

BIRDS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ANNUAL REPORT – 2013



Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) – 2nd record for the UAE found at Zakher Lake in November 2013; less than a month after the first national record at Wamm Farms.
(Photo © Mike Barth)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Annual summary | Page 3 |
| Species accounts | Page 8 |
| Birds of presumed captive origin | Page 35 |
| Acknowledgements | Page 36 |
| List of observers | Page 36 |

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ANNUAL SUMMARY

JANUARY

Vagrants remaining from last year included the elusive **Mesopotamian Crow**, seen at Khor al-Beida on three dates until 26th, **Taiga Flycatcher** at Safa Park and the **Black Scrub-Robin** at Sila'a, both of which remained to late March, two **Red-crested Pochards** at Zakher Lake which stayed well into February with two more at Ajman Water Treatment Plant on 4th) and the over-wintering **Black-winged Kite** at Yas Island, from mid-November.

New finds included **Dusky Warbler** at Al Wathba Lake on 18th – 20th (6th record), two **Streak-throated Swallows** at Al Warsan on 19th (9th record), **Mediterranean Gull** at Mafrag on 10th (10th record, although possibly a returning bird) and a **Wire-tailed Swallow** at Zakher (12th record) from 4th. Topping all of this, however, was a **Long-billed Dowitcher**, photographed but never relocated, at Khor al-Beida on 25th January (1st record). Notable winter visitors included three **Sociable Plovers** at Dubai Pivot Fields, the **Siskin** flock of 11 remaining at Safa Park, **Buff-bellied Pipit** and **Hume's Warbler** each at two sites, **Hen Harrier** at Wamm Farms and groups of up to 35 **Hypocolius** at both Yas and Lulu Islands.

FEBRUARY

Two **Demoiselle Cranes** found at Al Qua'a fodder field from 22nd were only the 7th record, but the first since 2002 and some, if not all, previous records may be escapees. Remaining until early March, they were to be highlight of the spring, if not the year, for many. A **Great Spotted Cuckoo** was also found there on 23rd (4th record), and a **Mediterranean Gull** was at Warsan on 21st February. Another **Red-crested Pochard** (15th record) was found at Discovery Gardens, Dubai, on 3rd. Remaining winter visitors included **Buff-bellied Pipit** in Abu Dhabi and **Baillon's Crake** at Al Wathba. Up to 90 **Hypocolius** were on Lulu Island all month, presumably numbers swollen by spring passage, and **Sociable Plovers** at Dubai Pivot Fields peaked at eight on 21st – the highest number ever recorded in the UAE from one site.

MARCH

The undoubted highlight of this month was a very marked arrival of migrants from 24th - 25th, bringing a male **Cretzschmar's Bunting** (2nd record) to Jebel Dhanna and a male **Red-headed Bunting** to Abu Dhabi (6th record). Also involved were at least five **Cinereous Buntings**, a scattering of **White-throated Robins**, one **Caspian Plover**, and record numbers of **Eastern Black-eared Wheatears** amongst many commoner migrants. Other notables included another a **Crane**, **Common** this time, drifting over Hamraniyah fields on 15th (8th record but first since 1998), six **Eurasian Griffon Vultures** over Al Faqa on 18th (13th record), a **Little Gull** at Fujairah on 6th (15th record) and the spring's only **Caspian Stonechat** at Lulu Island on 15th (21st record) where **Hypocolius** numbers reached 100.

APRIL

Rarity highlights for April included **Wire-tailed Swallow** (14th record) at Ajban on 22nd, **Black-winged Pratincoles** also at Ajban (25th-26th) and at Wamm Farm (seven birds, 27th April; 23rd and 24th records) and **Alpine Swift** at Abu Dhabi International Airport (26th record). A **Bluethroat** showing characters of the Caucasian race *magna* (2nd record) was at Mamzar on 19th and 20th. A very large migration wave (the best 'fall' since May 2005) of **Red-throated** and **Tree Pipits**, **Yellow Wagtails** and **Whinchats**, amongst many other species lighting up urban parks mid-month, included small numbers of **White-throated Robins**, **Cinereous Buntings**, **Semi-collared Flycatcher** and a **Eurasian Crag Martin**.

MAY

The undoubted highlight, and coincident with a marked arrival elsewhere in the Middle East, were two individual **River Warblers** in Abu Dhabi (7th-11th and 16th-17th), the eleventh and twelfth records and first since 2005. Other migrants included well above average numbers of **Red-backed Shrikes**, **Willow** and **Sedge Warblers**, plus at least three **Black-headed Buntings**, including a male in Abu Dhabi within a stone's throw of the first River Warbler. **Purple Swamphens** were confirmed to breed for the first time in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (at Al Wathba Lake) and two **Sooty Shearwaters** were located on a boat trip off Kalba on 10th. The latter were little preparation for what was to happen on 31st, however, as **Wedge-tailed** and **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** appeared amongst thousands of **Persian Shearwaters**, and single **Sooty Tern** was seen.

JUNE

The sea off Kalba proved productive all month; 20 **Jouanin's Petrels** (9th record) were present on 14th, with up to eight **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters** noted on three trips (only five previous records), and one or two **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** seen on three trips also. Two **Long-tailed Skuas** (on 7th and 21st) were both sublime adults, and three **Brown Noddies** were recorded on 21st. On land, a most unseasonal **Bewick's Swan** was at Fujairah from 17th to 21st (eventually accepted as not of wild origin) and four **Crested Honey-Buzzards** together over Abu Dhabi on 25th continued a recent trend of over-summering birds.

JULY

A **Sooty Tern** was logged on a Kalba boat trip on 12th (16th record). On land, a **Black Stork** in Al Ain on 7th was seen on and off into the autumn (again not accepted as wild) and a **Sooty Falcon** was found at Faziaya on the same date and still present on 27th; a pair was logged at the same location in September. As far as we know, this species is now believed to be almost extinct on its former breeding islands in the Arabian Gulf and is currently a rare vagrant to the mainland UAE.

AUGUST

The rarest August record comprised two **Lesser Noddies** (6th record), recorded on a boat trip from Kalba on 16th; they remained into September. Eleven **Brown Noddy** and 17 **Wilson's Petrels** were also noted and, likewise these featured on subsequent trips. A **European Honey-Buzzard** was at Wamm Farms on the same date, in the presence of an **Oriental Honey-Buzzard**. At least 25 **Egyptian Nightjars** were recorded at Ajban Farms from 19th August onwards; a fresh juvenile observed here in mid-June, was intriguing as the species has not been confirmed to breed anywhere in Arabia (yet!)

SEPTEMBER

A **Red-headed Bunting** (7th record) was present at Wamm Farms on 31st August to 1st, but the main event this month was an arrival of **Roseate Terns** (two previous records; last 1989) along the East Coast; two adults were present at Fujairah on 6th and 14th, with a different adult and juvenile there on 13th. Another adult and juvenile were present at Khor Fakkan on 20th. A 2cy **Sooty Tern** was in the tern melee at Fujairah from 10th to 20th (18th record, but rarely seen inshore recently) and up to three **Lesser Noddies** were still offshore until 13th. A **Baltic Gull** (a rare and poorly documented species in the UAE) was present at Zakher Lake from 13th until late in the month and a **Little Crake** (22nd record) was present in Abu Dhabi from 23rd to 26th, sometimes in the eclectic company of **Spotted Crake** and **Little Bittern**. Incredibly, its chosen site was the same, and on near-identical dates, to the 2012 Little Crake.

OCTOBER

The highlight during a rather quiet start to the month was a **Brown Booby** (15th record) at Dibba on 4th October. Following the influx in September, a **Roseate Tern** was seen on 4th. **Sooty Falcons** reported from Ghagah Island on 16th and Khor Kalba on 20th. The first **Hypocolius** was seen at Wamm Farm on 25th. A marked arrival early in the month included 41 **European Nightjars** counted in Abu Dhabi on 4th and, amongst many **Pied Wheatears**, several *vittata* were recorded. Up to 7000 **Barn Swallows** were present roosting at Zakher Lake until the middle of the month. Ending with a dramatic bang, a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** (first record, but regular in southern Oman in winter) was a brief visitor to Wamm Farms on 31st October; a **Calandra Lark** (8th record) was also present. The next morning there saw a **Caspian Plover** and a few sets of gritted teeth...

NOVEMBER

Much to the delight of those who didn't see the Wamm **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** the wait was short: a second, far more obliging, individual was present at Zakher Pools, from 28th into early December. Prior to this, there had been many highlights to an exciting month: a **Cotton Pygmy-Goose** was at Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club from 21st (11th record), an **Amur Falcon** on Lulu Island on 15th (14th record but others followed at Wamm Farms on 23rd and again in December), **Baillon's Crake** in Al Ain on 13th (21st record) with a **Mistle Thrush** nearby next day (19th record but then two more at Ajban on the 26th). At Hamraniyah Nursery, a **Long-toed Stint** was found (23rd record, but first since 2007) on 22nd-23rd and it remained, erratically, into early December. This site had a real purple patch this month, with **Buff-bellied Pipit** (24th record) on 16th (and many more by early 2014) and **White-breasted Waterhen** (29th record) on 8th-9th, not to mention a **Caspian Plover** that over-wintered and some drop-in **Sociable Plovers** on 23rd. Another **White-breasted Waterhen** was found in Dubai on 25th. The **Black-winged Kite** that wintered on Yas Island 2012-13 had returned by 11th. An **Olive-backed Pipit** at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi on 3rd showed the characters of the nominate subspecies (third record) and there was a **Yellow-browed Warbler** (12th record) along with **Buff-bellied Pipit** on Dalma Island on 30th.

Scarce winter visitors included **Eversmann's Redstarts** at Jebel Hafeet from 15th into 2014 and Wadi Bih on 27th with a **Black-throated Thrush** also at Wadi Bih on the same date, and another at **Wadi Wurayah** on 10th; a **Forest Wagtail** was found in Abu Dhabi on 25th. **Hypocolius** flocks were present from mid month at Lulu Island, Sila'a peninsula and Yas Island, with up to 145 coming to roost in the mangroves at the latter.

DECEMBER

This was a somewhat quieter month, with some observers away and everyone drawing breath after November. Some quality November arrivals settled in for the winter but there were a few new finds as well: **Mediterranean Gull** at Mafraq (again) on 7th, the year's second **Dusky Warbler** on 15th at Mushrif Palace Gardens, plus **Woodcock** (18th record) and **Olive-backed Pipit** at Safa Park 18th. Flashiest of all, two **Amur Falcons** put on a terrific display at Al Qua'a from 15th-21st and were an appropriately spectacular and resounding finish to 2013.

Annual totals

344 species, plus another 43 deemed to be of captive origin, were recorded during the year. Two species were admitted to the national list in 2013, which now stands at 458 species at the end of 2013.

Species recorded for the first time in 2013:

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)



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Left: Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Khor al-Beida © Ahmed Al Ali.

Left: Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Dubai Pivot Fields, © Mike Barth.



Copyright © Mike Barth

Demoiselle Cranes *Grus virgo*, Al Qua'a Fodder Fields © Mike Barth.



Left: Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*, Emirates Palace © Simon Lloyd
 Right: River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*, Mushrif Palace Gardens © Oscar Campbell



Cretzschmar's bunting *Emberiza caesia* © Khalifa Al Dhaheri



Left: Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii*, Fujairah Port Beach © Mark Smiles.
 Right: Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*, Hamraniyah Nursery © Tommy Pedersen.



Left: Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, Wamm Farms © Mark Smiles,
Right: Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, Zakher Lake © Mike Barth.



Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*, Al Qua'a Fodder Fields © Mike Barth



Left: Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*, Mercure Hotel © Huw Roberts.
Right: Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*, Al Qua'a Fodder Fields © Tommy Pedersen.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

English names and taxonomic order are based on IOC World Bird List 4.2 (2014).

