

COMPILATION

of species of birds seen during journey in the Middle East 28/5 – 16/6 1975
Turkey – Syria – Israel – Palestine – Egypt - Jordania

with ambition to find:
Geronticus eremita
Aquila verreauxi
Anhinga rufa
Ketupa zeylonensis
Carpodacus synoicus

Stefan Lithner



Northern Bald Ibis raised in captivity Photo 1987

Photo Stefan Lithner

This report was available on paper in Swedish in the autumn of 1975 in a small number. Since quite a bit seems to have changed in this area and among several of the populations of birds I feel it may be of some importance to reflect on some of the changes.

During August 1969 through December 1970 I spent a lot of time birdwatching mainly in and around Gaza, and from December 1969 through August 1970 east of El Quds/East Jerusalem. Occasional trips were made to sights of interest for birdwatching Israel and Palestine, like Marga'an Michael, Hule Nature Reserve, Deganya, where my father and I left a traffic fatal Aharoni's Eagle Owl, (*Bubo bubo aharoni*) for conservation in May 1970, Lake Tiberias,

Jericho, Afula, Ein Faskha, Ein Gedi, Ein, Gev, Eflat, Suez Kanal, Kantara, Rafah, etc. After having ceased this stay my desire to see species mentioned above arose. During this trip (1975) I did not have any ambition to catch sight of as many species as possible.

Names on birds have been changed into current names. Discovered errata have been corrected. Pictures present here were with one exception taken on this trip, transferred from analogue paper-photos now at least 46 years old, into digital photos for this report. All photos Taken by report-compiler.

One may contemplate whether it is worth publishing nearly 50 years old, and aged colour-photos. I hope and believe it will cheer up reading the report more than if they were absent. One picture shows a drawing of a Thick-billed Lark made at the sight of observation and photographed for this report in my rewritten notes after the trip, and one photo shows a drawing from my original field-notes.

Itinerary

Since a member of the Swedish UN-contingent I was equipped with a UN "White Card" which made it possible to cross borders rather easily.

The trip started in Danascus in the morning of May 29, by bus to Haleb (Aleppo) where I overnighed. The following morning I took a taxi to Bab el Hawha, Despite this gate was not open to private people I managed to get across to Turkey. By lorry I made it to Kilis, where I took a taxi to Birecik. Ninety Northern Bald Ibis/Waldrapp were present, a rather obvious decline since 1974 when 120 birds were counted.



Chief of Police and appointed Ibis-guard in Birecik with son and report-compiler in front of breeding support for the Waldrapp.

Besides Northern Bald Ibis/Waldrapp, also some Dead Sea Sparrow (*Passer moabiticus*) may be worth mentioning here.

In the morning of May 31 I started my visit to former Lake Amik. The lake was virtually gone, drained through severe irrigation in the area. On the walk to the former lake, across hilly country before reaching the depression a Thickbilled Lark (*Ramphocoris clotbey*) met me at close range

Lake Amik had not been a site for Anhinga for many years. In the remains of the lake red-winged Pratincoles were present in a fair number (~75).

I returned into Israel via Quneitra and went to see a raptor expert Yigal Sela in Bustan Ha Galil and obtained some valuable information for the rest of my trip.

On June 3rd I continued by Folk Taxi (Cherut) via Haifa, Tel Aviv to El Quds/Jerusalem where I arrived shortly before 20:30. I took a local bus to L'Azaria to visit a palestinian family I made friends with during 1969-70. The following morning I took a taxi eastwards. About ten - twelve km east of El Quds/East Jerusalem I left the taxi and walked north into the Judean Desert, attempting to reach Wadi Qelt (Wadi Kelt) towards the afternoon - evening. After about two hours of search I found a subadult Verreaux's Eagle (*Aquila verreauxi*).

After dark I was fortunate to get a ride from the Monastery at Wadi Kelt (Wadi Qelt). My physical condition after my fifth day in close to 40 °C made me accept any destination.

