

# BIRDS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

## ANNUAL REPORT – 2010



Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) – the 1<sup>st</sup> record for the UAE found at Dubai Pivot Fields in November 2010.  
(Photo © Mike Barth)

**Report compiled by Mark Smiles & Tommy Pedersen**

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Annual summary	Page 3
Species accounts	Page 5
Birds of presumed captive origin	Page 29
Acknowledgements	Page 30
List of observers	Page 30

**RECOMMENDED CITATION**

For reference to this report in peer-reviewed literature, use this citation:

**Smiles, M., T. Pedersen & O. Campbell. 2012.** Birds of the United Arab Emirates Annual Report 2010.

## ANNUAL SUMMARY

### JANUARY

The year kicked off in style with the UAE's first **Wilson's Phalarope** being found at Al Wathba Lake on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, resulting in one of the UAE's largest-ever twitches. A **Pied Kingfisher** was present on the lake in front of the CNN building in Dubai Media City from the 6<sup>th</sup> until the end of the month. A **Redwing** (8<sup>th</sup> record) was in the small plantations at Sila'a on the 8<sup>th</sup> and an **Amur Falcon** flew through Ghantoot on the 9<sup>th</sup>, whilst an **Ashy Drongo** was found in Safa Park on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A **Golden Eagle** hung around Liwa Oasis late in the month, with a **Mourning Wheatear** being found there on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### FEBRUARY

A **Wire-tailed Swallow** at Al Ain Water Treatment plant on 6<sup>th</sup> was followed by the discovery of a **Kittiwake** at Fujairah Port Beach on 11<sup>st</sup>, though it later died two days later after being found in a poor state on the 12<sup>th</sup>. **Spur-winged Lapwings** (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> records) were the main feature of the month though, with 2 present at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant on 13<sup>rd</sup>, one of which remained into March, and a single bird at the Godolphin stables in Al Quoz, Dubai, which remained for most of the year after its discovery on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 28<sup>th</sup> was a female **Merlin** at Umm al-Qaiwain breakwater

### MARCH

The Safa Park **Ashy Drongo** reappeared sporadically during the month and proved difficult to pin down. The second **Pied Kingfisher** of the year was reported from Ruwais on the 5<sup>th</sup> and a **Little Gull** was found at Kalba on the 11<sup>th</sup> and lingered until at least the 20<sup>th</sup>. A **Siskin** in the plantation at Sila'a on the 19<sup>th</sup> coincided with the start of a run of **Bay-backed Shrikes** which saw two birds found on the same day at Wamm Farms and Al Jais in the Ras Al Khaimah mountains.

### APRIL

A fourth **Bay-backed Shrike** was found on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, again at Wamm Farms, whilst an **Icterine Warbler** was present at Mamzar Park the following day. Sadly, a fleeting **drongo sp** in Abu Dhabi on the 11<sup>st</sup> remained unresolved. The long-staying **Brown Shrike** at the Pivots was last reported on the 25<sup>th</sup>, having overwintered, though often elusive during its stay. An elusive, strange *Acrocephalus* warbler in Mushrif Palace Gardens Front Wood on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> was later proven to be the UAE's first **Basra Reed Warbler**.

### MAY

An **Arctic Tern** settled briefly on Fujairah Port Beach on the 7<sup>th</sup> where a **Sooty Shearwater** was found offshore later the same day. Seabirds continued to dominate the month's headlines with sea-watches yielding further **Sooty Shearwaters** on 15<sup>th</sup> (one, possibly the same bird) and 22<sup>nd</sup> (two), a **Wilson's Storm-petrel** on the 21<sup>st</sup>, followed by **Brown Boobies**, with one on the 25<sup>th</sup>, an immature on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 3 off Khor Kalba the next day.

### JUNE

East coast seawatching continued to pay dividends when **Masked Boobies** were seen off Fujairah (one) and Kalba (two) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, where an immature **Brown Booby** was also seen. The finding of an adult **Bay-backed Shrike** with 2 juveniles in Masafi Wadi on the 7<sup>th</sup> generated great interest and represented the first confirmed record of breeding for the species in the UAE. The very first exploratory venture into the waters offshore Kalba on the 11<sup>th</sup> discovered the UAE's second **Flesh-footed Shearwater**, putting pelagic birding firmly on the UAE map. The bird had swallowed a fishing line and although the crew managed to cut the line, they were unable to remove the deeply-bedded hook, and the bird was released back to the sea, where it was seen from shore the following morning. An immature **Golden Eagle** was seen by rangers in the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, whilst 3 **Brown Noddies** were seen at close range during a pelagic trip on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### JULY

A quiet month for new finds. The **Golden Eagle** remained in the DDCR until at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> and a **Wilson's Storm-petrel** was seen at close range in an exciting high-speed chase during a Kalba pelagic on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The adult and 2 juvenile **Bay-backed Shrikes** were still present in the same wadi at Masafi.

### AUGUST

4 **Brown Noddy** and a **Wilson's Storm-petrel** were seen during a pelagic on the 6<sup>th</sup>, but good old-fashioned seawatching claimed the prize on the 12<sup>th</sup> with the photographing of the UAE's first **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** from Kalba breakwater. A pelagic the following day could only manage a **Masked Booby**, however. **Caspian Plovers** signalled a start of autumn movement, with singles found at Al Wathba on the 24<sup>th</sup> and Warsan Lakes on 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **SEPTEMBER**

September kicked into life with a **Savi's Warbler** photographed at Dubai Zoo on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a male **Pied Stonechat** and a **Black-winged Pratincole** being found at Wamm Farms the same day. The Warsan **Caspian Plover** relocated to the Pivots on 4<sup>th</sup>, with 2 more reported from Jumeirah Golf Estates on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 13 **Brown Noddy** were seen during the Kalba pelagic on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the same day as a **Brown-throated Martin** was reported from Wamm Farms. **Baillon's Crakes** set up residence in a small stream in Green Mubazzarah, with the first reported on the 18<sup>th</sup> and a second on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A young **European Honey Buzzard** was photographed in Wadi Bih on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **OCTOBER**

An **Oriental Turtle Dove** frequented Wamm Farms during the month, first seen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, whilst a **Corncrake** took up residence in Sila'a Park from the 8<sup>th</sup> to at least the 25<sup>th</sup>. The UAE's 4<sup>th</sup> record of **Spur-winged Lapwing** was found on Sir Bani Yas Island on the 15<sup>th</sup> – the third record of the year for this species. The Green Mubazzarah **Baillon Crake** count rose to 3 birds on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a record high; at least one bird was to remain at the site until early December. The finding of a **Dusky Warbler** in Safa Park on the 29<sup>th</sup> generated much excitement, but typically often proved very hard to get a good look at. Two **Lappet-faced Vultures** visited the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve on the 30<sup>th</sup>; the same day that a high count of 22 **Ruddy Shelduck** flew past Khor Al Beida.

## **NOVEMBER**

A **Mourning Wheatear** was found on Sir Bani Yas on the 1<sup>st</sup>, whilst a **Sociable Lapwing** was at Ghantoot Polo Club on the 5<sup>th</sup>, with another at Dubai Pivot Fields on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Pivots hosted the UAE's first **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** which proved very obliging to photographers (see cover), present from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup> also saw the discovery of a **White-breasted Waterhen** in the grounds of the American University campus at Sharjah University City. An adult **Lesser Flamingo** was picked out from the large flamingo flocks at Al Wathba Lake on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

The 14<sup>th</sup> saw the finding of a male **Ring Ouzel** at Jebel Dhanna, along with a record count of 8 **Mourning Wheatears**, many of which stayed until at least the end of the year. 5 **Ruddy Shelduck** were at the Godolphin stables in Al Quoz on the 17<sup>th</sup>, rising to 6 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the same day as a **Macqueen's Bustard** of unknown origin was reported from the Ras Al Khaimah area. A female-type **Asian Koel** was photographed in the grounds of Dugas at Jebel Ali on the 24<sup>th</sup> with the first of several **Eversmann's Redstarts** being found at Emirates Palace on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A **European Robin** was in Safa Park from the 28<sup>th</sup> until the end of the year, whilst a **Black-throated Thrush** found at Sila'a on the 29<sup>th</sup> was to prove to be the first of what was to be an exceptional winter for thrushes. 11 **Greater White-fronted Geese** started a long stay at Ain Al Fayda on the same day.

## **DECEMBER**

An exceptional month burst into life during the long weekend of National Day, with a female **Pied Stonechat** at Mirfa and a male **Eversmann's Redstart** in the town park on Delma Island on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. This was followed by 2 **Black-throated Thrushes** at Sila'a, a **Dotterel** on Sir Bani Yas, and 3 **Red-billed Tropicbirds** on Delma Island on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The holiday mayhem continued into the 4<sup>th</sup>, with the finding of the UAE's third **Taiga Flycatcher** in the plantations at Sila'a. A remarkable 7 **Ring Ouzel** and 2 **Black-throated Thrush** were in the wadi beneath the Mercure Hotel on Jebel Hafit from the 9<sup>th</sup>, the same day as the year's fifth record of **Bay-backed Shrike** was logged at Hamraniyah Fields.

A **Sociable Lapwing** was found at Al Qua'a fodder fields on the 10<sup>th</sup>, whilst the restricted area of the Dabb'iya peninsula held a female **Eversmann's Redstart**, 2 **Short-eared Owls** and 2 **Black-throated Thrush**. A *japonicus* **Buff-bellied Pipit** was at Dubai Pivot fields on the 21<sup>st</sup> and present until the end of the year, and a **Siskin** was found in Abu Dhabi Port Mina Zayed on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **ANNUAL TOTALS**

324 species (+ 47 deemed to be of captive origin) recorded during the year. Four new species admitted to the UAE national list which now stands at 443 species at the end of 2010.

### New species:

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*  
 Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*  
 Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*

## **SPECIES ACCOUNTS**

### **Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)**

A flock of 11 birds was present at Ain Al Fayda (AD) from 29th Nov until the end of the year. Highest count: 68 at The Montgomerie, Emirates Hills golf course (DUB) on 7th Dec.

### **Eastern Greylag Goose (*Anser anser rubrirostris*)**

Only 4 records received during the year. 2 were at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 17th Jan, singles at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 23rd Apr and The Els Club (DUB) on 9th Dec, with 5 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 10th Dec.

### **Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)**

Evidence of breeding recorded from Al Wathba Lake & Lulu Island (both AD). Highest counts: 12 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 6th Aug and 50 at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 10th Dec.