Key to status with in the UAE: **PM**: passage migrant, **R**: resident, **SV**: summer visitor, **UC**: uncommon, **V**: vagrant, **WV**: winter visitor.

IUCN Red List Status is provided for all species that have a categorization of Near-threatened or greater. All other species are categorized as Least Concern or, in a few cases, as Not Evaluated. For more information see <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country/united-arab-emirates/species>.

Eastern Greylag Goose (*Anser anser rubrirostris*) WV

A single bird at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 18th Jan was the only record during the year.

Eurasian White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) WV

Eight at a lake in the Nad al-Sheba area of Dubai (DUB) on the 2nd Feb was the only record from the first half of the year. Up to 3 were seen at Saadiyat Island Golf Course (AD) on 18th Nov, with 2 there on 30th Dec. A flock of 8 were again at Nal al-Sheba on 26th Dec, whilst up to 37 extremely approachable birds, mostly juveniles, were at Safa Park (DUB) from 21st Nov, staying well into 2014.

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) R

Resident breeder recorded every month, with a maximum of 30 noted at Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 13th Aug and at Saih al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 25th Oct.

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) WV

Winter visitor recorded up to 25th Feb and from 30th Oct, mainly at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), from where the highest count of the year, 75, was recorded on 5th Jan. Away from this site, 4 were seen at Nad al-Sheba (DUB) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 13th Dec, with singles at Tower Links Golf Course (RAK) on 5th Jan and Khor Zawra (AJM) on 5th Dec.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) WV

Recorded from 5 sites during the year. Singles at Sharjah Rubbish Tip (SHJ) on 25th Mar and Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD) the following day were the only records from the first half of the year. Later in the year, 3 were at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 28th Nov and 5th Dec, whilst single birds were at Zakher Lake (AD) from 15th Nov and at Saih al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB), both staying until 2014.

Cotton Pygmy Goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) V

The 11th record for the UAE was found at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 21st Nov, staying until 5th Dec.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) WV

Fairly scarce winter visitor recorded up to 15th Mar and from 25th Oct. Highest count was 10 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 12th Jan.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) WV

Uncommon winter visitor recorded up to 12st May and from 18th Oct, with a maximum of 40 recorded from Zakher Lake (AD) on 1st Mar.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) WV

Recorded throughout the year, though numbers much reduced during the summer months. A count of 200 birds at Zakher Lake (AD) on 27th Dec was the highest recorded during the year.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) WV

Commonly and widely recorded up to 3rd May, with returning birds noted from 28th Aug. The highest count recorded was 540 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 18th Jan.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) WV

Uncommon throughout the winter, with records up to 22nd Mar and from 13th Sep, peaking at 30 birds at Zakher Lake (AD) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 1st Mar and 28th Dec respectively.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) WV & PM

Recorded throughout the winter and early spring up to 20th Apr, with returning birds seen from 23rd Aug, their numbers peaking during autumn passage, during which 25 were at Zakher Lake (AD) on 28th Sep.

Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*) WV

Common winter visitor, with numbers peaking at 200 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on several dates. Recorded up to 24th Apr and from 26th Aug.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) V

In a good winter for this species, there were three records early in the year, constituting the 13th, 14th and 15th UAE records. Two were at Ajman Water Treatment Plant (AJM) on 4th Jan, 2 at Zakher Lake (AD) from 2013 to 15th Feb, whilst a female stayed on a temporary pond on a construction site near Discovery Gardens (DUB) from 3rd to 19th Feb.

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) WV

Locally common during winter, with good numbers at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) and Zakher Lake (AD), where there were respective high counts of 180 on 1st Feb and 40 on 15th Nov. Latest birds departed after 16th Mar, with returning birds from 24th Aug.

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) WV**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Recorded mainly from Zakher Lake (AD), where up to 27 were counted on 10th Jan. Recorded up to 22nd Mar and from 3rd Jun.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) WV

Scarce winter visitor mainly recorded at two sites up to 22nd Mar and from 11th Nov. The highest counts were 30 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 2nd Feb and 25 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 2nd Jan.

Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) R

Only four records of wild birds during the year, all from the Wadi Bih / Jebel Jais area (RAK), from where 19 on 5th Jan was the highest number counted. There were many records from Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Jebel Hafit (AD) which relate to birds of captive origin.

Sand Partridge (*Ammoperdix heyi*) R

Uncommon resident of the wadis and mountains; mostly reported from Jebel Hafit (AD) and the Green Mubazzarah (AD) area with 20 at the former site on 10th Feb being the highest count.

Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) R

Common and widespread resident recorded throughout the year. 300 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 13th Sep was the highest number reported.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) PM & WV

Recorded up to 19th Apr and from 16th Aug, mainly in ones and twos, although counts of 5 and 8 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 11th and 19th Apr were exceptional.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) V

There were five records between 31st May and 14th June during deep-water pelagic trips out of Kalba (SHJ), with a maximum of 8 seen on 8th Jun.

Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) PM**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Two birds seen on a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 10th May was the only record during the year.

Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*) UC

There were five records between 31st May and 21st June during deep-water pelagic trips out of Kalba (SHJ), with a maximum of 4 seen on 31st May.

Persian Shearwater (*Puffinus persicus*) SV & R

Reported from February to October, with numbers generally highest between late May and the end of August. Highest count was 4229 on 31st May during a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic, one of only three counts of 1000 or more.

Jouanin's Petrel (*Bulweria fallax*) UC**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

There was only one record this year, with up to 21 birds seen on a deep-water pelagic off Kalba (SHJ) on 21st Jun.

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

Seen on 11 dates from 31st May until 13th Sep during east coast pelagic trips. Counts increased as the summer progressed, reaching as many as 35 on 14th June and 12th July.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) R

Common on freshwater lakes throughout the year, with 110 noted at Zakher Lake (AD) on 16th June the highest count. Breeding was recorded from most major sites.

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) WV

Mainly reported from Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), where up to 31 were counted on 15th Feb. Much smaller numbers elsewhere with 8 at The Springs (DUB) and 6 at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) the only other significant counts. Departing birds were last recorded on 30th Mar, returning on 19th Oct.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) R

Seen throughout the year, often in sizeable flocks on major bodies of water; the main location being Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), where 2575 were counted on 18th Jan. Breeding was recorded at this site, with 180 juveniles counted on 27th Aug.

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) V

There were at least five reports of what was presumed to be a bird of unknown origin that frequented a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 7th to 10th Jul, and again on 13th Oct, Zakher Lake (AD) on 14th and Ain al-Fayda (AD) on 19th Oct.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) PM

Recorded from 6th Sep until the year end, mainly from Wamm Farms (FUJ), where 36 were seen on 13th Sep, numbers sadly decreasing over subsequent weeks as many succumbed for reasons unknown. Elsewhere, 10 at Al Qua'a Fodder Field (AD) on 4th Oct was the only other double-figure count.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) WV & R, PM

Recorded year-round at Zakher Lake (AD) with a count of 31 on 28th Sep the highest of the year. Also present all year at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), from where up to 26 were counted on 17th Mar.

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) WV & R, PM

Recorded virtually year-round, mainly at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Reserve (DUB), from where high counts of 46 and 35 were reported on 31st Jan and 6th Feb respectively. Inland, one was seen at Zakher Lake (AD) on 16th Jul, a scarce summer record.

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) PM

Reported from 7 sites during the year between mid-April to June and September to mid-November with birds often remaining for 1-2 weeks. Most records were of single-bird sightings, however two birds were reported from a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 21st May and Green Mubazzarah (AD) itself on 16th Sep and 18th Nov. Especially notable was the exceptional sighting of 20 flying around at dusk at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 18th Apr.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) WV, PM & R

Recorded year-round from several sites, although mainly from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) where breeding was confirmed and a maximum of 60 were counted on 14th Oct. A count of 14 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 2nd Oct was a good record for the site. Highest count: 75 seen at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 28th Feb, presumably the evening dispersal of birds from the Al Warsan roost.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) R

Regularly seen throughout the year, although nowhere common. Highest count was of 25 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 23rd Aug, with the next highest count being of 5 at Balghelam Island (AD) on 27th Apr and Eastern Mangrove Lagoon NP (AD) on 21st Sep.

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) PM & R

Scarce resident, most commonly reported from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), where 10 were counted on 14th Oct and 16th Nov. Ones and twos recorded from several sites, with Zakher Lake (AD) and Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD) being the only sites to host more than two birds.

Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) WV

Recorded in low numbers throughout the year, though the only summer records related to a breeding-plumaged adult at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 20th Jul. Typically, that site hosted the greatest concentration, with 9 counted on 1st Feb. A bird was also regularly seen at the ponds in Safa Park (DUB) for most of the year.

Unidentified Pond Heron (*Ardeola sp.*)

There were 8 reports of unidentified *Ardeola* herons, four of which related to one or more individuals seen briefly in flight in the harbour marsh at Sila'a (AD) on 3rd – 15th May and 11th - 16th Oct. With records of this genus being extremely scarce from the west of the country, it is a pity these sightings could not confirm a specific identity.

Western Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) R

Common and widespread throughout the year, with large counts in excess of 100 birds reported mainly during the winter months. High counts of 120 were recorded at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 23rd Aug and up to 100 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 6th Dec and Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 21st Jan and 2nd Feb.

Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) V

An individual reported from Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 15th Mar and 12th Apr was presumably the same bird seen in previous years at the site.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) WV & R

Recorded throughout the year, with the highest counts being of 42 recorded at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 19th Nov and 40 at nearby Zakher Lake (AD) on 27th Dec.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) R & PM

Recorded year-round, the highest count being of 8 at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 7th Apr and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 14th Sep. Breeding suspected but not confirmed at the latter site, with several sightings during the summer, including a young bird on 22nd Jun.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) R & WV

Common and widespread, though usually in single figures, with high counts of 30 and 35 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 16th Mar and 25th Oct respectively.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) R & WV

Recorded in low numbers throughout the year with 11 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 21st Nov and 13th Dec the highest counts.

Western Reef-Heron (*Egretta gularis schistacea*) R

Recorded all year, mainly from coastal sites. Triple-figure counts were recorded at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) with 310 on 19th Jan being the highest. Khor Zawra (AJM) was the only other site to reach three figures, with 101 counted on 5th Dec.

Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) UC

An immature seen flying north offshore from Luoluayah Beach (SHJ) on 6th Jan was the only confirmed sighting of this species during the year.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) V

An adult was seen in the bay outside Dibba Port (FUJ) on 4th and 6th Oct. The 15th UAE record.

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

Reported throughout the year, though only a few individuals summered. Highest count was 400 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 21st Nov and 13th Dec.

Socotra Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*) R**IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**

Recorded year-round, often in flocks thousands strong. The highest estimated count was of 10,000 offshore from Jazirat al-Hamra (RAK) on 23rd Aug.

Western Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) R, WV & PM

Reported throughout the year, with several breeding records on offshore Abu Dhabi islands. Highest counts were 18 at Marawah Island (AD) on 19th Jan and 10 at Gerain Al Aish (AD) on 30th Mar.

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) V

The bird found at Yas Links Golf Course (AD) in Nov 2013 remained in the area until at least 5th Mar and was found to have returned to the same area on 12th Nov for its second winter.

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) R**IUCN Red List Status: Endangered**

Common and regular around the usual sites close to Jebel Hafit (AD), where up to 32 were recorded on 28th Oct. Away from the Al Ain area, an adult seen flying over Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 25th Dec was an exceptional record.

European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) UC

One photographed flying over Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 16th Aug was the only record during the year.

Crested Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) WV & PM (& R?)

Regularly recorded during winter and spring passage, with up to 5 reported at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 20th Dec. Summering birds were recorded in central Abu Dhabi (AD) during June, when up to 4 were recorded, and a single bird was seen on a couple of occasions at Wamm Farms (FUJ) during August.

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

There were 9 reports of unidentified honey buzzards during the year.