June 4 I took an Israeli bus to Rosh Pinna about 10 km north of Lake Tiberias and met a Danish birdwatcher Per Schlütter.

On June 5 I visited Nahal Gallil where I found some Long-billed Pipits (*Anthus similis*). I had previously seen this species outside El Quds/East Jerusalem in 1970 so it was a welcome reunion.

This day we also discussed the possibility of reaching the site for Brown Fish-owl. This however offered a very long stony walk, probably over half a day one way, and the bird had not been sighted there during the last two visits of any birdwatcher. This effort was therefore cancelled.

I continued by jeep to Swedish UN Camp Sinai.

On June 6th I was offered to take part in a tour into northern Sinai where some desert birds were encountered, like Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*) near Point 512, Greater Hoopoe-lark (*Alaemon desertorum*) and Brown-necked Raven (*Corvus ruficollis*). Our old vehicle broke down in the desert about three kilometers north of the road between Gaza and Rafah as we were trying to reach the presumed colony of Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) in the estuary of the Nile. Having returned to the road mentioned I was fortunate to catch a ride, possibly the only one that morning between Gaza and the Swedish Camp Sinai, near Rafah.

June 8th I returned to Israel. In the morning of June 9 I visited Hule Nature Reserve together with Per Schlütter. Among our more noteworthy species of birds were Marbled Duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), Little Bittern and Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*) in large numbers.

In the morning of June 10th Per and I started a trip up into the occupied territory accompanied by an Israeli officer and two troops on southern side of Mt Hermon. First stop gave Sombre

Tit (*Poecile lugubris*) and Western Rock Nuthatch (*Sitta neumayer*). Second stop gave our first Upcher's Warbler (*Hippolais languida*). Third stop gave our first Pale Rockfinch (*Carpospiza brachydactyla*) and fourth stop gave Asian Crimson-winged Finch (*Rhodopechys sanguineus*) and also a flock of Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*). The heights also gave Finch's Wheatear (*Oenanthe finchii*), Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe melanoleuca*) and family-groups of Syrian Serin (*Serinus syriacus*). A common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) also surprised us at fourth stop.

On June 11th I started with Per by walking across Hule Nature Reserve's papyrusmarsh. Bottom was easy to walk on and the water reached us only up to our wastes. Clamorous Reed Warblers and Cetti's Warblers were abundant. A nest of a Little Bittern with one male, an female accidentally started here.

At Rosh Pinna we made a stop to look more carefully at a group of about ten Lesser Kstrel.

In the morning of June 15th I was offered a trip to Camp Faour, about 1600 metres a.s.l. on the Syrian side of Mt Hermon. Not a lot of birds were spotted. Noteworthy taxa were a Little Tern sitting on the asphalt road leading to Camp Faour. At Ein el Borj a group of desert larks were encountered puzzling me. Skin-studies in Museum of National History in Copenhagen after having returned from the trip, revealed they were *Ammomanes deserti isabellina*. At Bgasim and Ejn el Borj i found pairs of Finch's Wheatear; male and female. Up here I also found some Zitting Cisticolas (*Cisticola juncidis*).

On June 16 I started my trip to Petra and Wadi Moussa by walking town to Taxi Square in Damascus. It took a while before I got my service-taxi full. In Amman I had to change car for the latter half of the journey. Along the road I found a Red-rumped Wheatear (*Oenanthe moesta*).

About 80 km north of Aquaba we entered a semi-/desert depression only about a meter lower than its surroundings, covered with a peculiar crop: 2 – 3 decimeters high, stems 2 – 3 centimetres in diameter, sparsely twigged with short tiny twigs, each plant about 1 – 3 metres apart. At the side of the road three larks I didn't recognize were found. Not until about a year later I realized they were Dunn's Larks.