### **Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)**

5 birds were at Al Quoz stables (Godolphin) (DUB) on 17th Nov, with 6 there on 21st. 2-3 birds stayed at Al Wathba Lake (AD) from 20th Nov until the end of the year. Highest count was a flock of 22 that flew through Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 30th Oct.

### **Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)**

Records mainly from Al Wathba Lake (AD), where highest count was 165 birds on 15th Dec. Up to 67 reported from Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide (DUB) (1st Feb). Latest departure 10th Apr, first arrival 29th Sep.

### **Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)**

Reported from only 4 sites. Highest count of 3 recorded at Al Wathba Lake (AD) from 23rd Jan to 5th Feb, with two at Safa Park (DUB) and singles at Sila'a (AD) and Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) towards the end of the year. Latest departure 5th Feb, first arrival 27th Oct.

### **Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)**

Reported in small numbers throughout the winter months, with a peak count of 30 at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 23rd Jan. A report of 10 at Silicon Oasis (DUB) on 25th Nov was the only other double-figure count. Latest departure 22nd Mar, first arrival 13th Oct.

### **Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)**

Widely reported, with a high count of 160 from Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 13th Feb. At least 1 bird recorded somewhere every month except for July and August (and that gap was probably merely due to reduced observer coverage during the summer period).

### **Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)**

Widely reported throughout the winter months, with one or two recorded during the summer. Highest count 900 from Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 1st and 7th Dec. Latest departure 15th Apr, first arrival 14th Aug. One bird recorded at Nad al-Sheba Ponds (DUB) on 18th June may have over-summered.

### **Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)**

Reported from many sites during the winter months, with a peak count of c200 birds at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 11st Mar. Latest departure 2nd Apr, first arrival 17th Sep.

### **Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)**

Sightings reported between 13rd Feb to 24th Apr and from 14th Aug until the year end. Highest count of 19 birds at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 21st Sep.

### **Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*)**

Widely reported throughout the winter months; numbers peaking December/January. Highest count c500 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 2nd Jan. Latest departure 28th Mar, first arrival 14th Aug.

### **Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)**

Mainly reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), with the largest count being some 180 birds on 14th and 29th Jan. Latest departure 2nd Apr, first arrival 7th Oct.

**Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)**

Small numbers recorded during the winter months. Highest number recorded was 15 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB). Latest departure 13rd Mar, first arrival 30th Jul.

**Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)**

Mainly reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), where the largest flock was c50 birds on 7th Feb. Latest departure 13th Mar, first arrival 23rd Oct.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Greater White-fronted Goose		7									11	68
Eastern Greylag Goose	2			1								5
Egyptian Goose	6	4	6	1	9	7		12	13	6	4	50
Ruddy Shelduck										22	6	3
Common Shelduck	168	93	24	5					1	1	13	165
Gadwall	3	3								1	2	2
Eurasian Wigeon	30	12	3							5	10	11
Mallard	89	160	77	10	1	1			2	100	35	247
Northern Shoveler	871	250	100	127		1		20	89	206	820	900
Northern Pintail	50	20	200	4					2	8	26	74
Garganey		5	6	9				2	19	6	11	10
Eurasian Teal	653	410	415					5	20	23	200	609
Common Pochard	180	40	3	6						3	31	140
Ferruginous Duck	12	10	1				1	1		2	15	6
Tufted Duck	45	50	16							5	10	4

Table 1. Maximum daily wildfowl counts by month.

**Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*)**

Up to 40 birds reported from Wadi Bih (RAK), with evidence of breeding confirmed. Small numbers in several other mountain sites, with 15 at Al Jais (RAK) on 19th Mar being the only other notable count.

**Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*)**

Regularly reported from a wide range of sites, with numbers often in double figures. Highest recorded count of some 200 birds on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 3rd Dec.

**Sand Partridge (*Ammoperdix heyi*)**

Frequently reported from several mountain sites, the most popular being Green Mubazzarah (AD), Jebel Hafit (AD) and Masafi Wadi (FUJ); the latter site having the highest reported count of 35 on 6th Aug.

**Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)**

Recorded in ones and twos throughout the year, except for the months of June, July & August. 4 birds reported from Wamm Farms (FUJ) on the 21st Feb was the highest total noted.

**Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)**

Common and widespread, with breeding confirmed at several sites. Highest count was at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) where 155 were counted on 7th Sep.

**Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)**

Mostly reported from Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Nad al-Sheba Ponds (DUB), where 96 were recorded at the latter on 15th Jan. Latest departure 24th Apr, first arrival 29th Sep.

**Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)**

Widely recorded from a number of sites, with numbers often in the thousands. Breeding behaviour observed at Al Wathba Lake (AD), but no young reported. Highest count of 4200 came from Musaffah (AD) on 2nd Jan.

**Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*)**

A single bird found amongst the large flock of Greater Flamingo at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 12th Nov remained until the year end. (7<sup>th</sup> UAE record).

**Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*)**

The second record for the UAE was of a bird found drifting c2-3km offshore during a pelagic from Kalba (SHJ) on 11th Jun. It was found to have swallowed a fishing line and was caught by the crew in a failed attempt to remove the hook. The bird was still present the following morning off the breakwater.

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*)**

An all-dark shearwater photographed from the breakwater at Kalba (SHJ) on 12th Aug was subsequently identified and accepted as the first record for the country.

**Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*)**

6 records of single birds between the dates of 17th Apr and 29th May, mostly from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ). Two were seen from the same place on 22nd May.

**Persian Shearwater (*Puffinus persicus*)**

Reported most months, except February and March, from east coast sites. Highest count was of an estimated 2000 birds seen during a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 18th Jun.

**Wilson's Storm Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)**

5 records of single birds between 12th May and 6th Aug from Fujairah Port Beach & Kalba (SHJ).

**Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*)**

3 individuals were observed flying past Dalma Island (AD) on 3rd Dec.

**White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)**

Two records: 2 birds at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 15th Apr and 1 for two days at Wamm Farms (FUJ) from 1st Oct.

**Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*)**

1-2 birds hung around off the Fujairah – Kalba shore between 29th May and 11th Jun. Another was seen on a pelagic out of Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 13th Aug.

**Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)**

Up to 3 birds seen between 28th May and 3rd Jun from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) to Kalba (SHJ). (14<sup>th</sup> record)

**Eurasian Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis/hanedae*)**

A maximum of 300 birds was counted at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 7th Feb. Although primarily a winter visitor, birds were reported every month except July and August.

**Socotra Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*)**

Regularly seen on both coasts, but huge numbers typically observed in the west. Reports of up to 20,000 birds were received from Umm al-Qaiwain Breakwater (UAQ) on 10th Feb and Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 28th Dec.

**Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*)**

The sighting of a juvenile on 16th July at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), following a female there on 31st Mar, may suggest successful breeding. Single birds also reported from Zakher Lake (AD) and Sila'a (AD) during the year.

**Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)**

Recorded all year from a variety of sites; Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) saw the highest count of 120 birds on 16th Dec.

**Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)**

Seen year-round, mostly in single figures. The largest count was 15 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 12th Aug.

**Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)**

Widely reported throughout the year, with double-figure counts regularly recorded at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide (DUB), where a maximum count of 88 was made on 8th Nov.

**Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)**

Most records came from Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide (DUB), Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) and Zakher Lake (AD). Highest count: 10 at Ra's al-Khor on 1st Jan and 17th Nov.

**Indian Reef Heron (*Egretta gularis schistacea*)**

A maximum count of 250 was made at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 9th Apr. Widely reported throughout the year.

**Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)**

Commonly reported, often in fairly large groups; highest count of 180 came from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 15th Oct. Evidence of breeding reported from the Dubai area in March.

**Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*)**

One individual reported from Wamm Farms (FUJ) between 26th Mar to 17th Apr and again on 23rd Oct. Assumed to be the long-staying bird first reported in 2009. Almost certainly overlooked if not in breeding plumage.

**Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)**

Almost exclusively reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB); this site held the highest numbers, with up to 25 being recorded on 4th Sep.

**Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*)**

Mostly reported from the mangrove-lined creeks at Khor Kalba (SHJ), where up to 17 were counted on 16th Oct.

**Striated Heron (*Butorides striata* [*atricapilla*-group])**

Recorded throughout the year at a wide range of sites. Highest count: 8 birds at Eastern Lagoon (AD) on 21st Aug and Musaffah (AD) on 4th Jun.

**Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)**

The vast majority of reports came from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) where up to 120 were counted on 15th Oct.

**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**

Double-figure counts recorded from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) and Ajman Water Treatment Plant (Ajman) where there were 16 on 23rd Dec.

**Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)**

The ever-present flock at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary--Mangrove Hide (DUB) reached 132 birds in mid-November. The only other sizeable population was at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) where 25 were counted on 30th Oct.

**Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**

Ones and twos reported year round from most coastal sites, especially around Abu Dhabi with 10 reported from offshore and Musaffah and 8 from Umm al-Kirkum (AD).

**European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)**

A young bird was photographed drinking at a pool in Wadi Bih (RAK) on 26th Sep.

**Crested Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)**

One or two wintered in the plantations at Sila'a (AD) until at least 27th Apr, whilst 2-3 were regularly seen at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) & Mushrif National Park (DUB) from January to May, returning in October.

**Crested/European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis* sp.)**

One record of an unspecified Honey Buzzard from Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 3rd Apr.

**Black-eared Kite (*Milvus migrans lineatus/formosanus*)**

Single wintering birds recorded from Dalma Island (AD), Sir Bani Yas (AD), Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) & Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB). Latest departure 3rd May, earliest arrival 11th Sep.

**Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)**

A report of a single bird at Hatta (DUB) on 10th May was the only record away from the species' regular Al Ain stronghold, where up to 57 were recorded at Jebel Hafit (AD).

**Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*)**

4 records. Single birds from Jebel Hafit (AD) on 5th Mar and the Sharjah to Kalba road around Munnay (RAK) on 19th Nov. Two birds were at Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DUB) on 30th Oct and the Hili District of Al Ain (AD) on 5th Nov.

**Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)**

Sporadic winter records of single birds, centred mainly around Green Mubazzarah (AD) and nearby sites, with 2 at Al Ain airport (AD) on 24th Jan. Single records also around Dibba (FUJ), Wadi Bih and Al Jais (RAK), Jebel Dhanna (AD) & Bab al Shams (DUB).



**Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)**

Commonly seen during the winter months. No reports between 8th May and 31st Aug. Major roosts at Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) peaked at 31 and 30 birds respectively.

**Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)**

Regularly reported, especially from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), throughout the winter months. Most records refer to single birds, but a count of 5 at Sila'a (AD) on 26th Mar was exceptional. No records from 24th Apr to 23rd Sep.

**Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)**

Only 11 records of this species during 2010, all single birds except for 2 at Al Qua'a Fodder Field (AD) on 18th Jan. Not seen after 30th Apr in spring or before 4th Sep in autumn.

**Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)**

Almost exclusively reported from Dubai emirate throughout the year, with up to 3 birds at Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 12th Jan. Outside of Dubai, a single record from Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 5th Apr and one bird remained in the Sila'a (AD) area from 26th Dec 2009, being seen until 1st Apr – the first accepted wild record of Shikra outside of Dubai.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)**

Widely reported during the winter months, being last seen on 23rd Apr and reported again from 19th Oct. Highest counts were from the Sila'a area (AD) where up to 5 were recorded on 8th Jan and 19th Nov.

**Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo* [vulpinus-group])**

A single bird hung around the areas around Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant (DUB) from 14th Jan until 6th Mar.

**Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*)**

Mostly reported from the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DUB), where up to 3 were seen during the latter months of the year. One was at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 5th-6th Nov, with other one-day singles noted at Qarn Nazwa (SHJ), Ghantoot (AD) and Zakher Lake (AD). Not reported April to late October.

**Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*)**

Regularly reported during the winter, although the only regular multiple sightings were in the Dubai areas around Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), which had the highest count of 8 birds on 16th Jan. The only records from the east were single birds at Wamm Farms on 13rd Apr and 24th Oct and 2 birds at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 12th Feb. Last reported on 27th Apr and no further records until 1st Oct.

**Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)**

Single immatures were seen at Al Dharah (AD) on 8th Feb and Masafi Wadi (FUJ) on 4th Apr.

**Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)**

Several records from the Al Ain (AD) area from 2nd Jan to 12th Feb (where up to 2 birds) and from Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) and environs between 1st-11th Feb. Elsewhere, single birds recorded at Jebel Dhanna (AD), Sir Bani Yas (AD) and Dubai Desert Conservation reserve (DUB). Not seen between 26th Mar and 25th Nov.

**Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)**

One reported from the Al Qua'a to Umm az Zumul Road (AD) on 20th Jan, whilst an immature bird visited the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DUB) between 22nd Jun and 3rd July.

**Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)**

15 records throughout the year, mostly single birds. Away from the Al Ain (AD) area, the species was seen at Hatta (DUB) (2 birds), Wadi Heilo (FUJ) (1), Wadi Shawka (RAK) (1) and Wamm Farms (FUJ) (up to 2).

**Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*)**

11 records of single birds at various locations across the country, mostly in the Dubai and Al Ain (AD) areas. No records after 6th Mar and before 10th Nov.

**Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*)**

Only 9 records during the year, all of single birds, except for 2 seen at Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club (AD) on 10th Aug – the only 'summer' record. All other records were within the windows of February/March and October- December.

**Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)**

Seen throughout the year, with breeding confirmed at 4 locations; 2 in both Dubai and Abu Dhabi emirates. Highest count: 8 at Al Qua'a Fodder Field (AD) on 18th Jan.

**Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*)**

A female seen at Ghantoot (AD) on 9th Jan was probably the same bird reported from there in December 2009.

**Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)**

A female was photographed at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 28th Feb.

**Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)**

Single birds reported 9 times during the year between the dates of 19th Mar - 24th May and 25th Sep – 23rd Oct.

**Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)**

An adult male was at Qarn Nazwa (SHJ) on 7th Jan, whilst an individual reported from Abu Dhabi Corniche (AD) on 3rd Dec may be the same bird as the immature seen at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 11th-15th Dec.

**Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*)**

One or two regularly seen at Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Jebel Hafit (AD) throughout the year. Away from this area, one was seen at Wadi Sharm (FUJ) on 29th May and at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 4th and 24th Sep.

**Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*)**

Two reports of putative wild birds from Rams (RAK) on 21st Nov and Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 2nd Dec.

**Corncrake (*Crex crex*)**

Sila'a (AD) hosted 2 birds during the year; one was found in one of the plantations on 27th Apr, whilst another paraded around the park between 8th and 25th Oct.

**White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)**

One was in the grounds of the American University Campus at Sharjah University City (SHJ) from 7th Nov until 25th Nov.

**Baillon's Crake (*Porzana pusilla*)**

Up to 3 regularly seen in the small stream near the mosque in Green Mubazzarah (AD) from 18th Sep until 5th Dec. The highest ever count for a single site.

**Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*)**

No records received outside of Abu Dhabi emirate, from where successful breeding was confirmed at Al Ghazal Golf Club (AD). Birds seen at Ajban, Sila'a, Al Wathba Camel Track and Emirates Palace were all single sightings, whilst Green Mubazzarah and Al Wathba Lake had birds at both ends of the year, the latter site yielding regular sightings. No reports between 5th May and 16th Sep.

**Porzana sp. (*Porzana sp.*)**

An unidentified crake was seen at Sila'a on 23rd Apr.

**Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio [poliocephalus-group]*)**

Regularly-seen breeding resident of Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) where up to 3 birds were counted on several dates.

**Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)**

Common resident recorded at most wetland sites. Highest count: 80 at Kharran Water Treatment Plant (RAK) on 28th Nov. Breeding confirmed at several sites.

**Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*)**

Regularly recorded from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Zakher Lake (AD), with the former site holding the highest number with 20 birds and evidence of breeding. One-off singles reported from the water treatment plant sites at Mirfa (AD) and Al Ain (AD) and also at Ajban (AD).

**Red-knobbed/Eurasian Coot hybrid (*Fulica sp.*)**

An individual showing characters of Red-knobbed and Eurasian Coot was reported on 13th Mar at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB).

**Eurasian Stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*)**

17 records from 11 sites during the year, with a high count of 6 birds at Dubai World Central (DUB) on 5th to 7th Oct.

**Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)**

Singles at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 4th Apr and Al Wathba Lake (AD) 16th-23rd Jan. One bird was at Dubai Pivot Fields on 6th Jan, where up to 3 were regularly seen from 19th Nov until the end of the year.

**Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*)**

The second to fourth records for the UAE were recorded during a bumper year for this species. Up to 2 were at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) from 13th Feb until 6th Mar whilst a further bird set up residence in the Godolphin stables at Al Quoz (DUB) from 28th Feb to 24th Oct. Yet another was on Sir Bani Yas (AD) from 15th-21st Oct.

**Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*)**

Widely reported throughout the year, with breeding confirmed at several sites. Up to 250 birds were noted at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD), with much lesser numbers at many more locations, with Sila'a in the far west having up to 10 birds on 8th Oct.

**Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*)**

4 birds reported during the year. Ghantoot (AD) hosted birds on 15th Jan and 5th to 6th Nov, one was at Al Qua'a Fodder Field (AD) on 10th Dec and one individual remained at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 5th Nov until the end of the year.

**White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*)**

The traditional strongholds of Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) remained the main places to see this species, with 100 and 45 respectively being noted. Other sites and maxima included up to 18 at Al Wathba Lake (AD), 8 at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) and 7 at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ), with much smaller numbers elsewhere. Breeding was confirmed at several of the main sites.

**Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)**

Recorded every month at coastal sites, with a high count of 310 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 8th Nov. There were 3 inland records with 2 at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) 12th Feb to 22nd Mar, 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 5th Nov to 24th Dec and 2 at Al Wathba lakes (AD) 12th Nov to 15th Dec.

**Eurasian Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)**

A long-staying individual at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) remained from the start of the year until 7th Feb, with another there on 14th Nov. One was at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 9th Jan, whilst Sir Bani Yas (AD) had one on 4th Dec, with a second joining it six days later.

**Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*)**

A count of 64 from Al Ghazal Golf Club (AD) on 19th Jan was the highest flock noted during the year. Other significant flocks included 50 birds at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 14th Nov and 38 at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on 12th Feb. No records in June and July.

**Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus* [atrifrons-group])**

Seen year-round in varying numbers at mainly coastal sites. Major flocks were reported from Dreamland Beach (UAQ) where 1180 were counted on 5th Nov, with 500+ reported several times from Khor al-Beida (UAQ).

**Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)**

Widely reported regularly from coastal sites, with main clusters at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) (100 birds on 30th Oct), 50 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 3rd Sep and Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 10th Dec and 40 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 5th Sep.

**Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus*)**

3 records. Singles were recorded at Ghantoot (AD) from 13th Jan until 7th Feb and at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) from 24th Aug to 31st Aug before relocating to the nearby Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 4th Sep to 10th Sep. Two birds were also found at Jumeirah Golf Estates on 23rd Sep.

**Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)**

Commonly reported, often in large numbers from all over the Emirates. Highest counts obtained from Al Wathba Lake (AD) where 1275 were logged on 16th Jan, with 1000 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 9th Apr and Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 25th Jun. Breeding confirmed from several sites.

**Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)**

A high count of c500 birds was reported from Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 27th Sep, with lesser numbers at many wetland and coastal sites. Khor al-Beida (UAQ) held 250 on 20th Mar and Al Wathba Lake (AD) 101 on 16th Jan. Not recorded in June and July.

**Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)**

Present all year. Breeding confirmed in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. High counts: 40 Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) 26th Aug, 40 Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) 26th Aug, 35 Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) 14th Nov, 30 Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) 6th Sep.

**Eurasian Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*)**

There were 2 records during the year. Ghantoot Polo Club (AD) had at 2 birds overwintering from December 2009 until 20th Jan. One bird was lame, which may have discouraged the birds from moving on sooner. Another bird was on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 1st Nov, with presumably the same bird present from 3rd Dec to 21st Dec.

**Crab Plover (*Dromas ardeola*)**

Mostly recorded in low numbers outside of the usual west coast sites in Umm al-Qaiwain, where highs of 400 and 131 were logged at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) and Al Rafa'a (UAQ) on 24th Sep and 16th Jan respectively. On Abu al-Abyadh Island (AD), 1200 active nests were counted on 5th Jun.

**Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)**

Recorded throughout the year, with highest counts at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) where 150 were counted on 26th Nov and 48 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 15th Aug.

**Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)**

Common resident with maximum counts of 650 at Al Wathba lake (AD) on 16th Jan and 300 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 2nd Apr. Counts of up to 200 birds noted at Mafraq & Al Ain Water Treatment Plants (AD) and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB).

**Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)**

Mainly recorded during the winter months, though one or two birds over-summered at Al Wathba Lake (AD), from where the main concentration was observed, peaking at 85 on 27th Feb. Also, good numbers at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), with 22 counted on 1st Jan.

**Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)**

Small numbers recorded throughout the year outside of the main stronghold of Khor al-Beida (UAQ), from where up to 250 were counted on 20th Mar and 24th Sep. Inland, a flock of 18 at Wadi Al Ain (AD) on 1st May was an exceptional observation.

**Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)**

Recorded every month except June, occurring most frequently at inland sites and especially Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Centre (AD) where up to 20 birds were logged on the 30th Sep. The highest count was of 21 counted at Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant (DUB) on the 17th Nov.

**Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)**

Present in small numbers through the year at many sites, with highs of 30 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 25-26th Aug and 23 at the nearby Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant (DUB) on 7th Nov.

**Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)**

Scarce from May to the end of August, with the majority of sightings coming from Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD), from where highs of 9 and 8 were recorded respectively on the 27th Feb and 16th Jan.

**Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)**

Flocks in excess of 100 often reported from the tidal sites of Khor al-Beida (UAQ) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) through the winter from late September to April; much lower numbers outside those dates. Highest count of 200 recorded at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 1st Jan.

**Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)**

Largely absent from May to July, although 9 were seen at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 25<sup>th</sup> Jun. The site easily provided the most sightings and numbers of birds during the year, peaking at 55 on 7th Dec.

**Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)**

Recorded all months except June. Largest numbers found at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) where up to 60 were counted on 7th Sep.

**Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)**

One or two reported April to June, with numbers rising during the winter months and present at a number of sites. Highest count was 1000 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 20th Mar, with numbers in excess of 100 regularly seen in this area throughout the winter.

**Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)**

Recorded year-round, with up to 400 counted at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 24th Sep.

**Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)**

Seen throughout the year, usually in low numbers; most regularly occurring at Khor al-Beida (UAQ), where up to 150 were counted on 12th Apr.

**Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)**

Up to 100 were seen at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on several occasions during the winter months, with lesser numbers elsewhere and during the summer. Also regularly recorded at Al Wathba Lake (AD) where 65 was the highest count on 30th Mar.

**Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)**

Recorded every month during the year, mostly on the west coast, with numbers peaking in April, when 1000 were in the high-tide roost at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 9th.

**Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)**

Occurring monthly, the highest counts were 135 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 28th Nov and 100 on Sir Bani Yas on 26th Aug. On the east coast, Khor Kalba (SHJ) had 50 to 70 between the 20th Aug and 3rd Sep.

**Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)**

Only reported 14 times during the year, mostly at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) where 49 was the maximum counted on 28th Nov. Away from this site, the only records were single birds at Khor Kalba (SHJ) and Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on the 1st Jan and 4th Sep respectively.

**Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)**

Mostly seen on passage on the east coast, with peak numbers occurring at Khor Kalba (SHJ) with 80 on 30th Apr and 70 on 3rd Sep.

**Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)**

Very scarce during June and July, with a single bird lingering at Al Wathba Lake (AD) during June. Numbers increasing in the winter months, peaking at 2900 at Al Wathba on 16th Jan; 2000 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 15th Aug were presumably mostly passage birds.

**Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)**

Not recorded in June or July, with numbers peaked during September and October, when up to 150 were counted at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on the 13th Oct.

**Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)**

Highs of 4000 and 3500 were recorded at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on the 9th Apr and 24th Sep respectively. No records during June or July.

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)**

Recorded every month, though scarce in July. Highest counts: 1200 at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 28th Jan, 1000 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on the 20th Mar and 750 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary on 11th Apr.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*)**

Irregularly recorded during winter, with only 2 records from the first half of the year. Highs of 120 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 13th Mar and 69 on the 15th Aug marked the pre-departure gathering and return of the species at this difficult-to-view site. Outside these dates, only ones or twos reported. Inland, a bird was at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) from the 6th to 8th Sep.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*)**

The first record for the UAE was found at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 7th Nov; this often confiding bird remained until 10th Nov.

**Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)**

Recorded every month, with over 100 being reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Al Wathba Lake (AD). Highest count: 300 at Dubai Pivot Fields on 8th Nov.

**Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)**

Single birds reported from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 6th Jan, Yas Links Golf Course (AD) on 6th Feb, Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) from 18th Feb to 28th Mar and Al Wathba Camel Race Track from 9th to 22nd Dec.

**Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)**

Not reported during May; otherwise highs of 80 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on the 18th Feb and 45 at both Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 12th and 25th Nov respectively.

**Pin-tailed Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)**

11 records from 9th Feb to 11th Apr and from 27th Aug to 20th Oct. All single records, except for 4 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 9th Feb.

**Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)**

One was found at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 3rd Jan, remaining until 11th Jan. First UAE record.

**Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)**

At least one bird recorded every month, except for July. Regularly seen at Al Wathba Lake (AD), mainly in small numbers, but largest counts from the east coast, where 250 were reported from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 7th May.

**Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*)**

Recorded throughout the year, except in May and June. High counts: 55 at Jumeirah Golf Estates (DUB) on 23rd Sep, 32 at Ghantoot Polo Club (AD) on 16th Oct and 22 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 5th Nov. Breeding confirmed in the desert in Dubai emirate.

**Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)**

Recorded from 19th Mar to 26th Oct, with a maximum count of 9 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 31st Aug. The majority of reports came from this site and the nearby Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), with birds presumably moving regularly between the two sites. Breeding confirmed at Ajban (AD) at the end of May, with 2 pairs nesting and hatching at least 2 young.

**Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*)**

One bird present at Wamm Farms (FUJ) from the 3rd to 6th Sep.

**Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)**

A bird found at Fujairah Port Beach on 11th Feb was found in very poor condition the following day and was taken into care, but died later. This represented the fourth UAE record.

**Slender-billed Gull (*Chroicocephalus genei*)**

Present year-round, although numbers mainly in single figures from April to August. Highest counts occurred towards the end of March, with 500 at both Khor Kalba (SHJ) and Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 19th and 27th respectively, and 350 at Khor Fakkan (FUJ) on 20th.

**Common Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)**

Scarce May to July and not recorded August to September. Highest counts of 5000 birds at Al Wathba Lake (AD) and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 28th and 29th Jan.

**Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)**

An immature was in the Khor Kalba (SHJ) area from 11th to 20th Mar. 14th UAE record.

**Sooty Gull (*Ichthyaeetus hemprichii*)**

Present year round, though scarce early January and October to December. Mostly observed on the east coast, although a few records of ones and twos from the west. An exceptional inland record of one at Zakher Lake (AD) on 10th Dec. Highest count was 2000 at Fujairah Port Beach on 27th Mar. Breeding was reported from an offshore island in Abu Dhabi emirate.

**Great Black-headed Gull (*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*)**

Reported until 3rd Apr and from 26th Nov, with a very strong west coast bias. Highest count: 96 at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 3rd Feb. A 2nd winter at Safa Park (DUB) on 17th Mar was an unusual record.

**Steppe/Caspian/Heuglin's Gull (*Larus sp.*)**

Large white-headed gulls, of any taxon, are generally scarce in the UAE between the end of March and mid-August, with numbers down to single figures through the summer. Identification difficulties obscure the true status of all three taxa involved although it is generally believed that a large majority of records refer to Steppe Gull *L.f.barabensis*. Hence, many records relating to unspecified (sub)species were received, the highest single count reported being 1000 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 5th Mar.

**Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*)**

Four records, all from 6th Jan to 26th Feb. 6 reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 6th Jan, with 5 there on 16th. Elsewhere, singles reported at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 12th Feb and Lulu Island (AD) on 26th Feb.

**Heuglin's Gull (*Larus fuscus heuglini*)**

Not recorded between April and late August. A report of 50 on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 18th Jan was the largest count noted.

**Steppe Gull (*Larus fuscus barabensis*)**

No records April-July. Highest count 350 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 13th Mar.

**Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*)**

Reported from 25th May to 17th Sep, with a total of 7 records for the year. Up to 13 were seen on a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 17th Sep.

**Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*)**

Regularly recorded from 19th Mar to 1st Nov. Highest count: 2000 at Sir Abu Nair Island (AD) and on a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 18th Jun. Breeding reported from 2 sites in Abu Dhabi emirate.

**Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)**

Seen between 19th Mar and 3rd Oct, with the majority of birds being reported from the east coast. Highest count: 75 from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 22nd May.

**Saunders's Tern (*Sternula saundersi*)**

Reported from the start of the year until 4th Jun, with only two records after then: 4th Sep and 8th Oct. It is most likely that birds are often left unidentified, especially juveniles and moulting adults. Highest count was of over 200 birds on 8th Oct at Umm al-Kirkum (AD).

**Little/Saunders's Tern (*Sternula albifrons/saundersi*)**

Records of unspecified *Sternula* terns were received throughout the year with up to 455 being counted at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 27th August. It should be noted that accurate identification of *Sternula* terns is often difficult, even with full breeding-plumaged adults, with many birds showing inconclusive features, eg ambiguous forehead pattern or inconsistent combinations of black primaries and rump colour. Identification of juveniles and winter birds is often impossible.

**Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)**

Mainly reported from the west coast, especially Khor al-Beida (UAQ), from where up to 150 were recorded on 24th Sep. Single observations from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 27th Mar and Ra's Dibba (FUJ) two days later were the only east coast records.

**Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)**

Recorded every month, with a maximum count of 174 from Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 8th Nov.

**White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)**

Regularly reported throughout the year, though mostly single birds, with numbers peaking at the end of August to mid-September. Highest number: 20 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 6th Sep.

**Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)**

Absent during June and July, widely reported outside those months. Highest recorded number: 60 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 21st Sep.

**Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)**

Present virtually all year, although not reported in December, with numbers highest on 17th Apr when some 2700 birds were recorded on the east coast: 1500 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ), 200 at nearby Qurrayah (FUJ) and 1000 at Khor Kalba (SHJ).

**Eastern Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo minussensis*)**

Probably much under-reported, the only records were of 15 and 20 birds at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) and Khor Kalba (SHJ) respectively on 29th Apr.

**Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)**

An adult was seen briefly and photographed on Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 7th May. This was the second UAE record.

**White-cheeked Tern (*Sterna repressa*)**

Regularly reported, with numbers peaking in April and August. High counts reported from Bahrani Island (AD) where 1500 were counted on 19th Aug, 800 from Sila'a (AD) on 24th Sep, 750 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 13-17th Apr and 750 on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 23rd Aug. Breeding reported from a number of sites in Abu Dhabi emirate.