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) V

Six were photographed in flight with a Lappet-faced Vulture over the Dubai-Al Ain road near Al Faqa (DUB) on 18th Mar. The 13th UAE record.

Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*) UC**IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**

There were only two reports this year. One was near Al Faqa (DUB) on 18th Mar, whilst 3 reported south-east of Arabian Ranches (DUB) on 22nd Nov were likely to have been part of a group of 8 seen a few hours earlier low over the Saih al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB).

Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) WV & PM

There were 14 records of single birds, possibly relating to a few as 7 individuals, from six sites during the year, with sightings between 3rd Feb to 29th Apr and 16th Sep to 13th Dec.

Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Clanga pomarina*) V

One was photographed at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 27th Mar and remained until the 29th Mar.

Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) WV & PM**IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**

Common during the winter, with birds staying as late as 4th May at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) when also, unusually, a presumed migrant was logged at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD). Returning birds seen from 14th Oct onwards. Largest concentrations noted at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) with an impressive 23 on 28th Feb.

Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) UC

There were nine records of single birds from various sites during the year, with three recorded from 4th Jan to 26th Apr, with the remaining six from 25th Oct.

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) WV

There were three reports this year. One was seen at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 2nd Feb and another at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 7th Feb, whilst one was at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 1st Dec.

Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) WV**IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**

There were 12 records, probably relating to 5 individuals during the year. Immatures were seen in the Wadi Tarabat (AD) area on 5th Jan, Sir Bani Yas Island (AD) on 4th Mar and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 16th Mar. Adults were reported from Wadi Wurayah NP (FUJ) on 27th Jan and the Green Mubazzarah (AD) area from 15th Nov to the year end.

Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) R

Irregularly seen at various locations up to 27th Apr and from 2nd Sep, with up to 2 birds seen at Wadi Wurayah (AD) on 5th Feb, Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 27th Apr, and the Green Mubazzarah (AD) area on 17th Oct and 4th Dec.

Unidentified eagle (*Aquila* sp.)

Two eagles seen at Zakher Lake (AD) on 19th Apr could not be assigned to species.

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) R

Regularly reported within the Dubai area throughout the year, except during Jul-Sep – presumably due to reduced observer effort. There were three records of presumably this species in central Abu Dhabi (AD) – a male on 4th Jun, female on 30th Jun and 2 birds on 1st Nov.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) WV

Common winter visitor recorded up to 13th April and from 11th Oct. Up to 7 birds were seen at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 30th Nov.

Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) WV & PM

Widely recorded up to 20th May and from 27th Aug, with large roosts observed at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) with maximum roost counts of 20 and 35 birds in winter.

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) WV

There were two records. A female remained at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) from Dec 2012 until 15th Mar, whilst an adult male was seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 2nd Jan.

Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) PM & WV

IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

Regularly seen up to 13th Apr and from 26th Sep. A count of 4 at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 1st Mar was the highest.

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) PM

Much less frequently recorded than Pallid Harrier, with only two spring records, both of 2 birds, at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Al Qua'a Fodder fields (AD) on 12 and 26th Apr respectively. There were 17 records of returning birds seen from 31st Aug until the year end, all of single birds.

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

There were 23 reports of possibly as few as 6 individuals during the year. In the first half of the year, 1-2 birds were regularly seen in the Zakher/Green Mubazzarah (AD) areas of Al Ain, up to 19th Apr, with single birds at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) and Mushrif National Park (DUB), both on 15th Feb. In the latter half of the year, there were only 2 sightings: one at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 25th Oct and one at Zakher Lake (AD) on 27th Dec.

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) R & WV

Very scarce this year, with only five records. In the Al Ain (AD) area; there were reports of single birds near Green Mubazzarah on 1st Jan and at Zakher Lake on 24th Jan and 19th Apr, with two displaying there on 22nd Mar. One was also recorded at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 27th Mar.

Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) V

Only recorded at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD), where 2 long-staying birds were seen during the year. The grey morph from late 2012 remained until 8th Apr, whilst a fox-red morph frequented the fields from 18th Oct until 2014.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) WV

There were two heard-only reports of this species: one at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 2nd Feb and one at Sila'a (AD) on 23rd Nov.

Corn Crane (*Crex crex*) PM

One was flushed from the rocky outcrop of Fazia'a Island (AD) on 21st Sep, whilst another was found walking down Sheik Zayed Road in Dubai (DUB) on 19th Oct and taken into care, later to fly off unassisted the following evening.

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) V

One was at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 8th and 9th Nov, whilst another was found at Silicon Oasis (DUB) on 25th Nov.

Little Crane (*Porzana porzana*) V

One was found in the reeds in the lake at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 23rd Sep, staying until 26th Sep.

Baillon's Crane (*Porzana pusilla*) PM

One was seen on three occasions at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) between 20th Jan and 2nd Mar, whilst singles were also at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 13th and 27th Nov, and regularly seen on several dates at a private estate nearby from 19th Sep to 2nd Oct.

Spotted Crane (*Porzana porzana*) WV & PM

Only 3 birds reported during the year. One was at Wadi Al Ain (AD) on 14th Apr, another at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 4th May, whilst, in autumn, one was at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) from 23rd to 25th Sep.

Unidentified Crane (*Porzana sp.*)

A crane was seen at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10th Feb, but could not be assigned to a species.

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) R

Up to four of the grey-headed form *poliocephalus* were recorded regularly at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) throughout the year, with successful breeding confirmed. Up to 3 were recorded regularly at Al Warsan Lakes (AD), but not assigned to subspecies. It should be noted that there are several historical records of released African Swamphen *P.[p].madagascariensis*, especially at the latter site, including breeding records as recently as 2009.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) R & WV

Common and widespread breeding resident seen all year, with up to 170 reported at Ruwais Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 23rd Aug and 150 at Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 30th Aug.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) R & WV

Recorded every month from major wetland sites with the main concentration at Zakher Lake (AD), where up to 67 were counted on 3rd Feb. Good numbers also at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), from where 57 were recorded on 5th Dec. Breeding was confirmed again at the latter site.

Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*) V

Two birds frequented Al Qua'a fodder Fields (AD) from 22nd Feb to 1st Mar. Previous records of this species are now considered to relate to probable escaped birds, making this record the first wild occurrence in the UAE.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*) V

One was photographed flying over Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) on 15th Mar. The 8th UAE record.

Eurasian Stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedichnemus*) WV & PM

Only seven records during the year. Single birds were seen at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 16th Feb, with presumably the same bird at a nearby private estate on 18th Feb. In autumn, a very early bird was on Sir Bani Yas (AD) on 13th Aug. Three were seen on Lulu Island (AD) on 4th Oct, with one there on 22nd Nov, and 2 were at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 26th Oct. Breeding was confirmed on Abu al-Abyadh Island (AD) in July.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) WV & PM

Reported throughout the year, with small numbers remaining through the summer months. Most records of large flocks relate to Khor al-Beida (UAQ), where up to 300 were noted on 22nd Feb.

Crab-Plover (*Dromas ardeola*) R & WV

Seen every month, although numbers in single figures only between March and August. Highest count was 360 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 14th Sep, from where many triple-figure counts were noted. A bird bearing colour flags and rings was seen at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 31st Mar.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) R

Common and widespread all year, with high counts being reported from Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) with 350 on 30th Aug, 281 at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on 3rd Dec and up to 250 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 24th Nov.

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) WV & R

Birds reported throughout the year, with almost all records coming from 2 sites. Up to 85 were counted at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 28th Nov, with up to 18 present at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 27th Mar. A single bird at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 28th Nov was the only record outside these two areas.

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) WV

There were only 3 records this year. Three were at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 11th to 12th Jan, with singles at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) from 16th Nov to 6th Dec and at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 29th Nov.

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) R

Seen almost anywhere and everywhere, although still localised in the Western Region. Counts of 250 at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 23rd Aug and 1st to 8th Nov were the highest recorded during the year. Breeding was confirmed from many sites.

Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) WV**IUCN Red List Status: Critically endangered**

Two birds that remained at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 2012 were joined by other birds and remained until 23rd Feb, reaching a peak of 8 on 21st Feb. The site again hosted wintering birds later in the year, with one arriving on 29th Oct, building to 4 at the year end. Four were also at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 23rd Nov.

White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*) R

Mostly recorded at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), where up to 35 were counted on 9th Mar. Also regular at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) where up to 14 were regularly seen throughout the year.

European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) WV

Four records. Singles were at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 19th Jan to 9th Feb, Saih al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 22nd Nov, Sir Bani Yas Island (AD) on 2nd Dec and Yas Links Golf Course (AD) on 13th Dec.

Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) WV & PM

Relatively scarce this year, with only four reports of single birds up to 30th Mar. More common on return passage, with 45 sightings after 23rd Aug, reaching a maximum of 18 birds on 3rd Dec at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ).

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) WV & PM

Seen throughout the year, with a maximum count of 300 recorded at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 14th Dec.

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) WV & PM

Recorded throughout the year, with a maximum count of 80 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 2nd Feb.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) SV & PM

Reported year-round, with reports of confirmed breeding at Mafraq Marsh (AD) and a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD). Highest count was 60 at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 1st Nov.

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) R & WV

Very common resident, often in very large flocks, the biggest of which reached 2000 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 14th Dec.

Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) WV & PM

Present year-round mainly at west coast sites, with large flocks particularly during winter. An estimate of 4000 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 19th Jan was the largest number reported.

Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) WV & PM

Generally seen in far lesser numbers than *C. mongolus*, with numbers decreasing significantly from the end of February to mid-September. The maximum count was 2000 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 14th Sep.

Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus*) PM

Single birds were reported from four sites during the year. One was at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 23rd to 25th Mar, with possibly as many as 3 different individuals there between 23rd Aug and 11th Oct. Wamm Farms (FUJ) had singles on 11th Apr and 1st Nov, and one was at Sir Bani Yas Island (AD) 27th Sep. An individual found at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 9th Nov was to remain well into 2014.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) V

The first UAE record was found at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 31st Oct. Incredibly, this was followed, less than a month later, by a second individual at Zakher Lake (AD) that stayed for ten days from 28th Nov to 7th Dec.

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) V

The only record was of one was flushed in the central wood in Safa Park (DUB) on 18th Dec. The 18th UAE record.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) WV

There were 17 records from a total of five sites. Up to two were at Ajban (AD) between 11th Jan and 12th Feb. Single birds were seen at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 1st Jan, 25th Oct and 12th Dec, with up to 2 at Wadi Al Ain (AD) between 7th and 29th Nov. One was at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 11th Nov, whilst up to 3 were in the marsh at Jebel Dhanna (AD) from 14th to 23rd Dec.

Pin-tailed Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*) PM & WV

There were 24 records from only 5 sites, with a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) being exceptionally reliable, with birds seen on 11 dates, including one extremely late bird on 25th May. Returning birds were recorded from 31st Aug.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) WV & PM

Widely recorded up to 25th Apr and from 23rd Aug onwards, with numbers reaching 65 on 11th Nov at Maфраг Rubbish Tip (AD).

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) V

The first UAE record was retrospectively identified from photographs taken at the high tide roost at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 25th Jan.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) WV & PM**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Reported for most of the year, except July, with a high count of 50 on 12th Nov at Yas Links Golf Course (AD). Other notable flocks included 30 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 16th Mar and 20 at Abu Dhabi Golf Club (AD) on 7th Oct.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) WV & PM

Present year-round, though numbers considerably lower during May to mid-July. The majority of reports of large flocks came from Umm al-Qaiwain emirate, with maximum counts of 1150 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 19th Jan and 1000 on 1st Mar.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) WV & PM

Regularly reported in small numbers throughout the year at sites on, or close to, the coast, with larger flocks gathering in the high-tide roost.

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) WV & PM**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Seen year-round in small numbers close to the coast. Larger numbers recorded at the roost at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) where 70 were counted on 13th Dec. Elsewhere, 39 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 12th Jan was the largest count recorded.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) WV & PM

Scarce, with a total of 24 records from 6 sites up until 4th May and from 13th Sep onwards. Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) was the most reliable site for the species, with numbers there reaching 5 on 2nd Feb.