I arrived at Wadi Musa and entrance to Petra in the afternoon and walked in. Outside the rock-corridor six Sinai Rosefinch (*Carpodacus synoicus*) were effortlessly foraging, at close range. The species proved to be numerous in the remains of former Petra. Desert Lark (*Ammomanes deserti*) was abundant here. So was Isabellan Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellinus*), Brown-necked Raven. Fan-tailed Raven (*Corvus rhippidurus*) was also present here.

During the night between June 16 and June 17 rain had fallen. Already about an hour after sunrise the desert had started to flower and puddles were formed. Around these Flocks of Sandgrouses were seen. Sadly only one individual was identified Crowned Sandgrouse (*Pterocles coronatus*). Large flocks of mixed larks gathered around the puddles. One of these was looking like an adult female Black Lark (*Melanocorypha yeltonensis*) in spring, worn. According to current literature it is a highly unlikely suggestion, but skin-studies in Museum of National History in Copenhagen support the claim.



Squacco Heron



Photo Stefan Lithner Black-crowned NightheroPhoto Stefan Lithner

CHECKLIST

Shorts: NR; Nature Reserve

- Pelicanus onocrotalus* Mazar, N Sinai June 6th six birds resing in desert. Hule NR June 9th five, and June 11th 13 birds.
White Pelican
- Ardea cinerea* Hule NR June 9th two birds. The reserve holds twopairs.
Grey Heron
- Ardea purpurea* Hule NR June 9th and June 11th numerous.
Purple Heron
- Egretta garzetta* Lake Tiberias June 1st one, Margaán Michael June 2nd one,
Little Egre Yetzreel Valley June 8th 10 – 15 birds and Hule NR June 9th and 11th 1umerous.
- Ardeola ibis* N of Acre June 2nd one, Askelon June 7th about 10, Jericho June 8th
Cattle Egret 10 – 15 and Hule NR June 9th and 11th fairly numerous.
- Ardeola ralloides* Hule NR June 9th about 10, and June 11th about 20.
Squacco Heron
- Nycticorax nycticorax* Hule NR June 9th about 10, and June 11th numerous. The reserve
Black-crowned Nightheron holds about 400 pairs.
- Ixobrychus minutus* Hule NR June 9thaone male and June 11th one male and two
Little Bittern females.
- Plegadis falcinellus* Hule NR June 9th, and June 11th about 10 seen. The reserve holds
Glossy Ibis five pairs.
- Geronticus eremita* Birecik May 30th. The site held 90 birds at the time of my visit; 54
Northern Bald Ibis/Waldrapp adults, 36 juveniles. Ninety is a decline compared to 1974,
when 120 Bald Ibises left Birecik. The breeding-rock is guarded,
and the villagers seemd aware of the species critically en dangered
status.
In 1987 I revisited the site at Birecik. The species had been bread
and released, but only four of the popilation were spontaneous

birds.

Comment 2021-11-07: In 1989 the species was extinct from Birecik.

Ciconia alba
White Stork

S of Aleppo May 29th about 25 birds. Amik Gölü May 31th about 25, Lake Tiberias May 4th 17 birds, Hule NR June 9th six and June 11th one bird.

Ciconia nigra
Black Stork

Al Nagila June 6th two birds.

Anas platyrhynchos
Mallard

Hule NR June 9th about 20.

Anas crecca
Common Teal

Hule NR June 9th a pair.

Spatula querquedula
Gargany

Hule NR June 9th a pair

Spatula clypeata
Shoveler

Hule NR June 9th two males.

Marmaronetta angustirostris
Marbled Teal

Hule NR June 9th four birds.

Aythya fuligula
Tufted Duck

Hule NR June 9th two males.

Pandion haliaetus
Osprey

Hule NR June 9th one bird seen.

Milvus migrans
Black Kite

Seen att Rafah N Sinai June 6th, M:t Hermon June 10th male and female Rhosat Tal June 10th male and female with 3 nearly fledged chicks at nest.



