

BIRDS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ANNUAL REPORT – 2014



Large-billed Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*) – 1st record for the UAE and Arabia found at Al Mamzar in October 2014.
(Photo © Mark Smiles)

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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

Smiles, M., T. Pedersen & O. Campbell. 2016. Birds of the United Arab Emirates Annual Report 2014. Available from <http://www.uaebirding.com/uaechecklist.html>

ANNUAL SUMMARY

JANUARY

In absolute rarity terms, a rather quiet start to the year, with much more marked mid-winter doldrums compared to recent years. The most significant new arrivals comprised an **Ashy Drongo** (7th record) found in Mushrif National Park (3rd to 11th) and a **Black Redstart** showing the characters of the Turkish / European races *ochruros* / *gibraltariensis* (3rd record) present in Wadi Bih on the 25th. A **Hume's Warbler** and two **Black-throated Thrushes** were also found at the latter on 25th with another **Hume's Warbler** located in Safa Park next day (remaining into February); after none all winter, this clearly constituted an arrival. An end-of-the-month flourish in Abu Dhabi on 31st witnessed the near-simultaneous discovery of **Yellow-browed Warbler** (Royal Stables, 13th record) and **Mourning Wheatear** on Hoderiyat Island. The warbler was seen again next day.

Other records included **Greylag Goose** at Zakher, up to 75 **Great Knot** at Khor al Beida and 13 at Bhalghelam Island (a hitherto unknown wintering ground) on 17th, **Merlin** and a **Greater Spotted Eagle** of the *fulvescens* form at Ras al Khor, **Eastern Imperial Eagle** at several sites, **Short-eared Owl** at Jebel Dhanna and flocks of **Grey Hypocolius** at the usual wintering spots of Lulu Island (approximately 60) and Yas Island (almost 150 on some evenings!) The male **Eversmann's Redstart** remained at Jebel Hafeet and the exceptional winter for **Buff-bellied Pipits** continued with one throughout at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi (for the third successive winter) and 6 counted at Hamranyah Turf Fields on 25th (along with an over-wintering **Caspian Plover**).

FEBRUARY

Again, a rather quiet month, although there was some rather significant raptor action. **Merlins** were reported from two locations early in the month and a ring-tail **Hen Harrier** joined the wintering **Steppe Buzzard** at Al Qua'a fodder field on 14th, when the **Eversmann's Redstart** was still present at Jebel Hafeet and an **Eastern Imperial Eagle** seen at Zakher Lake. Two **Griffon Vultures** at Nakhli on 10th (14th record) were seen again nearby on 18th when at least 6 **Lappet-faced Vultures** were also present. Another **Lappet-faced Vulture** was at Wadi Helo on 21st. A **Black-winged Kite** (16th record) was at Wamm Farms on 28th.

The **Forest Wagtail** from late November was located again in Mushrif Palace Gardens, Abu Dhabi and remained for most of the month, sometimes with a **European Robin** in close proximity whilst other interesting wintering birds on Abu Dhabi Island included **Buff-bellied Pipit** and **Masked Shrike** at Emirates Palace, plus a high count of 36 **Pallas's Gulls** at the Officer's Club. Hamranyah Turf Fields held onto its wintering attractions of **Black-throated Thrush**, **Caspian Plover** and **Buff-bellied Pipit** until 28th, by which date a **Black-winged Pratincole** had appeared, remaining until 7th March. **Hypocolius** remained at Lulu Island (at least 70) and Yas Island (over 100) throughout. The first stirrings of spring began rather early, with a smattering of **Pied Wheatears**, **Woodchat Shrikes** and **Rock Thrushes** evident from 7th.

MARCH

A markedly slow start to the month, with very little of interest for the first fortnight or so. The **Caspian Plover** remained at Hamranyah and up to 130 **Hypocolius** were present on Lulu Island on 29th when the over-wintering **Forest Wagtail** appeared again in Mushrif Palace Gardens, having vanished since late February. Migration picked up from mid-month as migrants started to flow steadily, first as a trickle but soon a flood as movement hit top gear. Amongst large numbers of common species, variety came from a few very early records (for example Spotted Flycatcher, Sila'a, on 21st; Black-headed Bunting, Wamm, on 26th and Whinchat, Abu Dhabi on 28th) but also from the largest ever influx of **Semi-collared Flycatchers**, widely reported and culminating in at least 7 at Mamzar on 27th. **White-throated Robins** arrived en-masse from the same date onwards, with 10 at the same site the best score. Amongst such a great spike of transients, a few rarities were bound to be found; first a male **Hen Harrier** between Dubai and Al Ain on 23rd, then the spring's only **Bay-backed Shrike** at Green Mubazzarah from 25th, **Black Drongo** at Umm Suqiem, Dubai on 28th and finally **Savi's Warblers** – the first was found at Mirfa on 28th, with birds found the next day in Green Mubazzarah and Mushrif Palace Gardens.

APRIL

March's fantastic run of migrants continued steadily into April, with a fourth **Savi's Warbler** found in five days (Mirfa, 1st); a scattering of **Grasshopper Warblers** were also reported at the same time. The first **Cinereous Bunting** was also at Mirfa on 1st, with others at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, on 4th and 10th (two individuals) and **Semi-collared Flycatchers** remained from March's influx at Jebel Dhanna until 7th. Amongst a very wide range of other migrants, exceptional counts included 250 **Willow Warblers**, 59 **Northern Wheatears** and 40 **Turkestan Shrike** all between Ghagah Island and Mirfa on 5th, whilst **Little Terns** were reported at several inland sites. Records of single **Hypocolius** at several (non-wintering) sites indicated a light spring passage; a single male on Lulu Island on 11th could indicate the same, or the last of the over-wintering birds. Numbers of passage migrants generally declined in the second half of April, although a **Steppe Eagle** was found at Wamm on 25th and a marked arrival of **Rollers** began next day with, for example, 16 found on Abu Dhabi Island

Genuine rarities included **Eastern Cattle Egret** (7th record) at Al Qua'a on 5th and **White-breasted Waterhen** at Al Barsha on 7-11th, with a probable **Black Drongo** reported on roadside wires at Al Awir on 8th (5th record) and then a sudden surge from the 16th: a **Taiga Flycatcher** (6th record) was found in Mushrif Palace Gardens on that date (remaining until 23rd) and on 18th two Little Swifts were found at Sila'a, and two **Kittiwakes** (6th record) at Fujairah along with an **Eastern Cattle Egret** at Wamm Farms (a bird has been seen intermittently at this site since August 2009). A **Black Tern** (15th record) was at Fujairah on 19th with two **Spanish Sparrows**, a species now very uncommon, at Wadi Tarabat on the same date. The first pelagic trip of the year, out of Kalba on the 19th yielded five of the now expected **Sooty Shearwaters**.

MAY

This proved to be a good month for passerine migration with fair numbers of grounded migrants evident on many dates, and continuing strongly until 20th. Species such as **Red-backed Shrike** and **Spotted Flycatcher** were generally easy to find. Scarcities included the latest ever **Semi-collared Flycatcher** in Abu Dhabi on 2nd, with **Corncrake** at Emirates Palace the next day; another was found on Abu Dhabi island on 13th, and a third in Jebel Dhanna on 16th. A small wave of **Thrush Nightingales** commenced on 7th, a **Garden Warbler** was found at Mirfa on 9th and a **Common Rosefinch** at Green Mubazzarah on 10th. By the last third of the month, migration had slowed right down. The only real rarities of the month were found on boat trips off Kalba: first two **Masked Boobies** (20th record) on 17th and then in the spectacular combination of one **Cory's Shearwater** (4th record), eight **Jouanin's Petrels** (10th record) and 5 **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** (11th record) on 31st. An immature **Sooty Tern** (18th record) was also logged.

JUNE

As ever in high summer, the main activity was boat trips out of Kalba. A trip on 7th proved much quieter than that on 31st May, with no sign of any big, spectacular tubenoses. However, another (or the same?) **Sooty Tern** was found, along with the first two **Wilson's Petrels** of the season; this species featured erratically on later trips all summer. A trip on 20th, despite rather rough conditions yielded another **Cory's Shearwater** and **Long-tailed Skua** in the same flock of **Persian Shearwaters**, with three **Flesh-footed** and a late **Sooty Shearwater** also seen. **Swinhoe's Petrel** (6th record) was recorded on 24th, with another two all-dark storm-petrels seen too briefly to conclusively identify on 28th, the same date on which the long-awaited **Red-billed Tropicbird** finally put in an appearance – the first East coast report since 2007!

JULY

Highlights from July boat trips on 4th and 19th included one **Wedge-tailed** (7th record) and up to five **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**, with records of **Long-tailed Skua** and **Sooty Tern** also (singles of both were also seen from land, at Bidiya on 8th and Fujairah on 14th), plus **Lesser Noddy** (8th record) on 19th. Following on from last year's spectacular influx, a **Roseate Tern** was found, again at Fujairah on 19th to 30th (8th record) and other observations on land included a **Stone-Curlew** chick at Abu al Abyad on 9th – the second UAE breeding record - and an unspecified **drongo**, seen on Palm Jumeriah on 11th.

AUGUST

August was a very quiet month, with most resident birdwatchers away, although wader passage was strongly in evidence from the end of the month and a revealingly unseasonal **Black Kite** was a one-day intrigue at Dubai Pivot Fields on 30th. Previous records of this species are invariably much later in autumn to spring, and involve the easternmost subspecies *lineatus*; instead this bird showed characters of the Indian form *govinda*.

SEPTEMBER

It didn't take long to get the autumn well and truly up and running, with plenty of migrant variety in all the expected locations right from the start of the month. A **Pacific Swift** (3rd record) drifted over Wamm Farms early on the 12th and the same weekend saw both **Black** (16th record) and **Roseate Terns** (9th record) amongst a veritable flood of terns at Fujairah. Next weekend, Wamm produced a double bill of **Savi's Warbler** and a very early **Moustached Warbler** (17th record), found within minutes of each other. Equally unseasonal at Dubai Pivot Fields was **Black-winged Kite** (17th record) seen only on 15th, although remarkably another was at Hamraniyah on 19th. Reports from fishing trips out of Kalba were tantalising to say the least – **Cory's or Scopoli's Shearwater**, a Swinhoe's-type storm petrel (identity unconfirmed) and 85 **Jouanin's Petrels** were reported between 13th and 16th and 300 **Jouanin's Petrels** were logged on 19th, along with 30 **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**. Next day, 120 **Jouanin's Petrels** were recorded on a birder's trip, along with a single **Flesh-foot** and six **Brown Noddy**, a very scarce species this year. The month ended with a small flurry of **Thrush Nightingales** on 26th – 27th (at least two, at Sila'a and in Abu Dhabi but other nightingales that weekend were not clinched to species). There was also a **Corncrake** at Sila'a on 26th, following an obliging **Spotted Crane** in Abu Dhabi for several days from 22nd onwards.

OCTOBER

Mamzar Park stole October's show on 11th with a peculiar, hefty *Phylloscopus* eventually pinned down as Arabia's first **Large-billed Leaf-Warbler**; it was seen briefly next day but the **Green Warbler** also present (12th record; first since 2007) was not, although another was located on 25th. Elsewhere, the month was solid rather than spectacular, although a **Shikra** in Al Ain on 8th was most unusual, a **Steppe Eagle** followed on 11th and a Water Rail was at the same site from 16th onwards into 2015. The first **Crested Honey-Buzzard** of the autumn was back on Abu Dhabi island from mid-month (although, unusually this species remained otherwise absent until several late December reports) and a large arrival of warblers there on 26th included a very unusual autumn **Garden Warbler**. On 31st, a **drongo** species was seen at Za'abeel, Dubai, possibly the same individual as from the nearby Palm Jumeirah in mid-summer. A **Forest Wagtail** reported at Safa on the same day was a one-day bird only although a **Great Bittern** found in Al Ain on 30th remained into November.

NOVEMBER

Traditionally the most exciting month of the year, November 2014 took just five days to catch fire: the UAE's first **Watercock** was picked up exhausted in Dubai on 5th; it was released next day at Al Warsan Lakes. Two days later, a **Black Drongo** (6th record) was located at Wamm Farms, along with a **Hen Harrier**. The same day saw **Caspian Plover** and **Jack Snipe** located at Hamraniyah and then a male **Merlin** at Khor al Beida, good company for a **Short-eared Owl** located flying over Abu Dhabi racecourse the next morning. The following weekend was a lot quieter but quality winter visitors located included two **Eastern Imperial Eagles** and the first **Pallas's Gull** at Zakher on 14th, with **Mourning Wheatear** and two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Mirfa on the same date; another of the latter was present at Ruwais and a few **Lappet-faced Vultures** started to appear. The first **Sociable Lapwing** and **Buff-bellied Pipit** of the winter was found at Hamraniyah on 21st, with **Northern Lapwing** and three **Hypocolius** at Wamm on the same day and a **White-breasted Waterhen** at Al Dhait South on the 22nd. Another surge of birds began towards the end of month, starting with **Short-eared Owl** in Jebel Dhanna, a single **Greater White-fronted Goose** flying along the shore at Al Aqqah and a second **Hen Harrier** at Wamm Farms on 28th and followed by a **Pied Stonechat** at Abu Dhabi on 29th which duly overwintered.

