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Introduction

In our quest to complete the bird families of the world, and since we were looking for a relaxing trip over Christmas we chose Oman. This country has a nice combination of the mountainous north, desert birding with Hypocolius (our family target) and even a pelagic opportunity. We really enjoyed the birding: a mix of African and Asian species plus some specialties that can only be found on the Arabian peninsula. Overall it is a country that is very easy to travel around and it offers great food. Since we flew via Abu Dhabi we chose to add 2 days of birding in the Emirates as well (UAE visit not described in this trip report but for completeness we included a separate annotated species list of birds we saw in UAE during those 2 days). For some photos see: https://photos.app.goo.gl/2R98w6cAE2J9sRP17

Itinerary

Day 1	Friday 22 dec	Amsterdam (depart 20:55) – Abu Dhabi
Day 2	Saturday 23 dec	Abu Dhabi – Muscat (arrive 10:30) – drive to Nizwa (Wadi Muaydin), night at Nizwa
Day 3	Sunday 24 dec	Full day around Nizwa (evening owling at Wadi Muaydin), night at Nizwa
Day 4	Monday 25 dec	Nizwa (early morning owling Wadi Muaydin) – drive to Thumrait, night at Thumrait
Day 5	Tuesday 26 dec	Thumrait – Mudayy – Taqah (Tawi Attir, Jabal Samhan, Wadi Darbat)
Day 6	Wednesday 27 dec	Mirbat (Pelagic) – Wadi Keesh (overnight Taqah)
Day 7	Thursday 28 dec	Wadi Keesh – Salalah – Ayn Hamran (overnight Taqah)
Day 8	Friday 29 dec	Taqah – Ayn Hamran – Qitbit – Muntasar (overnight Qitbit)
Day 9	Saturday 30 dec	Qitbit – Muntasar – Empty Quarter – Nizwa (Wadi Muaydin)
Day 10	Sunday 31 dec	Nizwa – Jabal al Akhdar – Muscat – Abu Dhabi
Day 11	Monday 1 jan	(UAE) – Abu Dhabi – Nazwa – al Qudra – Al Mirfa
Day 12	Tuesday 2 jan	(UAE) Al Qudra
Day 13	Wednesday 3 jan	(UAE) Abu Dhabi - Amsterdam

Some thoughts about our itinerary

- We didn't have too many targets so it was quite a relaxed trip other than some relentless owling ©.
- We reserved quite some time around Nizwa to try for Omani Owl in the Wadi Muaydin (2 nights at the start and one night on the way back).
- The driving is very easy on good roads (so also driving at night was no problem).
- We skipped Barka (Sooty Falcon, they are gone this time of year), Barr Al Hikman/Shannash/Filim/Masirah (Crab Plover + other waders, no targets for us), Wadi Al Mughsayl (Desert Owl, we had seen it earlier in the year in Israel).

- Some birders skip driving from Salalah to Muscat (and do a one-way rental), but driving both directions gives a bit more flexibility in the itinerary and more options in birding the farms around Thumrait, Muntasar Oasis (and Barr Al Hikman area).
- Timing of the trip: the Christmas period meant we had some time off work anyway and this was a good opportunity to target the Hypocolius. However, December isn't the best time to visit birdwise:
 - o In December it is only wintering birds, and you miss the migration.
 - o Forbes Watson swift is gone (leaves during November)
 - December offers the lowest number of pelagic birds (we dipped the Jouanin's Petrel). Hatem (guide) told us that bird numbers are highest in the summer (during monsoon) but up until October numbers are reasonable, making October the best month (also in terms of nice weather) to do the Mirbat pelagic.
 - Hypocolius can be seen from the first week of November when they return to their wintering spot at Mudayy.
 - Sooty Falcon (not a target for us) is gone after October.

So optimal timing would be last week of October/first week/second week of November, depending a bit on your targets – this is when most birders visit.

Species we wanted to see and thought to be possible this trip but missed:

- Jouanin's Petrel possible in December but lower densities
- Egyptian nightjar regular sightings at Muntasar oasis but no sign when we tried.

What would we do different in hindsight

We made a conscious choice that December was not the best time to visit. But since this trip fitted our vacation days around Christmas and provided for a relaxed trip with a very good chance for Hypocolius we are happy with the choice. (And it gives us a good reason now to visit Socotra in the future to fix the missing Forbes Watson swift and Jouanins Petrel).

Other birders

We met no other birders during our trip.

Practicalities

Guiding

We did not use guides other than the excellent services of Hatem for the pelagic at Mirbat.

