Little Tern in Masirah and other places along the coast.



Left: Saunders's Tern. Àlex Ollé. Masirah. December 2016. Up to five dark outer primaries, more than what is typical for Little Tern, that shows 3 or at most 4 dark primaries. Right: Saunders's Tern. Àlex Ollé. Liwa. January 2015. Also at least 5 dark primaries.

**White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa*.** At least one bird fishing with other terns at the beach of Al Mughsayl (10.15). It was

possible to see well the upperparts uniformly grey, including the rump, very different of the abundant Common Terns.



White-cheeked Tern. Àlex Ollé. Taqah. January 2015. Upperparts uniformly grey.

**Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyæetus*.** Several individuals in Ras Abu Rasas, Masirah (8.4 C) and in Khawr Durf (9.2).

**Mew Gull *Larus canus*.** One 1st winter in Shannah 20°44'50.1"N 58°43'52.8"E.

**Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans cachinnans*.** Only two birds of 1<sup>st</sup> winter in Sannah 44'50.1"N 58°43'52.8"E. It was much more common on the beaches of the Arabian Sea, North Oman, seen during the first trip in 2015.

**Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus*.** On bird on the road from Al Mazyunah to Ubar.



Crowned Sandgrouse. Àlex Ollé. Al Mazyunah-Ubar. December 2016.

**Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*.** One bird heard at dusk, already with no light at the oasis near Qatbit (7.4 D).

**Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus*.** One female in Balid Farm (7.5) 18°21'20.7"N 54°00'41.4"E. In January 2015 a male was seen at the same place.

**Arabian Spotted Eagle Owl *Bubo (africanus) milesi*.** Up to 5 individuals seen during two hours of night driving on the Dhofar roads.



Arabian Spotted Eagle Owl. Albert Burgas. Dhofar. December 2016.

**Little Owl *Athene noctua*.** Some individuals heard and one seen in the Dhofar with phenotype typical of *lilith*. It's said that both *saharae* and *lilith* are in contact in places of Oman, with some individuals more close to one or the other subspecies.



Little Owl. Albert Burgas. Dhofar. December 2016. Bird with the typical phenotype of Liliith Owl *Athene (noctua) lilith*.

**Desert Tawny Owl *Strix hadorami*.** One male in Wadi As Shuwaymiyyah 17°55'08.9"N 55°00'28'51.8"E, two males more in Wadi Al Mughasyl (10.15) and a female heard near Hasik 17°13'55.0"N 55°15'17.1"E.



Desert Tawny Owl. Albert Burgas. Al Mughasyl. December 2016.

**Omani Owl *Strix butleri*.** One male heard and seen in Al Hajar mountains.



Omani Owl. Albert Burgas. Al Hajar. December 2016.

**Sykes's Nightjar *Caprimulgus mahrattensis*.** One bird found in the Muntasar oasis (7.3 D). It is the first record in Oman.

**Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*.** One bird seen flying and sitting at dusk in the oasis near Qatbit (7.4 D).

**Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*.** One bird, previously recorded, in Khawr Rawri (10.7).

**Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunnii*.** One male singing near the road between Mudday and Al Mazyunah.

**Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*.** One bird at the road between Al Mazyunah and Ubar.

**Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans*.** Very abundant in Jarziz Farm (10.1 A), Salalah.



Singing Bush Lark. Àlex Ollé. Jarziz Farm. December 2016. Juvenile.

**Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*.** Some birds of *arabicus* subspecies in the Dhofar mountains.



Long-billed Pipit. Àlex Ollé. Dhofar. January 2015.

**Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*.** One bird in Filim (8.1 C).



Olive-backed Pipit. Albert Burgas. Filim. December 2016.

**Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus*.** At least two females in Mudday 17°28'46.3"N 53°21'07.4"E. In the previous trip at least 8 birds at the same place.



Grey Hypocolius. Miguel Àngel Fuentes. Mudday. January 2015. Male.

**European robin *Erithacus rubecula*.** One individual in Wadi Muaydin 22°59'21.4"N 57°40'15.2"E which is one of the very few records in Oman, maybe the 8<sup>th</sup> record for all the country.

**Eastern Nightingale *Luscinia megarynchos*.** One bird singing from a dense thicket in Raysut Sewage Plant, showing characters of the eastern ssp. *hafizi* (= *golzii*).



Eastern Nightingale. Albert Burgas. Raysut. December 2016. A pale bird with well-marked coverts and a diffuse eye-brow. It shook vigorously his noticeably long tail once alarmed. All together it had a reminiscence of Rufous Bush Robin appearance on the field.