DECEMBER

The first good birds came right at the start of the month with a very obliging **Amur Falcon** on the lawns at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi along with Dubai's first **Mourning Wheatear** on the same day; another of the latter was found in Al Ain on 16th. An **Ashy Drongo** was found at Wadi Bih on 3rd with a **Black-winged Kite**, possibly the September bird, at Hamraniyah on the same day. On the 6th, Wamm Farms held its third **Hen Harrier** of the winter, this time an adult male. An arrival of **Buff-bellied Pipits** brought five to Hamraniyah from 12th (rising to 6 on 22nd) with another at Emirates Palace on 13th and two at Wamm Farm from 26th onwards. The first **Hume's Warbler** and **European Robin** of the winter were also found at Emirates Palace, and another **Hume's Warbler** followed at Mirfa on 19th. Other notable winter visitors included a **Brambling** found on Dalma Island on 20th, with a **Mediterranean Gull**, back for its third successive winter, at Mafraq and a **Ring Ouzel** at Jebel Dhanna on 26th. The rarest report, by some margin, wasn't from a birding site at all: two **Fan-tailed Ravens** represented a very lucky sighting from the main highway through Al Rahba, near Abu Dhabi on 13th; there is only one previous record of this species!

Annual totals

332 species, plus another 46 deemed to be of captive origin, were recorded during the year. Two species were admitted to the national list in the year, which now stands at 460 species at the end of 2014.

Species recorded for the first time in 2014:

Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*)

Large-billed Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*)



Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*, Warsan Lakes © Tommy Pedersen



Large-billed Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*, © Simon Lloyd



Dr. Sudhanshu Kothe

Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*, Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, © Sudhanshu Kothe

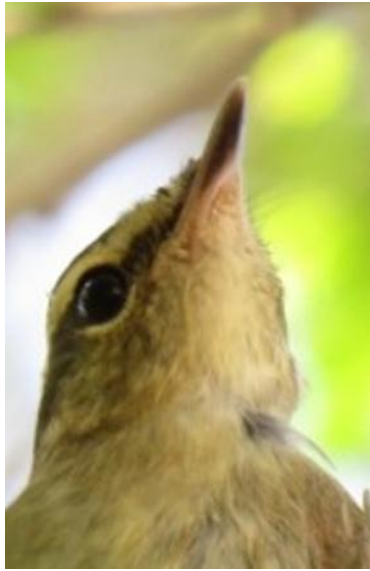


Left: Immature Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*, Khor Kalba pelagic, © Khalifa Al Dhaheri
 Right: Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*, Umm Suqeim Park, © Badder Al Qasimi



Copyright © Mike Barth

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*, Mushrif Palace Gardens, © Mike Barth



Left: Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, Dubai Pivot Fields, © Mark Smiles
 Centre: Large-billed Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*, © Mark Smiles
 Right: Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*, Nad al-Sheba © Gareth Tonen



Left: Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus*, Al Samha petrol stations, © Khalifa Al Dhaheri
 Right: Pied Stonechat *Saxicola caprata*, Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club, © Mark Smiles



Left: Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*, Fujairah Port Beach, © Simon Lloyd
 Right: Cory's Shearwater, *Calonectris borealis*, Kalba deepwater pelagic, © Huw Roberts.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

English names and taxonomic order are based on IOC World Bird List 5.2 (2015).

Key to status within 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

There were only 2 records of this irregular winter visitor during the year. A single bird was regularly seen at Zakher Lake (AD) from 25th Jan until the 29th Apr, whilst one flew over Sheik Zayed Road near Safa Park (DUB) on 29th Dec.

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

In the first half of the year, the long-staying flock of up to 36 remained at Safa Park through the winter, gradually dwindling in number with an injured individual remaining until 25th Apr. A group of 8 immatures were also recorded flying over Sir Bani Yas on 4th Feb. In the latter half of the year, there were a number of single-figure counts from 8 different sites between 4th Nov and the year end.

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) R

Very common resident regularly reported during the year from wetland areas across the country, usually in pairs and small groups though a count of 120 at Abu al-Abyadh Island (AD) on 11th Jun was exceptional.

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) WV

Commonly seen at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), from where up to 160 were seen on 4th Jan, and in lesser numbers at other wetland sites during the winter months up to 14th Mar and from 25th Oct onwards.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) WV

The long-staying single birds from 2013 at Zakher Lake (AD) and the Bab al Shams area (DUB) remained until 7th Mar and 23rd Jan respectively. A single bird was also present at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) from 20th Feb to the 5th Mar, whilst up to 6 were at the same site from 10th Dec until the end of the year.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) WV

Relatively scarce with only 22 records during the year and a high count of 8 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 17th Jan.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) WV

Reported in small numbers during the winter months up to 4th Apr and from 7th Nov with 32 at Bin Butti overflow on 1st Feb the highest number counted.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) WV

Common during winter with small numbers reported throughout the year, though some records may relate to released birds. The largest flock was at Zakher Lake (AD) from where up to 500 were recorded on 12th Jan.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) WV

Recorded most months except July, though mainly in winter and especially at Zakher Lake (AD) and Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) from where numbers reached 350 on 12th Jan and 17th Dec respectively.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) WV

Present, usually in small numbers, up to 8th Apr and from 12th Jul with larger numbers including 80 at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 19th Jan and 60 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 14th Feb.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) WV & PM

Fairly common in spring and even more so in autumn, with birds seen from 14th Mar to 4th Apr and from 18th Aug to 12th Nov, reaching a single peak count of 12 on 25th Sep at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD).

Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*) WV

Recorded in every month except May and June, with numbers reaching 350 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 24th Nov and 250 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 14th Feb.

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) WV

Reported up to 24th Apr and from 1st Nov with numbers reaching 80 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 12th Jan and 5th Dec.

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

Recorded in small numbers throughout the year with an individual possibly over-summering at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), from where up to 16 were reported on 19th Nov, a count only bettered by Zakher Lake (AD) which held 18 on 14th Feb.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) WV

Fairly scarce, with only 21 records during the year, 20 of which were in the first three months up to 24th Mar. In the latter half of the year, there was only a single record of 3 on Lulu Island (AD) on 2nd Dec. The highest counts were of 20 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 4th Jan and Zakher Lake (AD) on 31st Jan.

Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) R

Only reported from Wadi Bih (RAK) with 40 on 22nd Dec the highest count from a total of only 8 records during the year.

Sand Partridge (*Ammoperdix heyi*) R

Recorded throughout the year with breeding noted in June at Wadi Wurayah National Park (FUJ) and at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD). A count of 30 on Jebel Hafit (AD) on 6th Jun was the highest reported.

Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) R

Very common throughout the year with 300 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3rd Apr and 4th Sep the highest counts recorded.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) PM & WV

There were a total of 30 records during the year with birds seen up to 16th May and from 6th Sep, mostly in single figure numbers, though an estimated 15 calling from Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 5th Apr was exceptional.

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

Seven records between 7th Jun and 1st Aug, all from pelagics out of Kalba (SHJ), with a count of 45 on the latter day the highest of the year.

Swinhoe's Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma monorhis*) V

The 6th record was photographed on a deep-water pelagic trip from Kalba (SHJ) on 24th Jun.

Unidentified Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma sp.*)

Two "Swinhoe's-type" storm-petrels seen in rough conditions on 28th Jun and another photographed on 16th Sep, all offshore from Kalba (SHJ), were accepted by the EBRC as "dark-rumped storm-petrel sp".

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris borealis*) V

There were 2 birds seen during Kalba (SHJ) pelagics. One was seen on 30th and 31st May, with a different bird photographed on 20th Jun.

Unidentified Shearwater (*Calonectris sp.*)

A Cory's-type shearwater photographed offshore from Kalba (SHJ) on 13th Sep could not be definitely assigned to species.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) V

A single bird seen during a Kalba (SHJ) deepwater pelagic on 4th Jul was the only record of the year and the 7th national record.

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

There were only 4 records, all from Kalba (SHJ) pelagic trips. One was seen on 7th Apr, 5 on 19th Apr, one on 27th May and a single on 20th Jun, the latest on record.

Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*) UC

Seen on 12 occasions between 31st May and 26th Sep on Kalba (SHJ) pelagics. Highest counts included 40 on 13th Sep and 30 on 19th Sep.

Persian Shearwater (*Puffinus persicus*) SV & R

Recorded most months from the east coast with high counts of 805 and 589 from pelagics out of Kalba (SHJ) on 20th Jun and 19th Jul respectively.

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

Seen during 9 Kalba (SHJ) pelagic trips between 31st May and 10th Oct with an impressive 300 recorded on 19th Sep.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) R

Very commonly recorded from most freshwater wetland sites with 250 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 26th Aug the highest count. Successful breeding also proven at nine sites between May and August.

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) WV

Reported up to 3rd May and from 26th Sep, with numbers reaching 41 at The Springs (DUB) on 25th Oct and 30 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 26th Jan.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) R

Common and numerous at the traditional sites of Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) from where highs of 3100 on 17th Jan and 2000 on 19th Jan were reported. Successful breeding was again recorded at Al Wathba with 90 juveniles observed on 18th Sep. A bird seen drinking from a puddle at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 10th Oct was an unusual and rather pathetic sight.

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) UC

One flew over the boat during a deepwater pelagic out of Kalba (SHJ) on 28th Jun. A perplexingly rare east coast record.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) PM

Rather scarce this year, with a total of only 7 individuals recorded. Wamm Farms (FUJ) hosted long-staying birds with one lingering from 2013 until 4th Apr when it was joined by a second bird, and again in autumn when 2 stayed from 19th Sep to the year end. Single birds were also seen over the E311 near Ghantoot (AD) on 18th Jan, flying over Wafi (DUB) on 26th Apr and at Al Qudra Lake (DUB) on 5th Sep.

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

Present year-round with numbers increasing during winter. Gatherings in excess of 20 birds were often at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) from where up to 74 were counted on 5th Nov; Zakher Lake (AD) had 40 on 30th Nov and at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) there were 26 throughout November.

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

Mainly recorded during the winter months at the regular sites of Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) and Khor al-Beida (UAQ) from where up to 50 and 16 were reported on 16th Nov and 17th Nov respectively. A count of 21 at Yas Island (AD) on 28th Jan was the only other double-figure count.

Eurasian Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) V

One was found at a private estate near to Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 30th Oct, remaining until at least 13th Nov.

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) PM & R

Recorded from only 7 sites between the dates of 6th Apr to 14th Oct. A private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) held up to 5 birds (2 males, 3 females) from mid-June until mid-October with breeding strongly suspected.; an immature there 12th to 14th Oct would appear to support that.

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

Reported throughout the year in relatively low numbers; the highest single counts of 18 at Nad al Sheba (DUB) on 27th Jul and 14 at Safa Park (DUB) on 8th Apr possibly indicating a significant decline in this species compared to previous years.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) R

Regularly recorded in single-figure numbers throughout the year with up to 6 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 6th May the highest single count. A fresh juvenile observed at Za'abeel Park (DUB) on 9th Jun was the only reported evidence of breeding.

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) PM & R

A count of 9 birds at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 18th Jan was the highest count of this widespread yet uncommon resident.

Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) WV

Reported up to 17th May and from 28th Sep, this regular winter visitor proved extremely scarce, being seen in ones and twos at 5 locations on only 27 dates. This apparent drop in numbers is probably due to access restrictions at the regular mangrove habitat at Khor Kalba (SHJ).

Western Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) R

Common throughout the year, with high counts including 120 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 30th Aug and 115 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 17th Dec.

Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) V

There were only 2 records during the year, both in April with the birds in breeding plumage. One was photographed at Al Qua'a fodder fields (AD) on 5th Apr whilst one at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 18th Apr was presumably the long-staying/returning individual reported in previous years. It is highly likely that this species is regularly overlooked, especially at the latter location, due to the difficulties in separating non-breeding plumaged birds from their Western counterparts.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) WV & R

Common and widespread with major gatherings at Al Qudra Lake (DUB) with 94 on 30th Sep, 65 on 14th Feb at Zakher Lake (AD) and 60 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 9th Jan.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) R & PM

Reported in mostly ones and twos throughout the year. A flock of 14, mainly juveniles, observed taking off from the breakwater at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 12th Sep and 9 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 5th Sep were the largest groups reported.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) R & WV

Regular at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) throughout the year, with a peak of 75 noted on 8th Nov. Relatively scarce elsewhere with 10 at Al Jazira Khor (RAK) on 15th Jan and Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 1st Feb the only other counts in double figures.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) R & WV

Regular in small numbers, especially at the main wetland areas of Zakher Lake (AD) and Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB), with 8 at Zakher Lake on 1st Jan and 15th Jul the maximum recorded.

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

Common and widespread across most wetland sites, with an exceptional 400 recorded during a boat trip around Bahrani and Futaisi Islands (AD) on 13th June, including a flock of around 150 birds.

Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) UC

Seen on four dates on Kalba (SHJ) pelagics: 2 on 17th May, 1 on 24th Jun, and 2 on both 25th Jun and 19th Sep. Bizarrely, one of the latter two birds was photographed sitting on a floating sofa deep offshore!