**Swift Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*)**

Recorded every month, with up to 100 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 14th May.

**Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)**

Recorded every month apart from December, with highest numbers in April and May. Maximum count of 200 noted on 17th Apr at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ).

**Lesser Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bengalensis*)**

Recorded throughout the year with a peak count of 200 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 9th Apr.

**Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)**

Only 12 records during the year. Significant numbers included 7 heading north over Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 13th Apr with 6 northwards over Dubai Dry Docks (DUB) the previous day.

**Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)**

Seen throughout the year, mostly in low numbers, although a count of 30 from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 23rd Apr was presumably birds heading to breeding grounds.

**Un-identified small Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus/pomarinus/longicaudus*)**

There were 3 reports of unidentified skuas during the year. Singles were seen at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 29th Jan, during a Khor Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 9th July and at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 16th Dec.

**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*)**

Common and widespread resident, with a maximum count of 1400 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 7th Sep.

**Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (*Pterocles lichtensteinii*)**

Only 17 records of this elusive resident, with the maximum count comprising 34 birds at a temporary roadside pool on the Sharjah-Kalba road near Wadi Helo (FUJ) on 12th Mar.

**Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)**

Common and widespread resident. Highest count: 600 at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 8th Jan.

**European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)**

Recorded from 19th Mar to 8th Oct, with a peak towards the end of April when, for example, 130 were seen at Sila'a (AD) on 27th Apr.

**Oriental Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*)**

Three birds seen during the year, with singles at Sila'a (AD) on 21st Jan and 27th Apr, whilst one was seen several times at Wamm Farms (FUJ) between 1st and 24th Oct.

**Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)**

Everywhere and anywhere! Largest flocks, some 2000 – 2500 strong, reported from Al Wathba Lake (AD) between 2nd and 20th Jan.



**Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)**

Common and widespread, with the highest estimate being 700 at Sila'a (AD) on 27th Apr.

**Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*)**

Reported throughout the year, with the majority of records from Sila'a (AD), from where the highest count of 150 was recorded on 8th May.

**Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*)**

Almost exclusively recorded in the Abu Dhabi (AD) area during the year, with 1 at Safa Park (DUB) on 26th Mar and 3 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 29th Mar being the only records off Abu Dhabi island. The largest reported number was 150 on 2nd Apr.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)**

Common and regularly seen in low numbers, although up to 100 were reported from Abu Dhabi (AD) on 2nd Apr and Jumeirah (DUB) on 11th Aug.

**Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)**

10 records, 6 of which were between 27th Feb and 8th May, when 3 birds, including a hepatic female, were seen at Sila'a (AD) on the latter day. 4 autumn records from 9th to 25th Sep.

**Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*)**

A female-coloured bird was found and photographed in the gardens of DUGAS, Jebel Ali (DUB) on 24th Nov, staying until 10th Dec.

**Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)**

Reported Mar–Apr and Aug–Dec, with 2 adults and 3 well-grown young seen in the Shahama (AD) area on 27th and 28th Mar being a particularly notable record.

**Pallid Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*)**

Reported sporadically throughout the year in ones and twos. 2 birds at Al Jimi Oasis, Al Ain (AD) from 10th to 29th Dec attracted much interest at their daytime roost.

**Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*)**

There were 4 seen during the year. One at Sila'a (AD) on 26th Mar was the only spring record, whilst there were autumn sightings at Al Ain Airport Camel Race Track (AD) on 25th Sep, Shah Oilfield (AD) on 10th Oct and Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 13rd Oct.

**Pharaoh Eagle-owl (*Bubo ascalaphus*)**

17 records, 10 of which from the well-known site at Qarn Nazwa (SHJ). Breeding confirmed from two nest sites in the desert outside of Dubai (DUB) on 1st Apr.

**Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)**

Only 12 records, mostly from Masafi Wadi (FUJ) where up to 2 were present. Breeding was confirmed from the deserts of Abu Dhabi emirate on 19th Apr, when an adult was found with 5 well-grown young. A report of one heard calling from Qarn Nazwa (SHJ) on 26th Nov was the first report from this site since 2001.

**Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)**

2 were seen at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 5th Feb, with 1 there on 18th Dec. Two were also seen on Dabb'iyah Peninsula (AD) on 20th Dec.

**European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)**

Recorded 13th Apr to 8th May and 9th Sep to 9th Dec, with a maximum of 11 counted at Umm al-Kirkum (AD) on 8th Oct. The discovery of 5 birds staying late into the winter at Emirates Palace on 27th Nov was interesting, with one last seen there on 9th Dec.

**Egyptian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*)**

The latest departing wintering bird was recorded on 23rd Apr, with the earliest returner on 9th Sep on Lulu Island (AD). Up to five were noted at two sites: Ajban (AD) on 17th Sep and Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 15th Dec.

**Common Swift (*Apus apus*)**

10 records during the year, with spring birds reported from 13th Feb to 27th Apr and 3rd – 24th Sep in the autumn. The highest number reported was of 20 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 25th Apr. The identification of this species has been the subject of debate since the reporting of the 6 early birds at Zakher Lake (AD) on 13th Feb. Were these dark birds young Pallids or *pekinensis* Common Swift?

**Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*)**

Seen until 15th Jun, with returning birds from 3rd Oct. Highest number recorded: 800 at Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant (DUB) on 17th Dec.

**Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)**

Reported until 21st Apr and then again from 5th Aug. Highest number recorded was 16 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 16th Oct.

**Arabian Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris kalbaensis*)**

Only recorded in the mangroves at Khor Kalba (SHJ), with 14 the highest count on 16th Oct.

**Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)**

A female was at Dubai Media City (DUB) from 6th Jan to 1st Feb. Another bird was found at Ruwais Housing Complex (AD) on 5th Mar.

**Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)**

Common year-round resident. Highest count was 40 at Ajman Water Treatment Plant (AJM) on 23rd Dec.

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (*Merops persicus*)**

Seen from 19th Mar to 25th Oct, with highest count being 100 birds at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 3rd Sep.

**European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)**

Birds recorded from 29th Mar to 29th May with smaller numbers from 30th Aug to 12th Nov. Largest flock 60 at Sila'a (AD) on 27th Apr.

**European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)**

Seen from 1st Apr to 18th Jun and again from 13th Aug to at least 13th Dec. Largest reported number was 32 at Sila'a (AD) on 23rd Apr.

**Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)**

Up to 50 of this common widespread resident in the Northern and Eastern UAE were reported from Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 3rd Sep, with lower numbers elsewhere throughout the year.

**Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)**

Regularly reported throughout the year, with a highest count of 28 reported from Safa Park (DUB) on 16th Sep.

**Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)**

Reported from 12th Jan to 25th Apr and from 18th Sep to the year end. Largest count was of 3 at Sila'a (AD) on 24th Sep.

**Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*)**

Mostly recorded during spring passage from 21st Apr to 24th May, with a peak of 19 birds on 8th May at Sila'a (AD). Only 12 records during autumn, all single birds, from 25th Aug to 23rd Oct.

**Daurian Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*)**

Winter visitor present until 30th Apr and from 17th Sep to the year end. Highest number reported was 10 from Sila'a (AD) on 9th Apr.

**Turkestan Shrike (*Lanius phoenicuroides*)**

Reported throughout the year, except between 11th Jun and 23rd Aug with most reports from March to April and September to October. The largest counts were from Sila'a (AD) where 33 were recorded on 8th Oct and 30 on 27th Apr. It is likely that some reports from the start and end of the year refer to misidentified Daurian Shrikes.

**Un-identified Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*)**

There were 102 records of non-specific Isabelline Shrikes.

**Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)**

An over-wintering individual remained at Dubai Pivot Fields until 25th Apr.

**Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*)**

A truly amazing year for this species: One was at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 19th Mar, the same day as another was reported at Al Jais (RAK). A second bird was found at Wamm Farms on 3rd Apr. The first record of the species breeding in the UAE was proven by the discovery of an adult and 2 juveniles in Masafi Wadi (FUJ) on 7th Jun. The birds were still present in the wadi until at least 23rd Jul. At the end of the year, a bird was photographed at Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) on 9th Dec.

**Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*)**

Regularly and widely reported, with 20 at Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DUB) on 7th Dec being the largest single count.

**Steppe Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis pallidirostris*)**

Passage migrant and winter visitor; regularly reported until 30th Apr and from 9th Sep, with a high of 6 on Dalma Island (AD) on 23rd Oct.

**Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*)**

Seen from 21st Apr – 29th May and 25th Aug – 25th Sep. Maximum count of 3 birds recorded at Sila'a (AD) on 8th May and Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 10th Sep.

**Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*)**

Several wintering birds were recorded: singles at Emirates Palace (AD) until 3rd Apr, Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) until 30th Mar and at Ain al-Fayda (AD) from 18th Dec. Spring birds continued to be seen until 4th May, whilst only 3 birds were logged during autumn passage from 9th to 24th Sep.

**Eastern Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator niloticus*)**

Singles reported from 10th Feb up until 30th Apr, with 2 present at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian centre (AD) on 10th Mar. An adult female at the watering hole on Huwaylat Road (FUJ) on 13th Jul was an intriguing summer record.

**Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)**

Recorded on passage from 23rd Apr to 20th May and 13th Aug to 8th Oct, with 5 at Sila'a (AD) on 8th May the most noted on a single day.

**Oriole sp (*Oriolus* sp)**

A brief sighting of a yellowish oriole on Dalma Island (AD) on 13rd Nov could not be assigned to species.

**Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)**

Sightings from Safa Park (DUB) on 14 and 15th Jan and again from 2nd to 17th Mar probably all refer to the same bird and represent the fourth UAE record.

**Black/Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus/leucophaeus*)**

A drongo seen briefly in Abu Dhabi (AD) on 11th Apr was not seen well enough to be specifically identified.

**House Crow (*Corvus splendens*)**

920 of this all too-widespread corvid were counted at Eastern Lagoon (AD) on 21st Jan.

**Brown-necked Raven (*Corvus ruficollis*)**

45 seen in the area of the Banyan Tree Al Wadi (RAK) on 15th Oct was the highest count of the year.

**Greater Hoopoe-lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*)**

Many of the records were from the Bab al Shams (DUB) and Saih as Sidirah (AD) desert areas, where 8 (1st Apr) and 6 (28th May) were the highest respective counts.