Egyptian Vulture

Photo Stefan Lithner



Lesser Kestrel

Photo Stefan Lithner

<i>Circaetus gallicus</i> Serpent Eagle	Nahal Galil June 5 th four; three pale, S of Afula June 5 th one; dark morph, Hule June 9 th one and M:t Hermon June 10 th one + one + two +three.
<i>Buteo buteo</i> Common buzzard	One seen at M:t Hermon June 10 th of the subspecies <i>B. buteo buteo</i> .
<i>Buteo rufinus</i> Long-legged Buzzard	Seen S of Nahal Galil June 2 nd , Tiberias June 2 nd , Nahal Galil June 5 th , M:t Hermon June 10 th , and also one adult, 2 two – three years, 3 not yet ready to fly in cage by Yigal Sela, raptor-monitor for Western Upper-Galilee.
<i>Pernis apivoru</i> Honey Buzzard	One seen at Birecik May 30 th .
<i>Aquila verreauxi</i> Verraux's Eagle	One subadult – adult bird seen at Wadi Kelt June 3 rd . (Drawing double checked by local raptor expert)
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Nahal Galil June 5 th one adult, M:t Hermon June 10 th , and after dark at Petra June 16 th I glimpsed a few and heard some when they were coming in for night roost at the edge of the entrance-ridge.
<i>Falco naumanni</i> Lesser Kestrel	At Rosh Pinna June 5 th to 11 th several were seen at each visit. Ten to 15 pairs were breeding in the village.
<i>Falco tinnuculus</i> Common Kestrel	Common in the mountainous parts of the area.
<i>Alectoris chukar</i> Chukar partridge	Numerous in all of Israel. Also seen in Petra.
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i> Common quail	Lake Amik May 31 st ; one + three + four birds seen.
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> Common moorhen	Hule NR June 9 th , and 11 th several were heard, a few seen.
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> Black-winged Stilt	Lake Amik May 31 st ; at least four pairs, Hule NR at least seven birds.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> Kentish Plover	Lake Amik May 31 st ; five birds seen.
<i>Arenaria interpres</i> Ruddy Turnstone	Lake Amik May 31 st ; one seen.
<i>Vanellus spurius</i> Spur-winged Lapwing	Al Nagila June 6 th , two birds seen, in Hule NR June 9 th and 11 th at least three pairs, and at Roshat Tal June 10 th one pair seen.
<i>Calidris alpina</i> Dunlin	One seen at Lake Amik May 31 st .

<i>Tringa erythropus</i> Spotted Redshank	Hule NR June 9 th one or two seen.
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Common Sandpiper	One seen at Birecik May 30 th .
<i>Tringa ochropus</i> Green sandpiper	Hule NR June 9 th four seen.
<i>Glareola pratincola</i> Collared Pratincole	At Lake Amik May 31 st . at least 75 were gathered in the last remaining water-puddles.
<i>Cursorius cursor</i> Cream-coloured Courser	Two seen near Camp Sinai Point 512, near Raffah June 9 th .
<i>Larus sp.</i> Unidentified Gull	One at Lake Amik May 31 st , probably subad <i>L. melanocephalus</i> .
<i>Sterna hirundo</i> Common Tern	Hule NR June 9 th and 11 th about 15.



White-throated Kingfisher

Photo Stefan Lithner



White Pelican

Photo Stefan Lithner

<i>Sterna albifrons</i> Little Tern	Camp Faor, Golan Heights, Syria June 15 th one standing on the asphalt road leading to the camp.
<i>Chidonias leucoptherus</i> White-winged Black Tern	Hule NR June 9 th 3 birds and June 11 th 18 birds.
<i>Pterocles coronatus</i> Crowned Sandgrouse	Several small flocks of sandgrouse around water puddles in the desert south of Amman in the morning of June 17 th , but only one bird identified.
<i>Columba livia</i> Rock Dove	In Birecik May 30 th about 200 were seen, in Wadi Kelt June 3 rd about 50, on Mt Hermon June 10 th about 20 and in Petra June 16 th about 125 were seen.
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> Collared Turtle dove	In Birecik May 30 th 2 + 2 + 2 were seen, In Israel fairly common.