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

Present in small numbers year-round, increasing during the winter months when numbers reached 500+ at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 9th Jan and at Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 16th Nov.

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

Recorded from both coastlines throughout the year, though counts of 20,000 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 3rd Feb and 15,000 offshore from Umm al-Qaiwain breakwater (UAQ) on 30th Sep were exceptional. The former record included many juveniles, suggesting very successful local breeding.

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

Observed every month, mostly near the coast, though single birds at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 6th Oct and Saih al Salam Expo Lakes (DUB) on 7th Nov were unusual inland records. A count of 12 birds during a boat trip around Bahrani and Futaisi Islands (AD) on 13th Jun was the largest number reported from a single area.

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) V

Four individuals were seen during the year. The returning long-staying bird at Yas Links Golf Club (AD) remained until 1st Feb, whilst other singles were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 28th Feb, Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 15th Sep and Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) on 19th Sep, with presumably the same bird on 3rd Dec.

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

Only recorded from Jebel Hafit (AD) and sites nearby with a count of 28 on 10th Oct the highest reported.

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

Reports were received every month except for September, with regular single-figure counts from the areas around Mushrif National Park (DUB), central Abu Dhabi Island (AD) and the Green Mubazzarah/Ain al-Fayda locality in Al Ain (AD), with a maximum of 6 at Al Ain Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 4th Apr.

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

Reports of 2 *Pernis* sp at Ain al-Fayda (AD) on 5th Apr and 1 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 25th Apr could not be assigned confidently to species though the latter report was strongly suspected of being a male European Honey Buzzard *P. apivorus*.

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) V

Two birds were seen in the deserts outside Dubai in February, being photographed on 10th Feb at Nakhli (DUB) and on 18th Feb in the Tijarah desert area (DUB). The 14th UAE record.

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

An exceptionally good year for this normally scarce species, with a total of 26 sightings during the year, mainly from the Saih al Salam desert (DUB) and surrounding area. Up to 6 roamed around in the period up to 18th Mar, with birds seen again from 13th Aug, reaching up to 11 on 5th Nov. Away from this area, 3 were near Hatta (DUB) on 18th Jan, 1 near Wadi Helo (SHJ) on 21st Feb, 1 over the Dhaid to Al Madam road (SHJ) on 19th Sep and another seen along the Al Ain to Al Qua'a road (AD) on 14th Nov and again the following day.

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

A total of only 10 sightings during the year from only 4 localities. A bird was seen around Mushrif National Park (DUB) from 3rd to 10th Jan, singles were at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 4th Apr and in the Green Mubazzarah (AD) area on 15th Jan and again on 30th Oct and 3rd & 4th Dec. Two were seen near the Kalba Bird of Prey Centre (SHJ) on 13th Oct.

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

Seen up to 16th Apr, with birds returning from 10th Oct, mainly in the area around Dubai Creek (DUB). Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, as usual, had the highest counts with 9 there on 19th Jan and 5th Feb. A *fulvescens*-type bird was seen at Ras al Khor in both Feb and Nov.

Booted Eagle (*Hieraetus pennatus*) UC

There were only 6 records, probably relating to as few as 3 individuals. One was at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 3rd Jan, with sightings of up to 2 there the following winter from 25th Oct to 28th Nov. A sighting from Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 6th Dec may also have been one of these birds. A bird at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 23rd Oct was the only other sighting.

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) WV

Total of 6 records; two in spring and four in autumn and all of singles. Birds, presumably on spring passage, were recorded near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10th Mar and at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 25th April. Autumn records were from 11th Oct at Jebel Hafit (AD) with three further records, relating to one or two birds, from the Dubai area 19th Oct to 11th Nov.

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

Total of 48 records, almost all singles. Most frequently reported from the Green Mubazzarah / Zakher Lake (AD) area, where up to two were present from early January to 16th Apr and again from 30th Oct to the year end. Also one reported regularly from the Saih al Salam / Al Qudra (DUB) area until 3rd Mar and again from 16th Nov. Further records of singles, almost all one-dayers, from 5 other sites.

Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) R

Total of 47 records from eleven sites, including pairs from at or near Jebel Hafit (AD) and Wadi Wurayah NP (FUJ). Less typical was an immature coming in off the sea at Dibba Port (FUJ) on 28th Nov.

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) R

There were 38 reports in all, mainly from well-known sites in the Greater Dubai area. Much more interesting were singles near Green Mubazzarah from 7th to 11th Oct and another at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 11th Nov.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) WV

Recorded in small numbers until mid-April, with one on 2nd May at Sila'a (AD) and again from 17th October (after one outlier on 26th Sept). Almost all records referred to single individuals, although 3 were reported from Sila'a on 25th Oct and 14th Nov.

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

Recorded commonly from many sites until 5th April, with two records in mid and late April and again from 27th Aug. By far the highest counts were from Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), which had up to 15 in Jan, Nov and Dec. Twelve at Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 28th Nov and 9 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 14th Nov on were the only other counts exceeding eight.

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) WV

There were 5 of these erratic rare raptors during the year. A ringtail was at Al Qua'a Fodder Fields (AD) on 14th Feb and 23rd Mar, with another in the Bida Bin Amar Desert (AD) also on the 23rd Mar. Towards the end of the year, Wamm Farms (FUJ) had ringtails on 7th and 28th Nov, followed by an adult male on 6th Dec.

Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) PM & WV**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

There were 51 records in all, mainly singles but three were recorded at Al Qudra Lake (DUB) on 12th Jan and at Sila'a (AD) on 21st Mar. Recorded until early April, with one late bird at Kalba (SHJ) on 29th April and again from 12th Sept.

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) PM

Much scarcer than the previous species, with just 14 records. Ten of these records were during autumn passage, from 12th Sept to 10th Nov, with the majority in September, including 3 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20th Sept. The four records in the first half of the year were from 18th Jan to 6th Apr.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans [migrans-group]*) V

A bird presumed to be either of the nominate *migrans* or Indian *govinda* subspecies was first seen at Dubai Pivot Fields on 30th Aug and on several dates in October, being last seen on 17th Oct.

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

Very scarce, with only 6 records, all from the Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary area (DUB) save for two at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 4th April and 1 at Ajban Farms (AD) on 1st Jan. At Ras al Khor, 3 were recorded on 12th Apr and singles, presumably the same individual, on three dates 6th to 25th Dec.

Pallas's Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) V

Only the third UAE record, and the first since 1972, was photographed over Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 3rd Apr.

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

Twelve records in all but pertaining to only four (or five) individuals: Mushrif National Park (DUB) on 2nd - 3rd Jan, Al Qudra (DUB) on 22nd Feb, Zakher Lake (AD) on 2nd-3rd Aug and 29th Nov and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) from 19th Oct to 20th Dec.

Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) UC

One long-staying bird from 2013 remained at Al Qua'a fodder fields (AD) until 5th Apr, whilst one was at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 23rd Oct and 6th Nov.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) WV

A long-staying individual at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) was present from 16th Oct until the year end.

Corn Crane (*Crex crex*) PM

There were 4 records, with single birds recorded at Emirates Palace (AD) on 3rd May, Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 13th May, Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 16th May and Sila'a (AD) on 26th Sep.

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) V

One was at Al Barsha Pond Park (DUB) from 7th to 11th Apr, with another at Al Dhait South rubbish tip (SHJ) on 22nd Nov.

Baillon's Crane (*Porzana pusilla*) PM

Two birds were reported during the year. One was at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 4th Apr, whilst another stayed at a private estate nearby from 10th Sep to 18th Sep.

Spotted Crane (*Porzana porzana*) WV & PM

There were just 5 records during the year, all relating to single birds. One was at Emirates Palace (AD) on 8th Mar with another at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 17th Apr. A private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) had one on 12th Apr and a long-staying bird from 28th Nov to the year end. Another long-stayer was at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club from 22nd Sep to 1st Oct.

Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*) V

A first-winter bird found exhausted in the gardens of the Nad al Sheba Avian Reproduction Centre (DUB) on 5th Nov was the first ever recorded in the UAE. It was caught the following day and released before an assembled group of birders at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB).

Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*) R

Reported throughout the year at the newly-established site of Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) with a maximum count of 7 on 16th Oct. The only other records came from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) where up to 2 were reported on 9 dates throughout the year.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) R & WV

Reported widely at many sites throughout the year, with a maximum count of 47 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 30th Sep.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) R & WV

Recorded throughout the year from a small number of sites. Highest counts were from Zakher Lake (AD) where up to 60 were reported and Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) where numbers reached 40. Breeding was confirmed at both sites.

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

Very scarce, with only 4 records, although this included a breeding record at Abu al-Abyadh island (AD) where a chick was found in July. The other records were migrants, recorded from 11th Oct to 12th Dec.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) WV & PM

Recorded all year, although relatively few records from June to Aug. Highest counts came from Khor al Beida (UAQ) where 140 on 5th Feb was exceptional; most counts from there comprised less than 50. Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) and Bhalghelam Island (AD) were the only other sites with counts exceeding 30.

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

Present virtually all year, although very scarce Mar-Apr. As usual, the vast majority of records came from Khor al Beida (UAQ), where up to 175 were reported in September. 167 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 11th October was another significant count. The breeding site of Abu al Abyadh Island (AD) saw 1400, believed to represent approximately 700 pairs, on 11th Jun. One photographed at Wadi Reza (SHJ) on 17th Sep was the first inland record, although at least one bird satellite tagged in eastern Oman was recorded overflying the UAE desert en-route to the Arabian Gulf.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) R

Recorded widely from almost anywhere with suitable habitat. Peak count was 377 at Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 18th Jan with counts exceeding 300 noted from Zakher Lake (AD) and Sharjah Tip (SHJ) in mid-summer; presumably these relate to post-breeding aggregations.

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) WV & R

Recorded almost exclusively from the regular sites of Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) and Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) with maximum counts of 91 at the former site (2nd Mar) and 21 at the latter (19th Jan). Present all year at Al Wathba, with breeding suspected there in June.

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) WV

One Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 17th Jan and all others reported from 12th Nov onwards. Three at Dubai Pivot Fields on that date did not linger but singles at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) remained into 2015.

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) R

Widely reported all year, with over 200 at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) from late Aug until late Oct and 169 on a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3rd Aug the highest counts. Up to 7 reported as far west as Sila'a (AD).

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

Only 3 records: one Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 14th Oct was quite early; ones at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) from 21st Nov and at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 26th- 27th Dec were more typically timed.

White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*) R

Reported mainly from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) where breeding was confirmed with a high count of 52 on 12th Sep and from the Mafraq-AI Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) area where several pairs bred but the maximum count was only 8 (several dates). Only scattered records, in very small numbers, at several other sites.

European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) WV

Singles at Wamm Farm (FUJ) on 10th Feb and Ghantoot (AD) on 16th Feb were the only records.

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

Present until late March, and again from late Aug, with 12 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 16th May the only record in between. The vast majority of records were of small flocks or singles, especially late Aug to end of Oct with relatively few Nov-Dec. 200 reported at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 19th Jan was an exceptionally high count; all other counts involved 22 or less.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) WV & PM

Present all year, with records in every month. 350 at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 19th Jan was the maximum count. Counts exceeding 200 came from Khor al Beida (UAQ), Bhalghelam Island (AD) and Al Jazirah Khor (RAK), all in Jan.

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

Probably present all year, but no records in July and few records May-mid Aug. Most counts were rather small (less than 30) with highest counts coming from Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (100, 19th Jan and 80, 25th Oct).

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

Present all year, but rather scarce Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec. Most counts predictably low but 50 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 29th Jun presumably represented a post-breeding aggregation.

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) R & WV

Present all year with breeding reported at many sites from Apr-July. By far the highest counts came from Khor al Beida (UAQ) with 2000 there on 29th Aug and 1000 on 19th Sep. Nine other sites had counts exceeding 100.

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

Present all year, but surprisingly scarce in Apr (only 3 records) and in Jun (one record). 1500 were counted at Khor al Beida (UAQ) on 20th Jan and 29th Aug, with 1298 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 11th Oct the next highest count. Apart from 1000 at Khor al Beida on 31st Jan, no other counts exceeded 400.

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

Present all year, but very scarce Mar-June and in generally much lower numbers than the preceding species. Only 9 counts exceeding 100, including 1000 at Khor al Beida (UAQ) on 29th Aug and 860 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 11th Oct.

Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus*) PM

13 records, all of singles, but involving only 5 individuals. Unusually, one overwintered at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) from Jan to 7th Mar. Autumn records came from four sites (including one at Hamraniyah on 7th Nov) from 29th Aug to 7th Nov.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) WV

Recorded Jan to early Feb and again from 1st Nov until 24th Dec, apart from up to 3 individuals in the Al Ain area (AD) from 4th-19th Apr. Most records concerned singles but 3 were at Ain al Fayda (AD) on 4th Apr.

