



# THE CONSERVATION STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

Compiled by Andy Symes, Joe Taylor, David Mallon, Richard Porter, Chenay Simms and Kevin Budd



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ - Regional Assessment



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The workshops have now gone to the next level in cooperation with the IUCN Red List office and starting to produce IUCN Red List regional assessments of chosen taxa.

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All of IUCN's global Red Listing processes rely on the willingness of scientists to contribute and pool their collective knowledge to make the most reliable estimates of species conservation status. Without their enthusiastic commitment to species conservation, this kind of regional overview would not be possible.

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يشرفنا أن نتقدم بجزيل الشكر وخالص العرفان لصاحب السمو الشيخ الدكتور سلطان بن محمد القاسمي، عضو المجلس الأعلى حاكم الشارقة، على الدعم والاهتمام المتواصل الذي يبديه للحفاظ على التنوع الحيوي في المنطقة والذي لولا هذا الاهتمام الكبير من قبل سموه الكريم لما لقت هذه الجهود النجاح في الحفاظ على التنوع الحيوي.

كما أننا نتقدم بالشكر إلى هيئة البيئة والمحميات الطبيعية في إمارة الشارقة لاستضافتها لهذا الحدث الهام. و نتقدم بجزيل الشكر لمركز إكتار الحيوانات المهددة بالانقراض في شبه الجزيرة العربية لتوفيرهم الدعم اللوجستي والإداري والتنسيق الناجح الذي أبدوه لجميع المشاركين لتنفيذ هذه الورشة الدولية، ونخص بالشكر كل من سعادة هنا سيف السويدي، رئيس هيئة البيئة والمحميات الطبيعية في الشارقة والسيد بول فيركمين مدير مركز الإكتار. كما نشكر منسقي الورشة، أندي سيمس، جو تايلور، و ديفيد مالون.

أن جميع العلماء والخبراء في القائمة الحمراء للأنواع المهددة بالانقراض للاتحاد الدولي لحفظ الطبيعة على استعداد دائم بالمساهمة بخبراتهم وجلبها إلى هنا من أجل المساهمة في جعل التقديرات الخاصة بالأنواع المهددة بالانقراض أكثر موثوقية والتي بدونها سيتعذر علينا جمع البيانات والتأكد منها.

وكذلك نشكر جميع المساهمين في الورشة الذين قدموا خبراتهم ووقتهم لإنجاح هذه الورشة التي تقام في إمارة الشارقة، ونعتذر لأي شخص سقط اسمه سهواً أو عن أي خطأ إملائي في الأسماء: جيرول كابادونقا أقوهاب، أحمد آل علي، حسام العصفور، محمود العابري، وحيد عبدالله الفرزي، شريف الجابور، مسعى مهدي الجميلي، خالد الرسبي، متيف الراشدي، عمر الصغير، حسن زين الشريف، نابغ أسود، عبدالله الصهبياني، عادل محمد العوضي، صالح بهبهاني، ليث المغربي، ريتشارد هانروبي، مايك جينينغز، ماهر خبشاوي، رضا خان، شاهد بشير خان، دز باثان، مايك بوب، ريتشارد بوت، كروم ويل بيرجيس، مضفر سالم، بودجيما سامروي، محمد شوبراك، و نيك وليامز.

أما مصادر التمويل لورشة العمل الدولية في الشارقة قدمت من قبل هيئة البيئة والمحميات الطبيعية في الشارقة و تكاليف نشر التقرير الخاص بالورشة، و تكاليف جمع المعلومات، و تنسيق الورشة، و تحرير البيانات، ممولة من قبل هيئة البيئة والمحميات الطبيعية و منظمة حياة الطيور الدولية.





# Executive Summary

The project region, defined here to include Arabian Peninsula, plus Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, contains a diversity of desert, mountain, and wetland habitats and lies at the crossroads of the Rift Valley/Red Sea and the East Asia/East Africa flyways. Bird species richness is high and 357 species are known to breed in the region. Of these, 28 species were excluded from this assessment as their occurrence in the region is marginal. The conservation status of the remaining 329 species was assessed through the application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria at the global and regional scales during a workshop held at the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife (BCEAW) in Sharjah, UAE from 3-7 February 2013 in cooperation with BirdLife International.

Overall, species richness is highest around the edges of the Arabian Peninsula, especially the south-western mountains and Dhofar, with the least diverse area being the Rub' al Khali (or Empty Quarter) and the areas of endemism generally follow the same pattern. A total of 35 species (10.6%) are endemic or near-endemics (greater than 70% of global range) to the region; the island of Socotra has an especially high number of endemic species (10). Nearly one quarter (24%) of the regions 329 breeding bird species are considered to be regionally Threatened or Near Threatened and one, the Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*), is Regionally Extinct.

Habitat loss remains the overriding threat to the breeding birds within the region, but some species particularly the Falconiformes and Gruiformes are both sought-after and heavily exploited by falconers.

أجري المشروع في منطقة شبه الجزيرة العربية، بالإضافة إلى العراق، وسوريا، ولبنان. و التي تحتوي على بيئات مختلفة مثل المناطق الصحراوية والجبلية، و الأراضي الرطبة. وتقع في مفترق الطرق بين الوادي المتصدع و البحر الأحمر ومسارات الطيران في شرق آسيا و شرق افريقيا. كما أن هناك تنوع بيولوجي وفير للطيور، حيث سجل حوالي ٣٥٧ نوعاً من الطيور المتكاثرة في المنطقة، ومن بين هؤلاء، تم استبعاد ٢٨ نوعاً من هذا التقييم بسبب وقوعها في منطقة هامشية. وجرى تقييم حالة الحفاظ على ٣٢٩ نوعاً من الطيور المتبقية، وذلك من خلال تطبيق فئات و معايير القائمة الحمراء التابعة للـ IUCN على الصعيدين العالمي والإقليمي. من خلال ورشة العمل التي عقدت في مركز حماية و إكتار الحيوانات البرية العربية المهددة بالانقراض (BCEAW) في الشارقة، في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، من تاريخ ٣ إلى ٧ فبراير ٢٠١٣ بالتعاون مع منظمة حياة الطيور الدولية.

على الأغلب، وفرة التنوع البيولوجي للطيور هي الأكثر على أطراف شبه الجزيرة العربية، خاصة في الجبال الجنوبية الغربية ومحافظة ظفار. أما المناطق الأقل تنوعاً هي منطقة الربع الخالي ومناطق التوطن بصفة عامة تتبع النمط نفسه. و حوالي مجموع ٣٥ نوعاً من الطيور المستوطنة أو شبه المستوطنة (١٠,٦%) (و حوالي أكثر من ٧٠% من المجموع العالمي) بالنسبة للمنطقة؛ و على وجه الخصوص جزيرة سقطرى لديها عدد كبير من أنواع الطيور المستوطنة، حوالي عشرة (١٠) منها. أي بما يقارب ربع أنواع هذه الطيور المتكاثرة و حوالي (٢٤%). في هذه المناطق يعتبر ٣٢٩ نوعاً منها معرضاً للانقراض إقليمياً أو قريب من التهديد، و نوع واحد من هذه الطيور، و هو النعامة (*Struthio camelus*)، تعتبر منقرضة على الصعيد الإقليمي.

ولا يزال عامل فقدان الموائل المهدد الرئيسي للطيور المتكاثرة في المنطقة، ولكن بعض الأنواع وخاصة الصقريات، و الكركيات Falconiformes و Gruiformes تعتبر مهددة و مستغلة بشكل كبير من قبل الصقارين.



# 1. Background

## 1.1 The Assessment Region

The assessment region covered the whole of the Arabian Peninsula, plus Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, including offshore islands and the Socotra archipelago (Figure. 1). The total area covered exceeds 3,000,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

Most of the interior of the region is composed of sand and gravel deserts, arid steppes and rocky plateaus intersected by numerous wadis. The largest of these are Wadi Rum in Jordan and the Wadi Hadhramaut-Wadi Masilah system in southern Yemen. Sand dunes make up large areas, with the Rub al Khali (Empty Quarter) in the south-east occupying about 640,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Black basalt lava flows (*harrat*) cover about 30,000 km<sup>2</sup>

in northern Saudi Arabia and adjacent parts of Syria and Jordan.

Mountains fringe the entire region except for the north-east coast of the Gulf. The western mountains run along the coast and rise steeply from the sea, shelving more gradually towards the desert interior. They reach their highest point at Jebel An Nabi Shu'ayb (3,666 m) in Yemen. The southern part of this range, in south-west Saudi Arabia and Yemen, receives summer rainfall and the western escarpment is intensively cultivated by means of terraced fields and cut by many steep wadis, some of which contain some water throughout the year and are partially wooded, with species of *Ficus*, *Cordia*, *Breonardia* and *Tamarindus*. At higher elevations, some patches of open



Figure 1. The Assessment Region as defined through the current report.

juniper *Juniperus procera* woodland remain. The mountains of Dhofar, southern Oman and the Mahra region of eastern Yemen attain elevations of 1,400-1,800 m and also receive rain from the summer monsoon. Dense woodland on their seaward slopes contains *Anogeissus dhofarica*, *Commiphora habessinica* and frankincense *Boswellia sacra* trees. Between Dhofar and the SW mountains lies an extensive limestone plateau, the *jol*.

The Hajar Mountains of Oman and UAE stretch along the south-east coast for about 700 km between the Musandam Peninsula and Ras al Hadd. Their highest point, on Jebel Al Akhdar, reaches 3,009 m. The northern edge of the region is bordered by the Zagros Range, reaching 3,611 m in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. A strip of lower hills belonging to the Mediterranean biome runs south along the western edge of the region from the Turkish border through Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. The vegetation consists of Mediterranean scrub, Pine *Pinus* spp. forests and the well-known cedar of Lebanon *Cedrus libani*.

Salt flats (*sabkha*) occur on coasts and in places inland. Narrow coastal strips - the Tihama in the south-west and Batinah in Oman - contain extensive areas of agriculture. Mangroves are

an important but declining habitat especially along the Gulf and Red Sea coasts.

Apart from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers of Syria and Iraq, and the Orontes and Jordan rivers in the west, permanent water is restricted to a few mountain wadis. Temporary streams and pools occur after rainfall. The marshes of southern Iraq are the region's major wetland. Draining these marshes for political reasons reduced them to about 10% of their original extent by 2003. Reflooding since then has restored about 55% of the area covered in the 1970s.

The Damaniyat, Farasan, and Hanish Islands as well as many smaller islets in the Gulf and Red Sea provide important breeding habitat for seabirds and other species. There are important stopover and wintering sites for migrant and wintering shorebirds and waterbirds along the coasts, notably Barr al Hikman in Oman.

Vegetation over most the region is generally sparse and low, though many wadis have open Acacia-Commiphora woodland, and several species of *Acacia* and *Zizyphus* are widespread. In Oman and UAE, groves of *Prosopis cineraria* trees (*ghaf*) occur. Overgrazing by livestock has adversely affected much of the original natural vegetation.



Endemic to Socotra but widespread and stable the Socotra Grosbeak *Rhynchostruthus socotranus* is classified as Least Concern. © Richard Porter.

The Arabian Region lies at the junction of three biogeographic realms: western Palearctic, Afrotropical, and Oriental, which is reflected in the composition of the flora and fauna, including the birds. The south-west mountains, Dhofar and Hadhramaut form part of two global biodiversity hotspots – Horn of Africa and Eastern Afromontane (Mittermeier *et al.* 2004).

## 1.2 Birds of Arabia

There are 357 species of birds breeding within the assessment region. Of these, 28 species were excluded from this study as their distribution in the region is marginal. The remaining 329 species of breeding birds belong to 20 major groups, with the vast majority (48.9%) belonging to the order Passeriformes (Table 1).

Endemism is relatively low with only 26 (7.9%) species endemic to Arabia, as defined here: 14 of these species occur on the mainland, 10 on the Socotra archipelago and two are seabirds that are breeding endemics, including Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*, only on Socotra. There is a concentration of endemic species in the highlands of SW Saudi Arabia and

Yemen with some also occurring in the Dhofar mountains of Oman. Arabian Partridge *Alectoris melanocephala* and Arabian Wheatear *Oenanthe lugentoides* are more widespread and two species are restricted to the north of the region - Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* in the Iraq marshes and Syrian Serin *Serinus syriacus* in the western hills: both of these are assessed as Endangered.

A further nine species are considered near-endemics (defined as having  $\geq 70\%$  of their global range in the region), including Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola* as a breeding near-endemic. Proposed taxonomic splits currently under consideration may increase the number of endemic and near-endemic forms: For example Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*, Sinai Rosefinch *Carpodacus synoicus*, and Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*. The same taxonomic review may also result in Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides* being lumped with Peregrine *F. peregrinus*. Table 2 lists the endemic and near-endemic species and Appendix 3 shows the distributions of endemic and near-endemic species occurring in the region.

It is important to note that there is a high proportion of regional endemics and near-endemics within the small number of species belonging to the orders; Procellariiformes

Table 1. Diversity and endemism in breeding birds orders in the Arabian region

Order	No. of species	Number of endemics	Number of near-endemics	Percentage endemic
Struthioniformes	1	0	0	0.0%
Podicipediformes	2	0	0	0.0%
Procellariiformes	2	1	0	50.0%
Pelecaniformes	7	1	0	14.3%
Ciconiiformes	18	0	0	0.0%
Phoenicopteriformes	1	0	0	0.0%
Anseriformes	5	0	0	0.0%
Falconiformes	26	1	0	3.8%
Galliformes	9	2	1	33.3%
Gruiformes	2	0	0	0.0%
Charadriiformes	34	0	1	2.9%
Pterocliiformes	6	0	0	0.0%
Columbiformes	11	0	0	0.0%
Cuculiformes	5	0	0	0.0%
Strigiformes	12	1	1	16.7%
Caprimulgiformes	4	0	0	0.0%
Apodiformes	6	0	0	0.0%
Coraciiformes	14	0	0	0.0%
Piciformes	3	1	0	33.3%
Passeriformes	161	19	6	15.5%
	<b>329</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10.6%</b>

(tube-nosed seabirds) (2 species, 1 endemic), Galliformes (chicken-like birds) (9 species, 3 endemic), and Piciformes (woodpeckers and relatives) (3 species, 1 endemic).

### 1.3 Conservation status

One of the most widely used indicators for assessing the health of ecosystems and their biodiversity is the conservation status of plants and animals. It is also an important component of priority-setting exercises for species conservation. At the global level, the best source of information on the conservation status of plants and animals is the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (IUCN, 2012). Taxa that have been evaluated using the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1* (IUCN, 2001) (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/categories-and-criteria>) are included on the Red List, along with details of their taxonomy, distribution information (including a range map), population status, habitat and ecology, threats, utilization and conservation measures in place and needed. The *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, with the main purpose of highlighting those taxa that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e., those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). Species in these three categories are collectively referred to as 'threatened'.

### 1.4 Objectives of the assessment

This assessment has two main objectives:

- To assist in regional conservation planning by assessing the status and distribution of all species occurring within the region; and
- To develop a network of regional experts to support future assessments and the updating of the information on these species.

The assessment provides two main direct outputs:

- A report on the status of the breeding birds of the Arabian region, including a Red List assessment of all the species, an identification of the main threats for each species, and a spatial representation of the centres of species richness and threats;
- A database that provides a baseline for monitoring the status of the breeding birds of Arabian Peninsula. The data presented in this report and the booklet provides a snapshot based on available knowledge at the time of writing.