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) WV & PM

Seen throughout the year, with large numbers recorded at Khor al-Beida (UAQ), from where the highest counts included 2000 on 14th Dec and 1100 on 1st Feb.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) WV & PM

Reported up to 20th Apr and from 23rd Aug, with the vast majority of records coming from Abu Dhabi emirate, from where double-figure numbers were regularly logged at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) during winter, reaching 35 on 2nd Feb. Away from this site, 5 on flooded excavations at Discovery Gardens (DUB) on 4th Feb was the highest count.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) WV & PM

Commonly recorded every month, with Khor al-Beida (UAQ) regularly holding good numbers in the high-tide roost, reaching 210 on 1st Feb.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) WV & PM

Seen most of the year, with no records between 24th Apr and 29th Jun. Highest count was 15 at Al Warsan Water Treatment Plant (DUB) on 23rd Sep.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) WV & PM

Widespread and commonly recorded from many freshwater localities during the year, although there were no reports in June. A count of 30 at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 1st Nov was the highest reported.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) WV & PM

Recorded year-round, with records showing a heavy bias towards west coast sites in Abu Dhabi, Ra's al-Khaimah and Umm al-Qaiwain. Six at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 11th May was the most significant record from the eastern side of the country. Highest count was 127 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 1st Feb.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) WV & PM

Widespread and regularly recorded, though very scarce in May and June, with 35 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 14th Oct the highest count reported.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) WV & PM

Common and widespread on the coast, especially the west coast, although Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) regularly held flocks of up to 100. Scarce from mid-May to mid-Aug. Highest count: 300 at Gerain Al Aish (AD) on 30th Mar.

Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) WV & PM**IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**

Almost exclusively recorded at the regular site of Khor al-Beida (UAQ) up to 12th Apr and from 23rd Aug, with a high count of 46 on 9th Nov. Away from here, there was only a single record of 36 counted at Balghelam Island (AD) 23rd Mar.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) V

The wintering bird from 2012 was seen at Al Jazirah Khor (Khor Muzahmi) (RAK) on 23rd Jan. It was relocated a month later further south at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 22nd Feb and seen occasionally until 6th Apr.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) WV & PM

Recorded up to 20th May and from 13th Aug, with the highest count of 44 coming from Gerain Al Aish (AD) on 30th Mar. One at Saih Al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 31st Aug was a good inland record.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) WV & PM

Extremely common and numerous during winter and on passage, with numbers reaching 1500 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Reserve (DUB) on 10th Oct and 1000 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 25th Feb. Inland, 500 were recorded at Zakher Lake (AD) on 12th Jan and 1st Mar.

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) WV & PM

Seen up to 18th May and from 2nd Aug onwards, with a highest count of 90 at Mirfa Water treatment Plant (AD) on 30th Aug.

Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*) V

The first recorded since 2007 was found at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 22nd Nov and remained until 9th Dec.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) V

The 6th UAE record was re-identified from photographs a few months after being found at the Saih Al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 6th Sep.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) WV & PM

Seen throughout the year, with a small number remaining through the months of May and June. Large flocks recorded included up to 800 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 14th Sep, 200 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 5th Oct and 150 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 2nd Feb.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) WV & PM

Common and numerous at coastal sites during winter, with birds recorded through to the 3rd May. Returning birds were recorded from 25th Jul onwards. Maximum count was 5000 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 19th Jan and 22nd Feb.

Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) WV & PM

Recorded up to 16th Mar and from 20th Jul, with a high count of 11 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 22nd Feb. Most records emanated from the western side of the country, but there were 3 eastern records: One at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 20th Jul, and up to 2 birds at Wamm Farms (FUJ) between 30th Aug and 7th Sep. Inland, one bird resided at a small irrigation channel in Saih Al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) from 21st Aug to 11th Nov.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) WV & PM

Fairly common during the year, although only reported in single figures from the end of April to mid-August. Highest count: 195 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 15th Sep.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) PM & WV

Recorded throughout the year, although not in July. A count of 2080 on 6th Sep during a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic was easily the highest number seen, with 172 in the same area of the sea on 30th Aug. 11 recorded at Saih Al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 7th Sep was the highest inland count, with birds remaining there until 14th Oct.

Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*) R

Seen year-round, with 36 on 28th Dec at Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club (DUB) the highest count of the year. Successful breeding was reported from Saih as Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 27th Mar and 8th May.

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) PM

First reported on 28th Mar, with numbers steadily increasing during April, when numbers rose from single figures to a peak of 17 at Ajban (AD) on 16th Apr; sightings ended on 26th May. Birds on return passage were seen from 13th Aug until 13th Dec, with 17 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 13th Sep the most notable count.

Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*) V**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Recorded three times this year, with one bird at Ajban (AD) on 25th and 26th Apr, 7 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 27th Apr and at least one at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) from 1st to 5th Oct, with 2 reported on 3rd Oct.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) SV

There were 14 reports between 10th May and 13th Sep, mostly during Kalba (SHJ) pelagics. The only major counts were 11 on 16th Aug and 8 on 30th Aug.

Lesser Noddy (*Anous tenuirostris*) V

There were five records, four of which were from Kalba (SHJ) pelagic with 2 seen on 16th and 30th Aug, 3 on 6th Sep and one on 13th Sep. One was seen on the beach at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 7th Sep.

Slender-billed Gull (*Chroicocephalus genei*) WV & PM

Present year-round, though in relatively low numbers. Counts of 100 or more were only recorded four times during the year: 500, 350 and 100 reported from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 6th Dec, 28th Mar and 30th Mar and 150 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 12th Oct.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) WV & PM

Very common during winter, with flocks often in the thousands, peaking at an estimated 10,000 on 11th Jan at Jebel Ali Palm (DUB). Recorded throughout most of the year, although no records between 29th Jun and 30th Sep.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) V

A second-winter was photographed on Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 6th Mar. The 15th UAE record.

Mediterranean Gull (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*) V

An adult, possibly the same individual from 2012, at Mafrq Rubbish Tip (AD) from 10th to 19th Jan and 22nd Feb, with presumably the same bird returning on 7th Dec. In Dubai, a 3cy was at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 21st Feb.

Pallas's Gull (*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*) WV

Fairly common in low numbers at coastal sites during winter up to 31st Mar and from 22nd Nov. A flock of 210 seen flying 4km offshore at dusk during a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 9th Feb was exceptional.

Sooty Gull (*Ichthyaetus hemprichii*) PM & R

Recorded most months, though mostly between March and May, during which numbers peaked at 1000 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 30th Mar.

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

Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*) WV

There were only 3 reports: 5 were at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 23rd Mar, with another there on 20th Sep, whilst one was at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 16th Nov.

Baltic Gull (*Larus fuscus fuscus*) V

An adult was seen on several dates at Zakher Lake (AD) from 13th to 28th Sep.

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

Sparingly recorded up to 28th Mar and from 7th Sep. A count of 42 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 6th Nov was the highest of the year by far.

Steppe Gull (*Larus fuscus barabensis*) WV

Seen up to 1st Apr and from 27th Aug onwards, with an estimated 200 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 9th Feb and Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 22nd Nov the highest counts.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) WV, PM & R

Regularly recorded throughout the year along the west coast, with numbers reaching 60 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 8th Feb. There were only 6 records from the east coast, all of single birds.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) WV, PM & R

Widely reported throughout the year from west coast sites, with only 2 reports from the east coast during the year: 2 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 13th Sep and one at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 30th Aug. Highest count: 47 at Marawah Island (AD) on 19th Jan.

Greater Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*) WV, PM & R

Seen all year exclusively along the east coast, with numbers increasing during the winter months, when 60 were recorded at Dibba Port (FUJ) on 31st Oct.

Lesser Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bengalensis*) R & PM

Regularly recorded during the year, with 248 at Sir Bani Yas Island (AD) on 27th Sep the highest recorded count.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) WV & P

Present in low numbers up to 11th May and from 3rd Aug, with an increase in numbers during late winter /early spring. Mainly recorded on the east coast, from where the highest count of 35 on 20th Sep was made at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ). There were three west coast records, all during March: 5 at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) and one at Umm al-Qaiwain (UAQ) on 26th Mar, with one at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 30th Mar.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) PM

Seen from 16th Mar to 24th Nov, mainly along the east coast, with numbers reaching 27 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 19th Apr. Records of inland birds all came from Zakher Lake (AD) where up to 4 birds were seen between 16th to 29th Mar and up to 3 from 24th to 26th Apr.

Saunders's Tern (*Sternula saundersi*) R

Recorded from 2nd Mar to 24th May and from 13th Aug to the year end, only from west coast sites. Highest count was of 150 offshore from Abu Dhabi (AD) on 16th Mar, some birds noted as displaying.

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

There were 61 records of unspecified *Sternula* terns throughout the year. 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 outer primaries and rump colour. Identification of juveniles and winter birds is generally impossible.

Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) SV & PM

Recorded mainly from May to Nov on the east coast, with only 5 records, all single-figure counts, from the west coast. Highest count was 800 during a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 7th Jun.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) V

There were 5 records. First-summerers were seen during Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 31st May and 12th Jul, and one photographed on the beach along Kalba corniche on 10th Sep. A 2nd summer delighted Roseate Tern watchers on Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 13th Sep when it flew low overhead and was seen again at the same location the following week (20th Sep).

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) V

Having not been seen since 1989, an amazing run of birds over the space of 4 weeks led to at least 6 adult birds being found, plus 2 juveniles. Two adults with all-orange bills, later confirmed as *bangsii/arideensis*, were found on Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 6th Sep. On 13th Sep, a black-billed adult was found at the same site feeding a well-grown juvenile, yet not present the next day, when a different orange-billed adult was seen. An adult feeding a juvenile was again found, this time up the coast at Louluayah Beach (SHJ) on 20th Sep. Finally, an adult winter was at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 28th Sep and again on 4th Oct.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) WV & PM

Seen throughout the year, often in their hundreds and mainly on the east coast, with a peak count of 1500 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 7th and 20th Sep.

White-cheeked Tern (*Sterna repressa*) SV & PM

Recorded almost year-round in varying numbers and reaching a peak of 1500 at Sir Bani Yas Island (AD) on 27th Sep. Breeding was noted at Jebel Dhanna (AD) in late April/early May, with some 400 birds recorded.

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) WV & PM

Present year-round in small numbers, reaching a maximum count of 45 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 11th Nov.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) PM

Recorded in small numbers throughout the year, reaching a high count of 20 birds on 21st Sep in the Nad al-Sheba area of Dubai (DUB).

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) PM

Only 5 records, all from the Fujairah coast. Two birds were seen off Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 20th Sep with one there the following day and another on 9th Nov. Kalba (SHJ) pelagics recorded 2 birds on 1st Jun and a single on 21st Jun, 21km offshore.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) PM

Recorded 23 times between 28th Mar and 16th Nov, with the highest count being 6 seen during a Kalba (SHJ) pelagic on 21st Jun.

Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) V

There were two confirmed reports during the year, both recorded during pelagics out of Kalba (SHJ). A 3cy individual was seen on 7th Jun, with another recorded two weeks later, on the 21st. This latter bird was not actually seen by observers, but discovered during a post-pelagic review of photographs – the sea had been so rough that the 5 crew could barely hold their binoculars still!

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

There were 6 reports between May - Sep of up to 28 *Stercorarius* skuas, including 20 reported from Al Ghurfa (FUJ) on 30th Mar, left unspecified due to the difficulties in judging size and the subtle plumage features of immature birds.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*) R

Fairly common resident recorded year-round, usually in small to medium-sized flocks. There was a significant local movement of this species during Nov-Dec, with 650 at Saih Al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 8th and 29th Nov the highest counts.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (*Pterocles lichtensteinii*) R

There were 23 reports of this crepuscular resident this year. 35 were recorded along at Wadi Helo (FUJ) on 12th Jul and 30 at Wadi Wurayah NP (FUJ) on 19th Nov. Up to 6 were also fairly regularly seen at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD).