<i>Streptopelia turtur</i> European Turtledove	In Turkey May 30 th and 31 st fairly common to common., in Israel common.
<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> Laughing Dove	Present in Damascus, Syria and in Israel.
<i>Clamator glandarius</i> Great Spotted Cuckoo	One adult found in Wadi Kelt June 3 rd .
<i>Tyto alba</i> Barn Owl	Heard during the night June 3 rd in Rosh Pinna.
<i>Athene noctua</i> Little Owl	One seen at Roshat Tal June 10 th .
<i>Strix aluco</i> Tawny Owl	One bird giving a few (mating)calls during the night of June 5 th .
<i>Apus apus</i> European Swift	Fairly common – common in the whole area.
<i>Apus pallidus</i> Pallid Swift	Petra June 16 th at least four individuals.
<i>Apus melba</i> Alpine Swift	Petra June 16 th two birds seen.
<i>Apus affinis</i> Little Swift	Nahal Galil four birds, at Hazor Museum in Hazor June 5 th , In 1975 this was the only known breeding-site for this species. In Petra about 20.
<i>Merops apiaster</i> European Beeater	In Birecik May 30 th two – four birds seen. In northern Israel and around East Jerusalem/El Quds fairly common.
<i>Merops persicus</i> Blue-cheeked Beeater	In Birecik May 30 th at least two hunting near the river.



European Beeater

Photo Stefan Lithner

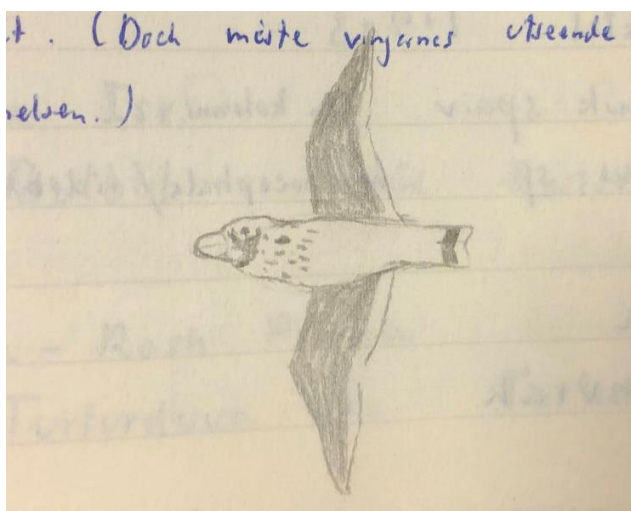


Blue-cheeked Beeater

Photo Stefan Lithner

<i>Coracias garolus</i> European Roller	In Birecik May 30 th two + two. In northern Israel and Jodania fairly common.
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- Halcyon smyrnensis* Fairly common in agricultural land in Israel. Also one in Wadi Kelt June 3rd.
- Ceryle rudis* In Birecik May 30th one, in Tiberias June 2nd one also seen in in Pied Kingfisher Hule NR June 9th and 11th. The Hule NR holds two pairs.
- Upupa epops* Few seen during most days; in Birecik, Turkish countryside, Wadi Hoopoe Kelt, El Quds/East Jerusalem, Jericho, Rosh Pinna, Tiberias and Gaza Strip.
- Dendrocopos syriacus* El Quds/East Jerusalem June 4th Rosh Pinna June 5th a Nahal Galil Syrian Woodpecker June 5th at least three, Hazor Museum same day two birds, heard in Hule NR 9th and 11th and at sloaps of M:t Hermon June 10th at least three birds .
- Alaemon alaudipes* Near Rabah, Sinai, June 6th one and Mazor, N Sinai June 7th one Greater Hoopoe-Lark seen.
- Eremophia alpestris* M:t Hermon June 10th a little group of at least five birds seen Horned Lark
- Calandrella brachydactyla* Lake Amik May 31st at least four, probably several more. Greater Short-toed Lark Small larks were rather numerous here.
- Calandrella rufescens* Lake Amik May 31st one identified, probably several more. Mediterranean Short-toed Lark See previous.
- Amomanes deserti* Nominale supspecies *A. d. deserti* numerous around Wadi Kelt Desert Lark June 3rd di a loond one in Petra June 16th.
At Ejn El Borj on the eastern sloapes of M:t Hermon, in Syria here were Desrt Larks looking different. Skin studies at Museum of Natural History, Copenhagen suggest these were of the subspecies *A. d. isabellinus*. Six to eigh thbirds were found here.