Literature

Birds of the Middle East (book – with an improved 3rd edition on the way), the book is available as an app (at least for iOS). Merlin – bird pack of the Middle East (but note no sounds for Omani Owl or useful sounds of Arabian Eagle Owl). For more details and sounds for Omani Owls see: https://soundapproach.co.uk/species/omani-owl/ For sounds we downloaded a few missing sounds from Xeno-Canto.org. Usefull tripreports were found on www.cloudbirders.com especially those of Kees De Vries 2018 and Henk Hendrik 2022. In preparation we also used eBird and www.observado.org of course.

Travelling

We hired a Mitsubishi Montero Sport through Rentalcars.com/Budget. This heavy duty 4WD was very convenient although all of the roads we have driven would have been possible in a 2WD. Even high clearance wasn't really needed, the best benefit is the suspension on the stony roads in the wadi's, or the few corrugated roads in the desert.

Most of the roads are wide, excellent asphalt, no potholes, a few speedbumps here and there, not much traffic. Very easy driving. Navigation through Maps.me worked fine – the only exception is the access road to Wadi Keesh that is not on the map – see site details.

Eating & Sleeping

We prebooked most of our accommodation with the exception of Qitbit and Thumrait.

- Nizwa Golden Tulip and Nizwa Hotel Apartments (conveniently close to Wadi Muahideen booked via booking)
- Apartments at resort Hawana near Taqah (through booking) staying east of Salalah seems easier since you are very near the Wadi's and Mirbat.

There are big supermarkets even in smaller towns, and smalls shops and restaurants everywhere (every gas station has at least one restaurant). Food is an excellent mix of South Asian and Arabic choices with fresh juices available.

Weather

Sunny and pleasant temperatures throughout. As with many desert and dry open habitats, activity is best at sunrise and very quickly goes down when temperatures rise. Since the amount of birds/ targets is limited we often had a long break during hottest hours of the day and then did a birding session again in the end of the afternoon (and into the night for owling).

Health and safety

No concerns, even driving seems pretty safe.

Money

ATMs were everywhere (but you could go almost cashless), credit cards accepted almost everywhere.

Costs

Airline tickets and car rental were expensive (travelling over Christmas) at 1750 euro per person (Etihad), car rental cost 1700 euros.

Visited Sites

We took a few GPS points of sites, those are available here

https://www.google.nl/maps/d/edit?mid=1Wo6HLDpYkkVg6i6xNDa13MVeGWtz3BA&usp=sharing where the file can be downloaded as well. We made another google map with GPS-points gathered beforehand, send us an email If you are interested is in this file). All bird sightings were recorded with GPS-location with a file available if you are interested.

Wadi near Imti

Logistics

A short afternoon visit en route to Nizwa on our first day a short drive from the main road in to the wadi.

Birding

Birded around 23.00405, 57.77082 for an hour easily finding our three diurnal targets in the north: Plain Leaf Warbler, Red-tailed Wheatear and Hume's Wheatear.

Wadi al Muaydin - Omani owl site

Logistics

The wadi was only a short drive from our hotel (both hotels we slept were located along the road between Birkat and Nizwa). Based on observado we had seen that the main stretch where people see and hear the Omani owl is around 22.9734, 57.6710. Directions are easy on maps.me or google and the last bit you drive through Wadi on stony, but

well prepared road. Traffic along the owl site was quite busy in first part of evening (until quite late) and from quite early as well.

Birding

We are not a big fan of owling, although in recent years the use of a thermal scope has made it a lot more interesting. However this rare and recently described owl was one we wanted to see. In total we spend many hours (3 evenings until 22:00-23:30 and one morning starting at 3:00) in the wadi but with very little reward. Endless listening along several parts of the wadi around the gps point resulted twice in a calling Omani owl – both times it stopped again after a few phrases and we were not able to locate the sound/bird with the thermal scope. There seem to be more sites near Nakhl, and probably more in the general area – but with the low intensity calling new sites are probably hard to find

We are not sure what can improve chances of hearing it more often or seeing this ghost. Other owls in het area (Pharaoh Eagle Owl and Pallid Scops Owl were both also heard on only one out of 4 visits to the area...)

We birded in the wadi on one morning as well with Red-tailed Wheatear, Plain Leaf Warbler and Hume's Wheatear found.

Farms near Thumrait

Logistics

There are several farms in the desert north and northeast of Thumrait. These are islands of green in the desert and therefore attract many birds. We visited one of the sites on afternoon.

Birding

We turned off the main road at 18.36476, 54.06339 and drove along the road until we found fields with birds, the area around 18.36793, 54.01404 had lots of storks and kestrels feeding on grasshoppers with Sociable lapwing and Buff-bellied Pipit on the partially mowed fields. A little bit further along the fields at 18.35055, 53.98165 were lots of Coursers and a huge flock of Spotted Sandgrouse and Crowned Sandgrouse.