**Eversman's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus*.** Two males in Sayq Plateau (4.3 N). One was adult, the other a 1<sup>st</sup> winter.



Eversman's Redstart. Albert Burgas. Sayq Plateau. December 2016.

**Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*.** Strong irruption in winter 2016-2017, otherwise rare but regular. We saw birds in several places. Three birds in Masirah (8.2 B), one in Balid Farm (7.5), one in Wadi Al Muaydin (4.3 E) and another in Wadi Bani Habib (4.3 L). Even so, the most remarkable sighting for this specie was a minimum of 40 individuals that came constantly to drink in a small pool in an area with abundant Juniper trees in Sayq Plateau (4.3 N).



Black-throated Thrush. Albert Burgas. Up to 12 birds together in the same picture. There we estimated at least 40 individuals in that area, which is the most numerous sighting at that moment in Oman.

**Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*.** Very few birds and much less abundant than Black-throated.

**Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta*.** Two birds of subspecies *grisea* in Sayq Plateau (4.3 N).



Scrub Warbler. Àlex Ollé. Sayq Plateau. December 2016.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*.** We didn't expect to see this species as we thought it was a strictly migrant species. We found a few birds with characters of *elaeica*: one in Wadi Darbat (10.8), another in Masirah sewage plant (8.2 B) and two in Ayn Hamran (10.4).

**Ménétriés Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*.** One bird in Shisr (7.6) and another in Wadi Darbat (10.8).

**Arabian Warbler *Sylvia leucomelaena*.** Few birds together in Ayn Hamran (10.4) belonging to the nominal subspecies. They presented some weak marks on the under-tail coverts. The GIS, behaviour and the short primary projection is very useful to distinguish from Eastern Orphean Warblers.



Arabian Warbler. Albert Burgas. Ayn Hamran. December 2016.

**Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*.** The Lesser Whitethroat complex is a tricky subject, especially concerning the variation at the east side of their range. In recent years there has been some research that is shedding some light in the darkness. In 2013, Olsson et al. (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1055790313000055>) presented the distribution of the different subspecies, indicating that *minula* does not winter in the Arabian Peninsula and his breeding range is restricted to China. Thus, the Desert Lesser Whitethroat wintering in Oman have to be *halimodendri*, which has a very characteristic call according to the recordings found in Xeno-canto (<http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Sylvia-curruca?query=ssp:%22halimodendri%22>). To make the issue more complex, very recently Votier et al. (2016) found some birds phenotypically fitting *halimodendri* that genetically and isotopically fitted with *blythi* (<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10336-016-1351-5>). Although in this research they studied some birds from Oman that were perfect *halimodendri* in all senses, they also had some *blythi* from UAE. Hence, although *halimodendri* are supposed to be the most common in winter, both subspecies arrive to the region. This is not unexpected as *blythi* has a wide distribution in Siberia, north of *halimodendri*'s distribution. We don't know any reference the best way to identify *blythi*/*halimodendri* using their call. We have only compared with the recordings found in Xeno-canto and there most of the sounds attributed to *blythi* are from the area that Votier et al. arbitrarily attributed to the supposedly intergradation zone within both taxons. This said, most calls we heard all around Oman coincided with *halimodendris* from Xeno-canto, only one bird in Qatbit (7.4) had identical call to the following recording attributed to *blythi* from Aqmola province, in central Kazakhstan (<http://www.xeno-canto.org/155770>).

We are not sure if we have found any nominal *curruca*, but at least we heard a couple of birds calling like this subspecies, however we didn't went after them. Finally, we found two birds with the appearance of *althaea* above 2.000 meters in the Al Hajar Mountains, one during this trip and the other in 2015. In any of this cases we didn't hear any voice.



Desert Lesser Whitethroat 'presumed' *halimodendri*. Àlex Ollé. January 2015. Al Hajar mountains.

**Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*.** One bird in Ayn Hamran (10.4) and another in Qatbit (7.4).



Hume's Leaf Warbler. Albert Burgas. Qatbit. December 2016.

**Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus*.** A few individuals in Wadi Al Muaydin (4.3 E).



Plain Leaf Warbler. Àlex Ollé. January 2015. Al Hajar Mountains. Small, short-tailed and with a diagnostic call.

**Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*.** Undoubtedly, this is another taxonomically interesting species in Oman. It is one of the commonest passerines in winter. All birds we heard called like *tristis*. We never heard any *collybita* call. However, often the coloration was not fitting to what is described for classical *tristis* (Dean & Svensson 2005). After detailed observation and pictures, one can see yellow speckles were *tristis* are not

supposed to have it. In Masirah we found several singing birds from which many had a mixt song between *collybita* and *tristis*, and even some bird calling like *tristis* was singing like perfect *collybita*. This points to an intergrade between *collybita abietinus* and *tristis*, which is also called the '*fulvescens*' form (Marova *et al.* 2013; Copete com. pers.).



Chiffchaff. Àlex Ollé. Masirah. December 2016. This bird had a call like *tristis* but sang like *collybita*. It also had yellow specklings on supercilium, breast and flanks; characters typical in '*fulvescens*' intergrades.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*.** Some solitary birds in Filim (8.1 C), Wadi Darbat (10.8), Raysut Sewage Plant 16°59'38.1"N 53°56'14.2"E and Ayn Hamran (10.4).

**Nile Valley Sunbird *Hedydipna metallica*.** Relatively abundant in Mudday 17°28'46.3"N 53°21'07.4"E.

**Turkestan Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius (isabellinus) phoenicuroides*.** One male in Ayn Hamran (10.4).



Turkestan Red-tailed Shrike. Àlex Ollé. Ayn Hamran. December 2016. Underparts with no buffish colour, with very sharply marked mask and with broad and long supercilium. The colour of the crown and back also fits with this specie. However, in Oman is thought to be very rare or absent, according the List of Birds of Oman (version 7.6) and the variability of Isabelline Shrike, a very abundant specie, makes the identification very cautious.

**Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius (meridionalis) pallidirostris*.** One bird in Masirah and five in Shisr (7.6).



Steppe Grey Shrike. Àlex Ollé. Liwa. January 2015.

**Yemen Serin *Crithagra menachensis*.** A few birds in Tawi Atayr (10.9).

Species of birds only seen in the 1st trip (January 2015):

**Lesser Whistling Duck** 1 bird in Wadi Al Mughsayl (10.15); **Cotton Pygmy Goose** a few birds along de south coastal wetlands; **Lanner Falcon** 1 juvenile in Balid Farm (7.5); **Peregrine Falcon** 2 Nordic adults, male and female, in 18°07'52.7"N 56°32'56.1"E; **White-breasted Waterhen** 1 bird in Al Mughsayl (10.15); **Spur-winged Lapwing** 1 bird in Raysut Sewage Plant 16°59'38.1"N 53°56'14.2"E; **Spotted Sandgrouse** abundant in the central desert, especially in Balid Farm (7.5); **Long-eared Owl** 1 bird in Balid Farm (7.5); **Blyth's Pipit** 1 bird in Jarziz Farm (10.1); **Masked Shrike** 1 bird in Ayn Hamran (10.4) and another in Salalah Farms (10.1); **Black Drongo** 1 bird in Ayn Hamran (10.4); **Rosy Starling** few birds in Sahnawt Farm (10.1 E).



Anna Planella y Albert Burgas tracking somewhere...



Blyth's Pipit © Àlex Ollé. 9a cita para Omán.



Ricard Font, our "guide" local in Filim..

# List of mammals and amphibians

## MAMMALS

Scientific name	English name	Location (approximate number)	Observation
<i>Vulpes vulpes arabica</i>	Arabian red fox	Dhofar ( $\geq 7$ ); Muntasar (1); Qatbit (1); Al Hajar ( $\geq 1$ ); Mudday ( $\geq 1$ )	Seen and listened
<i>Canis lupus arabs</i>	Arabian wolf	Dhofar (8)	Seen and listened
<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	Honey badger	Dhofar (Ayn Hamran)	Signals and tracks
<i>Felis silvestris gordonii</i>	Arabian wildcat	Dhofar ( $\geq 1$ )	Seen
<i>Gazella gazella cora</i>	Mountain gazelle	Muntasar (2)	Seen
<i>Hystrix indica</i>	Indian Crested Porcupine	Dhofar (2)	Seen and signals
<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin	Fararah ( $\geq 10$ ); Fazaya Beach ( $\geq 5$ )	Seen

## AMPHIBIANS

Scientific name	English name	Location (approximate number)	Observation
<i>Bufo dhufarensis</i>	Dhofar Toad	Ayn Hamran (3)	Seen
<i>Bufo arabicus</i>	Arabian Toad	Al Hajar (2)	Seen



Have a good trip !!