Thick-billed Lark: Drawing of a lark made in my rewritten notes after the trip.



Tail of Dunn's Lark: Drawing from my original field-notes. (Notes in Swedish)

- Eremalauda durni*
Dunn's Lark
- About 80 km north of Aquaba we entered a semi-/desert depression only about a meter lower than its surroundings, covered with a peculiar crop: Two – three decimeteters high, stems two –three centimetres in diameter, sparsely twigged with hort tiny twigs, each plant about one – 3threemetres apart.
On the side of the road three unidentified "Desert Larks" were foraging. As we started them they exposed its massive black tail except for the center.
During my stay in the area 1969 – 1970 I had seen Desert Lark (*A deserti*) several times and the Bar-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes cinctura*) I had seen well at Hisham Palace in Jericho in December 1969. This was soemthing else.
Since I found no such lark in litterature this "peculiar" bird was excluded from my Swedish version of this compilation 1975.
Several years later I came across the illustration of rump and tail of Dunn's Lark in R. D. Etchecopar and Francois Hüe; The Birds of North Africa 1967 p 383. That was the bird!
- Melanocorypha calandra*
Calandra Lark
- Lake Amik May 31st several were seen. Turkish-Syrian border May 31st fairly common. Golan Heights and Eastern sloapes of M:t Hermon fairly common.
- Melanocorypha bimaculata*
Bimaculated Lark
- Lake Amik May 31st some were seen on a stony field near the former lake.
- Melanocorypha yeltonensi*
Black Lark
- In the morning ogf June 17th the desert was full of water puddles. Coming up from the turnoff to Wadi Moussa, we stopped at one because of a multitude of larks gathered around the puddle. Here a stout darkish grey lark with fuzzy black remain on chest but generally rather scaly was obvious in the group.
After having studied bird litterature I can find no other alternative than a worn female Black Lark even when knowing this speies titherto was not known to come this f r south. Skin studies at Museum of Natural History, Copenhagen strongly supports my identification and offers no other alternative.
- Rhamphocorys clothbey*
Thickbilled Lark
- The bird is unmistakable. The bird was well seen. Black and white markings obvious, massive bill.
It also made a call the a bit of a rough whistle, slightly rising, reminding me a bit of a Golden Plover.
sedentary in Comment 2021-11-02: According to litterature it occurs "locally inner Jordania (?)". Peports much later (2010 ?) indicate it may be seen in large (?) flocks less than 100 km further SE. I have later seen this species later seen in Tunisia, 1977.
- Lullula arborea*
Woodark
- One seen on M:t Hermon June 10th.