The database will continue to be updated and made freely and widely available. BirdLife International will ensure wide dissemination of this data to relevant decision makers, NGOs, and scientists to inform the implementation of conservation actions on the ground.



Arabian Bustard *Ardeotis arabs* is Critically Endangered due to a very rapid population decline and with fewer than 50 breeding females remaining . © Richard Porter.

Table 2. Endemic and near-endemic breeding bird species in the assessment region.

Common Name	Species name	Regional Red List Category & Criteria	Population Trend	% global range
<b>Mainland endemics</b>				
Arabian Partridge	<i>Alectoris melanocephala</i>	LC	Increasing	100
Philby's Partridge	<i>Alectoris philbyi</i>	LC	Decreasing	100
Arabian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos dorae</i>	VU A2ac+A3c+A4c	Decreasing	100
Arabian Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugentoides</i>	LC	Decreasing	100
Yemen Thrush	<i>Turdus menachensis</i>	LC	Decreasing	100
Yemen Accentor	<i>Prunella fagani</i>	NT	Decreasing	100
Basra Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>	EN B2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)	Unknown	100
Yemen Warbler	<i>Sylvia buryi</i>	NT	Decreasing	100
Syrian Serin	<i>Serinus syriacus</i>	EN A2acd+A3cd+A4acd	Decreasing	100
Olive-rumped Serin	<i>Serinus rothschildi</i>	LC	Decreasing	100
Yemen Serin	<i>Serinus menachensis</i>	LC	Increasing/stable	100
Yemen Linnnet	<i>Carduelis yemenensis</i>	LC	Stable	100
Arabian Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rufibarba</i>	LC	Stable/decreasing	100
Arabian Grosbeak	<i>Rhynchostruthus percivali</i>	NT	Decreasing	100
<b>Breeding endemic seabirds</b>				
Socotra Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>	VU A2acd+3cd+4acd	Decreasing	100
Jouanin's Petrel	<i>Bulweria fallax</i>	NT	Unknown	100
<b>Socotra endemics</b>				
Socotra Buzzard	<i>Buteo socotraensis</i>	VU D1	Stable	100
Socotra Scops Owl	<i>Otus socotranus</i>	LC	Stable/increasing	100
Socotra Starling	<i>Onychognathus frater</i>	LC	Stable	100
Socotra Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia balfouri</i>	LC	Stable/increasing	100
Island Cisticola	<i>Cisticola haesitatus</i>	NT	Stable	100
Socotra Warbler	<i>Incana incana</i>	LC	Stable	100
Socotra Sparrow	<i>Passer insularis</i>	LC	Stable	100
Abd Al Kuri Sparrow	<i>Passer hemileucus</i>	VU D1	Stable	100
Socotra Grosbeak	<i>Rhynchostruthus socotranus</i>	LC	Stable	100
Socotra Bunting	<i>Emberiza socotrana</i>	NT	Stable	100
<b>Near-endemic species</b>				
Arabian Babbler	<i>Turdoides squamiceps</i>	LC	Increasing	98.18
Tristram's Starling	<i>Onychognathus tristramii</i>	LC	Stable	98.09
White-spectacled Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>	LC	Increasing	91.44
Hume's Owl	<i>Strix butleri</i>	LC	Stable?	86.34
Iraq Babbler	<i>Turdoides altirostris</i>	LC	Increasing	86.08
Sand Partridge	<i>Ammoperdix heyi</i>	LC	Decreasing	80.20
Arabian Golden Sparrow	<i>Passer euchlorus</i>	LC	Stable	76.43
Crab Plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>	VU D1	Decreasing	72.27
Palestine Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia osea</i>	LC	Increasing	70.72

The Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris*) has a restricted range in Arabia occupying mangrove swamps. It is categorized regionally as Vulnerable, but the Kalba subspecies (*T. c. kalbaensis*) is classified as Critically Endangered. © Ahmed Al Ali.





# 2. Assessment methodology

## 2.1 Global and regional assessments

This was primarily an assessment of the regional conservation status of all bird species breeding in the Arabian region. The status of each species was assessed according to the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. Version 3.1* (IUCN 2001) and the *Guidelines for Application of IUCN Criteria at Regional Levels* (IUCN 2003).

## 2.2 Taxonomic scope

All native bird species known to breed in the Arabian region were included in the assessment. Species that are vagrant or of marginal or uncertain occurrence, were classed as Not Applicable. Several local subspecies and forms have been recognized. Two of them, Asir Magpie *Pica pica asirensis* and Kalba Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris kalbensis*, have also been given a separate assessment alongside the full species.

Non-native species that have established breeding populations derived from escapes, deliberate introductions or arrival on ships (Jennings 2010, Porter & Aspinall 2010) were not individually assessed as part of this project. Some of these species are very invasive and damaging to indigenous biodiversity, notably the House Crow *Corvus splendens* and Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*. For more details on non-native species in the Arabian Peninsula see Jennings (2010). The House Crow has since been eliminated from Socotra (Suleiman and Taleb 2010), an important measure in conserving the island's unique biodiversity. Several escaped cage birds have established populations, particularly in the UAE.

The list also includes 28 breeding species that were considered Not Applicable for regional assessment because their occurrence in the region is marginal or there are no recent

confirmed records. One newly described species that was described after the workshop, Omani Owl *Strix omanensis* (Robb *et al.* 2013), was not assessed; this has since been shown to be *Strix butleri* (Robb *et al.* 2015).

## 2.3 Preliminary assessments and review process

A provisional list of birds breeding in the region was compiled prior to the workshop by Andy Symes and Joe Taylor (BirdLife International) from the IUCN Red List database, together with information on their global Red List category, status, population trend, countries of occurrence, and proportion of global range in the region and generation length.

The provisional species list was reviewed at the beginning of the workshop and those species not confirmed as breeding in the region were omitted. The 357 species that remained were assessed by two working groups, with a final collective session held to resolve outstanding issues and assess the regionally endemic species.

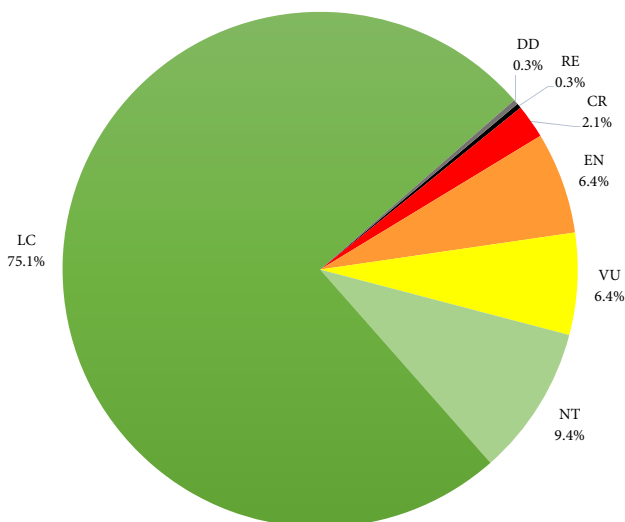
Key supplementary information on distribution, status and population estimates were obtained from the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Arabia (Jennings 2010) and the second edition of the *Field Guide to the Birds of the Middle East* (Porter & Aspinall 2010). Recent checklists of the birds of Iraq (Salim *et al.* 2013) and Syria (Murdoch & Betton 2008) were used as the basis for those countries. Up to date status reports were provided for Jordan (RSCN 2013) and Socotra (Porter and Suleiman 2013, 2014).

Following the workshop, the assessments were reviewed and supplementary information added from recent publications where appropriate and any remaining issues resolved through communications with workshop participants.

### 3. Results

A full list of the breeding bird species from the Arabian Region, their regional IUCN Red List status, criteria, and a summary justification is given in Appendix 2. The list also includes 28 breeding species that were considered Not Applicable for regional assessment because their occurrence in the region is marginal or there are no recent confirmed records. The number of species in the different IUCN Red List Categories is shown in Figure 2 and Table 3. In summary, seven species were categorized as regionally Critically Endangered (CR), 21 species are Endangered (EN) and 21 Vulnerable (VU). Altogether, 49 species (c.15%) fall into one of these three categories which are collectively regarded as ‘threatened’. The distribution of threatened species is shown in Figure 4. A further 31 species are Near Threatened (NT) and 247 (c.75%) of the 329 species assessed were Least Concern (LC), the lowest category of threat. One species (Ostrich) is Regionally Extinct and one (Eurasian Penduline-tit) is Data Deficient. Species classed as threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) and Near Threatened are listed in Table 4.

Of the seven species categorized as regionally Critically Endangered (CR) two are falcons (*Falco biarmicus* and *F. cherrug*), which are highly sought-after for falconry, and two are bustards, including the iconic Houbara *Chlamydotis*



**Figure 2.** The number of species regionally assessed in the different Red List categories (RE = Regionally Extinct; CR = Critically Endangered; DD = Data Deficient; EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable; NT = Near Threatened; LC = Least Concern).

*undulata*, which are heavily exploited, also by falconers.

Breeding birds of the Arabian region belong to 20 taxonomic orders and considerable differences exist among these groups in both species numbers as well as threatened status (see Table 5). Passeriformes constitute the majority of breeding birds. Pelecaniformes (71.4%), Anseriformes (80%), Falconiformes(65.4%), and Gruiformes (100%) are particularly threatened.

**Table 3.** Summary of the Red List status for all of the breeding birds of the Arabian region.

IUCN Red List categories		Global Red List 2012	Regional Red List 2013
	Extinct (EX)	0	0
	Extinct in the Wild (EW)	0	1
Threatened Categories	Critically Endangered (CR)	1	7
	Endangered (EN)	4	21
	Vulnerable (VU)	11	21
	Near Threatened (NT)	10	31
	Least Concern (LC)	302	247
	Data Deficient (DD)	0	1
	Not Evaluated (NE)	0	0
<b>Total number of breeding birds assessed</b>		<b>329</b>	<b>329</b>

**Table 4. Threatened and Near Threatened breeding birds in the assessment region**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Order	Regional Status	Criteria	Endemic
Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	Ciconiiformes	CR	D, C2a(i), (ii), B1+2 ab(v)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	Pelecaniformes	CR	C2a(ii)	
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Falconiformes	CR	C2a(ii). EN A2,3,4, D1.	
Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Falconiformes	CR	C1, C2a(ii), D	
Arabian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis arabs</i>	Gruiformes	CR	A2,A3,A4abd; C2aii. Perhaps also D and C2ai and C1?	
Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>	Gruiformes	CR	A2,A3,A4abd. probably C1	
Brown Fish-owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	Strigiformes	CR		
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	Galliformes	EN	A2bd	
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	Anseriformes	EN	D	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	Ciconiiformes	EN	D	
Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Ciconiiformes	EN		
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	Ciconiiformes	EN	D	
Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>	Falconiformes	EN	D1	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Falconiformes	EN	D1	
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Falconiformes	EN	A2ae	
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Falconiformes	EN	C2a(ii)	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Falconiformes	EN	C2a(i)	
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	Falconiformes	EN	D	
Sooty Tern	<i>Sterna fuscata</i>	Charadriiformes	EN	D	
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	Pterocliiformes	EN	C2a(ii)	
African Olive-pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	Columbiformes	EN	D	
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	Coraciiformes	EN	A2c+3c+4c; B2abi,ii,iii, iv,v	
Basra Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>	Passeriformes	EN	B2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)	YES
Sykes's Warbler	<i>Hippolais rama</i>	Passeriformes	EN	D	
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Passeriformes	EN	D	
Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>	Passeriformes	EN	D1	
Syrian Serin	<i>Serinus syriacus</i>	Passeriformes	EN	A2acd+A3cd+A4acd	YES
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Passeriformes	EN	A2bd+3d+4bd	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	Galliformes	VU	A2b,d (+3b,d+4b,d?)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	Ciconiiformes	VU	C2a(ii)	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	Pelecaniformes	VU	C2a(ii)	
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Pelecaniformes	VU	C1	
Socotra Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>	Pelecaniformes	VU	A2acd+A3cd+A4acd	YES
Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	Falconiformes	VU	A2ad	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Falconiformes	VU	D1	
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Falconiformes	VU	D1	
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Falconiformes	VU	A2ae	
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	Falconiformes	VU	D1	
Short-toed Snake-eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Falconiformes	VU	D1	
Socotra Buzzard	<i>Buteo socotraensis</i>	Falconiformes	VU	D1	YES
Crab Plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>	Charadriiformes	VU	C1	>70% GR
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Charadriiformes	VU	D1	
Arabian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos doraе</i>	Piciformes	VU	A2ac+3c+4ac	YES
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Piciformes	VU	C2a(i)	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Passeriformes	VU	D1	
Abd Al Kuri Sparrow	<i>Passer hemileucus</i>	Passeriformes	VU	D1	YES
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	Passeriformes	VU	D1	

**Table 4. Threatened and Near Threatened breeding birds in the assessment region continued.**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Order	Regional Status	Criteria	Endemic
Fire-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	Passeriformes	VU	D1	
Asian Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>	Passeriformes	VU	D1	
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Anseriformes	NT	C2a <sub>ii</sub>	
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	Anseriformes	NT	D1, C2a(i)	
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Anseriformes	NT	C2a(i)	
Jouanin's Petrel	<i>Bulweria fallax</i>	Procellariiformes	NT	D2	YES
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	Ciconiiformes	NT	D1	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Ciconiiformes	NT	D1	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Ciconiiformes	NT	D1	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Ciconiiformes	NT	D1	
Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	Pelecaniformes	NT	D2	
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Falconiformes	NT	D1	
Western Marsh-harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Falconiformes	NT	D1	
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Charadriiformes	NT	D1	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Charadriiformes	NT	D1	
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Charadriiformes	NT	D1	
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	Cuculiformes	NT	D1	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuculiformes	NT	D1	
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	Cuculiformes	NT	D1	
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Coraciiformes	NT	D1	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Coraciiformes	NT	D1	
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Passeriformes	NT	D1	
Island Cisticola	<i>Cisticola haesitatus</i>	Passeriformes	NT	C2a(ii)	YES
Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	Passeriformes	NT	D1	
Yemen Warbler	<i>Sylvia buryi</i>	Passeriformes	NT	A2c+3c+4c	YES
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Passeriformes	NT	D1	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Passeriformes	NT	D1	
Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Passeriformes	NT	D1	
Yemen Accentor	<i>Prunella fagani</i>	Passeriformes	NT	C2a(ii)	YES
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Passeriformes	NT	D1	
Arabian Grosbeak	<i>Rhynchostruthus percivali</i>	Passeriformes	NT	C2a(ii)	YES
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Passeriformes	NT	D1	
Socotra Bunting	<i>Emberiza socotrana</i>	Passeriformes	NT	B1+2ab	YES



While there is no evidence of vulnerability to Diclofenc in the region there is real concern for vultures in Arabia due to declining populations; with both the Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* (above) and the Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* (below) assessed as Vulnerable. Both photographs © Ahmed Al Ali.