Mudayy

Logistics

This little desert village is known for its small wintering population of Hypocolius. Based on the experience in other trip reports we started at the viewpoint over a the small oasis south of the village at 17.477, 53.35268 (one hour drive from Thumrait).

Birding

The Hypocolius are often seen in the palm tops or on the wires sunning themselves at the start of the day around the oasis. They obviously weren't while we visited. Helen found a female-type bird walking the road along the oasis. After a few minutes it flew towards the village we drove there and found a groups of approximately 10 birds flying around between different patches of palms between 17.48447, 53.3475 and 17.48303, 53.34762. Waiting around at the viewpoint was good for Sand Partridge, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Nile Valley Sunbird and Desert Lark.

Wadi's near Salalah

Logistics

There's several wadi's/Ayns along the escarpment which all provide chances for a few good birds with Arabian goldenwinged Grosbeak being the most important and difficult target. At these sites various amounts of water flow out of the escarpment into the lowlands with more trees around. From west to east you get:

- Ayn Razat 17.12887, 54.23468: visited for Arabian Eagle Owl
- Wadi Keesh: 17.11028, 54.26438: best place it seems for the Golden-winged Grosbeak. This is the only site were access is not obvious based on the map. There are two access roads: Easiest is to turnoff the main road

here 17.08373, 54.27943 and keep left. Join main gravel road here 17.09644, 54.26094 and turnoff this road again here: 17.0988, 54.25625.

- Ayn Raman: 17.09817, 54.28185: visited for Arabian scops owl and some general wadi birding
- Ayn Tobruq: 17.09, 54.333 did not visit, another site for Golden-winged Grosbeak
- Wadi Darbat: 17.10456, 54.45268: visited for owling

The wadi's are quite popular to visit during the day-time and have quite large parking areas and lots of day visitors. Since we head seen Desert Owl in Israel earlier in the year we didn't visit Wadi Mughsail – see Hendriks 2022 for details.

Birding

Ayn Razat: a gated botanical garden (closed when we visited) has roosting Arabian Eagle Owl. We searched along the fence until it got dark but couldn't find any roosting owl. After dusk several individuals called around 19.00 and one responded to tape and perched on a lamp post.

Wadi Keesh: visited one afternoon (and saw lots of Arabian Partridge) but not a sniff of Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak. Next morning we kept an eye on the water drinking site but eventually Helen found the Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak at around 09.00 a.m. flying into treetops. Another (or same bird) came drinking at around 10 am. Ayn Raman: we visited Ayn Raman at dusk for Arabian Scops owl, several were easily seen. Next morning we returned and had some enjoyable birding with multiple Red-breasted Flycatcher, Semi-collared Flycatcher, Abyssinian White-eyes, Rüppell's Weavers and our only Bruce's Green pigeon of the trip. Helen saw a Golden-winged Grosbeak in flight but we couldn't find it again.

Wadi Darbat: we visited Wadi Darbat at the end of the day, to try for owls but although we heard lots of Scops owls we found it quite difficult to locate them here and did not hear any Arabian Eagle Owls.

Sites on escarpment Salalah

Logistics

Basically two sites along the same road up the escarpment. Tawi Atair (17.11436, 54.55838) a sinkhole and Jabal Samhan (17.11158, 54.71094) a viewpoint from the escarpment. Both are popular sites to visit.

Birding

Tawi Atair is the site for Yemen Serin, instead of walking towards the sinkhole you should walk up the hill a bit from the parking site, and the low wall/garden around the small building seems to be a good site for the Serin (we easily found it here). Bonnelli's Eagle is very reliable here as well. Afterwards we drove towards Jabal Samhan with a stop at 17.10488, 54.69949 were Arabian Wheatear was found, afterwards we drove to 17.11158, 54.71094 were we found Arabian Partridge scurrying around on the rocks above the trail. Verreaux Eagle is regularly seen here as well (but not when we were around).

Mirbat pelagic

Logistics

Contact Hatem via whatsapp: +96899088815. He responds quickly. Pelagics started at 07.30 at 16.98698, 54.68625 since the wind picks up during the morning. Cost was 50 OMR for 2 people.