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

Scarce; recorded from only five sites but present from Jan to 28th Apr and from 19th Sep until late Dec. Most records referred to a long-staying, well observed individual at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD), although two were present there in Mar. Most other records concerned singles, but two were noted at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on several dates with a remarkable 8 reported there on 21st Nov.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) WV & PM

Common and widespread until 26th Apr (with one recorded 3rd May) and again from late Aug until the year end. Largest counts were 81 at Hamraniyah (RAK) on 24th Oct and 60, Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 17th Jan.

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

Present all year, although few records Apr-Aug inclusive. All counts exceeding 60 came from Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) where 100 or more were noted on seven occasions, including 235 on 12th Dec. Other regular wintering sites, albeit in much smaller numbers, were Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), Zakher Lake (AD) and Yas Island (AD).

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

Present all year, with counts of 100 Bahrani / Futaisi Islands (AD) in June and 250 Khor al Beida (UAQ) in July indicating substantial numbers of over-summering non-breeders. Counts in excess of 500 came from Yas Island (AD) and Bhalghelam Island (AD) in Jan and from Khor al Beida (UAQ) on several dates Jan-Mar and Sep. The maximum was 680 at the latter site on 5th Feb.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) WV & PM

Widespread and present all year, but in rather small numbers with only one count exceeding 50: 51 at Khor al Beida (UAQ) on 20th Dec.

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

Similar temporal and spatial distribution of records to previous species, and in rather similar numbers with few substantial counts. Up to 60 were recorded from Khor al Beida (UAQ) in Feb-Mar but otherwise less than 20 was the norm.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) WV & PM

Present in very small numbers at favoured sites from Jan until 3rd May and again from 5th Sep onwards to the year end; much scarcer in the second half of the year. Up to 6 were present at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) Jan-May with 3 together at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3 dates in late April. Only recorded from 8 additional sites and almost invariably as singles.

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) WV & PM

Present all year, but scarce Apr-May and no June records. Counts exceeding 100 came only from Khor al Beida (UAQ) on many dates (maximum 827, 20th Dec) and Bhalghelam Island (AD) on two dates (280, 17th Jan; 254, 11th Oct).

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) WV & PM

Recorded all months, but very few Apr - late Aug. Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) had up to 35 in late winter-early spring but counts exceeding 10 were otherwise very infrequent.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) WV & PM

Present all year and quite widespread, normally in low numbers, in suitable habitats. Khor al Beida (UAQ) was by far the most important site, with 200 there on 18th Mar and counts exceeding 100 there in Jan-Feb and Dec. Six other sites had counts exceeding 15.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) WV & PM

Quite widespread in very small numbers until 22nd Apr and from 12th July, with one on 26th Jun the first returning migrant. Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) hosted 10 on 1st Jan but otherwise only a few counts exceeded 4.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) WV & PM

Widespread and quite common until 16th May and from 16th Aug, with two records in late Jul / early Aug. Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) had up to 35 Nov-Dec, Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) 20 on 18th Sept and a similar number at Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 9th May. Most other counts were less than 10.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) WV & PM

Present until 18th May and again from 6th July. As normal, the highest counts came from Khor al Beida (UAQ), where 70 were present on 1st Feb. Bhalghelam and Sir Bani Yas Islands (both AD) were the only other sites where counts exceeded 20.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) WV & PM

Present, at least in small numbers, almost all year; no records 22nd May to 13th June may reflect genuine absence but also limited observer activity. No counts exceeded 20 and the vast majority were less than 10. Seventeen at Khor Fakkan canal (SHJ) on 16th Jan and 14 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 11th Oct were the highest single counts.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) WV & PM

Recorded every month, but only one record in June and two in August. Only four counts exceeded 50, all from September / October and hence presumably involving passage migrants with a maximum of 88 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 20th Sept. Highest numbers in winter came from Khor al Beida (UAQ), where 50 were recorded on 14th Feb; most other counts were less than 20.

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

Recorded from only two sites. At Khor al Beida (UAQ), recorded until 7th Feb and from 15th Nov with 75 counted on 24th Jan; all other counts were less than 20. In addition, 13 were present at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 17th Jan.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) WV & PM

Present until 28th May and from 12th Aug, with one record in July. Highest counts (66 and 90) came from 22nd Apr and 18th May at Kalba (SHJ) and clearly refer to spring migrants; although 61 were at the same site on 16th Jan. Sixty at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 3rd Oct was the best count from autumn passage. Almost all other counts were less than 30 but included inland records at Al Qudra Lake (DUB) late Mar and late Aug.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) WV & PM

Present all year, although numbers from mid May until late August very small. Largest counts (1000) came from Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on several dates with Zakher Lake and Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (both AD) the only sites where counts exceeded 400. Widespread at many other sites, albeit often in small numbers.

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

Present until 9th May and from 16th Aug. Largest counts came in autumn from Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) where 160 16th Oct and 110 18th Sept. Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) had up counts of up to 90 (Oct to Dec) and 64 were at Zakher Lake on 17th Jan. Widespread at many other sites, albeit generally in small numbers.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) WV & PM

Present all year, but only three records in May, one in June and two in August. The highest counts were 450-500 spring migrants at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) from 17th to 24th Apr. Khor al Beida (UAQ) was the only other site where counts exceeded 200 however such counts were scattered throughout the year.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) WV & PM

Recorded until 16th May and from late August, with one June record. Almost all counts exceeding 500 came from Khor al Beida (UAQ) with 2000 and 2250 counted there in Jan. In addition, 1500 were recorded at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary on 16th Oct and 1131 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) on 11th Oct.

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

Just 12 reports of this enigmatic and low-profile species with all records from 4th Sept until 25th Oct bar single records from both July and Aug. Highest counts were an excellent 11 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 4th Sept and 12 at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 25th Oct; some of the latter likely refer to wintering birds at this difficult-to-access site. One at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 10th October was an unexpected location for this species.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) WV & PM

Present and widely reported until 14th May and from 18th July. Highest counts (150) came from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 27th Sept and 16th Oct respectively. Other sites where counts exceeded 40 were Sharjah Rubbish Tip (SHJ) and Al Qudra Lake (DUB).

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

Recorded almost all months; no records in June (and only one in July). Interestingly, four counts (70 to 140) were all from sites along the east coast from Fujairah to Dibba (both FUJ) in Jan with only one other count exceeding (130, Khor Kalba Pelagic (SHJ) on 19th Apr). Widespread in small numbers elsewhere, in particular in Apr and Sept.

Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*) R

Recorded all year bar June, clearly a function of observer activity. Biggest counts, as usual, came from post-breeding aggregations in summer and autumn, including 64 at Khor al Beida (UAQ) on 12th July and up to at Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club Sept to Dec. The vast majority of other records were from the greater Dubai area (DUB), and included breeding confirmed at Saih al Salam / Al Qudra Lake (DUB) (where chicks were found in March and 4 juveniles in May). One outside Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 28th Mar and 4th Apr was an interesting record of a presumed migrant.

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) PM

Recorded from 13th Mar until 31st Oct, with clear peaks for spring and autumn passage. Twelve at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 21st Apr was the best spring count but 32 at Hamranyah Nursery (RAK) on 2nd Aug exceeded this. Breeding was confirmed at saline pools at Ajban where two chicks were seen in June.

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

One was at Hamranyah Nursery (RAK) from 28th Feb to 8th Mar.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) SV

A poor year for this species, with only 4 records received. Kalba (SHJ) pelagics yielded 1 on 16th Sep, 6 on 20th Sep and 1 on 26th Sep. One was also seen flying along the beach at Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 2nd Nov.

Lesser Noddy (*Anous tenuirostris*) V

The 8th national record was photographed at sea off Kalba (SHJ) on 19th Jul.

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

Two immatures were found at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 18th Apr. The 6th UAE record.

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

Present all year, but numbers in summer very small and all records Mar to early Oct with small counts. 2500 counted at sites along the East Coast on 3rd Jan was by far the biggest count with 508 at Bhalghelam Island (AD) the best count on the Gulf coast.

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

Common and widespread until Apr and from Nov onwards with scattered summer records in very low numbers. 22 counts exceeded 1000, nearly all from coastal locations, with 5000 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) and 2500 at Abu Dhabi Officer's Club (AD) in January the highest totals.

Mediterranean Gull (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*) V

An adult at Mafraq Rubbish Tip (AD) on 20th Dec might possibly have been the same individual recorded at the same site in 2013.

Pallas's Gull (*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*) WV

Present until 18th Apr (but only three Apr records) and widely reported from 14th Nov. 440 at Khor Kalba (SHJ) was a new highest count for the UAE and must have been a spectacular sight; 420 were still present mid-month with 70 there on 28th Dec. 45 at Dhayah on 15th Jan was the only other count exceeding 40 and indeed most records concerned 10 birds or less, mainly on the Gulf coast and especially around Abu Dhabi island (AD).

Sooty Gull (*Ichthyaetus hemprichii*) PM & R

Present all year, mainly on the east coast but relatively few records Aug to Dec. Highest counts were generally Apr-May or Jan, with maxima of 2310 at Kalba (SHJ; 22nd Apr), 500, Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ; 31st May) and a combined total of 1755 at both sites, 16th Jan. Only one record on the Gulf coast (8, Lulu Island (AD), 6th Sept) but counted Sir Abu Nuair Island (SHJ), where nests with one to three eggs were found.

Mew Gull (*Russian*) (*Larus canus heinei*) V

One was seen at Eastern Mangrove Lagoon NP (AD) on 2nd Jan, with possibly the same bird on Lulu Island (AD) on 12th Jan.

Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*) WV

In all, just eight widely scattered records of this subtle and doubtlessly overlooked gull, with four records Jan and the remainder October to Dec. Most records referred to singles, with 3 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 24th Oct the exception.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Heuglin's*) (*Larus fuscus heuglini*) WV

Reported from 24th Mar and from 10th Oct, with two single records from mid Aug and early Sep. 300 were reported at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 3rd Feb, although this likely includes many (possibly very many) birds of the following taxon. Almost all other counts were less than 5, widely scattered on both coastlines.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Steppe*) (*Larus fuscus barabensis*) WV

Reported until 22nd Apr and from 5th Sept, with one record on 10th July. Highest counts were 500, Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 15th Mar and 200 at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 8th Nov. Widely reported in smaller numbers at other sites.

Large white-headed 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. Reported until 22nd Apr and from 5th Sep, 3300 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 12th Jan was exceptional; no other counts exceeded 300 and most were less than 100.

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

Present all year, but many fewer records Apr to Aug. The majority of records (and all counts exceeding 11) came from Khor al Beida (UAQ) where 90 on 1st Feb was the maximum and Ras al Khor Wetland Sanctuary (DUB) where the peak count was 35 on 9th June. All records bar three came from the Gulf coast.

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

As with the previous species, present all year and virtually confined to the Gulf coast. 50 at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 13th Sept was the maximum count; most other counts exceeding five came from the Abu Dhabi Island / Yas Island areas (AD) where 40 were recorded on a boat trip on 13th June. Up to 5 at Safa Park (DUB) in Jan – Feb would have been an impressive sight.

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

Present all months along the east coast, in fairly small numbers. Apart from Khor Kalba harbour once, Dibba Port (FUJ) was the only site recording more than 30 birds, with 100 here on 31st Oct and 150 on 7th Nov.

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

As the previous species, recorded all months mainly from the east coast (but also present in small numbers in summer in inshore waters of the Gulf coast, especially around Abu Dhabi island. Eight counts exceeding 100 were received, with 200 at Dibba Port (FUJ) on 10th Oct the highest.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) WV & P

Present on the east coast in small numbers all year, although records at Ras al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) (up to 5 in Sept) and one at Al Mamzar Park (SHJ) on 7th Nov were notable Gulf coast records. Only four counts exceeded 25 with 80 at Kalba on 25th Apr being the peak.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) PM

Majority of records March to October with several outside this period being questionable due to identification difficulties and separation from the next species. Mainly recorded from the east coast, in flocks of up to 80 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ). As usual, and rather more convincingly, several inland records in Mar and Apr from the Al Ain area.

Saunders's Tern (*Sternula saundersi*) R

Only reported March to Sept but doubtless overlooked amongst the preceding species and possibly much more numerous. Counts included 75 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 7th Jun and breeding was recorded at or near Abu Dhabi and Abu al Abyad Islands (AD).

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

There were 64 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, e.g. ambiguous forehead pattern or inconsistent combinations of black outer primaries and rump colour. Identification of juveniles and winter birds is generally impossible. Reported (by cautious observers) all year and in much larger numbers than either of the above two entries. Nine counts, all from the east coast, exceeded 100, with a whopping 1000 at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 20th Sep.

Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) SV & PM

Three Jan records from the east coast but otherwise recorded Apr to mid Nov but numbers very low from mid Sept. Counts included up to 531 on Kalba Pelagic trips (SHJ) but the maximum observed from land was 45. 1500 were present on Sir Abu Nuair island (SHJ) with 500 pairs estimated.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) V

There were 4 records during the summer with birds seen on pelagic trips out of Kalba (SHJ) on 31st May, 7th Jun and 19th Jul and one past Al Bidiyah (FUJ) on 8th Jul.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) V

Up to 4 birds were seen at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) during the summer, with single adults on 19th Jul and 30th Jul and an adult and juvenile on 13th Sep.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) WV & PM

Present all year along all the east coast. The majority of larger counts (including all bar three exceeding 200) came from Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ), where 3000 were located on 13th Sept and 1200 on 18th Apr. 1000 were also seen there on 3rd Jan. Four at Zakher Lake (AD) 29th April was a typical inland record of spring migrants but there were very few from the Gulf coast. The majority of records were unattributed to subspecies, but three records apparently pertaining to *S. h. minussensis* were received.