<i>Galerida cristata</i> Crested Lark	Common throughout the area.
<i>Hirundo rustica</i> Barn Swallow	Common in the whole area except Jordania.
<i>Horundo daurica</i> Red-rumped Swallow	Rather sparsley seen in N and E Syria. Fairly common in cultivated parts of Israel.
<i>Hirundo obsoleta</i> Pale Crag-martin	Wadi Kelt June 3 rd two were seen and in Petra June 16 th four were seen.
<i>Delicon urbica</i> Northern House Martin	One seen at Birecik May 30 th and one seen at M:t Hermon June 10 th .
<i>Anthus campestris</i> Tawny Pipit	M:t Hermon June 10 th three – five birds displaying.
<i>Anthus sordidus</i> Long-billet Pipit	Nahal Galil June 5 th three – four singing.
<i>Motacilla alba</i> White Wagtail	One seen at Hule NR June 9 th .
<i>Motacilla flava</i> Western Yellow Wagtail	Hule NR June 9 th . two – three found of subspec <i>M. f. feldegg</i> .
<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i> White-spectacled Bulbul	Common in cultivated parts of Israel.
<i>Pynconotus barbatus</i> Common Bulbul	The two bulbuls carefully studied on the Sinai Peninsula. <i>P. barbatus</i> seen at least in El Arish and Rakaf June 8 th -
<i>Lanius excubitor</i> Great Grey Shrike	Taxon currently debated, here at the time treated as <i>L. excubitor aucheri</i> . Common in N and central Israel.



Serpent Eagle

Photo Stefan Lithner



HoopoePhoto

Photo Stefan Lithner

<i>Lanius nubicus</i> Masked Shrike	One seen on each site Lake Amik May 31 st one seen, Nahal Galil June 5 th and Bet Shean June 8 th .
<i>Lanius senator</i> Woodchat Shrike	Nahal Galil June 5 th and N of Rosh Pinna June 11 th , one on each site.
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> Eurasian Reed Warbler	Two found at Lake Amik May 31 st and numerous at Hule NR June 9 th and June 11 th .
<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i> Clamorous Reed Warbler	Abundant in the Papyrus-swamp in Hule NR June 9 th and June 11 th .
<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i> Moustached Warbler	Lake Amik May 31 st one seen and heard singing.
<i>Cettia cetti</i> Cetti's Warbler	Numerous in Hule NR June 9 th and June 11 th .
<i>Cisticola juncidis</i> Zitting Cisticola	Around Camp Faour, eastern slopes of M:t Hermon, Syria; three – four displaying.
<i>Prinia gracilis</i> Graceful Prinia	Lake Amik Amik May 31 st one seen. In cultivated parts of Israel fairly common.
<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i> Streaked Scrub-warbler	Wadi Kelt June 3 rd two seen and Petra June 16 th at least four seen.
<i>Iduna pallida</i> Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Birecik May 30 th at least five singing.
<i>Hippolais languida</i> Uppcher's Warbler	M:t Hermon June 10 th at least three singing.
<i>Sylvia curruca</i> Lesser Whitethroat	M:t Hermon June 10 th one seen.
<i>Curruca hortensis</i> Western Orphean Warbler	M:t Hermon June 10 th at least two seen.
<i>Curruca melanocephala</i> Western Orphean Warbler	M:t Hermon June 10 th at least two seen.
<i>Curruca melanocephala</i> Mediterranean Warbler	Nahal Galil June 5 th at least three seen and M:t Hermon June 10 th one seen.
<i>Muscicapa striata</i> Spotted Flycatcher	Hule NR June 9 th and 11 th . one adult + three juveniles
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> Northern Wheatear	M:t Hermon June 10 th 6 seen; three male, one female, two juveniles.
<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i> Isabellan Whiteear	Wadi Mousa June 16 th . two -three, and June 17 th 2two seen.