Birding

The amount of pelagic species is highest in monsoon period (summer), but sea conditions are less suitable for pelagic birding in small boats. October is the best of both worlds when there are calmer seas and still quite a few birds are around. Numbers drop afterwards picking up again from February towards summer. So we visited the worst possible time and we missed the Jouanin's Petrel. (all species are around but in lower numbers, Hatem had even seen Swinhoes Petrel 5 days before our trip.) Still we had an enjoyable trip: we saw good numbers of Red-necked Phalarope, Persian shearwater and a few Masked Booby and Brown Booby. Socotra Cormorant was seen in the

harbour on our way back. Additionally we saw several species of Sea Turtle, Spinner Dolphins and False Killerwhales. For other possible species see: https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4008449

Muntasar oasis

Logistics

Returning to the north we stayed at Qitbit hotel overnight 19.17404, 54.50327, a nice break on the long drive back to the north. From Qitbit it is a 30 min drive to the Muntasar Oasis (with a bit of corrugation) which offers some nice desert birding and a chance for Egyptian Nightjar (our main target here).

Birding

When we arrived in the afternoon a guy was filling a large tanker truck with a pump. We walked around the oasis until it got dark. In the short grass we found a Pin-tailed snipe, a few pipits and wagtails were around and in the bushes was an Asian Koel, one Common Redstart, a Bluethroat and two Chiffchaffs. In the afternoon no Sandgrouses were seen (but lots of Eurasian Collared doves came flying in for a drink). After dusk we tried for Egyptian Nightjar but no success. The next morning we found the same birds again and a few Spotted sandgrouse flew around. Since there wasn't much activity at the oasis we decided to drive through the desert some more. We took the road from here 19.43335, 54.41348 to Maqshin in the hope we might find a Arabian Lark with some lark. The landscape was beautiful but no larks.

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

We have tried to accurately indicate the proper subspecies for all our observations, usually based on geographic locations based on the IOC World Bird List. We tried to keep detailed notes throughout the trip but especially commoner species might not have been written down daily. Triplist generated with iGoterra trips, see www.igoterra.com for details.

1 Cotton Pygmy Goose Nettapus coromandelianus coromandelianus

4 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

2 Garganey Spatula querquedula

1 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 5 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

3 Northern Shoveler Spatula clypeata

2 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

4 **Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

4 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

5 Northern Pintail Anas acuta

1 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

6 Eurasian Teal Anas crecca

14 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

[Grey Francolin Ortygornis pondicerianus]

1 heard Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24, 2 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24

7 Sand Partridge Ammoperdix heyi intermedius

5 Mudayy 2023-12-26

8 Arabian Partridge Alectoris melanocephala

2 Jabal Samhan 2023-12-26, 1 heard Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 25 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27

9 **Asian Koel** Eudynamys scolopaceus

1 Muntasar 2023-12-29

10 Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse Pterocles exustus erlangeri

10 Mudayy 2023-12-26

11 **Spotted Sandgrouse** *Pterocles senegallus*

400 Al Balid Farm wp H 2023-12-25, 400 Al Balid Farm wp H 2023-12-25, 1 Muntasar 2023-12-30

12 Crowned Sandgrouse Pterocles coronatus saturatus

150 Al Balid Farm wp H 2023-12-25

13 **Rock Dove** *Columba livia palaestinae*

4 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27

14 Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto

1 Al Balid Farm wp M 2023-12-25, 1 Mudayy 2023-12-26, 20 Muntasar 2023-12-29, 1 Muntasar 2023-12-30

[African Collared Dove Streptopelia roseogrisea arabica]

1 Mudayy 2023-12-26

15 **Laughing Dove** Spilopelia senegalensis cambayensis

2 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24, 2 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24, 10 Hayma Services 2023-12-25, 50 Al Balid Farm wp H 2023-12-25, 20 Mudayy 2023-12-26, 20 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28

16 Namaqua Dove Oena capensis capensis

5 Al Balid Farm wp H 2023-12-25

17 **Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*

1 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

18 Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus

5 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

19 Red-knobbed Coot Fulica cristata

5 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

20 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

3 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

21 **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*

3 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

22 Eurasian Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus NT

2 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

23 Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus

1 2023-12-23, 30 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

24 **Grey Plover** Pluvialis squatarola squatarola

1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

25 **Common Ringed Plover** Charadrius hiaticula tundrae

2 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 4 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

26 **Red-wattled Lapwing** Vanellus indicus aigneri

4 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

27 Sociable Lapwing Vanellus gregarius CR

5 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25

28 **Tibetan Sand Plover** *Anarhynchus atrifrons*

2 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

29 **Greater Sand Plover** Anarhynchus leschenaultii

20 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

30 **Kentish Plover** Anarhynchus alexandrinus alexandrinus

5 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

31 **Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

1 Juweira 2023-12-26

32 Eurasian Curlew Numenius arquata NT

4 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

33 Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica NT

2	Khawr ad Da	ahariz 2023-12-28	4 Muscat river	mouth 2023-12-31

34 Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa limosa

3 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

35 **Pin-tailed Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*

1 Muntasar 2023-12-29

36 **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

10 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

37 **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

70 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27, 150 Ad Dahariz Park 2023-12-28