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

Reported virtually all year, although no records in Dec and rather scarce Jan, Feb and Nov. The largest count was 300 at a breeding site at Jebel Dhanna (AD) and regularly seen in summer in smaller numbers off Abu Dhabi Island (AD). Numbers along the east coast were much smaller relative to the preceding species; 200 were at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 18th Apr but most other counts were less than 40.

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) WV & PM

Present all year, but very few records June to July. Widespread, but in very small numbers; up to 65 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) in Nov and Dec dwarfed all other counts.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) PM

Scarce or very scarce Jan to Sep but autumn passage marked, with up to 9 at favoured sites (Al Wathba Wetland Reserve and Mirfa Water Treatment Plant; both AD). 30 at the former site on 27th Nov exceptional. Much less widespread than the previous species.

Eurasian Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger niger*) V

An adult photographed at Kalba cornice (SHJ) on 19th Apr and a juvenile at Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ) on 12th and 13th Sep were the 15th and 16th national records.

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) PM

Single birds reported from Al Rugheilat Beach (FUJ) on 3rd Jan and a Kalba pelagic (SHJ) on 4th Jul were the only records received this year.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) PM

Scarce; only 17 records scattered throughout the year and all from the east coast. The only significant counts came from Kalba (SHJ) pelagic trips, where 21 (19th Apr) and 9 (25th Apr).

Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) V

Three records of singles; all midsummer: on the boat on Kalba pelagic trips (20 Jun; 19 Jul) and off Fujairah Port Beach (14th Jul).

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*) R

Quite widely reported all year mainly from the Gulf littoral. Largest counts came from Saih as Salam area (DUB) and, to a lesser extent, Wamm Farms (FUJ) where 77 (2nd Dec) and 50 (17th Oct) respectively. Breeding was confirmed at several sites in the greater Dubai area, including Nakhli (DUB) whilst 11 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) was the first confirmed record from this site.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (*Pterocles lichtensteinii*) R

Commonly reported from a well-watched private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD), where counts peaked at 31 on 15th Sept. Elsewhere, just a handful of scattered records, most regularly from Wadi Wurayah (FUJ) where the peak count was 12 on 15th Jan.

Feral Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) R

Common and widespread with up to 1000 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3rd Apr the highest number reported.

European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) PM

Present mid-March to mid-Nov, with one Dec record, but most records in Aug to Oct. Only significant numbers came from Saih as Salam area / Al Qudra Lake (DUB) where breeding was clearly successful and 30 logged on 30th Aug. Breeding was also confirmed from Ajban Palace (AD).

Oriental Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*) UC

One at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 17th Oct was the only record of this uncommon, predominately autumn visitor.

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) R

Abundant and widespread, with estimated counts of 1000 received from Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (AD) on 10th Jan and Ajban (AD) on 6th Sep the highest submitted.

Laughing Dove (*Spilopelia senegalensis*) R

Extremely common and widespread resident, with counts often in triple figures and an estimated 300 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) the most reported.

Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*) R

Relatively scarce this year, with only 14 sightings. Counts of 20 were noted at Sila'a (AD) on 2nd May and, more unexpectedly, at Dubai pivot Fields (DUB) on 13th Dec.

Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) PM

There was a total of nine birds recorded, all single individuals, with 5 reports from 27th Mar to 9th May. A sighting on 18th Jun was presumably an early returner, with two others following on 14th and 30th Aug.

Western Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) R

One was seen flying over Al Mizhar (DUB) on 20th July, whilst in an amazing twist of fate, another was seen approximately 10km away in the Za'abeel area (DUB) the same evening.

Pallid Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*) R

Recorded at six sites during the year, with successful breeding recorded at Mushrif National Park (DUB) in May when 3 chicks were seen. Elsewhere, birds were seen at the regular roost sites of Al Jimi Oasis (AD) and Sharjah University City (SHJ) and also at Wadi May (FUJ), Sila'a (AD) and Nakhli private reserve (DUB).

Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) PM

There were 5 records during the year. An injured bird was found in the Za'abeel area of Dubai (DUB) on 15th Mar, one was photographed at Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 28th Mar, with others at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 4th Apr and the Intercontinental Hotel in Abu Dhabi (AD) on 9th May. In the autumn, one was at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 3rd Oct, whilst another was seen on a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) from 26th to 28th Oct.

Otus sp.

A scops owl found in the park at Sila'a (AD) on 14th Nov was not assigned to species.

Pharaoh Eagle-owl (*Bubo ascalaphus*) R

Scarce and elusive resident; mainly reported from a few well-known sites. Reported from nine sites in all, with breeding confirmed or believed likely from seven of these, all between Jan and May.

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) R

Reported, more or less regularly, from nine widely scattered sites. Breeding was confirmed or deemed likely at three of these.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) WV

Just three records of singles: Jebel Dhana (AD; 15th Jan); Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club (AD; 8th Nov) and Shuweihat Rocks (AD; 28th Nov).

European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) PM

Spring passage 16th Apr to 16th May; mainly late Apr and early May where 4, Abu Dhabi Officer's Club on 28th Apr was the only significant count. Autumn passage 19th Sept until early Nov, and similarly scarce as spring apart from the usual the usual peculiar late influx to Emirates Palace (AD), where 8 on 11th Nov (and still 2 on 13th Dec).

Egyptian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*) WV, PM & R

Most interestingly, now a suspected summer breeder at one site in Abu Dhabi Emirate, where present late Mar to late Sep, peaking at 30 on 10th July with at least 4 juveniles seen. Winter singles at Al Wathba Camel Racetrack (Jan, Nov, Dec) and also near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 31st Oct and 26th Nov. Finally, one on spring passage, Wadi Wurayah, 18th Mar.

Unidentified Nightjar sp. (*Caprimulgus* sp.)

Two records of unidentified nightjars from Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on 24th Sep and offshore from Kalba (SHJ) two days later were unresolved.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*) PM

There were just 9 records. Winter records comprised singles at the water treatment plants of Al Ain (AD) on 17th Jan and Mirfa (AD) on 11th Feb, with two seen over Zakher Lake (AD) on 8th Feb. Late March saw a small movement, with 5 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 21st Mar and 10 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 24th Mar. A single bird at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12th Sep was the only bird seen in the autumn.

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*) WV & PM

Seen almost throughout the year, with only July lacking records; numbers increasing during winter when counts of 1500 at Zakher Lake (AD) and 500 at Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) were noted.

Pacific Swift (*Apus pacificus*) V

A bird strongly indicative of this species, *sensu stricto*, was watched for 2 minutes over Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12th Sep. Since the split of the Pacific Swift complex into 4 species in 2011, it is extremely difficult to assign conclusively to species without good photographic evidence.

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) R

Two were seen at the end of the Sila'a (AD) peninsula on 18th Apr, whilst one seen briefly over the hospital on Dalma Island (AD) on 20th Dec was probably one of two that were seen again in early 2015.

Unidentified Swift (*Apus* sp.)

A probable Little Swift was seen amongst approximately 400 presumed Pallid Swifts passing over Safa Park (DUB) on 16th Apr. On 17th Oct, a white-rumped swift thought possibly to be a Pacific-type was seen over Zakher Lake (AD) but not conclusively identified.

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) R

Regularly and widely reported throughout the year north and eastwards from the greater Abu Dhabi area, from where a single observation at Abu Dhabi airport (AD) on 30th Mar was an exceptionally rare record. Largest count was 50 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 18th Jan.

European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) PM

IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened

Mainly seen in low numbers during spring and autumn passage, with a small number staying until early Dec at least. One was recorded on 10th Jul, suggesting at least one bird may well have braved the summer conditions. A count of 22 made at Sila'a (AD) on 2nd May was the highest noted.

Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris kalbaensis*) R

Exclusively recorded at Al Qurm Protected Area, Khor Kalba (SHJ), a systematic survey of the mangroves on 5th June revealed a population of 124 individuals, including 47 pairs. Ten nests were counted, the contents of which ranged from eggs to 2-3 week old chicks.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) WV

Recorded until 7th Apr and from 2nd Sep in ones and twos at a small number of sites, almost exclusively coastal. Despite limited access, most records (counts of up to three on two dates) came from Al Qurm Protected Area, Khor Kalba (SHJ). One near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 8th Nov was a long way inland.

Arabian Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis cyanophrys/muscatensis*) R

Widely and commonly reported from Abu Dhabi eastwards and northwards with breeding confirmed at a number of sites. Most counts less than 20, with at private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Hamraniyah Fields (RAK) and Ajban Water Treatment Plant (AJ) recording up to 22, 60 and 40 respectively.

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

Present from 5th Mar until 31st Oct, with, as usual, most records from Aug to Sept on autumn passage. Peak counts in autumn included 80 over Wamm Farms (FUJ; 5th Sept) and 75 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) in late Aug (several dates). In spring, the maximum was 31 at Al Qurm Protected Area, Khor Kalba (SHJ) on 28th Mar but most spring counts much smaller. Breeding was confirmed at Al Bahia Farms (AD) and Fujairah Port Beach (FUJ).

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) PM

Recorded 21st Mar to 16th May with rather less records on autumn passage, from 14th Aug until 26th Sept, with late records in Oct (two) and, exceptionally, one at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on the amazing date of 27th Dec. Highest counts in spring came from Wamm Farms (FUJ; 37) and Al Qua'a Fodder Field (AD; 40) both on 4th Apr. 30 at Sila'a (AD) on 26th Sept was the highest count in autumn.

Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) R & PM

Common and widespread, with a high count of 50 at Al Mamzar park (DUB) on 19th Sep. Breeding confirmed at Safa Park (DUB).

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) PM & WV

A few records scattered at the start of the year, but mainly recorded on spring passage (14th Mar to 18th Apr) and with far fewer records in autumn (3rd Sept to 23rd Oct). No further records until, rather peculiarly, 5th Dec when records between then and the end of the month. Three counts of three; the rest of doubles and (mainly) singles.

Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) PM

A rather poor year. Recorded 28th Mar to 23rd May (only five records; maximum 10 on 28th May at Wamm Farms (FUJ)) and in autumn (11 records; mainly from Wamm Farms, where maximum 3) between 26th Sep and 31st Oct with one remaining until end of Dec.

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

Widely reported from many sites where pairs clearly resident. Eight at Wamm Farms (AD) on 7th Nov was the peak count; most other counts four or less.

Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*) V

A female at Emirates Palace (AD) on 1st Dec was the only record this year. 17th UAE record.

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

One was seen in Abu Dhabi (AD) outside the Sofitel Hotel on 10th Mar. A pair recorded on Fazia'a Island (AD) on 13th Jul probably bred successfully as a colour-tagged juvenile was photographed there on 17th Oct.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) UC

There were five records; one flew through Ra's al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (DUB) on 18th Jan, single birds were seen at Zakher Lake (AD) on 8th Feb and 4th Apr, Al Warsan Lakes (DUB) on 11th Feb and at Khor al-Beida (UAQ) on 7th Nov.

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) PM

Sixteen records, all in autumn from 12th Sept and all singles, bar 2 at Wamm Farms (FUJ; 17th Oct). Oddly, one late bird lingered at Zakher Lake (AD) from 30th Nov to 5th Dec.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) WV

Just three records; one in Al Ain (AD; 30th Jan) and two in Nov (1st; at Jebel Dhanna (AD) and 16th at Al Qudra Lake (DUB)).

Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*) R

Very scarce with repeated sightings of birds in the Jebel Hafit area, especially near Green Mubazzarah (AD) and, to a lesser extent, Wamm Farms (FUJ).

Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) R

Widely reported, mainly from Abu Dhabi Island (AD) and the greater Dubai area (DUB) with only 2 records exceeding 10, both from the former site. Recorded from as far west as Mirfa (AD).

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) R

Many more records than the previous species, including up to 50 recorded at Mushrif National Park (DUB) and The Springs (DUB) on several dates. Recorded from as far west as Dalma Island (AD).

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) PM

In spring, one at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 28th Mar was exceptionally early and no further records until 2nd May and then commonly reported until 20th May; maximum counts 11 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on three dates at 10 at Emirates Palace (AD) on one date. Much scarcer in autumn, with up to two reported from only three sites, from 12th Sept until 28th Nov.

Daurian Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) WV & PM

Reported widely until 12th Apr and then from 17th Sep to the year end. Clear spike in passage late Mar, when 30 at both Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 25th and 26th Mar; most other reports less than ten.

Turkestan Shrike (*Lanius phoenicuroides*) PM

Singles overwintering reported in Jan from Abu Dhabi Golf and Equestrian Club (AD) and Green Mubazzarah (AD) but otherwise common on spring passage from 21st Feb until end of Apr (with a few in May) and in autumn from 25th Aug until late Oct with a scattering of Nov and even a few Dec records. 30 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) by far the highest count; most other records less referring to less than 10.