Feral Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) R

Common and widespread resident with estimates of 1000 birds at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 13th Sep, 16th Nov and 29th Dec.

European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) PM

Recorded from 31st Mar to the year end, with 30 at Saih Al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 4th Aug the highest count reported.

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) R

Abundant and widespread. Maximum count: an estimated 1500 at Saih Al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 25th Oct.

Laughing Dove (*Spilopelia senegalensis*) R

Common and widespread resident, with the highest count being around 400 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 16th Nov.

Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*) R

Only 25 records spread throughout the year, with counts of 30 recorded at Al Hayer (AD) and Nahel (AD), both on 22nd Mar.

Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*) V

A very elusive bird was found at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 23rd Feb. The 4th UAE record.

Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) PM

Scarce this year, with only five reports. Singles were at Emirates Palace (AD) on 9th Apr, Hili Archaeological Park (AD) on 13th Apr, Al Jimi (AD) on 3rd Aug, Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 4th Oct and Dalma Island (AD) on 15th Oct.

Western Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) R

Four records of single birds from the Zakher area of Al Ain (AD) on 1st Jan, Falah Farms (SHJ) on 13th Jan, Abu Dhabi city (AD) on 16th Mar and Fujairah (FUJ) on 21st Jun.

Pallid Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*) R

Eleven records were received throughout the year, from six locations, the most regular being Mushrif National Park (DUB) and the roost site at Al Jimi Oasis (AD).

Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) PM

Two records this year; one was at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) from 27th to 30th Mar and one at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 9th Oct.

Pharaoh Eagle-owl (*Bubo ascalaphus*) R

Reported from five localities, with breeding confirmed at two of them. A pair raised 3 young at a site in Dubai (DUB) during February and March, and an adult with two youngsters were recorded at Zayed Military City (AD) on 25th Apr.

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) R

There were 23 records, mainly from Ajban (AD) and a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD), from where highs of 6 and 5 respectively were recorded on 8th Apr and 11th May, both counts including juveniles, indicating successful breeding.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) V

The only record was of a bird that flew into a window in Umm al-Qaiwain (UAQ) and taken into care on 23rd Jan.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) WV

One at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 31st Jan was the only record this year.

European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) PM

A lingering winter bird remained at Emirates Palace (AD) until 11th Jan, after which the first spring migrants were recorded from 13th Apr until 31st May, peaking at 14 on 29th Apr at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD). Later in the year, returning birds appeared on 6th Sep, some again lingering until early Dec at Emirates Palace. Highest count was a total of 41 on 4th Oct, with 34 on Lulu Island (AD) and 7 at Emirates Palace.

Egyptian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*) WV, PM (& SV?)

There were 16 records from 3 sites, mainly Ajban (AD), where birds were recorded from 29th Mar until 5th Oct, with double-figure counts in August and early September. The discovery of a juvenile bird there on 14th Jun suggests breeding may have occurred locally. The usual winter site of Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) had 2 on 9th Feb and 1 on 15th Nov, whilst one was on Lulu Island (AD) on 4th Oct.

Unidentified Nightjar sp. (*Caprimulgus* sp.)

An unidentified nightjar was seen at a private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 13th Sep.

Alpine Swift (*Tachymarptis melba*) UC

Two records: one was seen near Abu Dhabi airport (AD) on 24th Apr and another at Sharjah Desert Park (SHJ) on 10th Sep.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*) PM

There were 9 records. In spring, 2 were at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 26th Mar, with 4 there on 2nd Apr, and a single was at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 19th Apr. Returning migrants were seen in ones and twos from 16th Aug to 7th Sep at Wamm Farms, Lulu Island (AD) and Emirates Palace (AD).

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*) WV & PM

Seen up to 28th May and from 31st Aug, with the highest counts being 1500 at Dubai Creek (DUB) on 25th Jan and Zakher Lake (AD) on 12th Jan.

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) R

Regularly and widely reported throughout the year eastwards from south Dubai. Not recorded from Abu Dhabi or areas westwards. Largest count was 50 at Hamranyah Nursery (RAK) on 16th Mar.

European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) PM**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Mainly seen in low numbers on spring and autumn passage, though some individuals remained through the summer and one or two spent the winters at the fodder fields of Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Al Qua'a (AD). Notable counts included 32 at Wamm Farms on 2nd May and a staggering 800 at Umm az Zumul Arabian Oryx Protected Area (AD) on 17th & 18th Apr. This enormous count was made by EAD field workers who noted the birds settled in trees & bushes in groups of 100 to 300.

Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris kalbaensis*) R

Only ten records during the year, all from the mangroves of Khor Kalba (SHJ), with a maximum count of 4 on 1st Feb and 31st Jul. Breeding confirmed on the latter date, when a total of four nests were found containing a total of 6 chicks.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) WV

Departing wintering birds seen up until 28th Mar, with returning birds first recorded on 5th Sep. Highest count was of 6 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 1st Feb.

Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) R

Widely recorded throughout the year, with 60 at Hamranyah Fields (RAK) on 16th Mar the highest count of the year.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (*Merops persicus*) SV & PM

First recorded on 26th Mar and present throughout the summer months, with birds remaining until 3rd Nov. Highest count was 200 at Al Maqam Fodder Field (AD) on 24th Sep.

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) PM

Seen from 6th Apr through to 15th Oct, with birds remaining during the summer. Highest count: 70 at Madinat Zayed (AD) on 26th Apr.

Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) R & PM

Common and widespread, with a high count of 50 at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Mar.

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) PM & WV

Regularly reported throughout winter and on passage up to 3rd May and from 6th Sep. Five reported from Sila'a (AD) on 21st Sep was the highest count of the year.

Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) PM

Recorded from just two sites prior to mid-March (seemingly over-winterers) and then much more commonly up to 17th May and from 14th Oct to 30th Nov. The majority of sightings were from Wamm Farms (AD), from where 107 were counted on 27th Apr, and Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) with 8 on 15th Mar.

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) R, WV & PM

Recorded almost throughout the year, with the majority of records during winter and passage. The highest count was from Al Qua'a Fodder Field (AD) where 10 were seen on 30th Nov.

Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*) V

A good year for this attractive falcon, with three records logged. A juvenile was seen on Lulu Island (AD) on 15th Nov, a female at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 23rd and 29th Nov, and 2 female-types at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) from 15th to 21st Dec. These represent the 14th to 16th UAE records.

Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*) UC**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

Six records involving 4 birds from 3 locations. Up to 2 adults were on territory at Fazia'a Island (AD) from 21st Jun to 21st Sep, but breeding was not confirmed. A 2nd-winter was on Ghagah Island (AD) on 16th Oct, and one flew over the government buildings along Kalba (SHJ) corniche, heading towards the mangroves, on 20th Oct.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) UC

Three birds were seen during the year. Single males were at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 31st Jan and 8th Feb and Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) on 16th Mar, and a female at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3rd Nov.

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) PM

Only 11 records this year, all in autumn, from 23rd Sep to 17th Oct. Mostly single birds, 2 were at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 23rd Sep, whilst 6 were seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ) during a prolonged raptor watch on 14th Oct.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) WV

Uncommon during the winter months, with 3 birds reported from 5th Jan to 4th Mar and 3, possibly 4, from 3rd Nov to 28th Dec. Sites used were scattered over the country.

Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*) R

Recorded erratically throughout the year, mainly in the Al Ain (AD) areas of Green Mubazzarah, Zakher Lake and Jebel Hafit, from where 2 were seen on 3rd Jun. Away from this area, one was seen on three dates at Wamm Farms (FUJ) between 9th Aug and 13th Sep.

Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) R

Seen year-round, especially in the environs of Abu Dhabi city (AD). The highest count was 11 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 30th Apr.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) R

Widely reported through the year, with a high count of 150 seen going to roost near the Iranian Hospital in Jumeirah (DUB) on 18th May.

Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) V

The first-winter *cristatus* from 2012 was last seen at Colin's Farm in Wadi Bih (RAK) on 5th Jan.

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) PM

Seen from 9th Apr to 25th May and from 20th Sep to 16th Nov. Highest count was 35 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 10th May, when a total of 40 were recorded nationally. This day-total was exceeded the following day by a total of 52 birds.

Daurian Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) WV & PM

Reported until 26th Apr and from 31st Aug to the year end. The highest count was of 13 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 27th Mar.

Turkestan Shrike (*Lanius phoenicuroides*) PM

Recorded from 8th Feb to 25th May and from 16th Aug to 16th Dec. A count of 40 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 12-13th Apr was the highest number reported.

Daurian/Turkestan Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*)

There were 24 records of unspecified Isabelline Shrikes during the year.

Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) UC

An adult was at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) from 2nd to 4th Apr.

Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*) PM

There were 37 reports, 31 of which were from 4th Apr to 23rd May. In the autumn, there were 6 records of birds from 27th Aug to 29th Sep. The highest count was of 6 at Sila'a (AD) on 3rd May.

Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) R

Common and widespread, with a maximum count of 45 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 12-13th Apr, when at least 15 breeding pairs, many with chicks, were seen.

Steppe Grey Shrike (*Lanius pallidirostris*) WV & PM

Regularly reported during winter and on passage up to 19th Apr and from 6th Sep until the year end. A count of 8 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12th Apr was the highest reported.

Eastern Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator niloticus*) PM

Primarily seen in spring, with 77 records between 26th Feb and 10th May, peaking at 10 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 30th Mar. There were only 3 autumn records, with dates from 20th Jul to 1st Sep.

Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) PM & WV

Regularly recorded from 17th Feb to 17th May and from 21st Sep onwards. Counts of 3 were made at Balghelam Island (AD) on 27th Apr and a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10th May.

Unidentified Shrike (*Lanius sp.*)

There were four presumed hybrid shrikes reported. A presumed Bay-backed-type hybrid was at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 11th and 12th Apr, a Red-backed x Isabelline at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 19th Apr and a Red-backed x Turkestan at Emirates Palace (AD) on 11th May. Another unspecified shrike was at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 7th May.

Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) PM

Seen in low numbers from 19th Apr to 18th May, with a peak on 3rd May when 16 were counted, 14 of which were at Sila'a (AD). In autumn, seen from 30th Aug to 11th Oct.

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

A drongo, probably Black, was reported from a farm in Al Awir (DUB) on 2nd Jul and apparently present a few days earlier.

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) R

Common and widespread close to coastal locations, with a high count of 350 roosting at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 14th Oct.

Mesopotamian Crow (*Corvus cornix capellanus*) V

The bird found in late 2012 on Siniya Island (UAQ), was relocated at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 19th Jan, where it was seen several times until 28th Jan. It was seen again back on Siniya Island on 23rd Jan, presumably making feeding forays on and off the island.

Brown-necked Raven (*Corvus ruficollis*) R

Regularly seen in inland areas, especially dune deserts, with 50 at Saih al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 27th Mar the most counted.

Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) WV & PM

Seen up to 31st Mar and from 25th Oct, with the regular locations of Yas Links Golf Course (AD), Dalma Island (AD), Lulu Island (AD) and Sila'a (AD) producing highest counts of 145, 90, 90 and 30 respectively. Elsewhere, singles were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 25th Oct, near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10th Nov and 2 were at Zayed Sports City (AD) on 7th Nov.

Greater Hoopoe-lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*) R

Regularly seen throughout the year, with Saih al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) especially productive, with up to 11 seen on 28th Dec. A bird seen singing on Hoderiyat Island (AD) on 20th Nov was suggestive that the species may still breed very close to Abu Dhabi city.

Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*) V

The 8th UAE record was found and photographed on the goat farm at Wamm Farms (AD) on 31st Oct.

Bimaculated Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) WV

Only three records this year: 2 at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 14th Mar and singles at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 8th Nov and at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 20th Dec.