**Black-crowned Sparrow-lark (*Eremopterix nigriceps*)**

Up to 150 were seen at Liwa Oasis (AD) on 27th Jan and 100 at Al Dharah (AD) on 6th Feb, with significantly lower numbers elsewhere during the year.

**Bar-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes cinctura*)**

Mostly seen in the Bab al Shams (DUB) and Saih as Sidirah (AD) desert areas, with 9 counted at the latter site on 1st April.

**Desert Lark (*Ammomanes deserti*)**

Reported throughout the year, with a high count of 200 from the Fili to Shawka wadis area (RAK) on 25th Sep. There were several reports of one or two birds of the *insularis* subspecies from the Jebel Dhanna (AD) area, whilst the long-staying albino bird was still being reported occasionally from Green Mubazzarah (AD).

**Bimaculated Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*)**

Winter visitor seen up to 11th Feb and from 27th Oct, with most records from Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD), from where up to 15 were reported on 7th Feb.

**Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)**

Counts of 175 and 220 were made on 19th and 26th Mar at Sila'a (AD), with lesser numbers elsewhere. Latest spring record was on 30th Apr with returning birds first reported on 7th Sep.

**Lesser Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella rufescens*)**

Recorded up to 29th Apr and from 4th Sep, with numbers mainly in single figures. A count of 100 from Sila'a (AD) on 15th Jan was exceptional. Breeding was reported from the Bab al-Shams (DUB) area at the end of April.

**Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)**

Seemingly everywhere. Highest count: 100 on 5th Aug at Jumeirah Golf Estates (DUB).

**Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)**

Widely recorded winter visitor last reported 26th Mar in spring, returning 5th Nov. Highest count was at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Jan when 110 were recorded.

**Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*)**

Only four records, three of which were from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) where 1 or 2 were reported on 8th Jan, 5th Feb and 15th Mar. The only sighting away from here was of one at Yas Links Golf Course (AD) on 6th Feb.

**Brown-throated Martin (*Riparia paludicola*)**

A report of 2 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 17th Sep has yet to be assessed by the EBRC.

**Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)**

Reported up to 27th May and from 18th Aug onwards, with a highest count on 29th Sep when 400 were seen at Al Wathba Lake (AD) and 300 at the nearby Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD). It is likely these counts involve many of the same birds due to the close proximity of the sites.

**Pale Martin (*Riparia diluta*)**

Birds irregularly seen at desert pools behind Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) from 22nd Jan to 12th Apr, amongst a large gathering of hirundines at the site during the early months of the year. Up to 2 were seen at Ajban (AD) from 18-29th Dec.

**Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*)**

2 were at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 2nd Jan and 1 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 26th Sep. The Al Ain (AD) area saw a major influx of birds during December, with up to 3 at Ain al-Fayda from 1st – 18th Dec, 4 at Neima Plain and a staggering 40 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant on 1st Dec.

**Pale Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*)**

Recorded throughout the year, with large numbers in the Al Ain (AD) area, especially during the winter; the largest number recorded was c100 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant on 2nd Jan.

**Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)**

Latest spring sighting was on 4th June, with the first returning birds on 6th Aug. 3000 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 5th Oct was easily the largest number recorded during the year.

**Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*)**

An adult was at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) from 6th to 12th Feb. This represented the ninth UAE record.

**Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)**

Only 7 records accounting for 10 birds between 6th Feb and 23rd Apr. 5 were seen at Mirfa (AD) on 26th Mar, the same day that 2 were found at Sila'a (AD). Single birds accounted for the other sightings at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) 6-8th Feb, Dalma Island (AD) on 12th Apr and Sila'a on 22nd to 23rd Apr.

**Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)**

Seen from 6th Feb to 12th Apr and from 3rd Sep to 15th Nov, mostly in ones and twos, although counts of 10 at Mirfa (AD) on 26th Mar and 12 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 26th Sep were notable.

**Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)**

Commonly seen resident. Highest count was 35 at Dabb'iya Peninsula on 1st Sep. A hybrid with a yellow vent was reported from DUGAS (DUB) on 8th Dec.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)**

There were 3 sightings from Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) during April: single birds on 3rd and 23rd and 2 on 14th.

**White-spectacled Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*)**

Seen throughout the year in, or close to, the mountains. Up to 30 were seen at Hatta (DUB) on 10th May.

**White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*)**

Widely reported common resident. Counts of 300 – 500 birds were made at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 2-4th Dec.

**Scrub Warbler (*Scotocerca inquieta*)**

Almost exclusively reported from the mountains in Fujairah emirate throughout the year, with a lone record of 2 birds from Wadi Bih (RAK) on 29th Jan. Highest count was 14 in the Dibba mountains (FUJ) on 4th Mar.

**Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)**

Widely recorded in spring from 2nd Apr to 24th May, with 45 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 5th Apr the highest reported count. Much scarcer during return passage, with ones and twos from 14th Sep to 11th Oct.

**Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)**

Common winter visitor recorded until 30th Apr and from 16th Sep, with a maximum count of 200 at Sila'a (AD) on 4th Mar.

**Plain Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus neglectus*)**

Recorded until 23rd Mar and from 17th Sep with 5 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 29th Oct and Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 27th Nov being the highest number reported; this latter site was the most reliable place to see the species during the year.

**Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)**

Two records: 1 in the Jebel Dhanna hotels area (AD) on 27th Apr and up to 3 in Safa Park (DUB) from 29th Oct to 1st Nov.

**Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)**

One was in Safa Park (DUB) from 29th Oct to 1st Nov, though typically elusive. This represented the fifth UAE record.

**Hume's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*)**

9 records. A long-staying bird was at Safa Park (DUB) from 2nd Jan to 3rd Mar, with 2 seen there on 3rd Jan, whilst another at Abu Dhabi Airport Park (AD) on 29th Jan was the only other record from the start of the year. Up to two birds were also reported from Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) 24-26th Nov and Mirfa (AD) 2nd Dec, whilst singles were at Emirates Palace (AD) on 27th Nov and at Ain al-Fayda (AD) from 10 to 12th Dec.

**Sykes's Warbler (*Iduna rama*)**

Occasionally seen at Khor Kalba (SHJ) throughout the year, with up to 4 birds reported on 16th Oct.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*)**

Seen regularly throughout the year, except July. Peak numbers at the end of April and mid-September to early October, with a high of 26 at Dabb'iya Peninsula (AD) on 14th Sep and Sila'a (AD) on 24th Sep.

**Upcher's Warbler (*Hippolais languida*)**

Regular passage migrant recorded from 19th Mar to 28th Jun, with the bulk of records coming mid-April to early May, when the highest counts of 28 and 23 were made at Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Sila'a (AD) on 24th and 30th Apr respectively. Only 3 autumn records involving a total of 5 birds from 13th Sep to 30th Oct.

**Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*)**

One was found in Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 4th Apr. This represented the fourteenth UAE record.

**Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)**

3 records, all within five days at the start of May. Single birds reported from Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 4th, Khalidiya (AD) on 5th and Mirfa (AD) on 8th.

**Caspian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus*)**

Widely reported, with 24 at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 27th May the highest count. Not recorded Nov-Dec.

**Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*)**

Common spring migrant with the bulk of records between 22nd Apr to 29th May, peaking with 106 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 8th May. There was one record of a very late bird at Abu al-Abyadh Island (AD) on 29th June and one autumn bird on Dabb'iya Peninsula (AD) on 14th Sep.

**Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)**

7 or 8 birds reported. There were 2 spring records: 1 at Sila'a (AD) on 8th May and another at Khalidiya (AD) on 24th May. Wamm Farms (FUJ) had the first autumn bird on 17th Sep, though the majority of reports came later the following month, with singles at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 15th, Emirates Palace (AD) on 16th, another at Wamm Farms on 23rd Oct and Sila'a (AD) on 25th. A bird seen at Sila'a on 12th Nov may well have been the same as the latter.

**Indian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens*)**

Fairly common resident recorded monthly, except July. Highest count: 20 at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 9th Jan.

**Basra Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*)**

The 1st record for the UAE was found in Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 26th and 27th Apr.

**Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)**

5 birds found between 5th and 22nd Apr, with single birds being found at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on both these dates. In addition, 1 was found on Dalma Island (AD) on 13th and 2 were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 16th.

**Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*)**

One was photographed in Dubai Zoo, Jumeirah (DUB) on 3rd Sep.

**Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*)**

Common and widespread resident. Counts of up to 20 birds were made at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) and Emirates Palace (AD) on 5th Mar and 13th Nov respectively.

**Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)**

Passage migrant reported between 13th Apr to 10th May and from 8th Oct to 12th Nov. 4 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 6th Nov was the highest single record.

**Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)**

5 birds seen in the period 27th Apr to 14th May, mainly in Abu Dhabi emirate.

**Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*)**

Reported mainly during spring and autumn passage, with a small number over-wintering. Spring birds noted from 5th Apr to 10th May and autumn birds from 14th Sep onwards into winter. Wintering birds were seen at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Jan and 13th and 18th Nov and Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 27th Nov to 2nd Dec at least.

**Desert Whitethroat (*Sylvia minula*)**

Common winter visitor recorded up to 2nd Apr and from 14th Sep. Highest count: 25 on Dalma Island (AD) on 23rd Oct and 2nd Dec.

**Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia crassirostris*)**

11 winter records of single birds comprising 5 from 7th to 30th Jan and 6 from 2nd to 31st Dec.

**Asian Desert Warbler (*Sylvia nana*)**

Recorded in low numbers during winter, with the highest count being 12, presumably passage birds at Umm al-Kirkum (AD) on 8th Oct. Birds recorded up to 31st Mar and from 18th Sep.

**Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)**

Fairly common passage migrant recorded from 5th Apr to 29th May and from 18th Aug to 19th Oct, with one bird remaining at Green Mubazzarah (AD) until at least 2nd Dec. Peak numbers reached on 8th May, when a total of 37 birds were recorded, with Green Mubazzarah and Sila'a (AD) achieving the two highest counts of the year with 22 and 12 respectively.

**Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)**

Reported from 2nd Apr until 6th May and from 9th Sep until the end of the year, although it is likely that the prevalence of late winter records is influenced by difficulties in separation from Desert Whitethroat *S. minula*. Highest number reported was 12 at Sila'a (AD) on 9th Apr.

**Menetries's Warbler (*Sylvia mystacea*)**

Recorded on passage and during the winter months up to 13th Apr and from 10th Sep onwards. Peak numbers during mid- to late March, when 20 were counted at Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 19th Mar, with another 10 at Green Mubazzarah (AD) the same day.