Table 5. Regional Red List status by taxonomic order

Order	Number of Species	Status							% Threatened or Near Threatened
		RE	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC	DD	
Struthioniformes	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Podicipediformes	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0.0%
Procellariiformes	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	50.0%
Pelecaniformes	7	0	1	0	3	1	2	0	71.4%
Ciconiiformes	18	0	1	3	1	4	9	0	50.0%
Phoenicopteriformes	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.0%
Anseriformes	5	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	80.0%
Falconiformes	26	0	2	6	7	2	9	0	65.4%
Galliformes	9	0	0	1	1	0	7	0	22.2%
Gruiformes	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Charadriiformes	34	0	0	1	2	3	28	0	17.6%
Pterocliiformes	6	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	16.7%
Columbiformes	11	0	0	1	0	0	10	0	9.1%
Cuculiformes	5	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	60.0%
Strigiformes	12	0	1	0	0	0	11	0	8.3%
Caprimulgiformes	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0.0%
Apodiformes	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0.0%
Coraciiformes	14	0	0	1	0	2	11	0	21.4%
Piciformes	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	66.7%
Passeriformes	161	0	0	6	5	12	137	1	14.3%
	<b>329</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24.3%</b>



Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama* is widely distributed in western and central Asia, but in Arabia is only known to breed in the mangroves in Khor Kalba; on the east coast of the UAE. © Ahmed Al Ali.



Basra Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* is concentrated in the southern and central marshes of Iraq. It is currently categorized as Endangered.. © Mudhafar Salim.

# 4. Conclusions

## 4.1 Conservation priorities

The regional assessment of breeding birds benefited greatly from the amount of recent attention given to the birds of this region and in particular the ABBA project, so ably coordinated by Mike Jennings. This assessment has revealed that around 25% of breeding birds in the Arabian Peninsula are threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable) or Near Threatened, according to the IUCN Categories and Criteria. Of the remainder, 247 species are assessed as Least Concern and one as Data Deficient. Figures 3 and 4 provide an overview of the areas of species richness for endemic species and threatened species, respectively.

The Socotra archipelago harbours 10 endemic breeding birds. Of these 10 species, two are categorized as Vulnerable and two as Near Threatened, with the remaining six species Least Concern. Thus the endemic avifauna is not highly threatened, overall, at present. However, these islands remain of exceptional conservation importance for birds and many other endemic species (e.g. reptiles – see Cox *et al.* 2012) and they require special conservation attention in order to safeguard this unique fauna in the medium to long-term.

A second area of very high significance for endemic breeding birds is a relatively narrow band in the highlands of the south-west of the region, running through Asir in Saudi Arabia and western Yemen. Eight endemic breeding birds occur here,

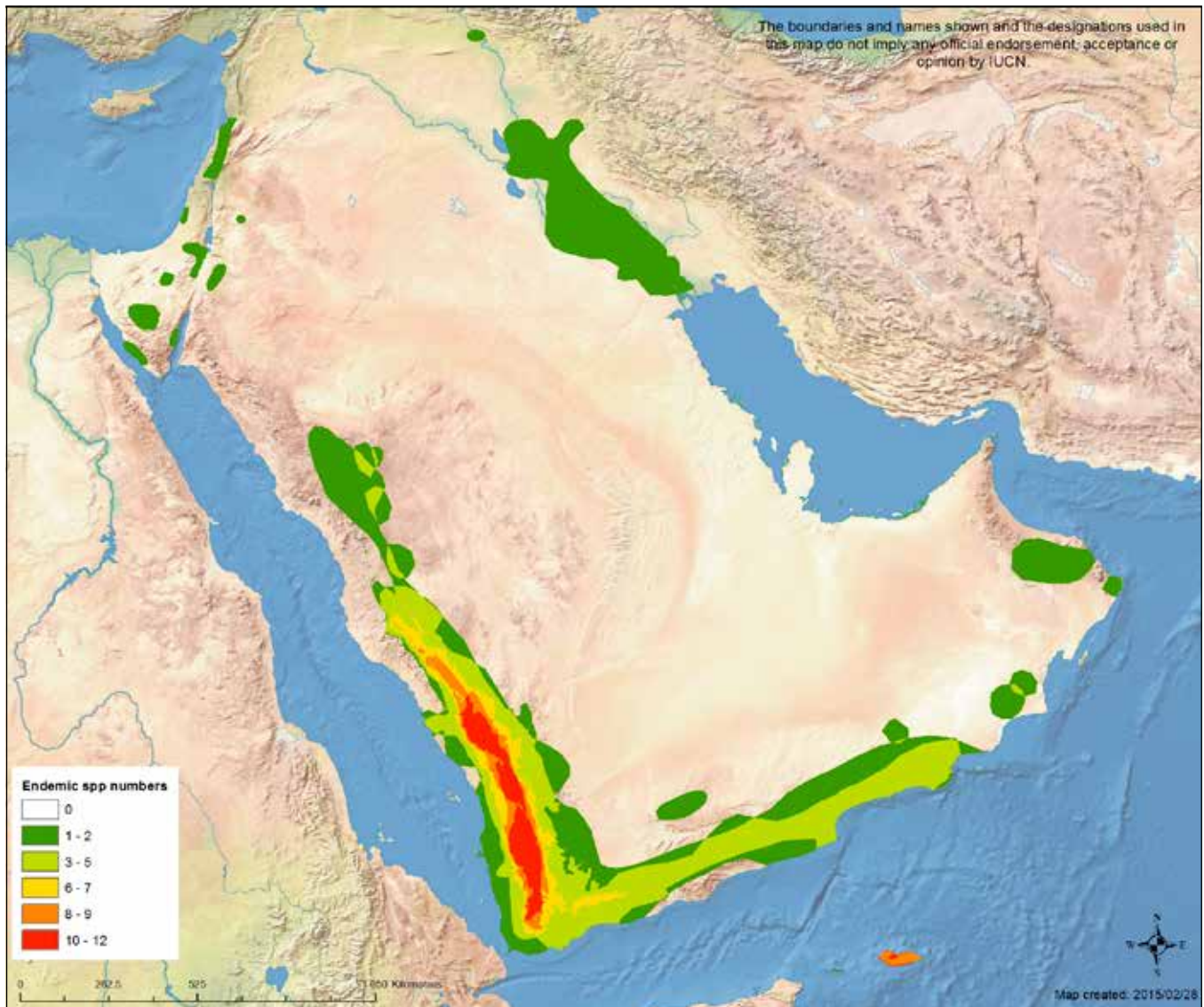


Figure 3. Species richness of endemic breeding birds of Arabia.



one is Vulnerable, three are Near Threatened and four Least Concern. Therefore, as with Socotra, levels of threat to the endemic species may not appear particularly high at this time, but these mountains also harbour non-endemic breeding species that are threatened and have wide importance for biodiversity conservation. It is therefore essential to conduct systematic monitoring of species' status and threats, such as shortage of water and consequent effects on vegetation, climate change, and tree cutting. The Tigris and Euphrates valleys also hold many threatened species, especially in the Iraq marshes, which represent a unique ecosystem and are an internationally important site for biodiversity conservation.

## 4.2 Application of project outputs

The outputs of this assessment can be used to inform conservation measures for individual species and suites of

species. They can also be applied at the regional scale to assist governments and organizations, such as IUCN, to identify important sites for conservation, including Key Biodiversity Areas, at national or regional scales.

## 4.3 Future work

If the information on the breeding birds of the Arabian Peninsula is to be effectively integrated within the development or environmental planning process then:

- The data collated will need to be maintained and updated regularly through on-going collaboration with the network of experts who have contributed their valuable time to this project, and others;
- Links between IUCN and its partners and decision and policy makers and regional decision makers and policy makers must be maintained and strengthened and the

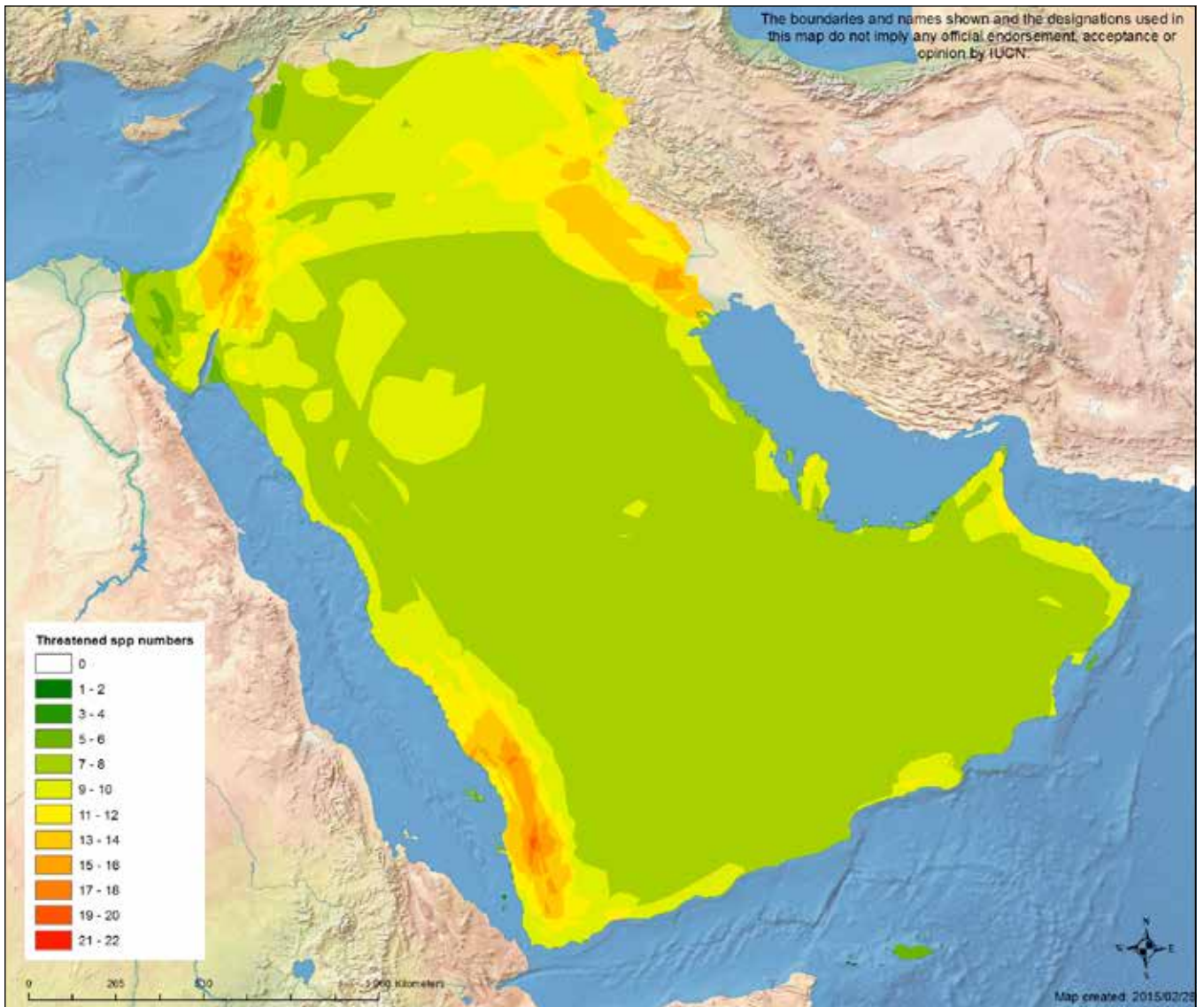


Figure 4. Species richness of threatened breeding birds of Arabia.

data must be made freely available to these people and/or organizations; and

- A “best practice” methodology for the process of integrating biodiversity information within the environmental/development planning process needs

to be developed. It is important that this methodology aims to provide the information in a “user-friendly” format for all stakeholders and provides guidelines as to when and where the information should appropriately be made available.



The Arabian Partridge *Alectoris melanocephala* is endemic to southwestern Arabia and southern Oman. Classified as Least Concern as population is increasing. © Jane and Kevin Budd.

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The Arabian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos dora* is Vulnerable on the Arabian Peninsula and in decline due to habitat loss and degradation. © Richard Porter



# Appendix 1. Participants List

Algeria	Boudjema Samraoui	University of Guelma
Bahrain	Adel Mohammed Al Awadhi	Directorate of Protected Areas
Iraq	Mudhafar Salim	Nature Iraq
Jordan	Sharif al Jbour	BirdLife International
Jordan	Laith el-Moghrabi	IUCN-ROWA
Kuwait	Salah Behbehani	The Scientific Centre, Kuwait
Kuwait	Mike Pope	Kuwait Ornithological Records Committee
Oman	Khalid Al Rasbi	Omani Wild Animals Breeding Centre
Oman	Husam Al-Asfoor	Royal Court Affairs
Oman	Mahmood Alabri	Royal Court Affairs
Oman	Waheed Abdullah Al Fazari	Office for Conservation of the Environment, Diwan of the Royal Court
Qatar	Cromwell Purchase	Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation
Saudi Arabia	Abdullah As Suhaibani	Environmental Balance Est.
Saudi Arabia	Mohammed Shobrak	Taif University
Saudi Arabia	Monif Al Rashidi	University of Hail
Syria	Nabegh Asswad	Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife
UAE	Reza Khan	Dubai Municipality
UAE	Jeruel Cabadonga Aguhob	Dubai Municipality
UAE	Hassan Zain AlSharif	Dubai Municipality
UAE	Ahmed Al Ali	Environment & Protected Areas Authority
UAE	Shahid Bashir Khan	Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi
UAE	Maher Kabshawi	Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi
UAE	Dr. Pathan	Management of Nature Conservation
UAE	Richard Hornby	Nautica Environmental Associates
UAE	Nick P. Williams	UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi
UK	Mike Jennings	Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Arabia
UK	Joe Taylor	BirdLife International
UK	Andy Symes	BirdLife International
UK	Richard Porter	BirdLife International
UK	David Mallon	Manchester Metropolitan University
Yemen	Masaa Mahdi Al Jumaily	Sana'a University
Yemen	Omar Al-Saghier	UNDP Global Environmental Facility, Small Grants Program