<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i> Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	M:t Hermon June 10 th two seen.
<i>Oenanthe lugens</i> Morning Wheatear	Wadi Kelt June 3 rd 3 males, and 80 – 100 km S of Amman June 16 th one male seen. .
<i>Oenanthe finchii</i> Finch's Wheatear	Seen on M:t Hermon June 10 th , and two males Ejn el Borj Golan eastern slopes, Syria June 15 th .
<i>Oenanthe moesta</i> Red-rumped Wheatear	Semi-desert about 220 km N of Aquaba June 16 th one male.
<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i> White-crowned Wheatear	Petra June 16 th two adult one subadult.
<i>Cercomela melanura</i> Blackstart	Wadi Kelt June 3 rd eight seen, and Petra June 16 th two males and one female seen.
<i>Oenanthe deserti</i> Desert Wheatear	Mazar N Sinai June 7 th one male seen.
<i>Ercomela melanura</i> Blackstart	Wadi Kelt June 3 rd . Eight. Petra June 16 th 8 two males and one female.
<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i> Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin	Birecik May 30 th two, Nahal Galil June 5 th one, M:t Hermon and Roshat Tal June 10 th one at each site, and Petra June 16 th one seen.
<i>Turdus merula</i> Common Blackbird	Fairly common in N Israel.
<i>Cinnyris osea</i> Palestine Sunbird	Found in: Bustan Ha Galil June 2 nd one male displaying, Rosh Pinna June 5 th , 9 th , 10 th and 11 th , Nahal Galil and Golan June 5 th seven – eight observations and Petra June 16 th
<i>Parus major</i> Great Tit	El Quds/East Jerusalem June 4 th , two birds, Tiberias June 4 th one bird and Mt:Hermon June 10 th one bird.
<i>Parus lugubris</i> Sombre Tit	Mt:Hermon June 10 th three birds; one adult and two juveniles.
<i>Sitta neumayer</i> Western Rock Nuthatch	Mt:Hermon June 10 th at least two birds seen.
<i>Emberiza calandra</i> Corn Bunting	Lake Amik May 31 st five -six singing, and on M:t Hermon June 10 th fairly common.
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i> Black-headed Bunting	Lake Amik May 31 st numerous. In S Turkey and Syria N and W of Damascus; common, M:t Hermon June 10 th fairly common.
<i>Emberiza caesia</i> Cretzschmar's Bunting	Nahal Galil June 5 th one singing, M:t Hermon June 10 th fairly common.

<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> Common Reed Bunting	Lake Amik May 31 st one or two males.
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i> European Goldfinch	Common in cultivated parts of Israel.
<i>Carduelis chloris</i> European Greenfinch	Fairly common around Lake Amik May 31 st and in cultivated parts of Israel.
<i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i> Crimson-winged Finch	M:t Hermon June 10 th three seen near the top.
<i>Acanthis cannabiba</i> Eurasian Linnet	M:t Hermon June 10 th four -six pairs plus one nest.
<i>Serinus syriacus</i> Syrian Serin	M:t Hermon June 10 th around treeline and above 12 – 15 sightings.
<i>Carpodacus synoicus</i> Sinai Rosefinch	Petra June 16 th about 25 individuals I managed to check up closely. Numbers in realty larger.
<i>Passer hispanolensis</i> Spanish Sparrow	At Lake Amik May 31 st a colony was found. In Hule NR June 9 th four males were seen.
<i>Passer domesticus</i> House Sparrow	Common throughout the area in connection with settlements and buildings.
<i>Passer moabiticus</i> Dead Sea Sparrow	Birecik May 30 th at least three males. (Photo not presentable due to aging)
<i>Petronia petronia</i> Rock Sparrow	East of El Quds/Jerusalem June 9 th one singing, M:t Hermon June 10 th several sightings and Petra June 16 th four – five seen.
<i>Carpospiza brachyactyla</i> Pale Rockfinch	M:t Hermon 10 th a total of five birds were seen at two sights, also a nest found.
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> Common starling	Birecik May 30 th a few and at Hule NR June 9 th five – seven seen.
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i> Eurasian Jay	El Quds/East Jerusalem June 4 th one, and June 7 th one, and three seen on M:t Hermon June 10 th .
<i>Corvis corone</i> European Crow	Fairly common within cultivated areas (Subsp. <i>C. cvorone corax</i>)
<i>Corvus monedula</i> Jackdaw	Bireck May 30 th two seen.



Pale Rockfinch

Photo Stefan Lithner



Black-headed Bunting

Photo Stefan Lithner.

Report compiler

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