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

There were 47 records of unspecified Isabelline Shrikes during the year in addition to 4 reports of obvious Red-backed x Daurian/Turkestan hybrids.

Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) UC

One was present at Green Mubazzarah (AD) from 25th to 29th Mar.

Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*) PM

There were 6 spring individuals between 2nd May to 16th May, with 17 records covering probably 13 returning birds from 22nd Aug to 30th Sep. All records related to single birds.

Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) R

Common and widespread, and especially so at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) from where there were many double-figure counts, reaching a maximum of 21 on 26th Jun and 12th Nov.

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

Regularly reported during winter and a rather protracted passage, with records regular until early April, though one individual was seen at Sila'a (AD) as late as 2nd May. Return migrants were recorded from 13th Sep. Counts of 8 were logged at Sila'a on 21st Mar and nearby Ghagah Island (AD) on 5th Apr.

Eastern Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator niloticus*) PM

Widely recorded in ones and twos from early spring, with dates ranging from 7th Feb to 10th Apr, peaking in late March/early April with up to 3 at Wamm farms (FUJ) on 26th Mar and Wadi Bih (RAK) on 8th Apr. An adult at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 5th Dec was an extremely late, and only, record outside of spring.

Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) PM & WV

Relatively uncommon, though fairly regularly observed due to the species reputation for long-staying. Records stretched up to 17th May and from 6th Sep onwards, with all records of single birds except for a count of 3 at the favoured haunt of Emirates Palace (AD) on 10th Apr. Other favoured locations included both Safa and Mamzar Parks (DUB) and Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD).

Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) PM

Recorded as a late spring migrant (16 records, 17 individuals) from 26th Apr to 13th Jun; the latter being a very late record coming from Alqurm Protected Area, Kalba (SHJ). Returning autumn birds (10 records, 15 individuals) were reported from 29th Aug through until 9th Oct. Though most seen singly, 4 at Mirfa (AD) on 6th Sep was a notably good autumn score.

Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) V

In an exceptionally good year for drongos, the 4th and 5th national records were seen at Umm Suqiem Park (DUB) on 28th & 29th Mar and at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 7th & 8th Nov.

Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) V

One was at Mushrif National Park (DUB) from 3rd Jan to 14th Mar whilst another was found at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 3rd Dec and was still present the following day. The 7th and 8th UAE records.

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

There were five sightings of drongos in the Dubai area that were not satisfactorily identified, but all considered likely to be Black. These were at Al Awir (DUB) on 8th Apr, near the Atlantis Hotel, Palm Jumeirah (DUB) on 11th Jul, and three sightings in the Za'abeel area (DUB) on 11th Aug, 31st Oct and 4th Nov.

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) R

Widespread and very common in cities and coastal locations. A total of 310 was recorded at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 26th Sep when a huge flock was observed leaving their roost in the nearby plantations.

Brown-necked Raven (*Corvus ruficollis*) R

Regularly seen in inland areas, especially dune deserts, with 40 seen along the northern section of Emirates Road (RAK) on 12th Dec the most reported.

Fan-tailed Raven (*Corvus rhipidurus*) V

Two birds were photographed soaring over the E11 near the Al Samha petrol stations (AD) on 13th Dec. Only the 2nd UAE record and not recorded since 2006.

Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) WV & PM

Present until late Mar, with three further records of single migrants until 11th Apr. Only flocks were at the regular sites of Lulu Island (AD; maximum of 130, 20th Mar) and Yas Island (AD; maximum of 147, 10th Jan). In the second half of the year, one single at Lulu Island in October (18th) with up to 90 here by early December. Other records came from Wamm Farms (FUJ; 3 on 21st Nov) and Dalma Island (AD; 4 on 20th Dec) with 90 back on Yas Island by end of Nov.

Greater Hoopoe-lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*) R

Scattered records from as far north as Khor al Beida (UAQ) and as far south/west as near Al Qua'a and Ruwais (both AD). Majority of records from the well-watched site of Saih al Salam area (DUB) where up to 5 reported. Breeding confirmed at Hoderiyat Island (AD), very close to Abu Dhabi island, in June.

Desert Lark (*Ammomanes deserti*) R

Widely reported and fairly common in mountain areas. Maximum count was 20 at three sites: Wadi Bih (RAK), Masafi Wadi (FUJ) and Wadi Helo (SHJ), all Sep to Nov and presumably referring to post-breeding aggregations. Eight at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 8th Jan was locally unusual.

Bar-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes cinctura*) R

One photographed near Al Qudra Lake (DUB) on 4th Apr was the only record of this increasingly scarce (or at least hard-to-find) resident.

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

As for Greater Hoopoe-Lark, many records from the Saih al Salam area (DUB), where evident all year. Up to 100 here in Jan (and at Nakhili (DUB) in August) but most flocks less than 20. There were strong indications of breeding at this site, and breeding confirmed at Khor Kalba (SHJ).

Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*) WV

Reported only 9 times during the year. Three were at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 3rd Jan with the same number being recorded at Wamm Farms (FUJ) between 31st Jan and 26th Mar. Singles were also noted at Hamraniyah (RAK) on 25th Mar and 22nd Dec and Lahbab Fields (DUB) on 17th Oct.

Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) WV

Regular winter visitor reported until 13th Mar and from 26th Sep, with 105 recorded on 10th Dec at Wamm Farms (FUJ) the maximum.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) R

Common and widespread with the highest count being 100 at Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on 5th Apr.

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

Widely reported until 25th Apr and from 5th Sep onwards, with several large flocks reported, most notably 40 at Al Qudra Lake, Saih as Salam (DUB) on 22nd Feb, Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20th Sep and Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on 4th Oct.

Bimaculated Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) WV

In a very poor year for this species, there were only 3 reports. Two birds were at Al Qudra Lake, Saih as Salam (DUB) on 12th Jan, an incredible 35 at Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on 9th Feb and another 2 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12th Dec.

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

Single birds at Suweihat Rocks (AD) on 12th Nov and Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 28th Nov were the only records this year.

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) R

Single birds from the remnant population at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) were seen on 13th Sep and 14th Oct.

White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) R

Very common widespread resident with estimates of 300 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 30th Aug and 200 at Ajban Palace (AD) on 14th Jul the largest gatherings noted.

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) R

Common resident, mainly seen in city parks, from where a count of 75 was reported on 22nd Mar at Al Mamzar Park (DUB).

White-spectacled Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*) R

Fairly common resident of the mountains, with 60 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 3rd Apr the most counted.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) PM & WV

Recorded throughout the year, scarce in late spring and summer, but increasingly numerous through the autumn, especially over inland bodies of water. High counts included 200 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 31st Oct and 150 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 19th Sep.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) PM & WV

Recorded every month, with numbers swelling during spring and especially autumn. Large roost gatherings were observed at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on several dates during the Sep-Oct period, reaching 500 on 31st Oct.

Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) UC

A single bird photographed at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 14th Nov and seen again on the 25th was the only record this year.

Pale Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*) R

Widely reported from mountain areas and the northern Emirates, albeit in fairly small numbers but 100 at Zakher Lake (AD) on 25th Dec exceptional. Most other records 20 or less and none west of Abu Dhabi.

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

Eighteen records, from 15th Jan to 2nd May and, more commonly, 6th Sep to 16th Oct. Invariably in small numbers, but 8 were at Mafrq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on the latter date.

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

There were only 11 records (17 individuals) of this charismatic species, all between 7th Feb and 5th Apr, except for a lone individual at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD) on 20th Dec. Typically an early migrant, a total of 5 were recorded on 7th Feb, of which 4 were at Zakher Lake (AD).

Streaked Scrub Warbler (*Scotocerca inquieta*) R

Relatively under-recorded, with only 20 records during the year, over half of which emanated from the mountain wadis of Masafi (FUJ) from where up to 7 were counted on 31st Oct. Outside of the northern Hajars, there were a few records from Wadi Tarabat (AD) at the base of Jebel Hafit.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) PM

Commonly reported during spring passage between 22nd Mar and 27th May, with numbers reaching 222 on 4th Apr and 309 the following day, with 180 being recorded in the Jebel Dhanna (AD) area alone on the 4th Apr and some 238 on the 5th between Sila'a (AD) and nearby Ghagah Island (AD). There were five autumn records of up to 4 birds between 5th Sep and 11th Oct, with an extremely rare winter record on 8th Nov at Wamm Farms (FUJ).

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) WV & PM

Very common in winter and on passage, being recorded up to 21st Apr and from 15th Oct onwards, with a maximum estimated count of 90 coming from Al Mamzar park (DUB) on 27th Mar.

Plain Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus neglectus*) WV

Regularly seen during winter at various mountain wadi locations, with dates up to 14th Mar and from 11th Oct. Newly-arrived birds were recorded from mid- to late October from the coastal sites of Lulu Island (AD) and Al Mamzar Park (DUB), from where counts of 7 & 6 respectively were logged on 18th Oct.

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) PM

There were just 3 individuals this year. A bird seen at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 22nd Apr was the sole spring record, whilst others were at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) from 19th Sep to 14th Oct and Safa Park (DUB) from 29th Oct until 2nd Nov.

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) V

One at the Royal Stables in Abu Dhabi (AD) on 31st Jan and 1st Feb was only the 13th recorded in the country.

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

Only seven were reported during the year, with single birds at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 24th Jan, Safa Park (DUB) 25th Jan to 15th Feb and again 23rd Dec, Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 29th Mar, Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 6th Dec, Emirates Palace (AD) on 13th & 18th Dec and Mirfa Children's Park (AD) on 19th Dec.

Yellow-browed/Hume's Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus/humei*)

A bird photographed at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 11th and 12th Oct could not be conclusively assigned to either species.

Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*) V

Al Mamzar Park (DUB) hosted two different individuals during the autumn, with a very yellowish bird found on 11th Oct, the first recorded since 2007. This was followed by a second more washed-out individual on 25th Oct, with presumably the same bird seen again on 6th Nov.

Large-billed Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*) V

One found and photographed at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 11th Oct and remaining until the following morning, was the first record for the UAE and Arabia.

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) PM

Four records of singles in spring, 28th Mar to 18th Apr. In autumn, recorded 6th Sep until 8th Nov but possibly involving as few as five individuals.

Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens*) R

Widely reported in small numbers from almost anywhere with suitable habitat, with records as far west as Sila'a (AD). Highest densities at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), where up to 15 reported.

Moustached Warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*) V

One was photographed in the goat farm at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20th Sep. 17th UAE record.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) PM

There were four records: one was in the Nad al-Sheba area (DUB) on 28th Mar, Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 2nd May, Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 16th & 17th May, with one at Dubai Marine Beach Resort in Jumeirah (DUB) also on the 17th May.

Caspian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus*) R

No January records, but otherwise reported every month, being far more conspicuous when singing and breeding. Much less widespread than Clamorous Reed Warbler but similarly highest densities at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), where up to 12 reported.

Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) PM

Recorded widely and fairly commonly 25th Apr to 29th May, with three counts of up to 50 between 2nd - 10th May but few counts exceeding 20. Reported in autumn (just four records) 29th Aug to 14th Nov.

Booted/Sykes's Warbler (*Iduna caligata/rama*)

A bird photographed in Wadi Helo on 26th Apr could not be conclusively identified.

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

Present all year on Abu Dhabi Island (AD) where up to 12 reported in May when singing and conspicuous. Elsewhere, a widely reported spring migrant, mainly April to early May and Sept to Oct but in rather small numbers.

Upcher's Warbler (*Hippolais languida*) PM

Spring passage in fairly small numbers with 42 records 14th Mar to 17th May with 8 at Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 2nd May the maximum reported. Seven were reported here at 12th Apr. Three singles in autumn, 25th Aug to 19th Sep.

Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*) PM

There were five reported, all within the space of a week, with birds at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 28th Mar, Dalma Island (AD) on 2nd Apr, Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 3rd & 4th Apr, Safa Park (DUB) also on the 4th Apr and Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on the 5th Apr.

Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*) V

A very good year for this species, with no less than 6 individuals found. Singles were at Ain al Fayda (AD) on 5th Apr and Green Mubazzarah (AD) 28th-29th Mar, two at Mirfa (AD) between 28th Mar & 1st Apr and a very obliging individual at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 29th-31st Mar. In the autumn, one was flushed from long grass at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 20th Sep.

Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) R

Very common and widespread, with 22 at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on 29th Jan the highest logged.

Arabian Babbler (*Turdoides squamiceps*) R

Fairly widely reported, mainly north and east of a line from Al Ain (AD) to Dubai (DUB) although also reported from Ajban (AD). 21 near Green Mubazzarah on 21st Oct was the largest count.

Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) PM

One peculiar January record (Abu Dhabi corniche, AD (!)) but otherwise reported 19th Mar to 13th May where 35 records in all, generally small numbers (three records of six or five being the maximum). Only five autumn records, 26th Oct to 22nd Nov although 6 in Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on the former date was a good count.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) UC

Two records; one Mirfa (AD) on 9th May and one Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 26th Oct.