# Appendix 2. Regional Red List assessments of the breeding birds of the Arabian Region

Reg cat = Regional Red List category; Reg adj = regional adjustment to category due to potential rescue effect (IUCN 2003); Criteria = RL criteria (IUCN 2001); In Notes/Justification column, 'ABBA' = Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Arabia (Jennings 2010).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	RE			
The form <i>S. c. syriacus</i> was formerly quite widely distributed in the region but became extinct during the 20th century (del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> 1992, Jennings 1996). In Jordan last records date from 1920s-1930s, with unconfirmed reports in 1941 and 1966 (Andrews 1995). The NE African form <i>S. c. camelus</i> has been reintroduced into Mahazat as-Sayd Reserve in Saudi Arabia (125-150 birds).					
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	VU		A2b,d (+3b,d+4b,d?)	Declining
2,000 pairs (ABBA) but declining due to hunting, egg collecting for food and rearing and habitat degradation. Hunting pressure is exacerbated by movements of soldiers in connection with conflicts in some areas. Anecdotal evidence indicates severe declines in Saudi Arabia; not as many seen in Yemen as formerly; the price for live birds is increasing (currently 4 times that for Philby's Partridge). Decline estimated at >30% (but less than 50%) over the 12-year trend period (3 generations). VU A2abd +A3abd; C1. Little or no rescue effect. Some morphological differences noted compared to African populations but not formally named as a subspecies.					
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	LC			Declining
6,000 pairs (ABBA) plus birds in north; considered to be declining in Iraq, Syria and Jordan, but not enough for NT.					
Philby's Partridge	<i>Alectoris philbyi</i>	LC			Declining
ENDEMIC. 50,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); stable in Yemen; declining in Saudi Arabia owing to hunting and changes in agriculture; can be seen around tourist complexes in Saudi Arabia and near edge of Sana'a city; still plenty of agricultural areas in Yemen; considered a bit of a pest, and thus persecuted.					
Arabian Partridge	<i>Alectoris melanocephala</i>	LC			Increasing
ENDEMIC. 400,000 pairs (ABBA). Native in SW Arabia and S Oman, possibly introduced into northern Oman and UAE. Captive bred birds released into areas for hunting; probably increasing.					
See-see Partridge	<i>Ammoperdix griseogularis</i>	LC			Stable?
Widespread and numerous in the north. Hunting pressure may be low, as numbers are not decreasing in e.g. lowland Syria.					
Sand Partridge	<i>Ammoperdix heyi</i>	LC			Declining
Near Endemic. 900,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA). Declining outside PAs in Jordan; very susceptible to hunting as it lives at lower elevations compared to other partridges. Decline estimated at <20% so has not reached threshold for NT under criterion A.					
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	EN		A2bd	Declining
Big decline throughout regional range (Iraq, Jordan, Syria) due to hunting and destruction of riparian habitats. Decline estimated at least 50% in trend period of 12 years. No rescue effect as adjacent populations are also under pressure. Evidence: decline in observations, hunters' reports. Observed reduction in extent of riparian habitats/thickets.					
Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	LC			Increasing
Probably introduced before 1880 and now up to 70,000 pairs and increasing (ABBA). LC if native, NA if not.					
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	LC			Stable (or Increasing)
6,000 pairs in Saudi Arabia, c.1,000 pairs in Iraq. Widely bred in captivity and probably increasing as a result. The area of irrigated fields is increasing. Trapped in nets in large numbers during migration. Impacted by powerlines.					
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	LC			Stable
1000 pairs in Iraq and Syria.					
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	NT	y	C2aii	Declining
Formerly bred in N Jordan. 3,500-4,500 pairs in Iraq plus c.100 in Syria, so c.8,000 mature individuals in region. Projected continuing decline based on known threats: Dams on Tigris and Euphrates, draining of wetlands. Some hunting - one of three most abundant duck species on Iraqi Marshes in summer. Probably a single subpopulation based on known tendency for movements. VU C2a(ii) with regional adjustment NT.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	NT	y	D1, C2a(i)	
One confirmed breeding record in Syria, 2004-09; <500 pairs in Iraq, so total mature individuals <1,000. VU D1 -> NT. Also VU C2a(i), With rescue effect - NT. Drainage and reduced flows due to dams are bigger threats than hunting .					
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	NT	y	C2a(i)	Declining
<500 pairs in Iraq. Very few in Syria. Bred in Saudi Arabia in 1983. 4.5% of global range within region. Decline estimated at >20%; VU C2a(i), with rescue effect - NT.					
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	EN	y	D	Stable/declining
3 nests in Syria, so <10 mature individuals. CR D + regional adjustment = EN D.					
Persian Sheawater	<i>Puffinus persicus</i>	LC			
40,000 pairs (ABBA; but may be 100,000 pairs). R. Porter estimates >10,000 on Socotra in c.10 breeding colonies. Exploited but impact believed to be low. Introduced predators are not a threat on Socotra. Impact of future coastal developments on breeding colonies needs watching					
Jouanin's Petrel	<i>Bulweria fallax</i>	NT		D2	Unknown
BREEDING ENDEMIC TO SOCOTRA. 3,000 pairs (ABBA); 'at-sea' threats unknown. Colonies vulnerable to introduced predators (rats, cats) and development. NT D2.					
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	LC			Increasing
Opportunistic breeder. Increasing in Syria and Jordan. 1,700 pairs (ABBA), plus 2,000 pairs in Iraq; more in Syria and Jordan.					
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	LC	y		Stable/increasing
<1,200 mature individuals in region including <100 pairs in Iraq; NT (close to VU D1) + Regional adjustment = LC					
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	LC			
200-2,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA). 4,000 pairs in Syria in 2009; nil in 2008. c. 6,000 in Oman. Large annual fluctuations in breeding. Many summer around region. Perhaps > 10,000 mature individuals in region.					
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	NT	y	D1	Declining
Only 4 in Saudi Arabia; c.600 in Yemen + non-breeders; <1000 = VU D1. + Rescue = NT. Big decline in recent years; this might warrant a higher category under C1 EN, then regional adjustment.					
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable
700 mature individuals. VU D1 + Regional adjustment = NT.					
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	EN		D	Stable/increasing
Breeds in SW Yemen - c.30 mature individuals; Iraq 100-150. So <200 mature individuals in region. EN D. Rescue effect low. Feral breeding in UAE.					
Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	CR		D, C2a(i), (ii), B1+2 ab(v)	Declining
2-3 pairs Syria. CR D, C2a(i) (ii). Rescue effect low / nil					
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC	y (by 2)	D1	Possibly expanding and increasing
<200 pairs breeding in Iraq. Not confirmed in Syria. A few pairs in Arabian Peninsula. VU D1 but downlisted by two categories due to rapidly expanding global population and very high rescue potential					
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	LC	y	D1	Stable?
Breeding population c. 1,050; NT (close to VU D1) + Regional adjustment = LC					
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	LC			Increasing
> 1,000 mature individuals, increasing.					
Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	EN	y		unknown
<12 pairs in coastal Oman; no evidence of decline but development a definite threat. Probably also breeds on Socotra as juveniles are seen annually. 0.18% GR? If assessed: CR D1 + Regional adjustment = EN.					
Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC			Increasing
7,000 in Iraq, plus 200 pairs in Qatar and c.60 pairs elsewhere.					
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	LC			Increasing?
Widespread breeder; 4,000-5,000 mature individuals. Increasing?					
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	LC			Stable
3,000 in Iraq plus c.25 pairs elsewhere.					
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	LC			Increasing
16,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) and increasing. Hunting noted recently in Saudi Arabia.					
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable/increasing
Breeding in small numbers in Iraq and Syria. 400 mature individuals estimated in Arabian Peninsula, but overestimated in Saudi Arabia. <1,000, so VU D1+ regional adjustment = NT.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	EN	y	D	Stable/unknown
20 pairs in Yemen, <5 pairs in Iraq; <50 mature individuals. These are best population estimates, but need refining. CR D + regional adjustment = EN.					
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable
100 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) + 200 pairs in Iraq, so 600 mature individuals. VU D1 + regional adjustment = NT. 0.3% GR					
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC			Stable
<2,500 mature individuals in region; not declining.					
Western Reef-egret	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	LC			Stable
Widespread and not declining.					
Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>	LC			Stable/declining
3,000 mature individuals in region, probably an underestimate according to ABBA. Minimum of 800 pairs on Socotra (Porter & Sulaiman in prep.). Evidence of declines in Saudi Arabia, but no evidence of declines elsewhere; no known pressures. 0.5% GR.					
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	VU		C2a(ii)	Declining
3,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA). Seems to be declining in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Wetland habitats declining due to conversion, degradation, disturbance. VU C2a(ii). No significant rescue effect as no evidence to show dispersal between African and Arabian breeding sites.					
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	VU	y	C2a(ii)	Declining
800 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), including possibly 500 pairs in Yemen, but declining. So c. 1,600 mature individuals in region. EN C2a(ii) + regional adjustment - VU. Live capture; pressure on mangroves plus coastal development are the main threats.					
Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	NT		D2	Stable
13,000 pairs (ABBA) but concentrated at very few breeding sites. Negligible rescue effect because any threat (e.g. arrival of cats) will prevent successful colonisation from outside region.					
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	LC			Stable
18,000 pairs (ABBA). Not concentrated like Masked Booby, therefore at much less risk.					
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	VU		C1	Declining
Up to 2,000 pairs in Iraq, rapid recent decline. Some in Syria. Total <10,000 mature individuals and estimated >10% decline VU C1. No rescue effect.					
Socotra Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>	VU		A2acd+A3cd+A4acd	Declining
May have been 220,000 birds in 2006 but total including non-breeders could be 500,000 (ABBA), but a big decline from earlier numbers. Needs a coordinated census over one season. Threatened by introduced predators, egg-collecting, coastal development, pollution, tourism and recreation. Decline estimated to exceed 30% over 3 generations, but less than 50%.					
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	CR		C2a(ii)	Declining
Probably c.50 pairs in an isolated population in the southern marshes of Iraq and Iran combined. Declined then stable for last few years. New 90 km embankment in Iran threatens to divide marshes. Local race in Iraq is thought to be distinct according to a recent study ('chanteri'), and is same as was once found in Turkey and Israel; genetic studies to confirm this are required. Continuing decline projected. Rescue effect nil/not significant					
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	NT	y	D1	Declining
200 pairs Iraq, 100 Jordan, 200 Syria - c.1,000 mature individuals so precautionary VU D1, with regional adjustment to NT due to high rescue potential					
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	LC			Stable or increasing
Widespread, relatively common and likely to be increasing with agriculture etc.					
Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>	EN		D1	Declining
500 pairs (ABBA), mostly on cliffs/offshore islands. A decline from 60 to 3-5 nests reported at one site. In Oman, 15% decline in 1 year on Damanyat Islands following arrival of foxes and rats. But 120 pairs and stable along Arabian Red Sea coast. Better data on population size and trend are needed. Taking a precautionary approach and a suspected continuing decline, regionally EN C2a(ii); only one subpopulation since all birds mix at the wintering site. Rescue effect probably not significant. Not of interest to falconers.					
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	CR		C2a(ii). EN A2,3,4, D1.	Declining
80 pairs (ABBA). Only now in Yemen, barely any in Saudi Arabia. No recent breeding in Iraq, Syria or Jordan - old records only. Still seen in markets. Migrant birds caught as well and unlikely to be rescued due to current situation. If trapping ceased due to better enforcement it may be rescued by birds from Africa. CR C2a(ii). Also EN A2,3,4ad, D1.					
Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	CR		C1, C2a(ii), D	
Apparently a rare resident in NW Iraq; formerly much commoner but a big decline due to trapping for falconry (Salim <i>et al.</i> 2013). CR C1, C2a(ii) (and likely D). No rescue effect as all populations are subject to same threat					
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	EN		D1	Stable/increasing
Breeds on Socotra and possibly in Oman (ABBA); formerly bred in Syria (Murdoch & Betton 2008). Estimated 100 mature individuals (50 pairs) on Socotra (Porter & Sulaiman in prep.); 1 pair in Iraq; 2 locations in Oman. 30 estimated by ABBA. <100 pairs in region. EN D1. No rescue effect. Socotra birds thought to be NE African race.					



Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	VU		A2ad	Declining
2,600 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), plus 30-50 pairs in Iraq and Syria, so <3,000 mature individuals. Evidence of decline throughout region due to capture for trade. 2004-2010: 30->10->1 (MSc study). 30% decline suspected over 19 years. Rescue effect low, so no adjustment. May be lumped with Peregrine, in which case the combined taxon will need reassessment.					
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	LC			Stable
1,700 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula. (ABBA). Thought to be stable. Threat - nest predation by white-tailed mongoose.					
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	VU	y	D1	Increasing
10-20 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA). 10 pairs in Iraq. Probably >50 mature individuals in region and expanding. D1 EN (<250 mature individuals) + regional adjustment = VU					
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
60,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); all breeding birds in Arabian Peninsula are 'yellow-billed kite <i>Milvus aegyptius</i> '.					
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	VU	y	D1	Stable/declining
100 mature individuals and decreasing in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); Population stable or declining; <250 mature individuals so EN D + regional adjustment = VU					
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	VU		A2ae	Declining
4,000 mature individuals and declining (ABBA), plus 1,000 in north = c. 5,000 in region. c.1900 individuals estimated on Socotra, one of the highest concentrations in the world (Porter & Sulaiman 2012); Threats - nest predation by white-tailed mongoose. 82.5% decline in one population in Saudi Arabia. 30-49% decline suspected over past 42 years. Rescue effect minor.					
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	EN		A2ae	Declining
10,000 mature individuals and declining in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); increasing in Jordan; declining in Syria (>50%), Yemen (>60%), and Saudi Arabia. Vagrant in UAE). Estimated decline of 50-79% over past 43 years, EN A2 (no regional rescue effect). Note that vulture species rely on one another for foraging (M. Shobrak). Secondary poisoning, decline in large carnivores that open carcasses also had negative effect.					
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	VU		D1	Stable/declining
Only known in Arabia since 1980s (previously misidentified). Some concentrated in Protected Areas – 20-30 pairs in some. No evidence of local vulnerability to diclofenac. Persecuted but can tolerate people. Breeds at four areas in Oman (record count 102 individuals in 2007). Maximum 600 pairs but maybe fewer? VU D1. Rescue effect not significant.					
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	VU	y	D1	Stable
100-200 breeding adults in region? C.30 pairs in Jordan? 20-30 in Syria. Breeds in N Iraq; Few breeding records from Arabian Peninsula; EN D (<250 mature individuals) + regional adjustment = VU D1					
Western Marsh-harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable
100-250 pairs breed in southern Iraq. Formerly bred Syria. VU D1 + regional adjustment = NT. Common migrant through region.					
Dark Chanting-goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	LC			Probably stable
2,000-3,000 pairs in Yemen and southern Saudi Arabia (ABBA). Not threatened by trapping as not valuable - most birds trapped are released.					
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Melierax gabar</i>	LC			Probably stable
1,000 pairs? (ABBA) maybe more, as less conspicuous than <i>M. metabates</i> . Not threatened by trapping as not valuable - most birds that are trapped get released					
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	LC	y		Probably stable
600 pairs? (ABBA) but perhaps more. Now found in Kuwait but non-breeding as yet. A few pairs now in Dubai but probably feral. Maybe NT under D1 but step down due to immigration. Not threatened by trapping as not valuable - most birds trapped are released.					
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	LC			Stable
Breeds locally in mountains of N Iraq; probably breeds in Syria. >1,000 mature individuals in Iraq; not declining. 0.004% of glob range in region. Birds in Iraq show some morphological differences.					
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	LC			Stable
1,800 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); c.2,000 mature individuals in Iraq, Syria and Jordan, so <10,000 mature individuals in total. No decline.					
Socotra Buzzard	<i>Buteo socotraensis</i>	VU		D1	Stable
ENDEMIC. <250 pairs (Porter & Sulaiman in prep.); no competition, no shooting or trapping; VU D1.					
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	EN		C2a(ii)	Declining
600 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); stable in Yemen, but thought to be declining overall; EN C2a(ii) (VU D1); rescue effect unlikely. 0.4% GR.					
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	EN		C2a(i)	Declining
500 in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); plus max 50 mature individuals in Iraq; Syria and Jordan. In total <1,000. Threat of oil exploitation in Oman. Prey exploited by humans. EN C2a(i). Rescue effect low.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	EN		D	Increasing
120 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); none in Syria and Iraq. Increasing. Stable in Oman. EN under criterion D. Unlikely rescue effect. 1.4% GR					
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciatus</i>	LC			Stable
1,000 in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); 140 mature individuals in Syria and Jordan; 100 breeding pairs in Iraq; so total of <2,000 mature individuals in region. Apparently stable, so LC.					
Arabian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis arabs</i>	CR		A2,A3,A4abd; C2aii. Perhaps also D, C2ai & C1?	Very rapid decline
Perhaps 50 breeding females in 2010 at most, maybe as few as 20. Predicted regionally extinct by 2020. Although may be immigration from Africa, this population also decreasing so no rescue effect likely.					
Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>	CR		A2,A3,A4abd. probably C1	Very rapid decline
Formerly widespread but reduced by hunting. In 2003 Oman 1 pair/80 km, but no recent sightings at all. None in Qatar in last 2 years. Must have been historically very numerous. May be a remnant population in eastern Yemen. No breeding in Jordan or Syria. <100 pairs now in Arabian Peninsula and perhaps <30 pairs southern Iraq. 190 Pakistani birds released recently in Yemen but these not yet countable under IUCN guidelines. Thousands are captive bred each year in UAE for hunting. Continuing decline estimated at >85% in 3 generations. CR A2+3+4d; no rescue effect, because potential source populations are also declining and the regions act as a population sink. Reassessment needed if and when released populations become established.					
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	NT	y	D1	Uncertain
100 pairs in ABBA area (Saudi Arabia and Oman); perhaps <50 pairs Iraq. Breeds in Syria. Stable or increasing due to increase in man-made wetlands in Arabian Peninsula, but perhaps decreasing in Iraq. VU D1 + regional adjustment = NT.					
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	LC			Stable
>4,000 pairs in Iraq. Bred in Kuwait 2012 & 2013. Non-native African race has been introduced in UAE/Qatar.					
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
Widespread, common, and stable/increasing					
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
Widespread, common, and stable/increasing					
Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicanus</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
Perhaps 10,000 pairs in Iraq. Scarce breeder in Syria and Jordan. Sporadic elsewhere in Arabia (but common migrant).					
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	LC			Probably stable
Perhaps 1,200 pairs (ABBA). Further study of numbers and trend is recommended.					
Crab Plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>	VU		C1	Declining
Near endemic breeding species (70% of global range). 8,000 mature individuals in 20 colonies (ABBA); declining due to egg collecting, cats and rats and also development. However, displaced birds can move to other islands in some cases. Decline estimated at >10% in 3 generations = VU C1. Rescue effect unlikely to be significant.					
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	LC			Increasing
5,000 in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) and >10,000 mature individuals in region; increasing.					
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable
400 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) plus some in Syria, so <1000 in total. VU D1 + regional adjustment = NT.					
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	LC			Increasing
1,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), plus <4,000 n Iraq; increasing.					
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	LC			Increasing
1,700 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); 6,000 mature individuals in Iraq; increasing					
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	LC			Stable
20 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); 7,000 mature individuals in Iraq; also breeds in Syria. Estimated <10,000 mature individuals in region; no evidence of decline. 20-50% of global population in region.					
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	LC			Increasing
500 pairs and increasing in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); widespread in N and C Iraq (Salim et al. 2012).					
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	LC			Stable
30,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), plus breeds in Iraq and Syria; stable.					
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	NT	y	D1	
Recently bred in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia; <1,000 mature individuals breeding in region but many migrants; VU D1 + regional adjustment = NT.					
Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	LC			Probably declining
May be 40,000 pairs in region (ABBA). Hunted as a third choice after bustards and stone-curlews. Probably declining, but not yet at rate to meet threshold for NT.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	LC			Stable or increasing
Only breeds in Iraq within the region; perhaps >20,000 pairs.					
White-eyed Gull	<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>	LC			Probably stable
Endemic to Red Sea Basin. Arabian breeding population c.8,000 pairs (ABBA) and probably stable. Global status should probably be revised (currently NT). Fairly minor threats are egg collection for food and oil spills.					
Sooty Gull	<i>Larus hemprichii</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
26,000+ pairs in region (ABBA); stable/increasing.					
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	LC			Fluctuating
Breeds in central and southern Iraq (4,000-5,000), Syria (4,000-5,000 pairs), Kuwait (1,000-2,000). Many more in winter. Fairly concentrated in colonies, but these are widespread.					
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	LC			Stable
Up to 1,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA - most Kuwait) plus c.600 pairs in Iraq and <10 pairs in Syria. May breed inland at temporary wetlands and a few other sites on coast.					
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	LC			Stable
500 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), 400 pairs in Iraq and c.20 in Syria.					
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
80,000 pairs (ABBA), almost all in Red Sea.					
Great Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	LC			Stable
13,000 pairs (ABBA) in Red Sea, S coast and Gulf.					
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	VU	y	D1	Fluctuating
Only in Oman and islands. Possibly 40-50 pairs (ABBA). EN D (with regional adjustment = VU D1).					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	LC			Stable
800 pairs Iraq and 30-50 pairs in Syria.					
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	LC			Stable
4,000 pairs Iraq, maximum 50 pairs Syria; 200 pairs elsewhere in Arabia (ABBA).					
Saunders's Tern	<i>Sterna saundersi</i>	LC			Fluctuating
c.4,000 pairs around coast (ABBA). Possible decline of 1,000 to 100 reported at same sites in UAE over 15 years and 150 died recently from Newcastle disease. Population fluctuating and decline not suspected to have reached threshold for NT.					
White-cheeked Tern	<i>Sterna repressa</i>	LC			Stable
78,000 pairs (ABBA); stable.					
Bridled Tern	<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>	LC			Stable
300,000 pairs (ABBA); stable.					
Sooty Tern	<i>Sterna fuscata</i>	EN	y	D	
Up to 15 pairs off Musandam; may breed on Daimaniat Islands; some breeding season records elsewhere; not confirmed as breeding on Socotra. CR D + regional adjustment = EN D					
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	LC			Stable
Breeds in Syria and Iraq (estimated 6,000 pairs); stable.					
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	LC			Stable
Iraq only - perhaps 2,000 pairs; stable.					
Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>	LC			
11,000 pairs (ABBA); stable.					
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>	LC			Decreasing
Breeds in Iraq, Syria, Israel / Palestine; possibly elsewhere. Population size unknown but estimated well in excess of 10,000 mature individuals in Iraq alone. Hunted by professionals and locals in Iraq, including harvesting at water holes. Decreasing but at an unknown rate; provisionally LC, but needs monitoring to evaluate rate of decline from hunting, in which case, a higher category of threat may be appropriate.					
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	LC			Stable
80,000 pairs (ABBA). Decreasing in UAE due to disturbance/pressure on habitat but spreads back once protected. Increasing elsewhere where favoured by expansion in irrigated fields.					
Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>	LC			Decreasing
c.3,000 pairs in Iraq and 10,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA). Big historical decrease towards NW of range and Saudi Arabia but long time ago, most of currently-mapped Saudi range is historical. Many are shot in Saudi Arabia.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	EN		C2a(ii)	
c. 2500 birds in northern Negev in the 1980s but fewer now and declining; rescue effect not significant.					
Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>	LC			Stable
c.6,000 pairs (ABBA) - most in Oman and a few scattered other populations.					
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles lichtensteini</i>	LC			Stable
60,000-70,000 pairs (ABBA). Inhabits rocky areas which are not under any obvious threat. Crepuscular/nocturnal so not vulnerable to hunting.					
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	LC			Stable?
Widespread across the region (including wild and feral/town birds); 950,000 pairs (ABBA) plus more in north. Stable.					
Common Wood-pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	LC			Stable
Within region breeds mainly in Iraq (estimated c.400,000). There is a small isolated population on Jebel Akhdar, Oman, estimated at 1,000 pairs (ABBA).					
African Olive-pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	EN		D	Stable
100 pairs in SW of region (ABBA). EN D; significant rescue effect unlikely, even though a huge range in Africa.					
European Turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	LC			Uncertain
2,500 pairs in Arabian Peninsula, possibly more (ABBA); 1,000+ mature individuals in Syria and in Iraq. <10,000 mature individuals in region; possibly increasing in Iraq; targeted by hunters in Saudi Arabia and Syria. No evidence that decline has reached the threshold for NT.					
Dusky Turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>	LC			Stable
90,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); stable.					
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	LC			Stable
100,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); stable.					
Eurasian Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	LC			Increasing
2 million pairs (ABBA).					
African Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>	LC			Stable
1 million pairs in SW of region (ABBA); stable.					
Laughing Dove	<i>Stigmatopelia senegalensis</i>	LC			Increasing
4 million pairs (ABBA), plus more in north of region. Widespread and adaptable.					
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	LC			Increasing
60,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula and increasing (ABBA).					
Bruce's Green-pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>	LC			Stable?
100,000 pairs in SW and S of Arabian Peninsula (ABBA).					
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	NT	y	D1	
Local breeder in N Iraq, Israel / Palestine; Lebanon; probably Syria; present in Jordan in summer but breeding not yet confirmed. Estimated <1,000 birds = VU D1; with rescue effect = NT.					
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable?
Breeds in Iraq (100 pairs), Jordan (200-250), Lebanon, Israel / Palestine (numbers unknown); may breed Syria. May be <1,000 mature individuals in region, so precautionary VU D1, with rescue effect = NT.					
Didric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	LC	y		Stable
600 pairs including 100 in Oman (ABBA). Regional population c.1,200 so NT (close to VU D1) but with regional adjustment due to potential immigration = LC.					
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	NT	y	D1	
400 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); VU D1, with regional adjustment - NT.					
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>	LC			Stable
14,000 pairs in SW Arabia and Socotra (ABBA); stable.					
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	LC			Increasing?
2,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula, maybe more (ABBA); perhaps 500 in Iraq, and many in Syria; breeds in Lebanon, Israel / Palestine. Possibly increasing with spread of irrigated agriculture. Not declining.					
Pallid Scops-owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	LC			Stable
2,700 pairs in Oman and UAE (ABBA) plus maximum 100 pairs in Iraq; stable.					
Common Scops-owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	LC			Stable
Breeds in Iraq (perhaps 800 pairs) and widely along the western edge of the region; stable.					
African Scops-owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	LC			Stable
Breeds in SW and S of region. 30,000 pairs (ABBA). Arabian birds may be a separate form – Arabian Scops-owl <i>Otus (senegalensis) pamela</i> .					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Scotra Scops Owl	<i>Otus socotranus</i>	LC			
<p>ENDEMIC TO SOCOTRA. Recently described as a distinct species (Pons et al. 2013). Estimated c.1,000 pairs (Porter &amp; Suleiman 2013). No threats. Inhabits palm groves which are probably expanding. Least Concern.</p>					
Eurasian Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	LC			Stable
<p>Perhaps 400 pairs in Iraq; also breeds locally in Jordan, Israel / Palestine and Syria. Regional population estimated at &gt;1000; Stable.</p>					
Pharaoh Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
<p>At least 2,500 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), plus c.50 pairs in Iraq and also breeds in Syria; stable.</p>					
Spotted Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	LC			Stable
<p>2,000 pairs (ABBA) and few threats. Potential Arabian endemic if split from African birds</p>					
Brown Fish-owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	CR			
<p>Formerly bred in Iraq (1920s), Israel / Palestine and Jordan (possibly a rare breeder in Yarmuk Valley; Andrews 2005). It may be Regionally Extinct, but possible that a breeding population is still present, especially in view of recent rediscoveries of the species in Turkey (R. Porter, pers. comm.). If so, numbers are almost certainly very small and &lt;50 mature individuals, thus qualifying for CR under criterion D. A significant rescue effect is unlikely.</p>					
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	LC			Stable
<p>Breeds locally along the western / Mediterranean edge of the region; not confirmed to breed in Iraq. Stable. Estimated &gt;1,000 mature individuals.</p>					
Hume's Owl	<i>Strix butleri</i>	LC			Stable?
<p>3,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); also breeds in S Jordan and Israel / Palestine. Believed to be stable.</p>					
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	LC			Stable/declining
<p>5,800 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); also breeds widely in the north of the region; stable. 'Lilith Owl' <i>A.n. lilith</i> (a very pale form) is rare, possibly &lt;1,000 individuals), but taxonomic split is not confirmed, so DD.</p>					
Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>	LC			Stable
<p>Estimated &gt;15,000 mature individuals in Iraq; has bred Jordan.</p>					
Nubian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus nubicus</i>	LC			Stable?
<p>5,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA) including c.200 mature individuals on Socotra. Stable except in northern part of range in Saudi Arabia where farming is in decline due to reduced water availability, so habitat is declining.</p>					
Montane Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus poliocephalus</i>	LC			Declining
<p>1,400 pairs in SW (ABBA); 21% of global range. Juniper woodland habitat is declining and population suspected to be declining at an unknown rate, but likely &lt;20%. But could be approaching NT or VU under criterion C1.</p>					
Plain Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus inornatus</i>	LC			Stable
<p>2,000 pairs in SW and S of region (ABBA); stable.</p>					
African Palm-swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	LC			Stable/declining
<p>15,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA). Possibly some local declines due to pesticide application and development, but not suspected to reach the threshold for NT.</p>					
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>	LC			Stable?
<p>11,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) plus more in N of region.</p>					
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	LC			Stable
<p>Breeds in Iraq, Syria and along the Mediterranean edge of the region. Estimated 300 pairs in Iraq, and as many or more in Syria and the west of the region; &gt;1000 in total. Not declining.</p>					
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	LC			Increasing
<p>At least 25,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula but could be 200,000 (ABBA); Increasing and adapting to cities?</p>					
Forbes-Watson's Swift	<i>Apus berliozi</i>	LC			Stable
<p>Breeding population unknown; number of individuals in any one year unlikely to exceed 1000, but transect counts suggest could be 2,400 (Porter &amp; Suleiman 2013). No obvious threats; breeds on cliffs. Overlooked until recently.</p>					
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	LC			Stable
<p>30,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) and perhaps 800 pairs in Iraq.</p>					
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable or declining
<p>c.200 pairs in Iraq. Fairly common in Jordan and Syria but no numbers. Regional population uncertain but could be either side of 1,000 mature individuals. Precautionary could be fewer than 1,000 so VU D1, regional adjustment due to massive potential for rescue from migrants.</p>					
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>	LC			Assumed to be stable
<p>2,500 pairs (ABBA) in Yemen and SW Saudi Arabia.</p>					
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	LC			Increasing
<p>c.15,000 pairs Arabian Peninsula, and 2,500 pairs Iraq? Major spread and increase in UAE</p>					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	LC			Assumed to be stable
Perhaps 3,000 pairs in Iraq, common in Jordan, also in Syria (no numbers).					
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	LC			
Perhaps 6,000 pairs (ABBA). May be declining in some areas due to loss of coastal habitat but increasing in irrigated areas, so assume stable overall.					
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	EN		A2c+3c+4c; B2abi,ii,iii, iv,v	Declining
400 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); big decline in Saudi Arabia due to degradation of mangroves with 50-55% lost; decline in Kalba (UAE) - 1995, 88-110 birds, down to 52-70 in 2011 with almost a third of the mangroves cut. AOO <500 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; EN A2c,3c,4c; B2abi,ii,iii, iv,v; <i>kalbensis</i> CR B2abii,iii,v; C2aii - AOO 4-5 km <sup>2</sup> . Needs old trees for nesting and regeneration very limited. Research in nest site preferences under way in UAE.					
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable
Breeds in S Iraq and probably N Iraq; probably breeds in Syria. 100-200 mature individuals in Iraq. Estimated 250-1000 in region; D1 VU + regional adjustment = NT					
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	LC			Declining
15,000 mature individuals in Iraq; LC but declining.					
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	LC			Stable
4,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); no decline.					
Little Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
150,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); likely to be split as <i>M. cyanophrys</i> which would be an Arabian endemic.					
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>	LC			Stable
1,600 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); many in Iraq so >6,000 mature individuals in region; flexible habitat requirements; no evidence of declines.					
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	LC			Declining
1,500 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); plus populations in Iraq, N Syria, Jordan; so estimated >10,000 birds; persecuted on migration and by bee-keepers; declining in Oman due to habitat loss; also sharp decline in UAE, but not thought to have reached 30% over 20 years.					
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	LC			Stable
46,000 pairs ABBA plus others in north of region so c.100,000 in region; has de facto protection owing to reference in Quran. Possible competition for nest sites with expanding Common Myna.					
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	LC			Stable
8,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); stable in Yemen.					
Arabian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos doriae</i>	VU		A2ac+3c+4ac	Declining
7,500 pairs in SW of region (ABBA). Declined notably since 1970s-1980s and become much more difficult to see. E.g. 3-6 known sites in Yemen no longer occupied (R. Porter); also local disappearances in Saudi Arabia and an estimated 20-40% decline since 1997 (M. Shobrak). Overall, the estimated decline is >30% but < 50% over 3 generations. Threats are mainly connected with loss of acacia woodland, cut for timber & fodder and regeneration inhibited by aridification and growing numbers of grazing livestock. These threats especially affect larger trees which contain holes for nesting; the species likes to feed in outer branches which are often lopped for fodder. Withdrawal of government subsidies for LPG in Yemen has increased demand for fuel wood. Granite quarrying in the mountains of Saudi Arabia as well as building and construction destroys more habitat. There may be competition for nest holes from other species, e.g. Amethyst Starling <i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i> . Increasingly heavy recreational use of woodland reserves such as Raydah brings disturbance.					
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	VU		C2a(i)	Declining
Breeds in N Iraq (500 pairs) and NW Syria (a few). Declining; VU C2a(i) and may be close to EN in region. Rescue effect from Iran assumed to be low as this population also declining.					
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	LC			Stable/declining
2,000 pairs in Iraq plus unknown number in Syria/Jordan/Palestine/Israel. Declining in Iraq and Syria. Stable elsewhere.					
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>	LC			Increasing?
7,000-8,000 pairs if 1 per 20 km <sup>2</sup> (ABBA)					
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	LC			Possibly increasing
c.250,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); perhaps 100 pairs in Iraq. Split by many as Southern Grey Shrike <i>Lanius meridionalis</i> , but not currently split by BirdLife International. Near endemic as <i>meridionalis</i> .					
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	LC			
c.500 pairs in Iraq and unknown number in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon. One record Kuwait.					
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	LC			
800 pairs in Iraq and unknown number in Syria, Palestine, Lebanon.					
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	LC			Stable
100 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); breeding record in Kuwait; with other populations in north, probably >1000 mature individuals in region.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
African Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	LC			Stable
20,000 mature individuals; not declining.					
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	LC			Stable
Common and stable in Iraq, Syria, Jordan.					
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	LC			Stable
Common; stable. The isolated form <i>P. p. asirensis</i> in SW Saudi Arabia highlands has 270 mature individuals: EN C2 a(ii) (and VU D1 ); may also qualify under B1/B2. Juniper woods are dying out and not regenerating; other possible threats include timber extraction, fuel wood collection; climate change.					
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	LC			Stable
2,000 mature individuals; 0.4% of global range.					
Yellow-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	LC			Stable
>1,000 mature individuals in region; 1% of global range.					
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	LC			Stable
>1,000; no decline.					
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	LC			Stable
Numerous, not declining. Mesopotamian Crow >1,000 mature individuals, not declining; Iraq.					
Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	LC			Declining
150,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), plus more in Iraq and Jordan; declining in UAE probably owing to habitat degradation through overgrazing. Possibly out-competed by Fan-tailed Raven <i>C. rhipidurus</i> in places?					
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	LC			Stable/slight decrease Iraq
1,000 pairs Iraq plus presumably good numbers in Syria/Jordan etc.					
Fan-tailed Raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>	LC			Stable
c.150,000 pairs (ABBA); stable.					
Grey Hypocolius	<i>Hypocolius ampelinus</i>	LC			Stable/slight decrease Iraq
Only breeds in Iraq in the region; population size is unknown, but estimated to exceed 1,000 mature individuals as global population is estimated at >10,000 (BirdLife International 2013) and Arabian range is 30% of the total.					
Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>	LC			Presumed stable
1,000 pairs in Iraq, plus unknown number in Syria; not declining.					
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	LC			Stable
Estimated several thousand in Syria; also breeds in Lebanon.					
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	LC			Stable
10,000+ pairs in Iraq plus unknown numbers elsewhere in north of region.					
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	LC			Stable
Perhaps 3,000 pairs in Iraq, and unknown number in Syria and Jordan.					
Eurasian Penduline-tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	DD			Uncertain
Syria only - unknown population size and trend.					
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	LC			Unknown
c.25,000-30,000 pairs in Iraq. Unknown number in Syria					
Eurasian Crag-martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	LC			Presumed stable
Breeds locally in mountains of N and E Iraq, estimated >1000 mature individuals.					
Pale Crag-martin	<i>Hirundo obsoleta</i>	LC			Stable
150,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); not declining.					
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	LC			Stable
Breeds in north and west of the region. Numbers estimated at >1,000 and not declining.					
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	LC			Stable
45,000 pairs (ABBA) plus more along the western edge of the region; stable					
Northern House-martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	LC			Stable
Breeds in north and west of the region. Numbers estimated at >1,000 and not declining.					
Singing Bushlark	<i>Mirafra cantillans</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
4,500 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); stable or increasing.					
Greater Hoopoe-lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	LC			Stable
800,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) and more in the north; stable.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Thick-billed Lark 20,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) and more in the north; stable.	<i>Rhamphocoris clotbey</i>	LC			Stable
Calandra Lark Common in Syria >10,000; not declining.	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	LC			Stable
Bimaculated Lark c.500 pairs in Jordan and Syria, <100 in Iraq. NT D1, with regional adjustment = LC. Better information on population size in region needed.	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>	LC	y	D1	
Bar-tailed Lark 1,500,000 pairs (ABBA), not declining. Quite nomadic	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>	LC			Stable
Desert Lark 5,000,000 pairs (ABBA).	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>	LC			Stable
Greater Short-toed Lark 1,500 pairs in Iraq, also breeds in Syria.	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	LC			Stable
Red-capped Lark 50,000 pairs (ABBA).	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>	LC			Stable
Lesser Short-toed Lark Perhaps 500 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), plus c.300 pairs in Iraq, more in Jordan and some in Syria. Common migrant.	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	LC			
Dunn's Lark Perhaps 2,000,000 pairs (ABBA).	<i>Eremalauda dunni</i>	LC			Stable
Crested Lark 6,000,000-7,000,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) plus many more in north of region. May be decreasing in some areas (cat predation) but increasing in others (spread of agriculture)	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	LC			Stable
Wood Lark <1,000 pairs in Iraq. Also in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon?	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	LC			Unknown
Black-crowned Sparrow-lark 400,000 pairs (ABBA)	<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>	LC			Stable
Horned Lark <1,000 mature individuals in north of region; VU D1 plus rescue effect = NT	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable
Temminck's Lark 750,000 pairs (ABBA) and more in the north of region; not declining	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>	LC			Stable
Zitting Cisticola 30,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), more in north of region and estimated >120,000 mature individuals in total.	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	LC			Stable
Island Cisticola ENDEMIC. c.9,000 individuals (Porter & Suleiman 2013); no evidence of decline; potential threat by coastal development; pressure on saline flats on coast; development pressures affect c.20% of coastline; also affected by overgrazing; breeds in two distinct habitats; probably one subpopulation; proposed road construction and associated development are expected to cause a decline in suitable habitat. As the proposed road is currently not funded, a continuing decline cannot be projected. NT C2a(ii).	<i>Cisticola haesitatus</i>	NT		C2a(ii)	Stable
Socotra Warbler ENDEMIC. >26,000 individuals (Porter & Suleiman 2013); no decline or threats.	<i>Incana incana</i>	LC			Stable
Streaked Scrub-warbler 800,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); >1 million in region. No decline.	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>	LC			Stable
Graceful Prinia 260,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); not declining.	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	LC			Stable
White-spectacled Bulbul 3 million mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) and increasing.	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>	LC			Increasing
White-eared Bulbul 460,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), so >500,000 mature individuals; birds outside Iraq are likely to result from introductions.	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
Cetti's Warbler Breeds in the north and west of region; estimated >1,000 mature individuals.	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	LC			Stable
Moustached Warbler c.200 pairs breed in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and a few in Syria and Jordan; <1,000 breeding birds known in region. Breeding in Iraq not confirmed but present in breeding season in suitable habitat. VU D1, with rescue effect = NT.	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	NT		D1	Stable in Saudi Arabia/Kuwait



Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Eurasian Reed-warbler.	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	LC			Increasing (Arabia)
1,100 pairs (ABBA) plus good numbers in Syria and Jordan and <100 pairs in Iraq. Increasing breeding in Arabia. An estimated further 3,000 pairs along coast of Saudi Arabia and Yemen have been separated as Red Sea or Mangrove Reed Warbler <i>A. avicenniae</i> (formerly considered African Reed Warbler <i>A. baeticatus</i> ), but this split not yet confirmed by BirdLife International. These populations declining owing to destruction of mangroves at estimated rate >30% in 3 generations. If this taxon assessed separately, would be VU C2a(ii) plus rescue effect from African side of Red Sea = NT.					
Great Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	LC	y	D1	Stable/increasing
200 pairs Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); 300+ pairs Iraq, Small numbers in Syria and Jordan. Perhaps NT D1 as smallish population, but significant rescue effect = LC.					
Clamorous Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	LC			Increasing
5,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula plus small numbers in Syria and Jordan.					
Basra Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>	EN		B2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)	Unknown
Breeding is concentrated in the southern and central marshes of Iraq where the current population is estimated at <5,000 pairs (Mudhafar Salim/Nature Iraq, in litt.). Bred in Kuwait 2008-2009 and is an annual summer visitor so there may be a small isolated breeding population (M Pope, pers. comm.). Probably breeds in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia and in the Riyadh area (M. Shobrak, pers. comm.). Recently found breeding in Hula Valley, Israel (Perlman & Meyrav 2009). Draining of the marshes meant that <10% of the original extent remained in 2003. Following re-flooding, the marshes reached a peak of 65% of the 1970s area in 2008, before declining again to 55%. The marshes are currently being degraded by drying and extraction; a new embankment on the Iranian side of the border is preventing water flow to many marshes while proposed dams upstream on the Tigris and Euphrates pose further threats to the water supply. Basra Reed-warbler is a very selective breeder with precise habitat requirements: medium-high reed edges with open water (rarely found deep inside reed beds), water depth 50-100 cm, and good water quality (a survey of 18 sites found a positive correlation between occurrence and water quality). Nests in reeds with diameter 50-100mm (80% of cut reeds are this size which is also used for reed houses) so is under threat. The Area of Occupancy is estimated at <500 km <sup>2</sup> and there are <5 locations. Likely also meets VU C2a(ii).					
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	LC			Stable
c.2,500 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); c.4,000 pairs in Iraq, fairly numerous in Syria, also breeds in Jordan.					
Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>	LC			Stable
Perhaps 1,000 pairs in Iraq, good numbers in Jordan, a few in eastern Syria.					
Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	LC			Stable
>1,000 mature individuals in NW of region; 8% of glob range in region so extrapolation = 2,640.					
Sykes's Warbler	<i>Hippolais rama</i>	EN	y	D	
15 breeding pairs at Kalba, UAE in 1995; 9 individuals singing 2012. Oman - unconfirmed breeding. CR D, with rescue effect = EN.					
Brown Woodland-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus umbrovirens</i>	LC			Declining
70,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); thought to be declining owing to predation by cats and pressure on Juniper woodland.					
Yemen Warbler	<i>Sylvia buryi</i>	NT		A2c+3c+4c	Declining
ENDEMIC. 9,000 pairs in SW (ABBA), a higher estimate than that used in current IUCN Red List account (<10,000). One survey by Steve Newton in a protected area in Saudi Arabia recorded >50 pairs in 12 km <sup>2</sup> . Relies on mature/old acacia trees in Yemen and this habitat is under pressure; in Saudi Arabia, it occurs also in junipers and may be found in any bushy country. Habitat is patchy, with smaller and more fragmented patches in the north of its range. Estimated to have declined by >20% but less than 30% over 12 years (3 generations) based on anecdotal evidence and habitat loss. NT, as approaching VU under criterion A. Current global assessment, VU C2a(ii), may require revision.					
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	LC			
Estimated a few hundred mature individuals in Syria and may be in decline; possibly around 1000 in total and strong rescue effect.					
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	LC			Stable
>1,000 mature individuals in region; not declining.					
Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	LC			Stable
>1,000 mature individuals in region; not declining.					
Arabian Warbler	<i>Sylvia leucomelaena</i>	LC			Stable
130,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); stable.					
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	LC			Prob stable/increasing
Population in NW of region likely to be in the thousands.					
Menetries's Warbler	<i>Sylvia mystacea</i>	LC			
4,000 pairs in Iraq and maybe c.2,000 in Syria.					
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	LC			
Breeds in Jordan, Syria, possibly Lebanon. Numbers estimated >1,000.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Iraq Babbler	<i>Turdoides altirostris</i>	LC			Increasing
Near-endemic. c. 5,000 mature individuals in Iraq with more in Syria (c.1,000 mature individuals at Sabkhat al Jabboul in Syria) so perhaps 7,000 mature individuals in total. Found on edges of canals and rivers and in reedbeds. May have special habitat requirements, as many transects along Tigris and Euphrates do not have nests. Range is expanding so numbers inferred to be increasing.					
Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudata</i>	LC			Stable
5,000 pairs in Iraq, plus a few dozen in Kuwait					
Arabian Babbler	<i>Turdoides squamiceps</i>	LC			Stable
150,000 pairs (ABBA). Stable					
White-breasted White-eye	<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>	LC			Stable
605,000 pairs (ABBA), including 5,000 on Socotra.					
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	EN		D	Stable?
Previously estimated at 100 birds, and max 60 pairs? (ABBA). Possibly introduced, or a one-off natural colonisation. Significant rescue effect unlikely given lack of records elsewhere in region. So, EN D, assuming occurrence is natural.					
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	LC			
Maybe 150 pairs in Iraq, also breeds in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon. Total population estimated > 1,000 mature individuals.					
Wood Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	LC			Stable
Estimated >1,000 pairs in north of region.					
Western Rock-nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	LC			Stable
>1,000; no decline. 4.5% global range within region.					
Eastern Rock-nuthatch	<i>Sitta tephronota</i>	LC			Stable
>1,000; no decline. 0.6% global range within region.					
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	LC		y (x2)	
Marginal to region but expanding; breeds in N Iraq, N Syria and UAE; LC through two-step regional adjustment					
Tristram's Starling	<i>Onychognathus tristramii</i>	LC			Stable
Near-endemic. 100,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA), plus more in Jordan.					
Somali Starling	<i>Onychognathus blythii</i>	LC			0
Not endemic but only on Socotra; c.102,000 individuals (Porter & Suleiman 2013). Feeds on fruits of the dragon's blood tree. Stable. May be in competition with Socotra Starling?					
Socotra Starling	<i>Onychognathus frater</i>	LC			Stable
ENDEMIC. Over 25,000 individuals (Porter & Suleiman 2013); no decline, no threats					
Yemen Thrush	<i>Turdus menachensis</i>	LC			Declining
ENDEMIC. 10,000 pairs (ABBA); more varied habitat than Arabian Woodpecker and Yemen Warbler; found in woodland, parks, gardens etc.; very adaptable. May be declining but <20% in 3 generations.					
Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	LC			
Breeds in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq (widespread in N Iraq). Perhaps 1,500 in Iraq.					
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	LC			
200 pairs in Iraq, low hundreds in Syria and some also Jordan. >1,000 mature individuals.					
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	LC			
Perhaps 800 pairs Iraq, quite numerous in Syria; >1,000 mature individuals.					
White-throated Robin	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>	LC			
c.1,000 pairs in Iraq, also in Syria. Has bred in Lebanon.					
Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin	<i>Erythropygia galactotes</i>	LC			Increasing?
Perhaps 5,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) and spreading. 3,000+ in Iraq and some in Syria.					
Black Scrub-robin	<i>Cercotrichas podobe</i>	LC			Increasing
500,000 pairs and increasing (ABBA); spreading northwards.					
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	NT		y D1	Stable
Breeds in Iraq (rare), Syria, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine. 100+ pairs in Iraq. Probably VU D1 but with regional adjustment = LC.					
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	NT		y D1	Stable
100+ pairs in Iraq, Syria?? Probably VU D1 but regional adjustment as common migrant.					
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	LC			Stable?
60,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); African Stonechat <i>S. torquatus felix</i> occurs in SW of region.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
White-tailed Wheatear 300,000 pairs (ABBA); 16% of global range.	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	LC			Stable
Hooded Wheatear 5,000 pairs (ABBA) plus others in north of region; stable	<i>Oenanthe monacha</i>	LC			Stable
Hume's Wheatear 57,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); stable	<i>Oenanthe albonigra</i>	LC			Stable
Northern Wheatear Breeds along the northern and western fringes of region; estimated <2,000 mature individuals; stable.	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	LC			Stable
Mourning Wheatear 45,000 pairs (ABBA).	<i>Oenanthe lugens</i>	LC			Stable
Arabian Wheatear ENDEMIC. 930,000 pairs (ABBA); perhaps a slow decrease, as some local declines noted.	<i>Oenanthe lugentoides</i>	LC			Declining
Finsch's Wheatear >1,000 mature individuals in region; 14% of global range.	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>	LC			Stable
Red-rumped Wheatear A few breeding pairs in Jordan. <250 mature individuals = EN D. No rescue effect.	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>	EN		D1	Stable
Black-eared Wheatear >1,000 mature individuals; no decline.	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	LC			Stable
Kurdish Wheatear c.1,500 pairs in Iraq; not declining.	<i>Oenanthe xanthopyrmyna</i>	LC			
Desert Wheatear Breeds in Syria and Jordan; estimated population >1,000 mature individuals. Not declining.	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	LC			Stable?
Isabelline Wheatear Common in Syria, good number in Jordan, perhaps 400 pairs in Iraq. >1,000 mature individuals in total; not declining.	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	LC			Stable?
Botta's Wheatear c.40,000 pairs (ABBA); stable	<i>Oenanthe bottae</i>	LC			Stable
Blackstart 500,000 pairs (ABBA); stable.	<i>Cercomela melanura</i>	LC			Increasing?
Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush <100 pairs in Iraq, 'fair number' in Syria, none in Jordan; scarce in Lebanon. Likely <1,000 in region; VU D1 with rescue effect = NT.	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	NT	y	D1	Unknown
Little Rock-thrush c.25,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); not declining.	<i>Monticola rufocinereus</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
Blue Rock-thrush Perhaps 1,500 pairs in Iraq. Common in Jordan and a fair number in Syria. Not declining.	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	LC			
Spotted Flycatcher 500 pairs in Iraq. Common in Jordan and Syria, presumed also in Lebanon. >1,000 in total.	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	LC			Unknown
Gambaga Flycatcher 100,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA)	<i>Muscicapa gambagae</i>	LC			
White-throated Dipper <250 in N Iraq; EN D, with rescue effect = VU D1.	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	VU		D1	Stable
Nile Valley Sunbird 1,800,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA)	<i>Anthreptes metallicus</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
Socotra Sunbird ENDEMIC. >65,000 individuals (Porter & Suleiman 2013); no decline or threats.	<i>Nectarinia balfouri</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
Palestine Sunbird 1,200,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); c.71% of breeding range in region; candidate for taxonomic split.	<i>Nectarinia osea</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
Purple Sunbird >25,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA).	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
Shining Sunbird 1,200,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA).	<i>Nectarinia habessinica</i>	LC			Stable/increasing