38 Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos

2 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 1 Juweira 2023-12-27, 1 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-28, 2 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29, 1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

39 **Green Sandpiper** Tringa ochropus

1 Qawr Al Qurm As Saghir 2023-12-28

40 Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis

1 East Khawr 2023-12-28, 2 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

41 Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

1 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 1 East Khawr 2023-12-28

42 **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

2 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 4 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

43 Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia

2 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 5 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

44 **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres interpres*

3 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

45 Ruff Calidris pugnax

1 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 2 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

46 **Curlew Sandpiper** Calidris ferruginea NT

4 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

47 Sanderling Calidris alba alba

20 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

48 **Dunlin** Calidris alpina

1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

49 **Little Stint** Calidris minuta

1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

50 **Cream-colored Courser** *Cursorius cursor cursor*

30 Al Balid Farm wp H 2023-12-25, 10 Plains south Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

51 **Little Tern** Sternula albifrons albifrons

2 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

52 Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia

4 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

53 Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida hybrida

5 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26

54 **Common Tern** Sterna hirundo

4 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

55 **Lesser Crested Tern** Thalasseus bengalensis bengalensis

1 Mirbat Viewpoint 2023-12-27

56 Greater Crested Tern Thalasseus bergii velox

1 Juweira 2023-12-26, 1 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27, 1 Ad Dahariz Park 2023-12-28

57 **Slender-billed Gull** Chroicocephalus genei

30 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 20 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

58 Black-headed Gull Chroicocephalus ridibundus

2 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

59 **Sooty Gull** *Ichthyaetus hemprichii*

100 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27, 1 East Khawr 2023-12-28, 50 Ad Dahariz Park 2023-12-28, 1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

60 Caspian Gull Larus cachinnans

1 Mirbat Viewpoint 2023-12-27

61 Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus

heuglini: 10 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27, 1 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

barabensis: 10 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27

62 **Persian Shearwater** Puffinus persicus persicus

50 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27

63 **Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii*

30 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27

64 White Stork Ciconia ciconia ciconia

40 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25

65 **Brown Booby** Sula leucogaster plotus

1 Mirbat east 2023-12-27

66 **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra melanops*

15 Further off sea from Mirbat 2023-12-27

67 **Socotra Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis* VU

1 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27

68 **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

69 **Glossy Ibis** Plegadis falcinellus

70 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 10 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

70 Eurasian Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia

1 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

[Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus]

1 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26

71 Black-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax

2 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27

72 **Little Egret** Egretta garzetta garzetta

1 Juweira 2023-12-26, 5 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 1 Ayn Razat 2023-12-27

73 Western Reef Heron Egretta gularis schistacea

1 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27, 1 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 2 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

74 **Striated Heron** Butorides striata

1 Mirbat--harbour 2023-12-27, 1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

75 **Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*

4 Hayma Services 2023-12-25, 1 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 10 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 2 Muntasar 2023-12-29

76 **Medium Egret** Ardea intermedia

1 East Khawr 2023-12-28

77 **Grey Heron** Ardea cinerea cinerea

1 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25, 1 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 5 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

78 **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea purpurea*

1 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26

79 **Osprey** Pandion haliaetus haliaetus

1 NW Mirbat 2023-12-27, 1 2023-12-28, 1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

80 **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

1 2023-12-26, 1 Juweira 2023-12-29

81 **Steppe Eagle** Aquila nipalensis orientalis

15 Thumrayt Waste Disposal Site 2023-12-26, 1 2023-12-29

82 Eastern Imperial Eagle Aquila heliaca VU

1 Mudayy 2023-12-26

83 **Bonelli's Eagle** Aquila fasciata fasciata

1 Tawi Atayr Sink Hole 2023-12-26, 1 Ayn Razat 2023-12-27, 1 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28

84 **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

1 Wadi Imti 2023-12-23, 1 Taqah public garden 2023-12-27

85 **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*

1 2023-12-23, 1 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25, 1 East Khawr 2023-12-28

86 Pallid Harrier Circus macrourus NT

1 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25

87 Pallid Scops Owl Otus brucei

1 heard Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-30

88 Arabian Scops Owl Otus pamelae

1 heard Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 25 heard Wadi Darbat 2023-12-26, 1 heard Ayn Razat 2023-12-27, 2 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-28

89 **Pharaoh Eagle-Owl** Bubo ascalaphus

1 heard Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-25

90 Arabian Eagle-Owl Bubo milesi

2 heard Ayn Razat 2023-12-27, 1 Ayn Razat 2023-12-27

91 Omani Owl Strix butleri

1 heard Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-23, 1 heard Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24, 1 heard Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-30