Bar-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes cinctura*) R

A single bird at Ra's Ghumais (AD) on 21st Jun was the only record.

Desert Lark (*Ammomanes deserti*) R

Common year-round in wadis and rocky areas, with a high count of 17 at Jebel Hafit (AD) on 11th Jan.

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

Widely seen from 1st Mar to the year end, with 160 in the fodder drying field at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Mar the largest flock seen. On Sir Bani Yas Island (AD), 55 on 27th Sep was the highest autumn count.

Lesser Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella rufescens*) WV & PM

Only 8 seen this year, with doubles seen at Al Rafa'a (UAQ) on 11th Feb, Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 14th Mar, Ain al-Fayda (AD) on 14th Sep and Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 19th Sep, with only one there the following day.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) R

Common and widespread. Highest count: 150 at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 16th Mar.

Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) WV

Seen up to 30th Mar and from 13th Sep, with large flocks at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) totalling 50 on 15th Mar and 6th Dec respectively.

Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*) WV

Two at Mirfa Public Park (AD) on 12th Jan and 2 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 23rd Nov were the only records received.

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

Seen throughout the year, especially at Saih Al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) where up to 100 were seen on 15th Jun and 28th Dec. A similar count was recorded at Dubai World Central (DUB) on 8th Apr.

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) R

Singles were recorded at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 21st Jan, Yas Island (AD) on 20th Apr and Al Ain Cement factory quarries (AD) on 16th Nov.

White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) R

Commonly seen resident. Highest estimated counts were of 150 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 12-13th Apr and Sir Bani Yas Island (AD) on 14th Oct.

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) R

Common resident mainly seen in city parks. Highest count was 100 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 12-13th Apr.

White-spectacled Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*) R

Regularly recorded resident in the mountain regions, with a high count of 80 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 12-13th Apr. A nest containing 3 eggs was found in a *Ficus salicifolia* tree at Hatta Dams (DUB) on 20th Mar and a juvenile at Wamm Farms (FUJ) were the only reports of breeding.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) PM & WV

Recorded throughout the year, scarce in late spring and summer, but becoming more numerous during autumn. The highest count was 200 on 2nd Oct at Zakher Lake (AD).

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) PM & WV

Recorded every month, with numbers swelling during mid-spring and early autumn passage. Huge counts of up to 7000 roosting birds at Zakher Lake (AD) were observed 8th to 18th Oct.

Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) V

There were 2 birds seen this year. A bird found in 2012 remained in the Al Ain (AD) areas of Zakher and Al Ain Water Treatment Plant until at least 2nd Feb, whilst an adult was photographed at Ajban (AD) on 21st April and seen again four days later.

Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) UC

There were three records: singles at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 26th Mar and Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 16th Apr and 2 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 25th Oct.

Pale Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*) R

Present year-round in Dubai city and mountain wadis, with 31 on 2nd Oct at Green Mubazzarah (AD) the highest count.

Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) PM & WV

There were 16 records up to 22nd Apr, but only 3 from 24th Aug onwards. Seven found in a large group of mixed hirundines at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 2nd Oct was the highest number reported.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) PM & WV

Only recorded up to 18th May, with a high of 6 at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 26th Feb.

Streak-throated Swallow (*Petrochelidon fluvicola*) V

Two were found feeding over Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 19th Jan. The 9th UAE record.

Streaked Scrub Warbler (*Scotocerca inquieta*) R

There were only ten records, most emanating from the usual wadis around Masafi (FUJ), where 2 pairs were observed nest-building. Also recorded at Wadi Helo (FUJ), Jebel Jais (RAK) and "Wadi Tovey", near the Austrian Stone Quarry on the Kalba – Sharjah road (SHJ).

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) PM

Commonly reported during spring passage between 25th Mar and 25th May, with numbers reaching 110 on 13th Apr, with 60 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) and 50 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ). There were five autumn records of up to 4 birds between 8th Sep and 5th Oct.

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) WV & PM

Common throughout winter and, in lesser numbers, on spring passage up to 7th May and from 5th Oct onwards. The highest counts were 80 at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Mar and 40 seen at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 15th Dec.

Plain Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus neglectus*) WV

Widely seen, but nowhere common, up to 24th Mar and from 5th Oct, with up to 9 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 6th Dec.

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) PM

Three were seen during the year: singles at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 8th and 9th Apr, Lulu Island (AD) on 20th Sep and on Dalma Island (AD) on 15th Oct.

Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*) V

A good year, with the sixth and seventh UAE records found. One was at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) from 18th Jan to 13th Feb, whilst another spent a week in Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 13th to 20th Dec.

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) V

A very vocal bird was found at the water treatment plant on Dalma Island (AD) on 30th Nov and still present the following day.

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

Only two recorded during the year, with a long-stayer at Safa Park (DUB) from 3rd Jan to 8th Mar, with one at Emirates Palace (AD) on 19th Jan.

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) PM

There were at least 10 birds this year, between the periods of 8th to 23rd Apr and 18th Sep to 25th Oct. Multiple, or long-staying, birds were recorded several locations. Jebel Dhanna (AD) had 2 on 8th Apr and one was at Green Mubazzarah (AD) between 11th and 16th Apr with another 18th Sep to 5th Oct. Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) held singles on 10th and 23rd April, whilst one was seen at Wamm Farms (AD) on 15th and 25th Oct.

Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus brunescens*) R

Common and widespread throughout the year with a peak count of 15 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 18th and 25th Feb and on 17th Mar.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) PM

Eight were seen at six sites between 10th to 20th May, with three records at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 11th, 16th and 20th May all thought to be different birds. One at Wamm Farms (AD) on 3rd Nov was an unusual autumn record.

Caspian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus*) R

Regularly reported up to 26th Jun (61 records), but only four records from 5th Oct to the year end. Breeding confirmed at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 3rd Jun, with juveniles seen being fed. A count of 15 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 16th Mar was the highest reported.

Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) PM

There were 74 reports in a period from 19th Apr to 30th May, with the highest count being 40 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 11th May. One at the Jebel Dhanna hotel complex (AD) on 27th Aug was the only autumn record.

Sykes's Warbler (*Iduna rama*) R

One in the mangroves at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 13th Sep was the only record this year. Records of this species are now extremely rare due to the limited access to this site and it is not possible to assess its current status in the UAE.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida*) PM & localised R (Abu Dhabi island)

Recorded up to 30th May and from 23rd Aug. Highest counts: 12 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 11th May and 15th Oct.

Upcher's Warbler (*Hippolais languida*) PM

Common spring migrant recorded from 22nd Mar to 18th May, peaking on 7th Apr with a total of 18 birds reported, 12 of which were at Wadi Tarabat (AD). There were just three autumn records of single birds from 31st Aug to 11th Oct.

Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*) PM

Three records in spring, all singles: Emirates Palace (AD) on 14th Mar, Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 31st Mar and at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 4th May.

River Warbler (*Locustella fluviatilis*) V

After a long absence, the first records since 2005 appeared in quick succession in May: one at Mushrif Palace Gardens on 7th to 11th May and another at Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club (AD) on 16th to 17th.

Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) R

Commonly seen resident, with 20 at Academic City (DUB) on 13th Jan being the highest count. Scarce in the western region but records from Dalma Island (AD) and Sila'a (AD) undoubtedly indicate establishment there.

Arabian Babbler (*Turdoides squamiceps*) R

Common and widespread in drier habitats throughout the year, although no reports south and west of a rough line between Al Ain – Sweihan – Dubai. Particularly regularly reported at Green Mubazzarah (AD) where 24 on 5th Jan was the highest count.

Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) PM

Reported in spring from 30th Mar until 15th May and, in much lesser numbers, in autumn from 21st Sept to 22nd Nov (just six autumn records in all). Generally reported as singles, with 5 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 3rd Apr the highest count.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) UC

As usual, very rare in spring with just two reports: a single at Gerain al Aish (AD) on 30th Mar and 2 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 17th May.

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) PM

Regularly reported from 7th Apr to 13th May (with on early bird on 5th Mar) and, much less commonly from 30th Aug to 16th Oct. Highest count: a remarkable 16 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 13th Apr. In autumn, 8 were at Sila'a (AD) on 11th Oct.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) PM

Reported 2nd Jan to 22nd May and from 6th Sep, into Dec, generally in low numbers, with the majority of sightings in March, April and October. A high of 10 at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 26th Mar. Owing to the complexities of Lesser Whitethroat taxonomy and the difficulty in obtaining adequate views to positively identify them, it is certain that many records of Desert and Lesser Whitethroats are intermixed.

Desert Whitethroat (*Sylvia minula*) WV

Reported widely and sometimes commonly up until 8th Mar (with three further records up until 19th Apr) and again from 20th Sep to the year end. 55 on Dalma Island (AD) on 15th Oct was the maximum recorded, although there were eleven records of ten or more individuals, all from 11th Oct onwards. See also comment under Lesser Whitethroat *S. curruca* above.

Unidentified Whitethroat (*Sylvia minula/curruca/althea*)

Eight on Lulu Island (AD) on 18th Feb were not attributed to species.

Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia crassirostris*) WV

As usual, rather scarce with ten records evenly spread up until 10th Apr and just two further records in autumn / early winter. All singles, bar for 2 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 14th Oct.

Asian Desert Warbler (*Sylvia nana*) WV

Recorded quite frequently up until 8th April and from 29th Sep. Highest count was 10 at Ajban Farms (AD) on 26th Jan.

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) PM

Recorded primarily on spring passage, with birds seen from 27th Mar to 24th May (65 records) with fewer in autumn, from 30th Aug (and most having passed by the end of October). Highest count was 25 at Sila'a (AD) on 3rd May; all other counts were less than ten.

Menetries's Warbler (*Sylvia mystacea*) PM & WV

Widely reported up to 20th Apr (with one additional record on 2nd May) and from 16th Sep. As usual, peak numbers came in early to mid-March and in the first half of October. 18 on Lulu Island (AD) on 12th Oct was the highest count.

Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) R

Common resident, mainly in the northern Emirates and especially at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), with up to 2000 reported on 29th Aug at the latter site.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) R

Very common and widespread, with a highest count of 1000 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 16th Nov.

Pied Myna (*Gracupica contra*) R

Reported all year from favoured sites in the Dubai area, and also at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ), with a maximum count of 50 at Safa Park (DUB) on 23rd Aug, where breeding was confirmed.

Brahminy Starling (*Sturnia pagodarum*) R

Just three reports totalling 4 birds, spread through the year and all from Jumeriah (DUB).

Rose-coloured Starling (*Pastor roseus*) PM & WV

The vast majority of records came from Wamm Farms (FUJ) were up to 6 remained until 3rd Feb and again from 23rd Aug, with a peak count of 25 on 20th Sep. The only other records came from Sila'a (AD) where 8 were seen on 11th Oct and from Jebel Dhanna marsh (AD) which hosted 2 on 8th Nov and one from 14th to 23rd Dec.

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) WV & R

Recorded mainly from the northern Emirates, especially from the Hamraniyah area (RAK) and, to a lesser extent, Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB). Most records before 16th Mar and from 25th Oct. Two records from April and May at Dubai Pivot Fields may indicate breeding; however this was fully confirmed at Hamraniyah Fields where 12, mainly juveniles, were photographed on 2nd Aug. The highest count, 95, also came from this site on 16th Mar. One at Khor Fakkan (SHJ) on 3rd Jan was an unusual east coast record.

Black-throated Thrush (*Turdus atrogularis*) UC

Three winter singles: at Wadi Wurayah NP (FUJ) on 10th Nov, at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 27th Nov and Safa Park (DUB) on 19th Dec.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) WV

Quite common winter visitor seen up to 14th Apr and from 15th Nov. Highest count was 10 at Dalma Island (AD) on 30th Nov; otherwise the vast majority of records referred to no more than 3 birds.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) V

One at Ain al Waal (AD) on 14th and 15th Nov, with another two at Ajban Farms (AD) on 26th Nov.