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
14,000,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA).					
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	LC			Stable
8,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); many more in region.					
Dead Sea Sparrow	<i>Passer moabiticus</i>	LC			Stable
Numerous in Syria; may be 48,000 mature individuals in region, based on 40% of global range and global population of 120,000.					
Socotra Sparrow	<i>Passer insularis</i>	LC			Stable
ENDEMIC. Over 300,000 individuals (Porter & Suleiman 2013); widespread, no threats, stable.					
Abd Al Kuri Sparrow	<i>Passer hemileucus</i>	VU		D1	Stable
ENDEMIC. 400 pairs (Porter & Suleiman 2013); stable. <1,000 mature individuals = VU D1, no rescue effect.					
Arabian Golden Sparrow	<i>Passer euchlorus</i>	LC			Stable
25,000+ pairs (ABBA); near-endemic.					
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	LC			Stable
10,000 pairs Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) and c.1,000 pairs in Iraq.					
Bush Petronia	<i>Petronia dentata</i>	LC			Unknown
5,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); poorly known.					
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	LC			Unknown
Large number in Jordan, maybe 50 pairs in Iraq, probable in Syria, also probable in Lebanon; >1,000 in total.					
Pale Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia brachydactyla</i>	LC			Increasing?
Very nomadic, maybe increasing with increased availability of water. Breeds patchily in the region and breeding areas can vary from year to year (Porter & Aspinall 2010). Perhaps 500,000 pairs in a good year.					
Rueppell's Weaver	<i>Ploceus galbula</i>	LC			Increasing
130,000 pairs (ABBA).					
Arabian Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rufibarba</i>	LC			Stable/declining
ENDEMIC. 60,000 mature individuals (ABBA). In Yemen, local declines noted, perhaps owing to lower rainfall and decreasing agriculture; in Saudi Arabia, agriculture also declining due to reduced water availability and abandoned farms cover large areas. Also under trapping pressure in Saudi Arabia for demand from Gulf countries. However, flexible, uses agricultural areas and is a prolific breeder, so can recover quickly. Declines estimated to be below the threshold for NT.					
African Silverbill	<i>Lonchura cantans</i>	LC			Stable/increasing
30,000 pairs (ABBA).					
White-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	LC			Increasing
60,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); 80,000 mature individuals in region. Increasing in UAE.					
Yemen Accentor	<i>Prunella fagani</i>	NT		C2a(ii)	Declining
ENDEMIC. 1,000 pairs (ABBA). Not seen in the same densities as previously and probably under some pressure in Yemen, but seems able to live in close proximity to humans. Limited local habitat loss; habitat is naturally fragmented owing to distribution at high elevations generally (above 2,500 m). Population is <2,500 mature individuals and possibly in decline; provisionally NT but if a continuing decline is confirmed, EN becomes appropriate under C2a(ii).					
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	NT	y	D1	Stable
<1,000 mature individuals; VU D1 with rescue effect = NT.					
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	VU		D1	Stable/declining
500 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); VU D1. No rescue effect. Habitat could be in decline, but more evidence required.					
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	LC	y	D1	
Several hundred pairs in Syria; more along western edge; likely to be >1,000 mature individuals in region; may just qualify for NT (close to VU D1) but with rescue effect = LC.					
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	LC			Stable
80,000 pairs in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA) plus more in Jordan.					
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	LC			
Perhaps 1,000 pairs in Iraq, also breeds in W Syria. Non-breeding only in Jordan. Not declining.					
Fire-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	VU	y	D1	Stable
Local breeder in N Iraq. EN D, with rescue effect = VU D1					
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	LC			
Fair number in Syria; has bred in Jordan (Andrews 1995); none in Iraq. Likely >1,000 mature individuals.					

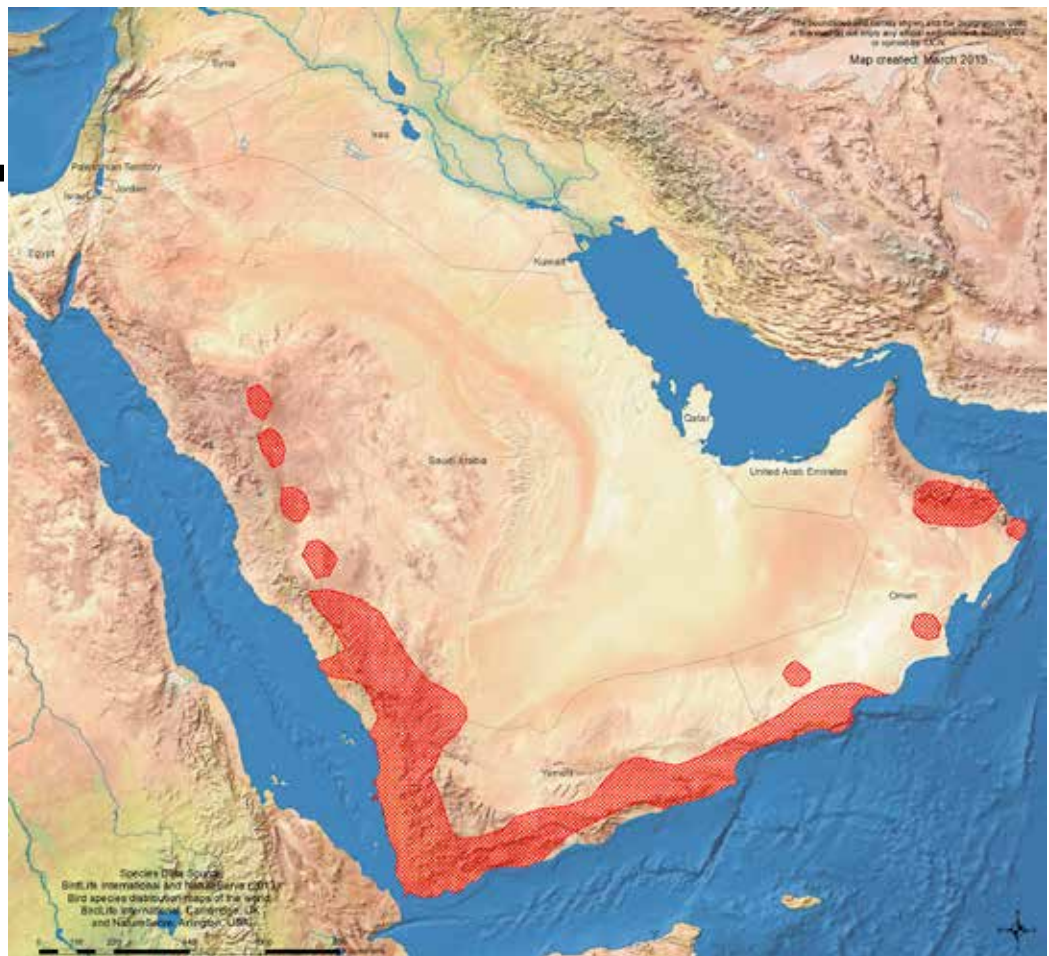
Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Syrian Serin	<i>Serinus syriacus</i>	EN		A2acd+A3cd+A4acd	Declining
<p>ENDEMIC. The largest population is in Jordan; 1,000-1,200 pairs in 1998 but declined to 500-700 pairs in 2011; Extent of Occurrence in Jordan estimated at 17 km<sup>2</sup> and Area of Occupancy 2.4 km<sup>2</sup>. Lebanon: only occurs in the central part of the Anti-Lebanon range; occurs in 16 IBAs but only 6 have confirmed breeding. Syria: one site with confirmed breeding (Bloudan) but subject to very heavy development pressure for chalets, flats, and roads and habitat is declining quite sharply. Israel: 100-300 individuals were estimated on Mt Hermon in 2000. Threats include grazing pressure, drought, trapping, and destruction of habitat for development of residential areas. Declining and likely at a rate &gt;50% over 11 years (3 generations). EN A2acd+A3cd+A4acd. Close to meeting EN B2ab, but there are at least 9 locations.</p>					
Olive-rumped Serin	<i>Serinus rothschildi</i>	LC			Declining
<p>ENDEMIC. 400,000 pairs (ABBA), mainly in SW mountains; also recorded at Jeddah (near Red Sea coast) and Riyadh (not breeding)? In Yemen no decline and range may be increasing; in Saudi Arabia, nests using material from Juniper trees which are in decline; under some trapping pressure in Saudi Arabia and on sale in markets.</p>					
Yemen Serin	<i>Serinus menachensis</i>	LC			Stable/declining
<p>ENDEMIC. 100,000 pairs (ABBA), mainly in SW Mountains; a small isolated population lives in a sink hole in Dhofar, south Oman. some trapping pressure. Rumours of presence in mountains near Al Mukallah in S Yemen indicates that range is discontinuous and may be a relic of earlier time. Occurs at higher elevations than <i>S. rothschildi</i> but is partly commensal and seen around buildings &amp; degraded grassland. Sometimes trapped.</p>					
Socotra Grosbeak	<i>Rhynchostruthus socotranus</i>	LC			Stable
<p>ENDEMIC. 16,800 individuals (Porter &amp; Suleiman 2013), widespread; stable</p>					
Arabian Grosbeak	<i>Rhynchostruthus percivali</i>	NT		C2a(ii)	Declining
<p>ENDEMIC. 6,000 mature individuals (ABBA); threatened by tree cutting, over-grazing etc; thought to be stable in Oman and Saudi Arabia. Taking a precautionary view, and considering declines reported in Yemen, NT C2a(ii).</p>					
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	LC			Declining
<p>&gt;1,000 mature individuals in region. Trapped a lot in Syria for sale at markets; threatened by trapping in other countries. Decline not thought to reach 20% over 3 generations.</p>					
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	EN		A2bd+3d+4bd	Declining
<p>4,000 mature individuals in Arabian Peninsula (ABBA); plus Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria. High trapping pressure in Jordan and Syria and many seen for sale in markets. Suspected decline of 50-70% since 2000; the situation may be worse, i.e. approaching threshold for CR. EN A2bd+3d+4bd; no rescue effect as also trapped in Turkey and N Africa; marked decline around Mediterranean and wiped out from extensive areas of North Africa.</p>					
Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	LC			Stable
<p>&gt;1,000 mature individuals; not declining</p>					
Yemen Linnet	<i>Carduelis yemenensis</i>	LC			Stable
<p>ENDEMIC. 200,000 pairs in SW of region (ABBA); no decline in Saudi Arabia, despite some trapping pressure.</p>					
Asian Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>	VU		D1	Stable
<p>Breeds in Lebanon and possibly Syria. &lt;1,000 mature individuals; VU D1; no significant rescue effect.</p>					
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodopechys obsoletus</i>	LC			Increasing
<p>65,000 pairs (ABBA) plus more in N of region; estimated 150,000-200,000 mature individuals in region; increasing.</p>					
Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>	LC			Stable
<p>42,000 pairs (ABBA); stable.</p>					
Pale Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus synoicus</i>	LC			Stable
<p>5,000 pairs (ABBA) plus more in Jordan; not declining. Potential taxonomic split, and if confirmed the local form could become a regional near-endemic.</p>					
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	LC			Stable
<p>Breeds Syria and Iraq, plus some breeding records in Arabia; Estimated &gt;5,000 mature individuals in region.</p>					
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	LC			Stable (Iraq)
<p>500 pairs in Iraq, also Syria and Lebanon. Total &gt;1,000 mature individuals.</p>					
Cinereous Bunting	<i>Emberiza cineracea</i>	LC			Uncertain
<p>&gt;1,000 pairs in Iraq. May be split as Eastern Cinereous Bunting. Globally NT, based on declines in Turkey where majority of global population.</p>					
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	NT	y	D1	Unknown
<p>Perhaps 500 pairs in Iraq. Declining across much of world range but trend within region unknown. Precautionary VU D1, with rescue effect = NT.</p>					
Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	LC			
<p>Estimated &gt;1,000 along the western edge of the region.</p>					
House Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	LC			Stable
<p>130,000 pairs (ABBA); stable.</p>					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	LC			Stable
1,000,000 pairs (ABBA); stable.					
Socotra Bunting	<i>Emberiza socotrana</i>	NT		B1+2ab	Stable
ENDEMIC. Estimated 3,770 individuals (Porter & Suleiman 2013); 2/3 of this is 2,600 mature individuals; nests in highlands - no appreciable threats; lowland birds slightly affected by road construction. Meets size criterion for B1 and B2 but not declining - NT.					
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	LC			Unknown
Occurs along the western edge of the region and in northern Iraq; estimated >1,000 mature individuals.					
MARGINAL SPECIES NOT APPLICABLE (NA) FOR ASSESSMENT					
Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	NA			
Historical breeding record from Iraq; may breed in southern marshes (Salim et al. 2012) but no confirmed recent records.					
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	NA			
Very few pairs. Marginal.					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	NA			
Believed to be feral in Arabia. No historical records in Iraq, now <10 pairs there. Marginal.					
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	NA			
<10 pairs. Marginal.					
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	NA			
Historical breeder in S Iraq - last confirmed in 1960s. 2009 report of a nest in 2009 from reliable hunters but needs confirmation. Marginal.					
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	NA			
Very local and irregular breeder in central Iraq; probably breeds in Syria. 0.07% of global range in region; Irregular breeder; <50 pairs.					
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	NA			Stable?
<100 mature individuals breed in N Iraq. 0.1% GR. Marginal.					
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	NA			
Few in Jordan; probably breeds in Syria (Murdoch and Betton 2008). Marginal.					
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	NA			
One pair bred in Syria in 2011. One recent breeding record from Kuwait. Marginal.					
Baillon's Crane	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	NA			
Only sporadic breeding records. Marginal					
Spotted Crane	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	NA			
Only sporadic breeding records. Marginal.					
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	NA			
Only 1 breeding record from Israel - marginal.					
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	NA			
Breeds in Syria. Marginal.					
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	NA			
20 nesting on saline flats inland in Syria since 2009; One breeding record in Arabian Peninsula; marginal, but interesting inland record and far from nearest colony.					
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	NA			
First breeding record in Iraq 2011. Marginal.					
Eurasian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	NA			
Only breeds in northern Iraq. Marginal.					
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	NA			
Northern Iraq only. 0.029% GR. Marginal.					
Eurasian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	NA			Uncertain
Only mountains of northern Iraq (c.100 pairs). Marginal.					
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	NA			
A few in western hills; probably breeds in Syria (Murdoch & Betton). Marginal.					
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	NA			
Syria - probably breeding (Murdoch and Betton 2008). Marginal.					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reg Cat	Reg adj	Criteria	Regional trend
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	NA			Very local breeder in N Iraq mountains. 0.1% of glob range. Marginal.
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	NA			Western Syria, maybe Lebanon. Not breeding in Jordan. Marginal.
Plain Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus neglectus</i>	NA			One mountain site in Iraq; 2 pairs in 2011 and 20 pairs in 2012. Marginal.
Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	NA			Breeds in Jordan; no recent reports in Syria, no proven breeding in Iraq. Marginal.
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	NA			Very few in northern Jordan; scarce breeder in Lebanon. Marginal.
Rueppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>	NA			A few breed in Syria. Marginal.
Bearded Parrotbill	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	NA			Breeds in Syria (Murdoch & Betton). Marginal.
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	NA			Three recent breeding records in UAE; not confirmed as breeding in Jordan, Syria and Iraq. Marginal.