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) PM

Spring passage 2nd Apr to 17th May, with 5 Sila'a (AD) on 2nd May by far the largest count. Only four autumn records of singles, 29th Aug to 6th Nov.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) PM

Present until 15th May but scarce after mid Apr. 24 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 27th Mar was easily the highest count in the first half of the year, with 15 at Sila'a and Mirfa (both AD) on 21st and 28th Mar respectively also notable. Autumn records from 6th Sep onwards with an apparent influx in late Oct when, for example, 16 reported at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 26th of that month.

Desert Whitethroat (*Sylvia minula*) WV

Reported in small numbers until 5th Apr and from 24th Sept onwards, again with a large increase in records from late October when up to 15 reported from several sites. Not always reliably separated from the previous taxa and doubtless many recorded as *S. curruca* belong with this taxon. Various records of unidentified whitethroats, including 20 near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10th March doubtless include many of this taxon.

Eastern Orphee Warbler (*Sylvia crassirostris*) WV

Just four records, with singles from three locations in Jan, Feb, late Nov and early Dec.

Asian Desert Warbler (*Sylvia nana*) WV

Reported until 7th Apr (but mainly in Jan and Feb) and from mid Oct (but mainly Nov and Dec). Maximum count 7, Shuweihat Rocks (AD) on two dates in Nov but the vast majority of records were of singles.

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) PM

Mainly present 25th Mar to 23rd May, with most records in the latter month. A scattering of spring counts were from 4 to 8 but most records in smaller numbers. Autumn passage 5th Sept to 23rd Nov with a maximum of 8 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 7th Sep.

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

Widely recorded up to as late as 9th May and from 12th Sep onwards, with significant movements in late Mar and late Oct. Counts of 20 at a private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD) and 13 on Lulu Island (AD) on 27th Mar were the two highest counts of the year, the latter site also boasting the highest autumn count with 12 on 18th Oct.

Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) R

Locally common resident, restricted mainly to the northern emirates, forming large flocks especially during the autumn. Large counts were made at Dubai Pivots Fields (DUB) and Wamm Farms (FUJ) where 2000 and 400 were recorded on 30th Aug and 20th Sep respectively. Away from the regular sites, birds were also reported from the Ajban (AD) area and Al Ain (AD).

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) R

Very common and widespread, with a highest count of 1300 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 26th Sep.

Pied Myna (*Gracupica contra*) R

Locally common in parks and gardens within Dubai city, mostly in low numbers, although up to 50 were recorded in Al Mamzar Park (DUB), its apparent stronghold. Outside of Dubai, 2 were reported from Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on a couple of dates in March & May.

Brahminy Starling (*Sturnia pagodarum*) R

Reported irregularly from four areas during the year. Two birds lingered around a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) from the beginning of the year until 10th Apr, up to 2 adults were seen around the Jumeirah area of Dubai (DUB) from 31st Mar to 7th Sep, with a juvenile noted there on 28th Jun. Singles were also seen at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 4th Apr and in the Al Goaz area of Sharjah (SHJ) from 18th Oct to at least 15th Dec.

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

Mostly recorded in winter at Wamm Farms (FUJ), from where a maximum of 18 was counted on both 21st Feb and 3rd Oct. Also noted several times around the Hamraniyah (RAK) area. Records ran up to 18th Apr and from 5th Sep.

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) WV & R

Mainly reported from the northern emirates, where locally resident, especially around the Hamraniyah area (RAK) where up to 57 were counted on 18th Oct. Counts of 14 at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 21st Nov, 13 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 18th Dec and 8 at Sila'a (AD) on 14th Nov suggest a small winter movement.

Caucasian Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus amicornum*) UC

A male at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 26th and 27th Dec was the only record of this irregular winter visitor.

Black-throated Thrush (*Turdus atrogularis*) UC

There were 5 records during the year – all in the first 2 months. Two birds were at Ain al Mahdab park (FUJ) on 12th Jan, whilst a single bird was at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) the same day, with possibly the same bird seen again on 21st and 22nd Feb. Single birds were also seen at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) on 29th Jan and Mirfa (AD) on 11th Feb and 2 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 24th Jan.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) WV

Very common during winter, being recorded until 22nd Apr and from 8th Nov. A count of 25 on Dalma Island (AD) on 20th Dec was the highest number reported, most of which were in "Hospital Wood".

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

Regularly and widely recorded during spring with the first bird noted on 14th Mar. Records continued through to 9th May, with significant counts being recorded at Sila'a (AD) with 34 on 2nd May and at a private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD) with 18 on 5th Apr. By comparison, summer and autumn collectively totalled only 8 reports between 14th Jul and 26th Sep, compared with 56 in the spring.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) PM

Common on passage, especially in late spring and early autumn. Spring records ran from 23rd Mar to 20th May, whilst returning birds were noted from 22nd Aug until 7th Nov. Significant counts included 26 at Sila'a (AD) on 2nd May and 18 at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) on 12th May, whilst the highest daily total reached 42 on 9th May.

European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) UC

Three birds were recorded during the year. Long-staying individuals from 2013 were at Emirates Palace (AD) and Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) until 25th Jan and 26th Feb respectively. Later in the year, one was heard at Emirates Palace on 13th Dec and another seen at Safa Park (DUB) on 23rd Dec.

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) WV & PM

Widespread and fairly common during winter and passage, being seen up to 5th Apr and from 17th Oct, with 8 at Al Qudra Lake, Saih as Salam (DUB) on 15th Nov being the largest number reported.

Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*) PM

In a pretty good year for this species, there was a total of 9 individuals seen, with 5 spring birds reported between 7th to 10th May, including 2 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on the 10th. In autumn, 4 birds were recorded between 26th Sep and 8th Oct, with 2 seen at Sila'a (AD) on the 26th Sep.

Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) PM

In individual seen at Mushrif Palace (Gardens (AD) on 4th Jan was an exceptional wintering record of this elusive, yet fairly common, species recorded widely in spring from 27th Mar to 23rd May with a count of 6 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on the first date being especially noteworthy. Autumn records were sparse, with only 3 recorded from 26th Sep to 6th Oct.

White-throated Robin (*Irania gutturalis*) PM

A good year for this species, with 52 reports between 21st Mar and 23rd Apr, with a peak total of 20 birds on 27th Mar which included a count of 10 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB).

Semi-collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*) UC**IUCN Red List Status: Near-threatened**

A total of 36 records involving at least 32 individuals in what was one of the best springs ever for this species. Recorded between 20th Mar and 5th May, most of the records were of ones and twos except for 7 at Al Mamzar Park (DUB) on 27th Mar and 3 at Safa Park (DUB) four days earlier.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) WV

There were 17 records, with 7 reported between 12th Feb to 15th Apr and the remainder from 24th Oct until the year end. Most were single-bird sightings, but 2 were recorded at Sila'a (AD) on 5th Apr and 19th Dec and at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 15th Apr.

Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) V

A female present at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) from 16th to 23rd Apr was the 6th national record.

Eversmann's Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythronotus*) UC

The 2013 long-staying male remained at the Mercure Hotel on Jebel Hafit (AD) until the 14th Feb. Later in the year, a first winter male was photographed at Za'abeel Park North (DUB) on 8th Nov.

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

Commonly reported during winter up to 28th Mar and from 20th Oct onwards with the highest count being 9 at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 16th Jan.

A male, probably *P.o. ochruros* from the Turkish / Caucasian population (but superficially resembling birds from the western Black Redstart group *P. o. gibraltariensis et al*) was at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 24th Jan.

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) PM

Very common in spring with 96 records between 5th Mar and 17th May, peaking in the first week of April when a total of 88 were counted on 4th Apr and 92 the following day. Al Mamzar Park (DUB) attracted the highest numbers with 30 reported on both 27th Mar and 4th Apr; the latter date's count comprising 29 males and only one female.

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

There were 18 reports between 14th Mar and 4th Apr, with a peak total of 23 birds on 27th Mar which included a count of 19 at Jebel Dhanna (AD). A male photographed at Sila'a (AD) on 26th Sep was a rare autumn record.

Common Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) PM

Widely reported during spring from a variety of sites, most notably Green Mubazzarah (AD) where there were 9 on 14th Mar. A total of 50 spring sightings ran from 21st Feb to 20th May; in contrast, there were only 2 in autumn, both at the very end of September.

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

Regularly reported in winter and on passage, though very scarce away from the Al Ain (AD) sites around Green Mubazzarah. Records ran up 28th Mar and from 26th Sep, with 10 at Green Mubazzarah on 5th Mar the highest noted.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) PM

Scarce in spring, with 21 records ranging from 28th Mar to 13th May, mostly in ones and twos on Abu Dhabi island, though 4 in the Mirfa (AD) area on 9th May was the highest count. There were 5 records in autumn between 6th Sep and 31st Oct.

European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*) WV

Widely recorded in low numbers during the winter months up to 6th Mar and from 24th Oct. A count of 5 at Sila'a (AD) on 14th Nov was the highest reported.

Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) PM

Scarce passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, recorded up to 11th Apr and from 16th Sep. One or two spent both winters at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB).

Pied Bush Chat (*Saxicola caprata*) R

A female was found at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 29th Nov and remained until March 2016. The 16th UAE record.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) PM

There was a total of 60 records, 53 of which were between 16th Mar and 21st Apr, showing a very strong spring bias in movements. There was a significant influx on 5th Apr, with a total of 75 birds logged including 23 at Ghagah Island (AD) and 15 at Sila'a fodder field (AD). By contrast, there were only 7 records in autumn, all of single birds, between 4th Sep until the very late date of 7th Dec.

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) WV & PM

Widely recorded through the winter and spring until 9th May and from 12th Aug onwards, with records peaking during March and September. Counts of 15 at Sila'a (AD) on 21st Mar and 13 on Ghagah Island (AD) on 5th Apr were the highest individual site counts during the year.

Hooded Wheatear (*Oenanthe monacha*) R

Scarce, yet recorded throughout the year, especially at the known main haunts of Green Mubazzarah (AD) and Jebel Hafit (AD). Two juveniles were noted at the latter site on 9th Aug, only the third confirmed breeding record for this species.

Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*) WV & PM

Rather common winter and passage migrant recorded up to 12th Apr and from 5th Sep onwards. Fifteen at Saih as Salam Al Qudra Lake (DUB) on 8th Jan and 11 at Suweihat Rocks (AD) on 12th Nov were the only counts in excess of 10.

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

There were 23 records, all confined to the western coastline within a 3-week window in early spring between 18th Mar and 5th Apr, with a total of 7 individuals noted on the latter date.

Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) PM

Widely recorded from 4th Feb until 19th Apr and from 5th Sep until early Nov, with two singles in Dec. Numbers peaked around late March, with 57 at Lulu Island (AD) on 27th Mar, 35 at Sila'a (AD) on 21st Mar and 32 part of a large fall of storm-grounded migrants at Al Sufouh public beach (DUB) on 5th Apr. By contrast, the latter half of the year saw only 34 records compared to spring's 86, with much lower numbers.

Variable Wheatear (*Oenanthe picata*) WV

Scarce winter visitor mainly seen at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Green Mubazzarah (AD) in low numbers; 5 being the most recorded at the former site. An early migrant, all birds departed by 5th Mar, with first returning 5th Sep.

Hume's Wheatear (*Oenanthe albonigra*) R

Regularly seen at various mountain sites and wadis throughout the year, with a maximum count of 12 recorded at Wadi Helo (SHJ) on 21st Feb.

Mourning Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens*) UC

There were 10 reports involving 9 individuals, with the recently reliable Jebel Dhanna (AD) hosting one 6th - 25th Jan and 3 on 8th Oct. Singles were also at Hoderiyat Island (AD) on 31st Jan, Suweihat Rocks (AD) 12th Nov, Mirfa Water Treatment Plant (AD) 14th Nov, Saih as Salam (DUB) 1st - 3rd Dec (only the second record for the emirate) and Jebel Hafit (AD) on 16th Dec.

Red-tailed Wheatear (*Oenanthe chrysopygia*) WV

Common in the mountains and wadis throughout the winter months until 29th Mar, with returning birds seen from 23rd Sep. Up to 8 were counted at Ajban (AD) on 5th Dec and on several dates in Nov at a private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD).

Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) R

Common and widespread across most of the country, although scarce in Western Region with singles at Jebel Dhanna (AD) between 19th Mar and 4th Apr and counts of 2 and 4 on Dalma Island (AD) on 1st Apr and 20th Dec the only records received from the far west. Elsewhere, mainly seen in low numbers but counts up to 40 were recorded and breeding was confirmed at several locations.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) R

Extremely common and widespread, with estimated counts reaching 10,000 at a private site near Green Mubazzarah (AD) on several dates in autumn and winter.

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) UC

Two birds were reported from Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 19th Apr and 2nd May.

Pale Rockfinch (*Carpospiza brachydactyla*) PM

Typically recorded as an early spring migrant, there were 14 records between 1st Mar and 25th May, with a total of 40 on 7th Mar a very notable peak - 20 being reported from both Masafi Wadi (FUJ) and Wadi Bih (RAK). A flock of 8 at Wadi Wurrayah on 21st Jun contained some pink-billed (juvenile?) birds suggesting that breeding may have occurred locally. Four at Wadi Reza (SHJ) on 17th Sep were the only autumn birds recorded.