Black Scrub Robin (*Cethiotrichas podobe*) V

The over-wintering bird at Sila'a (AD) from Nov 2103 was reported on 18th Jan and 29th Mar.

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*) SV & PM

In the first half of the year, after one exceptional Jan record at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 18th, there were 74 records from 19th Mar until 18th May. Predictably, the highest count was from Sila'a (AD) with 25 on 3rd May. No reports of any breeding birds received. In autumn, fourteen records from 18th July until 16th October with a maximum of 10 at Sila'a on 21st Sep.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) PM

A rather early spring arrival with birds regularly reported from 29th March until 26th May and then in autumn from 26th Aug to 25th Oct. There was one late record of a single at Sila'a (AD) on 23rd Nov. 204 records in all, with 100 at Sila'a on 3rd May easily the peak count. 31 at Dalma Island on 15th October was the peak autumn count.

European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) UC

In the first half of the year, one was at Emirates Palace (AD) on 11th Jan. A marked arrival in early winter produced four individuals from 22nd Nov onwards with those at Emirates Palace (AD) and Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on seen on several dates; indeed the latter individual remained in 2014.

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) WV & PM

Common winter visitor in wetland areas. The vast majority of birds are assumed to be, and treated below as, Red-spotted Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* [svecica-group]; the few records of birds showing characters of other taxa are highlighted below.

Red-spotted Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

Ninety-nine records in all, up to 12th Apr and from 25th October onwards, although an early returner was at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 21st Sep. Highest count: 8 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 2nd Jan.

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

As usual, several reported in early spring with three records of two individuals: one near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 1st and 22nd Jan and one at Jebel Dhanna marsh (AD) on 15th Feb.

Turkish Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica magna*)

A beautiful male showing the characters of this taxon was photographed at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 19th and 20th April. Second record.

Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*) PM

Just one record of this scarce migrant, with very typical timing and location: Sila'a (AD) on 3rd May.

Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) PM

Recorded in spring from 29th Mar until 12th May and, much less commonly in autumn from 26th Sep until 17th Oct with one late (perhaps overwintering) bird at Emirates Palace (AD) on 15th Nov. In all, 36 records of which 28 were in spring.

White-throated Robin (*Irania gutturalis*) PM

Spring saw 29 records in all, totalling 37 individuals between 23rd Mar and 4th May. Most records were singles, but peak passage saw 5 on Lulu Island (AD) on 29th Mar, with 3 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) next day. In autumn, one was at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 30th Aug – the species is exceptionally scarce during this season.

Semi-collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*) UC

IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

Five records of singles from 14th Mar to 16th Apr, with the one in Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 11th and 13th Apr the only one observed for more than one day.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) WV

Scarce; recorded up until 28th Mar (total of 11 records from only four sites, all singles bar 2 at Mirfa Hotel (AD) on 11th Jan) and from 11th Oct until 13th Dec with 21 records, totalling 27 individuals. The peak count was 3 on Dalma Island (AD) on 15th Oct.

Taiga Flycatcher (*Fidecula albicilla*) V

The first-winter male at Safa Park (DUB) from late 2012 remained until 29th Mar. This represented the fifth national record.

Eversmann's Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythronotus*) UC

One, a first-winter male in the garden of the Mercure Hotel, Jebel Hafit (AD) from 15th Nov into 2014 was a long-stayer, albeit somewhat elusive and hard to catch up with at times. Another, a female-type, was recorded at Jebel Jais (RAK) on 27th to 29th Nov.

Eastern Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) WV & PM

Common during the winter months and on passage up to 30th Mar and from 24th Oct (with one record of an early bird on 12th Oct). Highest count was 7 birds recorded on Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10th Feb and Wadi Bih (RAK) on 6th Dec.

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) PM

Common in spring, with 124 records totalling 526 individuals, from 25th Feb to 9th May. Only three counts received reaching or exceeding 20: at Emirates Palace (AD) on 12th Apr (total 22 individuals), Balghelam Island (AD) (27th Apr), and Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 7th May. Four autumn records totalling seven individuals, from 30th Sept to 25th Oct was rather a good autumn showing, at least by recent standards.

Ehrenberg's Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamisisicus*) PM

Thirteen records in spring from 9th to 30th Mar and two in autumn, on 15th Oct and 18th Nov. Highest count: 5, Emirates Palace (AD) on 23rd Mar.

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

Primarily seen during spring passage, with 77 records totalling 167 individuals from 8th Feb to 11th May. The best site by far was Green Mubazzarah (AD) where up to 6 to 11 were reported on six dates from 18th Mar to 11th Apr. There were only four records in autumn, with singles seen 28th Sep to 25th Oct.

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) WV & PM

Regularly recorded in winter and on passage up to 14th Apr and from 17th Sep, with most records from the Jebel Hafit (AD) area. A maximum count of 9 at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 5th Mar.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) PM

An excellent spring passage with 73 records totalling 326 individuals, ranging from 8th Apr to 15th May. The peak site count was a sensational 47 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 9th Apr, with 40 still there on 12th Apr. In all, 240 were recorded between 9th and 13th Apr alone! Just two autumn records, on 4th and 26th October.

European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*) WV

Widely reported, especially along the Arabian Gulf coast in low numbers during winter, with records up to 6th Apr and from 17th Oct. One at Sharjah Desert Park (SHJ) on 10th Sep was exceptionally early and may refer to *S.maurus*. Highest count: 4 at Jebel Dhanna marsh (AD) on 23rd Nov and at Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) on 27th Dec.

Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) PM

In spring, there were 26 records from 2nd Feb until 21st Apr with just seven records in autumn from 7th Sep to 13th Dec. One was also reported at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 2nd Jan. As usual, there is the possibility that mid-winter reports, especially of males, may refer to *S.rubicola*. Peak site count was 3, from Jebel Dhanna marsh (AD) and Wamm Farms (FUJ) on several dates in early March.

Caspian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus variegatus*) UC

After several very good years for this enchanting chat, only one record this year: a male on Lulu Island (AD) on 15th Mar.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) PM

Very common on spring passage from 12th Mar to late Apr, with an early bird on 24th Feb and a few May records. Spring passage peaked in mid Apr, with a count of 25 at Emirates Palace (AD) the maximum. In autumn, only three birds recorded, on 22nd and 24th Sep and 3rd Nov.

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) WV & PM

Common and widespread during winter and on passage until 1st May and from 27th Jul onwards. One mid-summer record from Sharjah Desert Park (SHJ) on 30th Jun was most unusual. Peak counts were from 8th Mar to early Apr and again in early October; the spring site maxima was 25 (at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Mar and Saih al Salam Desert (DUB) on 1st April) and in October with 20 at Lulu Island (AD) on 4th and Dalma Island (AD) on 15th.

Hooded Wheatear (*Oenanthe monacha*) R

Just nineteen reports of this scarce resident, mainly from the Jebel Hafit / Green Mubazzarah area (AD). One at Jebel Dhanna marsh (AD) on 16th and 17th Feb was presumably a vagrant (or Iranian-bound migrant); other records were from Masafi Wadi (FUJ) on and 15th Oct and Jebel Jais / Wadi Bih area (RAK), with three reports from the latter site, all from Oct – Nov.

Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*) WV & PM

Common winter visitor, and probably passage migrant, recorded up to 13th Apr and from 16th Aug, with peak counts of 15 at Sila'a (AD) on 8th March and 25 at Saih al Salam Desert Reserve (DUB) on 8th Nov .

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

A good year, with 31 records in all; mainly from 8th Mar until 12th Apr with one late bird on 26th Apr. Seven at Jebel Ali Camel Racetrack (DUB) on 25th was the maximum site count.

Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) PM

Spring passage began rather early this year with birds recorded from 24th Jan (although numbers were low until late Feb to 21st Apr); in autumn recorded from 27th Aug to 23rd Nov, with one late Dec record possibly indicative of over-wintering. Peak spring passage occurred in late March, when 35 were recorded on Lulu Island (AD) on 29th, autumn passage peaking early to mid-October, with 47 recorded at Sila'a (AD) on 11th. There were seven reports (eight birds) of the enigmatic *vitatta* form between 24th Feb and 6th Mar, plus singles on 29th Mar and 8th Apr (both at Ajban, so possibly the same bird) and 2 on 11th Oct, at Sila'a (AD) and Ghagah Island (AD).

Variable Wheatear (*Oenanthe picata*) WV

Recorded in low numbers at favoured sites up to 7th Feb but much more frequently, albeit from a small number of sites, in autumn from 16th Aug. Five were reported from Wamm Farms (FUJ), much the most regular site, on two dates with 7 there on 3rd Nov. Away from the immediate vicinity of the Hajars, one was at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 20th Dec with reports of a single at Green Mubazzarah (AD) from 2nd Sept until at least 13th Dec and 2 there on 30th Sept and 2nd Oct.

Hume's Wheatear (*Oenanthe albonigra*) R

All records from mountainous areas, particularly Jebel Hafit (AD), where breeding was confirmed; the maximum count was 11 at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 6th Dec. Breeding also confirmed from Hatta Fort Hotel (DUB).

Mourning Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens*) UC

Two records from the first half of the year, with 2 at Jebel Dhanna plantation (AD) on 16th Jan and one Shuweihat (AD) on 14th Feb. In the second half of the year, all records came from Jebel Dhanna (AD), recorded from 17th Oct with a maximum of 3 on 25th Dec.

Red-tailed Wheatear (*Oenanthe chrysopygia*) WV

Winter visitor and scarce passage migrant, recorded regularly up to 12th Apr, with returning birds seen from 15th Sep. Although mainly reported from mountainous, or at least rocky, locations the highest count was 10 at Ajban Farms (AD) on 24th Jan.

Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) R

Common and widespread across most of the country, mainly in low numbers but counts up to 50 were recorded. Breeding confirmed at several locations. Rather rare and localised to the west of Abu Dhabi; however it is likely that it is spreading in the Western Region. Two were at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Mar, with one there on 21st Sept; also one at Liwa Oasis (AD) on 1st May. 25 at Jebel Dhanna marsh (AD) and 6 at Ruwais (AD) on 27th Aug indicate a healthy population in that area and up to 4 were on Dalma Island (AD) on 30th Nov and 1st Dec.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) R

Common and widespread, with estimated counts reaching 1000 at various sites. 3000 were reported near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 13th Sept.

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) UC

A male on Lulu Island (AD) on 15th Mar was the first Abu Dhabi Island record and the only national record all year.

Pale Rockfinch (*Carpospiza brachydactyla*) PM

A strong showing in spring with many records of small flocks from 11th Mar to 17th Apr and 30 at Jebel Dhanna marsh (AD) on 9th Apr the best count. Only three autumn records, all from 6th to 7th Sep.

Yellow-throated Sparrow (*Petronia xanthocollis*) SV & PM

A poor year, with only 9 records, some of which may have been duplicates, ranging from 20th Mar to 17th May. Numbers were small and no evidence of breeding, or indeed, presence, in high summer was recorded.

Golden-backed Weaver (*Ploceus jacksoni*) UC

Up to 3 at Emirates Palace (AD) all year, with 2 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 4th May representing the only other record.

Streaked Weaver (*Ploceus manyar*) R

Recorded from five sites throughout the year, with most records coming from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB). 20 there on 16th Mar was the highest count. Wadi Al Ain (AD) was the only other site with multiple records, with 11 there on 7th Nov the highest count.

Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*) R

Widespread from Abu Dhabi island northwards and eastwards. Two at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 8th Apr was the first local record; four were reported from Liwa Oasis on 1st May.

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) R

There were 24 records from various sites throughout the year, with 20 seen at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 4th Sept and 20 also at Wamm Farms on 20th Sept the highest counts. Juveniles seen at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD).

Forest Wagtail (*Dendroanthus indicus*) V

One elusive bird was at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 25th Nov into 2014.

Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) WV & PM

Commonly recorded at many sites up until 18th May, and from 23rd Aug onwards. The only mid-summer record was 6 at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant on 26th June, presumably due to early post-breeding dispersal of (Iranian?) birds. Many not assigned to subspecies (for which, see below). Highest number recorded: 500 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 12th Apr (many presumably *M. f. flava* / *beema* but not specifically reported as such) during a major fall of passerine migrants.

Yellow-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava lutea*)

A very good spring for this normally rather scarce visitor, with many records from 8th to 29th April. 34 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 9th Apr was an exceptionally high count. Only two September records.

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

The commonest subspecies positively identified, seen up to 24th May and from 31st Aug onwards. A count of 425 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 9th Apr was the highest reported, with 160 at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) next day.

Black-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava feldegg*)

Recorded throughout the year in low numbers but very few identified in autumn and most were reported from mid-February to late April. Breeding was confirmed at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), where a recently fledged juvenile was found in the company of a pair on 22nd June.

Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*)

One January record but mainly reported from 13th Mar to 18th May with only two autumn records. 30 at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 13th Apr was the highest count.

Yellow Wagtail (*superciliaris*-type *integrate*) (*Motacilla flava (superciliaris.integrate)*)

Just one reported, at Abu Dhabi Officer's Club (AD) on 15th Mar.

Yellow Wagtail (*xanthophrys*-type *integrate*) (*Motacilla flava (xanthophrys.integrate)*)

Three records, presumably the same individual that has been logged in previous years, all from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 16th and 19th Mar and 8th Nov.

Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) WV & PM

Widely recorded up to 10th Apr and from 16th Aug, with high counts of 22 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 4th Jan and a whopping 60 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 10th Dec.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) WV & PM

Recorded up to 9th Apr and from 30th Aug onwards, with a maximum of 6 seen at Safa Park (DUB) on 22nd Nov.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) WV & PM

A very common winter visitor with birds remaining up to 20th May. The first returning birds were reported on 4th Oct. There were several triple-figure counts, all in autumn, the largest being 150 at both Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 6th and 8th Nov respectively.

Masked Wagtail (*Motacilla alba personata*) WV

Singles reported from five sites up until 2nd Feb and from 20th Sept onwards.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*) WV & PM

Fairly common during winter and on passage with records up to 19th Apr and from 13th Sep. Highest count: 12 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 23rd Nov. Most other records referred to less than three individuals.

Blyth's Pipit (*Anthus godlewskii*) WV & PM

Recorded at only three locations during the year, with sightings up to 19th Apr and from 6th Oct. As last year, an obliging and approachable bird was at Emirates Palace (AD) from 3rd Feb to 28th Feb, whilst Wamm Farms (FUJ) held 3 birds on 19th Apr.

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) WV & PM

Very common in winter and on passage. Birds were reported up to 19th Apr, with returning birds first seen on 13th Sep. Up to 50 were reported from Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 24th and 25th Jan with 80 there on 16th Nov and 50 at Al Qua'a Fodder Field (AD) on 7th Dec.

Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*) R

Not recorded during the summer months, with records up to 17th Mar and from 30th Aug. Highest number observed was 4 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on several dates; away from the mountains, the species was reported at Al Qua'a Fodder Field (AD) on 27th Sep.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) WV

Scarce as ever during winter, with birds seen up to 28th Mar and from 31st Oct. Recorded from only four sites; highest counts were 3 each at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 2nd Feb and Dalma Island (AD) on 1st Dec.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) PM

Regularly recorded, mainly in small numbers, during passage from 14th Mar (none earlier in the year) to 17th May and from 7th Sep onwards, with just a few stragglers (or over-winterers) remaining by Dec. In spring, a very big arrival from 9th Apr resulted in counts from single sites of up to 84 on Abu Dhabi island and 50 in Dubai. A count of 16 on 4th Oct at Wamm Farms (FUJ) was the highest recorded autumn count.

Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*) UC

One at Emirates Palace (AD) on 3rd Nov showed the characters of the nominate subspecies (third record). Another was at Safa Park (DUB) from 18th to 24th Dec.

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) PM & WV

Present in low numbers at a few favoured wintering sites but much commoner on spring passage, from 23rd Mar until 17th May and from 25th Oct onwards (although there was one September, record, at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20th). High spring counts included 100 at Gerain Al Aish (AD) on 30th Mar and 250 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 12th Apr. Autumn numbers reached 40 at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 8th Nov.

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

Two overwintering birds at Emirates Palace (AD) remained until 28th Feb and returning birds were reported from 9th Nov when the first was found at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB). Up to 2 were reported from 16th Nov onwards at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) whilst other records came from Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 29th Nov, Dalma Island (AD) on 30th Nov to 10th Dec and at Emirates Palace (AD) on 7th Dec.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) WV & PM

Common and widespread up until 8th April and again from 30th Oct. Many counts were in double figures with the highest count (100) from Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 16th Nov.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) V

An often very confiding female was at Jebel Hafit (AD) on 2nd to 3rd Dec.

Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus*) WV & R

Eight records from five locations, including three records from Wadi Wurayah (FUJ) (in Feb and Nov) but only one from Wadi Bih (RAK). One at Jebel Dhanna plantation (AD) on 20th March was a very rare spring passage migrant.

Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) UC

A rather lean year, with only two records of singles: Ain al-Fayda (AD) on 13th Sept and Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 22nd Sept.

Eurasian Siskin (*Spinus spinus*) V

Wintering birds at Safa Park (DUB) from the influx that began in early December 2012 remained until 23rd Feb; up to 11 were noted on several occasions. One reported there on 16th March may have been a hanger-on or a passage migrant. Nine at Sila'a (AD) on 8th Mar certainly fall into the latter category.

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) WV

Present until 24th Mar (with one outlier on 21st Apr) and from 9th Nov to the year's end. Peak count in the first half of the year was from Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) where 40 were counted on 23rd Feb; in the autumn / winter period, numbers reported were somewhat smaller than the first half of the year and included 8 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 23rd Nov and 9 at Al Qua'a on 7th Dec.

Eastern Cinereous Bunting (*Emberiza cineracea semenowi*) PM IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

A good spring showing for this fine, scarce migrant with records from six locations, between 23rd Mar and 16th Apr and totalling at least nine individuals. Records at Jebel Dhanna hotels (AD) peaked at four on 24th Mar and two were recorded near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 16th Apr; records from all other locations referred to singles.

Oortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) PM

Widely reported in spring from 29th March to 13th May (with one outlier on 25th May); highest counts were almost all from Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD), peaking at 40 there on 14th Apr. In autumn, much scarcer; recorded from 7th Sept to 31st Oct with the highest count of 8 at Saadiyat Island Golf Course (AD) on 1st Oct.

Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*) V

One fine and well-watch male at the Jebel Dhanna hotels area (AD) from 24th to 26th March. Second record.

Striolated Bunting (*Emberiza striolata*) R

Frequently reported throughout the year from Wamm Farms (FUJ), Jebel Hafit (AD), Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Wadi Bih (RAK) amongst other mountain locations. Highest counts were 20 Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 13th Apr and 12 at Wadi Wurayah (FUJ) on 4th Jan with the same number at Wadi Bih on 25th Dec. Unusually, one was in Dibba Park (FUJ) on 29th Nov whilst, even further from the mountains, one was on Lulu Island (AD) on 3rd Feb. Four at Jebel Dhanna Marsh (AD) on 1st Jan had been recorded the previous autumn but were not reported again in 2013.

Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*) PM

Just two, or possibly three, spring records, with singles recorded at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 4th-7th and 17th May and at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 7th to 15th May. Five autumn records, all singles and, as usual, all from Wamm Farms (FUJ), from 16th Aug to 20th Sept.

Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*) V

A good year for this species, with two reports – one at Emirates Palace (AD) on 25th Mar and one at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 31st Aug to 1st Sep. These constitute the sixth and seventh UAE records.

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:

Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*)
 Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)
 Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)
 Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)
 Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)
 Black-necked Swan (*Cygnus melancoryphus*)
 Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)
 Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*)
 Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)
 Maned Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*)
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
 Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*)
 White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)
 Hottentot Teal (*Anas hottentota*)
 Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)
 Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*)
 Arabian Partridge (*Alectoris melanocephala*)
 Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*)
 Red-necked Spurfowl (*Pternistis afer*)
 Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)
 Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)
 African Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)
 Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*)
 Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) **
 Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*)
 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (*Pterocles alchata*) **
 Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*)
 Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*)
 Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*)
 Blossom-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula roseata*)
 Lovebird hybrid (*Agapornis sp*)
 Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)
 Javan Myna (*Acridotheres javanicus*)
 Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*)
 Lesser Masked Weaver (*Ploceus intermedius*)
 Southern Masked Weaver (*Ploceus velatus*)
 Red-headed Quelea (*Quelea erythrops*)
 Yellow-crowned Bishop (*Euplectes afer*)
 Southern Red Bishop (*Euplectes orix*)
 Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*)
 Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)
 Australian Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia guttata castanotis*)
 Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*)

**** These species, in particular, are released in large numbers from captive-breeding programs and presumed to be breeding, though their populations are not considered to be self-sustaining.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is based on sightings reported by both visiting and resident birders, submitted either via the UAE birding website (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).

LIST OF OBSERVERS

Records were received from the following observers during the year:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| A.V. Babu | Ian Reid | Nabarun Sadhya |
| Abdallah Al Zaabi | Ian Roberts | Nathalie Kurotschka |
| Abraham Arias de la Torre | Jacky Judas | Neil Tovey |
| Ahmed Al Ali | Jim Ward | Neil, Thomas & Christopher Dursley |
| Aideen & Ian Cunningham | Jochen Baurmeister | Nick P. Williams |
| Aimee Cokayne | John Dennis Atkins | Nimeesh Suseelan |
| Aki Pesic Pedersen | John Waterbury | Oscar Campbell |
| Alan Jones | Jonathan Angliss | Patricia Southcombe |
| Alec Napier | Josh Smithson | Paul Jaquith |
| Alex JP Scott | Justin Ede | Pedro Menendez |
| Alf Petersson | K. Gunther | Peter Arras |
| Andrew Bailey | Karen Kean | Peter Hellyer |
| Andrew Ward | Karri Kuitunen | Peter Roosenschoon |
| Anna Mitchell | Kartikya Puri | Phil Hardwick |
| Bert Metz | Kathy Hoopmann | Reza Khan |
| Brian Dawson | Keith Wilson | Richard Hornby |
| Brian Walsh | Kevin Hyland | Rob Gubiani |
| Claus Brostrøm Nielsen | Khalifa Al Dhaheri | Rob Quested |
| Daniel Taylor | Luke Naismith | Ryan Burner |
| David Diskin | Maarten Verhage | Sajin Varghese |
| David Radnell | Magnus Ullman | Sanalkumar Sreevalsan |
| Dennis Barr | Maja Pesic Pedersen | Scott Young |
| Derrick Wilby | Maral Khaled | Sheikh Zayed bin Surour Al Nahyan |
| Desmond Lobo | Mark Smiles | Simon Peter Lloyd |
| Diane Evans | Martijn Renders | Simon Tickle |
| E.N.H.G. | Matt Prior | Staffan Sundin |
| EAD | Michael Jennings | Stephen Taylor |
| Elvin Miller | Michael Pocock | Steve James |
| Forrest Rowland | Mike Barth | Steve Parr |
| Fouad Itani | Mike Charlton | Stuart Aitken |
| Gareth Blockley | Mohamed Al Musharafy | Stuart Bargery |
| Gary Feulner | Mohamed Almazrouei | Svetlana V. Ashby |
| Gerard Whitehouse-Tedd | Mohammad Al Rumaithi | Tamsin Carlisle |
| Graham Langley | Monica Beulah | Tommy Pedersen |
| Gregory Askew | Morten Gunther | Vaughan Ashby |
| Huw Roberts | Mostafa Hamid | Yousif Al Ali |
| Ian Boustead | Munzir Khan | |