**Arabian Babbler (*Turdoides squamiceps*)**

Recorded every month, with a maximum count of 28 from Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) on 26th Mar.

**Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)**

Recorded on passage from 1st Apr to 24th May and from 23rd Aug until 31st Oct, with a peak in numbers in late April when 50 were seen at Sila'a (AD) on 27th Apr.

**Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*)**

Passage migrant recorded from 13th Mar to 21st May and from 14th Aug until 19th Oct. Maximum numbers recorded during April, with numbers reaching an impressive total of 120 birds on 27th Apr at Sila'a (AD). Breeding confirmed in the Al Ain (AD) area in June.

**European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)**

Three records: 1 found in Safa Park (DUB) on 28th Nov was still present on 26th Dec, 1 was on Dalma Island (AD) on 3rd Dec and another was found at Arabian Ranches (DUB) on the appropriate date of 25th Dec.

**White-throated Robin (*Irania gutturalis*)**

Single birds reported in spring between 19th Mar and 10th Apr, with Al Mamzar Park (DUB) hosting up to 3 from 4th to 10th. A late autumn record of one photographed at Ghantoot (AD) on the 1st Nov was exceptional.

**Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*)**

Four records during the year: 1 in Safa Park (DUB) from 23rd-26th Apr, 1 Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 25th Apr, 2 at Sila'a (AD) on 30th Apr and 1 there on 24th Sep.

**Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)**

Birds recorded from 9th Feb to 8th May and from 30th Aug until 3rd Dec, suggesting a few individuals may have over-wintered. Always recorded in low numbers with a maximum of 4 counted at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 24th to 28th Apr.

**Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)**

Recorded during the winter months up to 26th Mar and from 18th Sep onwards, with a high count of 11 at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 20th Jan.

**White-spotted Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica cyanecula/namnetum*)**

Two reports. One at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 22nd Feb and one at the marsh at Sila'a (AD) on 26th Mar.

**Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*)**

One seen and photographed in the orchard at Sila'a (AD) on 4th and 5th Dec was the 3rd record for the UAE.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*)**

10 records of 11 individuals, several of which were long-stayers. An over-wintering bird at Sila'a (AD) was last reported on 9th Apr, with 2 there from 19th Oct until the year end. One was in Safa Park (DUB) from 5th Nov onwards, and one in Khalidiyah (AD) from 9-26th Nov.

**Eversmann's Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythronotus*)**

A good year for this species, with four birds recorded. Males were at Emirates Palace (AD) on 27th Nov and on Dalma Island (AD) from 2nd to 4th Dec. A female was found around the mini-golf course at the Mercure Hotel on Jebel Hafit (AD) on 8th Dec, staying until the year end, whilst another female/juvenile was on Dabb'iyah Peninsula (AD) on 20th Dec.

**Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)**

Passage migrant commonly seen in spring from 2nd Apr to 14th May. Less numerous in autumn, when only ones and twos recorded from 1st Oct to 6th Nov. Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) was the main site for this species, with counts reaching double figures twelve times in April, peaking at 35 birds on 6th Apr.

**Eastern Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)**

Recorded throughout the winter, with records up to 6th Mar and after 23rd Oct. Largest single count was of 10 at Wadi Helo (FUJ) on 11th Feb.

**Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*)**

Common spring migrant seen from 7th Feb to 30th Apr, with a peak of 20 recorded at Sila'a (AD) on 27th Apr. Scarcer in autumn, when only 6 records were received from 25th Sep to 4th Nov, possibly involving as few as 3 individuals.

**Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)**

Winter visitor reported up to 27th Mar and from 17th Sep onwards, with Green Mubazzarah recording the highest count of 8 birds on 17th Mar.

**Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)**

Recorded mainly on spring passage in ones and twos between the dates of 20th Mar to 26th May. There were only 2 records in autumn, with singles at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 14th to 16th Sep and on Lulu Island (AD) on 17th Sep.

**European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*)**

Reported during winter months up to 4th Mar and from 5th Nov, with a high of 4 birds reported from Sila'a (AD) on 4th Mar and Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 10th Dec.

**Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*)**

Birds reported as *maurus* were present until 16th April and from 9th Sep, with up to 2 birds counted at several sites. However, due to the difficulties in identifying stonechats conclusively in the field, it is likely that many of the Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec reports may refer to *rubicola*.

**Pied Stonechat (*Saxicola caprata*)**

Two records: a male at Wamm Farms (FUJ) from 3rd to 4th Sep and a female at Mirfa (AD) from 2nd to 3rd Dec represent the 14th and 15th UAE records.

**Hooded Wheatear (*Oenanthe monacha*)**

A scarce resident regularly reported only from Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Jebel Hafi (AD) where up to 4 were counted. Away from these well-known sites, single males were reported from Al Jais (RAK) on 19th Mar, Wadi Bih (RAK) on 28th Nov and 10th Dec, and, most surprisingly, in a private plantation at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 14th Dec.

**Hume's Wheatear (*Oenanthe albonigra*)**

Recorded every month, with the highest reported number being 25 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 25th Apr and the Fili to Shawka wadis area (RAK) on 25th Sep.

**Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)**

Reported primarily in spring from 2nd Mar to 8th May, with a maximum of 10 counted at Sila'a (AD) on 4th Mar and 9th Apr, and at Emirates Palace (AD) on 3rd Apr. There were only 3 records of single birds in the autumn, between 24th Sep and 21st Oct.

**Mourning Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens*)**

One was in the Liwa oasis area (AD) from 22nd to 29th Jan and another on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 1st Nov. The finding of up to 8 birds visiting a restricted fodder field in Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 14th Nov revealed a new and significant wintering area for the species. Up to six birds were still present at the end of the year.



**Variable Wheatear (*Oenanthe picata*)**

Winter visitor seen up to 9th Feb and from 20th Aug, mainly at the regular sites of Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Qarn Nazwa (SHJ). 4 birds were reported from Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) on 25th Nov.

**Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*)**

Common passage migrant seen from 27th Feb to 8th May and from 9th Sep to 5th Dec. Large numbers were recorded at Sila'a (AD) where 50 were seen on 4th Mar and 45 on 24th Sep.

**Pied Wheatear 'vittata' (*Oenanthe pleschanka 'vittata'*)**

11 birds recorded in the periods 9th Feb – 11th Mar and 27th Aug – 3rd Nov. A female found at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 7th Mar was joined by 2 males the following day, whilst 3 birds were seen at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Oct.

**Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca*)**

Reported from 27th Feb to 8th May, with a high of 6 seen at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 20th Mar. One adult male at Emirates Palace (AD) on 14th Oct was the only autumn record.

**Red-tailed Wheatear (*Oenanthe chrysopygia*)**

Regularly seen during the winter months up to 7th Apr and from 17th Sep, with up to 12 in the Fili to Shawka wadis area (RAK) on 25th Sep and 8 at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 9th Nov.

**Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*)**

Common winter visitor up to 30th April and again from 24th Sep. Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) held 23 on 8th Jan.

**Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*)**

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, seen up to 7th May and from 9th Aug. Highest count was of 34 birds at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 11th Sep.

**Caucasian Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus amicornum*)**

An adult male was photographed at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 14th Nov, ahead of an amazing influx of seven at the Mercure Hotel, Jebel Hafit (AD) from 9th Dec until the end of the year.

**Black-throated Thrush (*Turdus atrogularis*)**

A good year for this species, with 12 birds recorded during the winter from 29th Nov. Long-stayers included 3 at Jebel Hafit (AD) from 9th Dec and 1 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 14th Dec, both staying until to at least the year end.

**Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)**

A single bird in the small plantation at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Jan was the only record and comprised the 7th UAE record.

**Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)**

Winter visitor regularly recorded up to 10th Apr and from 12th Nov. Highest counts were on 16th and 17th Dec when 30 were recorded on Lulu Island (AD) and 40 at Sila'a (AD) the following day.

**Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*)**

Locally common resident, especially at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Wamm Farms (FUJ) from where flocks of up to 400 and 200 were recorded on 14th Sep and 15th Oct.

**Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)**

Widespread and common, with a high count of 750 from Eastern Lagoon (AD) on 21st Jan.

**Pied Myna (*Gracupica contra*)**

Mostly reported from Safa Park (DUB) and Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) throughout the year, with up to 30 recorded at both sites on 2nd and 3rd Apr.

**Brahminy Starling (*Temenuchus pagodarum*)**

Recorded sporadically until 11th Aug from Sharjah (SHJ) where up to 4 were seen and 3 in the Safa Park / Jumeirah (DUB) area. Breeding was recorded in both emirates.

**Rose-coloured Starling (*Pastor roseus*)**

Irregular winter visitor and passage migrant reported up to 17th Apr and from 27th Aug, mainly at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Wamm Farms (FUJ), where up to 12 were recorded on 9th Apr and 24th Sep respectively.

**Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)**

Reported during the winter months up to 15th April, and from 21st Aug until the year end. Breeding confirmed in the Dubai area during August. Flocks of up to 180 were regularly recorded during November and December at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB).

**Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*)**

Common and widespread, with a maximum count of 35 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 27th Aug.

**Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)**

Commonly recorded throughout the year, though many not assigned to subspecies (for which, see below). Highest number recorded: 80 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 14th Dec.

**Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*)**

Recorded in low numbers until 7th May and from 16th Sep onwards. Highest count was of 8 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 22nd Apr.

**Blue-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava flava/beema*)**

Commonly reported until 4th May and from 16th Sep onwards. 27 reported from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 2nd Apr was the highest single count attributed to this subspecies.

**Yellow-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava lutea*)**

There were 7 records: three between 2nd and 17th Apr with the rest between 30th Aug and 22nd Nov.

**Black-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava feldegg*)**

Recorded every month in low numbers. Breeding suspected at a site close to Abu Dhabi (AD), but not confirmed. Largest count: 10 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) 1st to 5th Mar.

**Yellow Wagtail 'superciliaris' (*Motacilla flava 'superciliaris'*)**

A single bird was reported from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 18th Sep.

**Yellow Wagtail 'xanthophrys' (*Motacilla flava 'xanthophrys'*)**

One bird was present at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 5 to 10th Nov.

**Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)**

Regularly recorded up to 23rd Apr and from 27th Aug, with up to 25 at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 17th Sep.

**Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)**

Seen in low numbers, most regularly at Safa Park (DUB) where up to 4 were seen on 30th Oct. Recorded up to 10th Apr and from 4th Sep.