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

Very under-reported; there were only 7 records from 5 sites, mostly of spring migrants rather than summer visitors. One at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 21st Feb was a very early record, whilst during spring passage 12 were on Lulu Island (AD) on 11th Apr, feeding on *Salvadora* berries, with 6 still lingering a week later. A single at Wamm Farms on 16th May was the latest migrant noted, whilst an adult and juvenile at Ain al Ghamour (SHJ) was the only summer record and evidence of breeding.

Golden-backed Weaver (*Ploceus jacksoni*) UC

Reported from only two sites during the year. A lone bird was at Emirates Palace (AD) on 15th Mar; however, up to 20 were recorded breeding successfully at Za'abeel Park (DUB) from 23rd May until mid-July at least.

Streaked Weaver (*Ploceus manyar*) R

Only 9 records during the year, the majority of which came from Al Warsan Lakes (DUB), from where up to 6 were counted on 1st Dec. The only other sites to host birds were the nearby Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), Wadi al Ain (AD) and Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (AD), all of which had single individuals.

Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*) R

Widespread and locally common north and eastwards of Abu Dhabi, often in sizeable flocks, with up to 100 seen at a private estate near Green Mubazzarah (AD) during October.

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) R

There were 14 records from 6 sites north and eastwards of Abu Dhabi. A flock of 15 at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) was the largest count, the site being where the species was most regularly encountered. Breeding was noted at Wasit Nature Reserve (SHJ) where an occupied nest was observed on 22nd Oct.

Forest Wagtail (*Dendroanthus indicus*) V

In Abu Dhabi, the 2013 long-staying bird remained at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD) until the 29th Mar. Another individual was at Safa Park (DUB) on 29th and 30th Oct.

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

The following account refers to birds not distinguished to subspecies; for the latter see below. Widespread and recorded every month except July with 35 at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) on 25th Sep the highest count. Six at the same site on 10th Jun was a particularly late date and scarce summer record, the third time in four years that birds have been recorded there in late June.

Yellow-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava lutea*)

There were 8 records of this subspecies – all falling in the months of April and September. In spring, a total of 9 were at Sila'a (AD) on 5th Apr, with one at Emirates Palace (AD) on the 19th Apr. Autumn records comprised single at Mushrif Palace Gardens (AD), Emirates Palace (AD), Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) and Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) between 10th and 25th Sep.

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

There were 16 records attributed specifically to this form, 14 of which were in the period up to 21st Apr, with 6 at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 28th Mar the highest reported. In the latter half of the year, the remaining 2 records were of singles at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 8th & 20th Nov.

Black-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava feldegg*)

Recorded in small numbers, mostly up to the end of March and from 12th Oct onwards, though singles were recorded at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) and Zakher lake (AD) on 24th & 29th Jun respectively. In addition, a pair remained at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB), raising one youngster, and were last reported on 27th Jun.

Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*)

There were 9 records of this form. Two were reported from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 3rd Jan, whilst the majority were seen during passage from 26th Mar to 4th May and 10th Sep to 30th Sep. A total of 4 on 5th Apr included 3 from the Sila'a (AD) area.

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

Up to 2 were recorded at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) between 22nd and 26th Mar.

Yellow Wagtail (*dombrowskii*-type intergrade) (*Motacilla flava (dombrowskii.intergrade)*)

A bird showing characteristics of this form was noted at Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian Club (AD) on 22nd Mar.

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

A bird showing characteristics of this form was reported on 1st Feb and 6th Mar from Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB).

Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) WV & PM

Widely reported in small numbers up to 10th May and from 16th Aug with a surprisingly low maximum of 8 from a number of sites; the lowest since 2002.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) WV & PM

Fairly scarce winter visitor and passage migrant recorded in single-figure numbers. Seen as late as 20th May and from 7th Sep onwards, counts of 4 from Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Safa Park (DUB) on 26th Sep and 29th Oct were the highest reported.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) WV & PM

Common and widespread during winter and passage with several counts of 100 or more noted from Hamraniyah nursery (RAK), the most being at 120 on 3rd Jan. Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) was the only other site to record 100 birds (27th Nov). Birds were regularly reported until 19th Apr and from 20th Sep onwards, though one photographed at Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 21st Jun was an exceptional summer record.

Masked Wagtail (*Motacilla alba personata*) WV

There were at least 8 individuals reported during the year. Two birds were at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 12th Jan, with singles at Al Qua'a (AD) on 6th Mar, Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 10th Oct and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) on 28th Nov. Up to 3 were present at Mafraq Water Treatment Plant (AD) between 25th Sep and 27th Nov.

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

Regularly reported from grassy localities, especially Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Dubai Pivot Fields (DUB) during the winter and on passage up to 25th Apr and from 3rd Sep onwards. Counts of up to 15 were recorded at Wamm Farms on both 28th Nov and 4th Dec, whilst 6 on 16th Nov was the highest counted at the Pivots.

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

A total of 8 reports, all but one of which came from Wamm Farms (FUJ). One photographed on 21st Mar was the only record from the first half of the year, whilst the remainder were recorded from 28th Nov onwards, with the farms hosting up to 7 on 27th Dec.

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) WV & PM

Widespread and fairly common in winter and on passage, with records up to 11th Apr and from 5th Sep onwards and a maximum count of 50 at Al Qua'a fodder field (AD) on 1st Nov.

Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*) R

Possibly under-reported, there were 27 records up to 19th Mar and from 10th Oct until the year end, mostly from the regular sites of Masafi Wadi (FUJ) and Wamm Farms (AD), from where a count of 8 was recorded on 21st Nov at the latter site. Away from these sites, one at Al Qudra Lake, Saih as Salam (DUB) on 13th Dec was an exceptional find away from its typical habitat. One was watched performing song flight at Masafi Wadi on 8th Feb, suggesting potential breeding.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) WV

A relatively scarce winter visitor with only 23 records. At the top of the year, a total of 6 individuals were recorded at 3 sites as late as 10th Feb, whilst the bulk of reports came after 7th Nov with perhaps 21 individuals at 9 sites. Six birds seen on a traffic roundabout on Dalma Island (AD) on 20th Dec was by far the highest single count.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) PM

Reported every month except July & August, though scarce outside of main passage windows of Mar-Apr and Sept-Oct. One late record was of an injured individual on 16th June at Royal Stables, Abu Dhabi (AD). A count of 41 at Sila'a (AD) on 5th Apr was the highest single number logged at a site, part of a total of 85 individuals recorded on that date, whilst autumn passage yielded more modest numbers, with 9 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) and Emirates Palace (AD) on 10th & 11th Oct respectively.

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

Commonly recorded outside of the summer months, with sightings reported up to 24th May and from 17th Oct onwards, peaking in early April when counts of 90 and 45 were noted on 5th Apr from Sila'a (AD) and Mirfa (AD) with 37 at Wamm Farms (FUJ) the previous day.

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

There were 21 records of this scarce, but increasingly regular, winter visitor, mostly from the traditional sites of Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) and Wamm Farms (FUJ) until 28th Feb and from 21st Nov. Up to 6 were recorded at the former on 24th Jan & 22nd Dec, whilst the latter held 2 on 30th Dec. Emirates Palace (AD) was the only other site where the species was recorded, with single birds at both ends of the year.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) WV & PM

Common throughout the winter months until 1st Apr and from 5th Sep onwards, reaching a maximum of 100 at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 3rd Jan.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) V

A single male was found amongst House Sparrows in the park on Dalma Island (AD) on 20th Dec.

Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus*) WV & R

There were only 12 records of this scarce and nomadic species throughout the year with the highest count being 8 on 9th May at Wadi Tarabat (AD).

Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) UC

A female at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 10th May was the sole spring record, whilst in the autumn, one was at Wamm Farms (FUJ) on 12th Sep, 2 at Green Mubazzarah on 19th Sep and one at Colin's Farm in Wadi Bih (RAK) on 10th Oct.

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) WV

Uncommon winter visitor recorded up to 19th Apr and from 8th Nov onwards, reaching a maximum of 40 at Al Qua'a fodder fields (AD) on 9th Feb.

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

Only reported in spring between 28th Mar - 12th Apr. An exceptional fall of migrants at Jebel Dhanna (AD) on 30th Mar resulted in a total of 6 birds, 5 of which were males. Other multiple counts included 2 birds at Wadi Tarabat (AD) from 28th Mar to 5th Apr and 2 at Emirates Palace (AD) on 10th Apr.

Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) PM

Recorded mainly in small numbers from 19th Mar to 9th May and from 11th Sep to 31st Oct; however, a flock of 16 at Jebel Dhanna marsh (AD) on 28th Sep was exceptional.

Striolated Bunting (*Emberiza striolata*) R

Regularly recorded throughout the year in wadis and mountain areas; the largest numbers reported being 35 at Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 5th Apr and 20 at Wadi Bih (RAK) on 1st Feb.

Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*) PM

There were just 6 records, all of single birds. One was at Hamraniyah Nursery (RAK) on 25th Mar, whilst Wamm Farms (FUJ) hosted singles on 26th Mar and 26th Apr. Other lone birds were found at Al Mareed district (RAK) on 1st May and Wadi Tarabat (AD) on 2nd May. A bird photographed at Green Mubazzarah (AD) on 22nd Sep was the only autumn record.

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*)
 Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)
 Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)
 Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*)
 Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)
 Maned Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*)
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
 White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)
 Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)
 Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*)
 Arabian Partridge (*Alectoris melanocephala*)
 Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*)
 Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)
 Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*)
 African Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)
 Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*)
 Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*)
 Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*)
 Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*)
 Common Crane (*Grus grus*)
 Crowned Lapwing (*Vanellus coronatus*)
 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (*Pterocles alchata*)
 Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (*Pterocles lichtensteinii*)
 Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*)
 Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
 Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
 Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides pelegrinoides*)
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*)
 Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)
 Lovebird hybrid (*Agapornis sp*)
 Nanday Parakeet (*Aratinga nenday*)
 Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*)
 Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*)
 Vitelline Masked Weaver (*Ploceus vitellinus*)
 Yellow-crowned Bishop (*Euplectes afer*)
 Southern Red Bishop (*Euplectes orix*)
 Black-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda troglodytes*)
 Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)
 Java Sparrow (*Lonchura oryzivora*)
 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	Gregory Askew	Mohammad Abdul Tariq
Abdallah Alzaabi	Guy Kirwan	Mostafa Elbrolosy
Abdulla Al Hammadi	Henrik Druid	Muthukumaran Balansubramanian
Abraham Arias de la Torre	Henrik Ruissen	Nabarun Sadhya
Ahmed Al Ali	Howard Heaton	Naeem Mirza
Aideen & Ian Cunningham	Hugh Babington Smith	Neil Tovey
Ajmal Hasan	Humoud Alshayji	Nick P. Williams
Aki Pesic Pedersen	Huw Roberts	Nimit Virdi
Alan Jones	Ian Boustead	Oscar Campbell
Alan Stephenson	Ian Roberts	Pam Whistler
Alec Napier	Jacky Judas	Patricia Cabrera
Aleya James	Jhim Abucayon	Paul Jaquith
Alistair McLee	Jim McCormick	Peter Arras
Andreas Bruun Kristensen	Jody Hallstrom	Peter Hellyer
Andrew Bailey	Johan Gustafsson	Peter Olliff
Andrew Ward	John Pereira	Philip Andrews
Badder Al Qasimi	Jonathan Angliss	Pieter VanNiekerk
Bert Harris	Josh Smithson	Reza Khan
Beverly McKay	Julie Mason	Risto & Kaija Saranto
Chris Brodie	Junaid Abbas	Rob Gubiani
Christophe Tourenq	Justin Ede	Robert P. Morris
Christopher Batchelder	Kent Soderberg	Robert Renton
David Le Mesurier	Kevin Hyland	Robin Willbond
David Radnell	Khalifa Al Dhaheri	Rogério Rodrigues
David Saxon	Kiran Salunke	Sami Majeed
Derrick Wilby	Knut Arne Monrad	Sanalkumar Sreevalsan
Donal Byrne	Larry McGillewie	Scott Young
Doug Johnston	Lars Olausson	Shital Somaiya
EAD	Lisa Hebbelman	Simon Peter Lloyd
Edward Bonavia	Louise Smiles	Simon Thompson
Elvin Miller	Luke Naismith	Steph Green
Emirates Natural History Group	Maarten Verhage	Stephen Taylor
EPAA	Magnus Ullman	Steve James
Forrest Rowland	Maja Pesic Pedersen	Steve Parr
Fouad Itani	Maral Khaled Shuriqi	Stewart Kirkcaldy
Gaell Mainguy	Maria Betschart	Sudhanshu Kothe
Ganesh Nethaji	Mark Smiles	Tamsin Carlisle
Gareth Blockley	Mark Williams	Tanya Adler
Gareth Tonen	Matt Prior	Tommy Pedersen
Gary Feulner	Mattias Ullman	Vimal Viswanathan Nathan
Gerard Whitehouse-Tedd	Michael Pocock	Vinaya Mohan
Glenn Bowley	Michael Velasco	Vipin Sharma
Graham Langley	Mike Barth	Yoav Golan
Greg Simkins	Mohamed Almazrouei	Yousif Al Ali