92 **Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

1 Hayma Services 2023-12-25, 3 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

93 **Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis benghalensis*

1 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24, 1 Hayma Services 2023-12-25, 1 2023-12-30, 2 2023-12-31

94 **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

1 Ayn Razat 2023-12-27

95 Arabian Green Bee-eater Merops cyanophrys

1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31 cyanophrys: 1 Mudayy 2023-12-26

96 Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus rupicolaeformis

20 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25, 2 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 1 2023-12-30

97 Black-crowned Tchagra Tchagra senegalus percivali

1 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 1 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

98 African Paradise Flycatcher Terpsiphone viridis harterti

2 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 2 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 2 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 7 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

99 **Great Grey Shrike** Lanius excubitor aucheri

1 2023-12-25, 5 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25, 1 Muntasar 2023-12-29, 1 Muntasar 2023-12-30

100 Red-tailed Shrike Lanius phoenicuroides

1 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

101 Brown-necked Raven Corvus ruficollis

5 2023-12-25, 10 Qitbit 2023-12-29, 2 Muntasar 2023-12-29, 1 2023-12-30, 1 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31

102 Fan-tailed Raven Corvus rhipidurus stanleyi

10 Road to Jabal Samhan 2023-12-26, 10 Jabal Samhan 2023-12-26, 5 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

103 **Grey Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus*

1 Mudayy 2023-12-26, 8 Mudayy 2023-12-26

104 Greater Hoopoe-Lark Alaemon alaudipes doriae

1 2023-12-25, 1 2023-12-25, 1 Al Balid Farm wp H 2023-12-25, 1 2023-12-29, 1 2023-12-30

105 **Desert Lark** Ammomanes deserti

2 Mudayy 2023-12-26

106 **Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps melanauchen*

1 2023-12-25, 10 Al Balid Farm wp H 2023-12-25, 20 Plains south Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

107 Crested Lark Galerida cristata

5 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25, 1 Juweira 2023-12-27, 1 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 10 Plains south Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29, 4 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

[White-eared Bulbul Pycnonotus leucotis]

1 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24

108 White-spectacled Bulbul Pycnonotus xanthopygos

2 Wadi Imti 2023-12-23, 4 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24, 5 Mudayy 2023-12-26, 2 Tawi Atayr Sink Hole 2023-12-26, 20 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 20 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 20 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29, 2 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31

109 Pale Crag Martin Ptyonoprogne obsoleta obsoleta

5 Wadi Imti 2023-12-23, 1 Birkit al Mouz 2023-12-24, 10 Mudayy 2023-12-26, 10 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 10 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

110 Streaked Scrub Warbler Scotocerca inquieta grisea

3 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31

111 Plain Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus neglectus

1 Wadi Imti 2023-12-23, 2 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24, 5 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24

112 Common Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita

1 Hayma Services 2023-12-25 *abietinus*: 2 Mudayy 2023-12-26 *tristis*: 2 Muntasar 2023-12-29

113 Clamorous Reed Warbler Acrocephalus stentoreus

1 heard Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28

114 Graceful Prinia Prinia gracilis yemenensis

1 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 1 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 5 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

115 Eurasian Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla

1 Mudayy 2023-12-26

116 Lesser Whitethroat Curruca curruca

1 Mudayy 2023-12-26, 1 Muntasar 2023-12-29, 2 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31 *halimodendri*: 1 Wadi Imti 2023-12-23

minula: 1 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24

117 Arabian Warbler Curruca leucomelaena leucomelaena

2 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 1 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 4 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

118 Asian Desert Warbler Curruca nana

1 Muntasar 2023-12-29, 1 Muntasar 2023-12-30

119 Abyssinian White-eye Zosterops abyssinicus arabs

2 Tawi Atayr Sink Hole 2023-12-26, 10 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 5 Taqah public garden 2023-12-27, 10 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 10 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-28, 30 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

120 Arabian Babbler Argya squamiceps muscatensis

4 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31

121 Tristram's Starling Onychognathus tristramii

5 2023-12-26, 50 Road between Tawi Atayr and Teyq sinkhole 2023-12-26, 50 Road between Tawi Atayr and Teyq sinkhole 2023-12-26, 10 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 20 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

122 Bluethroat Luscinia svecica

1 Muntasar 2023-12-29

123 Red-breasted Flycatcher Ficedula parva

1 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29, 2 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29, 1 heard Qatbit Resthouse 2023-12-30