**White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)**

Very common winter visitor seen up to 23rd Apr and from 30th Sep, with numbers up to 250 birds at Mirfa (AD) on 4th Dec.

**Masked Wagtail (*Motacilla alba personata*)**

14 birds recorded, with only 3 in the period up to 18th Feb. Returning birds first recorded on 26th Sep, with a high of 3 reported from Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 24th Nov.

**Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*)**

Seen during the winter months up to 23rd Apr and from 12th Sep, with the majority of records coming from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) where up to 9 were counted on 20th Oct and from Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 7th Jan.

**Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*)**

Reported during winter, primarily from Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Green Mubazarrah (AD). Not recorded after 22nd Feb until 15th Oct. Highest number counted was 12 at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 10th Dec.

**Blyth's Pipit (*Anthus godlewskii*)**

Only recorded at two sites. Wamm Farms (FUJ) had single birds on 7th Jan, 26th to 29th Mar and 8th to 23rd Oct. Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) hosted 2 on 10th Feb, with single birds on 11th to 13th Apr, 25th Nov and 26th Dec.

**Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)**

Reported up to 4th May and from 10th Sep. Highest count: 34 at Ain al-Fayda (AD) on 10th Dec.

**Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)**

Recorded in low numbers until 20th Mar and from 14th Nov, with a maximum count of 12 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 28th Jan.

**Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)**

Regularly recorded, mostly from 11th Mar to 8th May and from 4th Sep onwards, with numbers peaking on 5th Apr with 20 seen at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ). Significant winter flocks were occasionally recorded, with 9 birds at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 7th Jan and 15 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 20th Nov.

**Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)**

A total of 7 birds during the year. Up to 5 were at Safa Park (DUB) from the start of the year until 2nd Apr, with 1 there from 29th Oct until the year end. Elsewhere, the only other record was of one at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 23rd Oct.

**Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)**

Reported until 4th May and from 9th Oct onwards, with 45 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 25th Nov being the highest single count.

**Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)**

Commonly reported winter visitor recorded until 6th Apr and from 14th Oct onwards. Highest count was 150 at Sila'a (AD) on 12th Nov.

**Buff-bellied Pipit (*Anthus rubescens japonicus*)**

There were 2 records, both from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB). One on 12th Feb and another on 21st Dec until at least the end of the year.

**Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*)**

Fairly scarce in the first months of the year up to 13th Apr although 30 were on Lulu Island (AD) on 22nd Jan. Later in the year, the first sighting was on 22nd Oct on Dalma Island (AD) and major flocks found at Sir Bani Yas Island (AD) with 35 on 10th Dec, Sila'a (AD) (31 on 17th Dec) and Dalma Island (AD) with 30 on 3rd Dec.

**Eastern Cinereous Bunting (*Emberiza cineracea semenowi*)**

Only 2 records this year, with 1 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) from 4th to 6th Apr and up to 2 coming to drink at a temporary pool in Wadi Bih (RAK) from 7th to 25th Apr.

**Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*)**

Seen in spring from 1st Apr to 8th May, and from 17th Sep to 13th Nov in autumn. Highest count was 70 at Sila'a (AD) on 27th Apr.

**Striolated Bunting (*Emberiza striolata*)**

Widely reported throughout the year, with the highest count being 25 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 7th Aug. Away from the mountains, one on Lulu Island (AD) from 9-12th Sep was an exceptional find.

**Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*)**

Up to 3 birds in Wadi Bih (RAK) from 16th to 24th Apr and 1 at Sila'a (AD) 27th to 30th Apr were the only spring records. Later in the year, ones and twos reported from 27th Aug to 1st Oct probably representing six individuals.

**Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)**

Relatively scarce this year, with only 3 reports up to 8th Mar including 9 at Sila'a (AD) on 4th Mar and a further 8 reports of 1 to 4 birds from 5th Nov onwards.

**Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus*)**

A total of 14 records, mostly from Wadi Bih (RAK) in the first half of the year up to 5th Jun. 45 were reported from Wadi Naqab (RAK) on 1st Feb, this being the highest single count reported.

**Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)**

4 or 5 records during the year, all during autumn. A single bird on Lulu Island (AD) from 9th to 12th Sep and one on Dabb'iyah Peninsula (AD) on 14th Sep, with possibly the same bird again on 5th to 6th Oct. A single at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Oct was followed by 3 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 16th Oct.

**Eurasian Siskin (*Spinus spinus*)**

An adult male in the orchard at Sila'a (AD) on 9th Mar and an immature male at Abu Dhabi Port Mina Zayed (AD) on 23rd Dec were the only records.

**House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)**

Widespread and numerous, with counts/estimates regularly in the hundreds, sometimes thousands. Largest estimate: 2000 at Sir Bani Yas Island (AD) on 3rd Dec.

**Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*)**

3 records, all in spring, with singles at Ruwais Housing Complex (AD) on 5th Mar, Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20th Mar and Mirfa fodder field (AD) on 30th Apr.

**Yellow-throated Sparrow (*Petronia xanthocollis*)**

Summer visitor seen from 21st Mar to 18th Aug. Most sightings were from Fujairah emirate, from where a total of 28 was counted in the Kalba plains / Huwaylat Road area on 29th Apr. 3 birds at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 11th Apr and one at Al Wathba Lake (AD) on 19th Apr were notable passage sightings.

**Pale Rockfinch (*Carpospiza brachydactyla*)**

12 records between 28th Feb and 12th Apr, with a count of 100 at Sila'a (AD) on 9th Apr by far the largest of the year.

**Golden-backed Weaver (*Ploceus jacksoni*)**

9 records from Emirates Palace (AD) and its environs, 8 of which were from 6th Mar to 4th Jun, with a single autumn sighting of one bird on 28th Oct.

**Streaked Weaver (*Ploceus manyar*)**

Erratically reported throughout the year, with most records from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), where up to 20 were recorded on 11th Aug. Also good numbers at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ), with 18 on 4th Sep.

**Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*)**

Common and widespread. Highest reported number was 125 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 29th Jan.

**Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)**

Recorded intermittently throughout the year with no records May – July, possibly due to reduced observer coverage. Most regularly seen at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), although highest counts (8) came from Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 3rd Jan and Lulu Island (AD) on 19th Apr.

**BIRDS OF PRESUMED CAPTIVE ORIGIN**

The following birds were recorded during the year and presumed to be of captive origin, including domestic wildfowl, falconers' birds and birds thought to originate from captive-breeding programs or private collections:

Common Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*)  
 Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)  
 Radjah Shelduck (*Tadorna radjah*)  
 Ringed Teal (*Callonetta leucophrys*)  
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [captive/hybrid]  
 Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)  
 Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*)  
 See-see Partridge (*Ammoperdix griseogularis*)  
 Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*)  
 Green Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus* [versicolor-group])  
 Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)  
 Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)  
 Marabou Stork (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*)  
 Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*)  
 Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)  
 Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)  
 Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*)  
 Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*)  
 African Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio madagascariensis*)  
 Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*)  
 Blacksmith Lapwing (*Vanellus armatus*)  
 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (*Pterocles alchata*)  
 Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*)  
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*)  
 Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)  
 Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*)  
 Rosy-faced Lovebird (*Agapornis roseicollis*)  
 Nanday Parakeet (*Nandayus nenday*)  
 Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)  
 Southern Ground Hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*)  
 Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*)  
 European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)  
 Sudan Golden Sparrow (*Passer luteus*)  
 Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*)  
 Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)  
 Vitelline Masked Weaver (*Ploceus vitellinus*)  
 Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*)  
 Southern Red Bishop (*Euplectes orix*)  
 Yellow-crowned Bishop (*Euplectes afer*)  
 Lavender Waxbill (*Estrilda caerulescens*)  
 Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*)  
 Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)  
 Java Sparrow (*Lonchura oryzivora*)  
 Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)  
 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (*Pterocles alchata*)  
 White-necked Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus* [palumbus-group])

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report is based on sightings reported by both visiting and resident birders, submitted either via the UAE birding website ([www.uaebirding.com](http://www.uaebirding.com)) or directly to the UAE Bird Recorder, Tommy Pedersen. The authors would like to thank all who contributed records during the year (listed below), and, in particular, Oscar Campbell for his contributions and suggestions during the compilation of this report.

## **LIST OF OBSERVERS**

Records were received from the following observers during the year:

Abdulrahman A. Al Tenaiji	Ian Boustead	Paul Bodien
Ahmed Al Ali	Ian Graham	Paul Jaquith
Aideen and Ian Cunningham	Jacky Judas	Paul Meredith
Aimee Cokayne	Jim Ward	Peter Clement
Alain & Ammy de Smet	John Rogan	Peter Hellyer
Andrew Twyman	John Wilkins	Peter Kaestner
Andrew Ward	Jonathan Angliss	Peter Roosenschoon
Angie Marles	Joseph Pescatore	Phil Mountain
Barbara Couldrey	Kartikya Puri	Raimundo Soto
Bernt Larsson	Kevin Hyland	Rex Andrew Bean
Bruce Hansen	Khalifa Al Dhaheri	Reza Khan
Chris Campion	Krister Mild	Richard Hornby
Chris Hocking	Lorand Szucs	Richard King
Chris Rae	Lucie Fuchsova	Rob Quested
Christophe Tourenq	Luke Naismith	Robert Brown
Clive Temple	Maja Pesic Pedersen	Robert W. Reimer
Curt Johnsson	Maral Khaled Shuriqi	Scott Young
Dave Clark	Mark Smiles	Shah Jahan
Dave Lord	Martin Kennewell	Simon Aspinall
David Free	Michael Schulz	Simon Peter Lloyd
David Radnell	Mike & Mary Hooper	Stephen Bell
Derrick Wilby	Mike Barth	Steve James
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi	Mike Shepley	Steve Wilson
Emirates Marine Environmental Group	Mohamed Al Musharafy	Svetlana V. Ashby
Gareth Blockley	Mohamed Almazrouei	Theo Admiraal
George Armistead	Mohammed Salim	Tom P.H. Smith
Gordon Saunders	Mubeesh	Tommy Pedersen
Graham Langley	Munzir Khan	Tristan J. Evans
Graham Talbot	Neil Crossley	Vaughan Ashby
Greg Simkins	Neil Tovey	Wendy Hare
Gregory Askew	Nicolas Lake	Wim Heylen
Hanne & Jens Eriksen	Nigel Milius	Yousef Al-Habshi
Husam El Alqamy	Nimeesh Suseelan	
Huw Roberts	Oscar Campbell	