124 Semicollared Flycatcher Ficedula semitorquata

2 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

125 Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochruros

5 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31

126 Common Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus

1 Muntasar 2023-12-29, 1 Muntasar 2023-12-30, 1 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31

127 Isabelline Wheatear Oenanthe isabellina

3 Al Balid Farm wp M 2023-12-25

128 **Desert Wheatear** Oenanthe deserti deserti

2 2023-12-25, 1 2023-12-25, 40 Al Balid Farm wp M 2023-12-25, 1 Mudayy 2023-12-26, 1 Ayn Hamran (southernmost trees) 2023-12-28, 4 Plains south Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29, 1 2023-12-30, 4 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31

129 Blackstart Oenanthe melanura neumanni

5 Mudayy 2023-12-26, 5 Tawi Atayr Sink Hole 2023-12-26, 1 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 2 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28

130 Red-tailed Wheatear Oenanthe chrysopygia

1 Wadi Imti 2023-12-23, 1 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24, 2 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31

131 Hume's Wheatear Oenanthe albonigra

1 Wadi Imti 2023-12-23, 2 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24

132 Arabian Wheatear Oenanthe lugentoides boscaweni

2 Jabal Samhan 2023-12-26, 2 Jabal Samhan 2023-12-26, 1 Road between Tawi Atayr and Teyq sinkhole 2023-12-26

133 Nile Valley Sunbird Hedydipna metallica

2 Mudayy 2023-12-26

134 Palestine Sunbird Cinnyris osea osea

4 Tawi Atayr Sink Hole 2023-12-26, 2 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 3 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

135 Arabian Sunbird Cinnyris hellmayri hellmayri

1 Juweira 2023-12-26, 1 Tawi Atayr Sink Hole 2023-12-26

136 **Purple Sunbird** Cinnyris asiaticus brevirostris

2 Nizwa Golden Tulip hotel 2023-12-23, 5 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24

137 **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

20 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24, 5 Reyad Al Jabel campsite 2023-12-31

138 Rüppell's Weaver Ploceus galbula

3 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 20 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 10 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 10 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

139 African Silverbill Euodice cantans orientalis

1 Tawi Atayr Sink Hole 2023-12-26, 1 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

140 Indian Silverbill Euodice malabarica

1 Wadi al Muaydin 2023-12-24

141 Western Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava

1 Taqah public garden 2023-12-27, 1 East Khawr 2023-12-28

142 Citrine Wagtail Motacilla citreola citreola

2 Khawr ad Dahariz 2023-12-28, 1 Muscat river mouth 2023-12-31

143 Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea cinerea

1 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 1 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28

144 White Wagtail Motacilla alba

alba: 5 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25, 2 Taqah public garden 2023-12-27, 4 Muntasar 2023-12-29 *personata*: 2 Hayma Services 2023-12-25

145 **Tawny Pipit** Anthus campestris

1 Al Balid Farm wp H 2023-12-25, 2 Plains south Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

146 **Long-billed Pipit** Anthus similis arabicus

1 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27

147 **Meadow Pipit** Anthus pratensis

4 Muntasar 2023-12-29

148 **Tree Pipit** Anthus trivialis trivialis

1 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 4 Taqah public garden 2023-12-27

149 Red-throated Pipit Anthus cervinus

1 Muntasar 2023-12-29

150 **Buff-bellied Pipit** Anthus rubescens japonicus

1 Al Balid Farm wp F 2023-12-25

151 Arabian Golden-winged Grosbeak Rhynchostruthus percivali NT

1 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 1 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28

152 Yemen Serin Crithagra menachensis

1 Tawi Atayr Sink Hole 2023-12-26

153 Cinnamon-breasted Bunting Emberiza tahapisi arabica

1 Tawi Atayr Sink Hole 2023-12-26, 15 Wadi Darbat--Restaurant 2023-12-26, 30 Ayn Khees 2023-12-27, 50 Ayn Khees 2023-12-28, 20 Ayn Hamran 2023-12-29

United Arab Emirates

1 **Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca* 1 Al Qudra 2024-01-01

[Grey Francolin Ortygornis pondicerianus]

1 Al Qudra 2024-01-01

2 Pallid Swift Apus pallidus pallidus

1 Trek Bicycle Store Al-Qudra 2024-01-01

[Pin-tailed Sandgrouse Pterocles alchata caudacutus]

100 Al Qudra cycletrack - South 2024-01-02

3 **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** Pterocles exustus erlangeri

2 Al Qudra cycletrack - South 2024-01-02

[Common Wood Pigeon Columba palumbus palumbus]

10 Al Qudra 2024-01-01

4 **Eurasian Collared Dove** Streptopelia decaocto

40 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01, 20 Trek Bicycle Store Al-Qudra 2024-01-02

5 **Laughing Dove** Spilopelia senegalensis cambayensis

10 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01

6 Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus chloropus

5 Al Qudra 2024-01-01

7 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

8 Al Qudra 2024-01-01

8 **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*

100 Al Qudra 2024-01-01, 10 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

9 **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

20 2024-01-01, 25 Al Qudra 2024-01-01

10 Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola squatarola

2 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

11 Common Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula tundrae

5 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

12 Red-wattled Lapwing Vanellus indicus aigneri

10 Al Qudra 2024-01-01, 5 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

13 **Tibetan Sand Plover** *Anarhynchus atrifrons*

80 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

14 Greater Sand Plover Anarhynchus leschenaultii

4 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

15 **Kentish Plover** Anarhynchus alexandrinus alexandrinus

1	Mirfa	aactarn	shoreline	2024-01	_N1

16 Eurasian Curlew Numenius arquata NT

4 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

17 Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa limosa

10 Al Qudra 2024-01-01, 20 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

18 Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago gallinago

1 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

19 **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

4 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

20 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

1 Al Qudra 2024-01-01

21 Common Redshank Tringa totanus

10 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01, 10 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

22 Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia

4 Al Qudra 2024-01-01, 4 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

23 **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres interpres*

15 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

24 **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Calidris falcinellus falcinellus

6 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

25 **Curlew Sandpiper** Calidris ferruginea NT

2 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

26 Sanderling Calidris alba alba

10 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

27 **Dunlin** Calidris alpina

40 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

28 **Little Stint** Calidris minuta

15 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

29 **Crab-plover** *Dromas ardeola*

2 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

30 **Little Tern** Sternula albifrons albifrons

30 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

31 Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia

6 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

32 Common Tern Sterna hirundo

10 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

33 Slender-billed Gull Chroicocephalus genei

10 Al Qudra 2024-01-01, 10 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

34	Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> 10 Al Qudra 2024-01-01
35	Pallas's Gull Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus 2 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01
36	Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i> 5 Al Qudra 2024-01-01
37	Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta garzetta</i> 4 Al Qudra 2024-01-01
38	Western Reef Heron <i>Egretta gularis schistacea</i> 3 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01
39	Western Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> 6 Al Qudra 2024-01-01, 5 Trek Bicycle Store Al-Qudra 2024-01-02
40	Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea cinerea</i> 2 Al Qudra 2024-01-01
41	Steppe Eagle Aquila nipalensis orientalis 2 Al Qudra 2024-01-01
42	Eastern Imperial Eagle Aquila heliaca VU 1 Al Qudra 2024-01-01
43	Pallid Harrier Circus macrourus NT 1 Trek Bicycle Store Al-Qudra 2024-01-01
44	Black Kite Milvus migrans migrans 1 Trek Bicycle Store Al-Qudra 2024-01-02
45	Pharaoh Eagle-Owl Bubo ascalaphus 1 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01
46	Indian Roller Coracias benghalensis benghalensis 4 2024-01-01
47	Arabian Green Bee-eater Merops cyanophrys cyanophrys 4 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01
48	Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus rupicolaeformis 1 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01, 1 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01
49	Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor aucheri</i> 1 Al Qudra cycletrack - South 2024-01-02
50	Brown-necked Raven <i>Corvus ruficollis</i> 8 Al Qudra cycletrack - South 2024-01-02
51	Greater Hoopoe-Lark <i>Alaemon alaudipes doriae</i> 3 Al Qudra cycletrack - South 2024-01-02
52	Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark <i>Eremopterix nigriceps melanauchen</i> 30 Al Qudra cycletrack - South 2024-01-02

54	Pale Crag Martin Ptyonoprogne obsoleta obsoleta 4 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01, 5 2024-01-02, 5 2024-01-02
55	Common Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita 2 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01
56	Lesser Whitethroat Curruca curruca minula 1 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01
57	Asian Desert Warbler Curruca nana 2 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01
58	Arabian Babbler Argya squamiceps muscatensis

10 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01, 20 Al Qudra cycletrack - South 2024-01-02

4 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01

Crested Lark Galerida cristata

53

[Common Myna Acridotheres tristis]

10 Abu Dhabi 2024-01-02

59 Siberian Stonechat Saxicola maurus 2 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01

60 **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti deserti* 8 Al Qudra cycletrack - South 2024-01-02

61 Red-tailed Wheatear Oenanthe chrysopygia 2 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01

62 **Hume's Wheatear** *Oenanthe albonigra* 1 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01

63 **Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus brevirostris* 2 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01

64 **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* 70 Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01

65 White Wagtail Motacilla alba alba 2 heard Qarn Nazwa 2024-01-01, 4 Al Qudra 2024-01-01

66 Water Pipit Anthus spinoletta coutellii 1 Mirfa eastern shoreline 2024-01-01