# Appendix 3. Endemic, near-endemic and threatened species distribution maps

Arabian Partridge  
*Alectoris melanocephala*





Philby's Partridge  
*Alectoris philbyi*



Arabian Woodpecker  
*Dendrocopos dorae*



Arabian Wheatear  
*Oenanthe lugentoides*

NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



Yemen Thrush  
*Turdus menachensis*

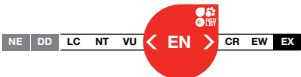
NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



Yemen Accentor  
*Prunella fagani*



Basra Reed-warbler  
*Acrocephalus griseldis*



Yemen Warbler  
*Sylvia buryi*

NE DD LC < NT > VU EN CR EW EX

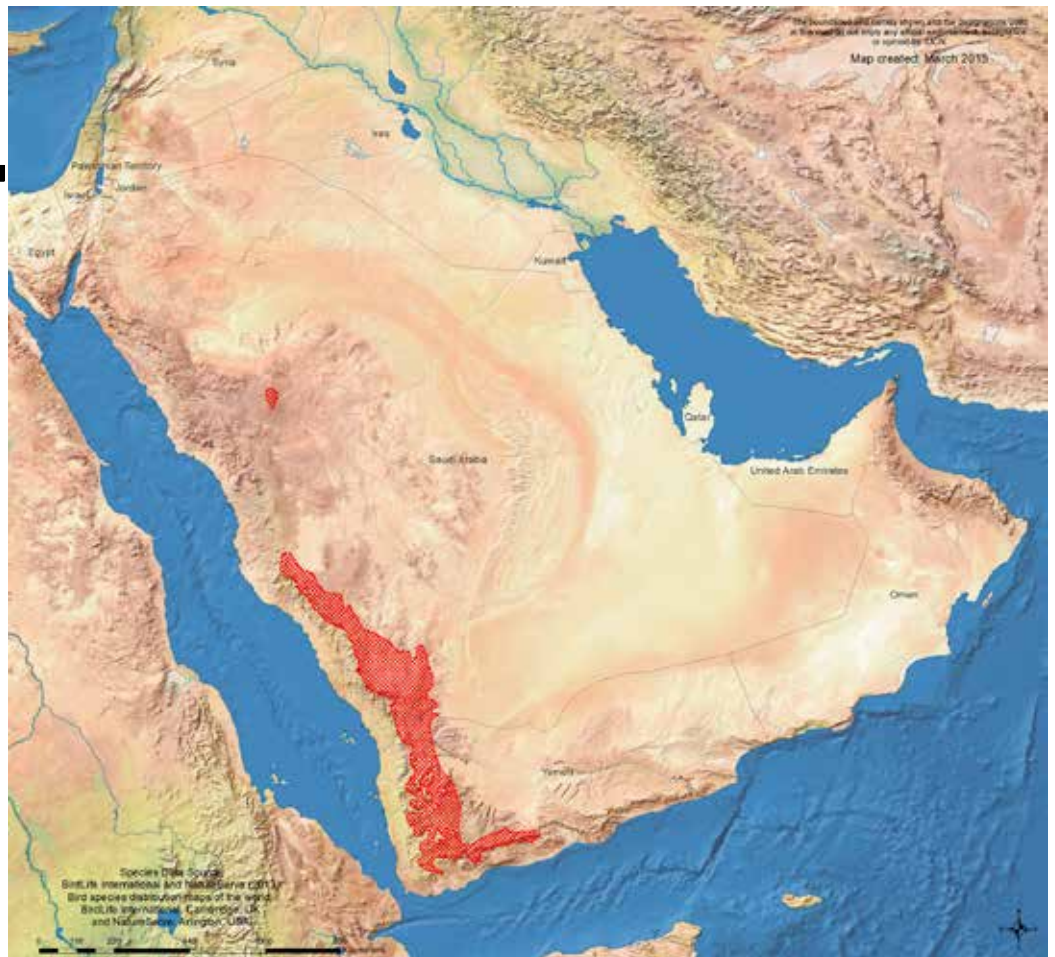


Syrian Serin  
*Serinus syriacus*

NE DD LC NT VU < EN > CR EW EX



Olive-rumped Serin  
*Serinus rothschildi*



Yemen Serin  
*Serinus menachensis*



Yemen Linnet  
*Carduelis yemenensis*

NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



Arabian Waxbill  
*Estrilda rufibarba*

NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



Arabian Grosbeak  
*Rhynchostruthus percivali*

NE DD LC **NT** > VU EN CR EW EX



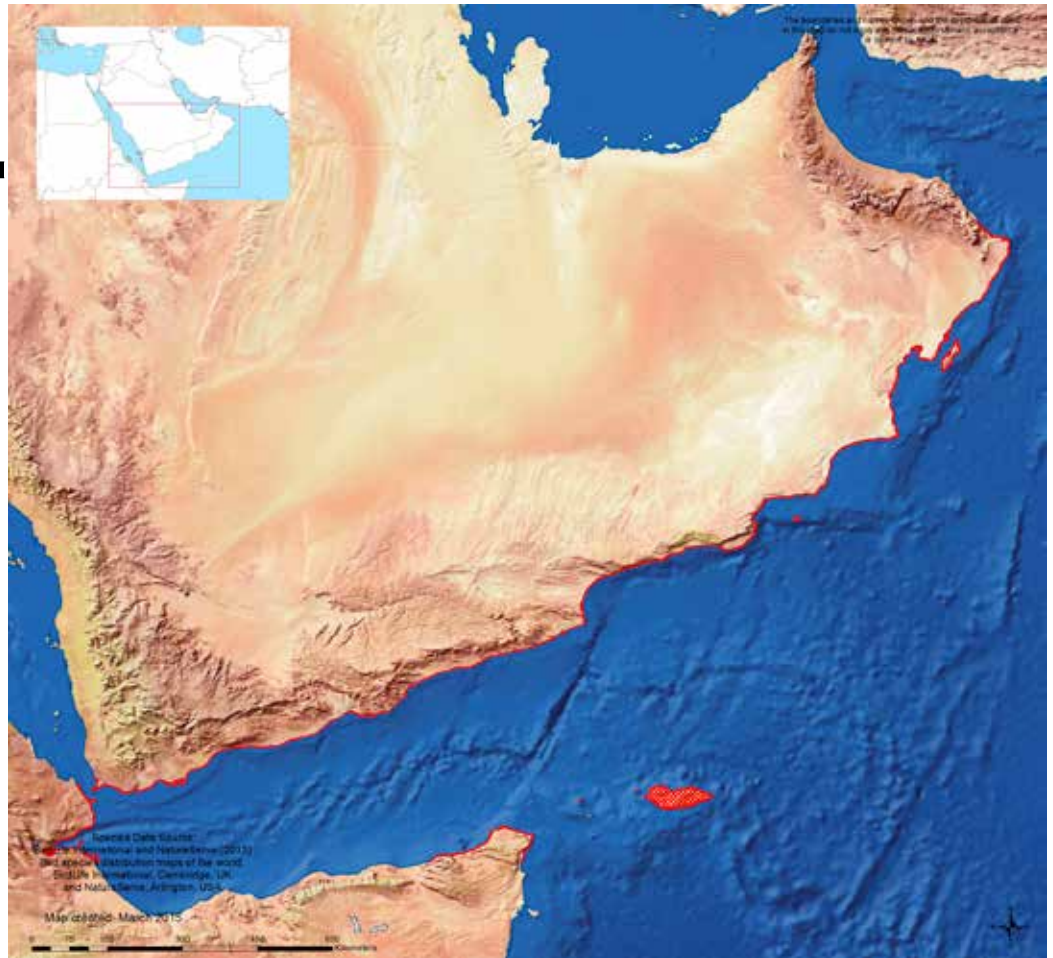
Socotra Cormorant  
*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*

NE DD LC NT **VU** > EN CR EW EX



Jouanin's Petrel  
*Bulweria fallax*

NE DD LC **< NT >** VU EN CR EW EX



Socotra Buzzard  
*Buteo socotraensis*

NE DD LC NT **< VU >** EN CR EW EX





Socotra Starling  
*Onychognathus frateri*



Socotra Sunbird  
*Nectarinia balfouri*



Island Cisticola  
*Cisticola haesitatus*

NE DD LC **< NT >** VU EN CR EW EX



Socotra Warbler  
*Incana incana*

NE DD **< LC >** NT VU EN CR EW EX



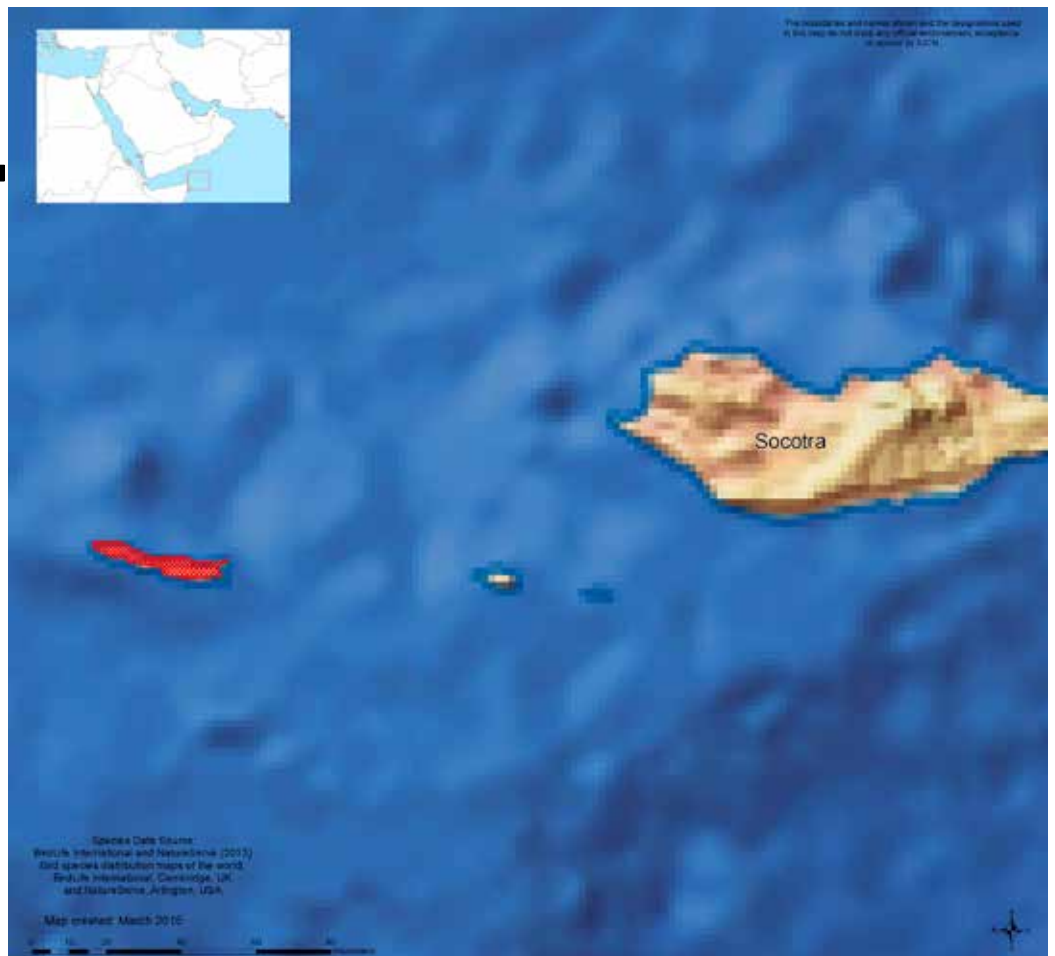
Socotra Sparrow  
*Passer insularis*

NE DD **LC** NT VU EN CR EW EX



Abd Al Kuri Sparrow  
*Passer hemileucus*

NE DD LC NT **VU** EN CR EW EX



Socotra Grosbeak  
*Rhynchostruthus socotranus*

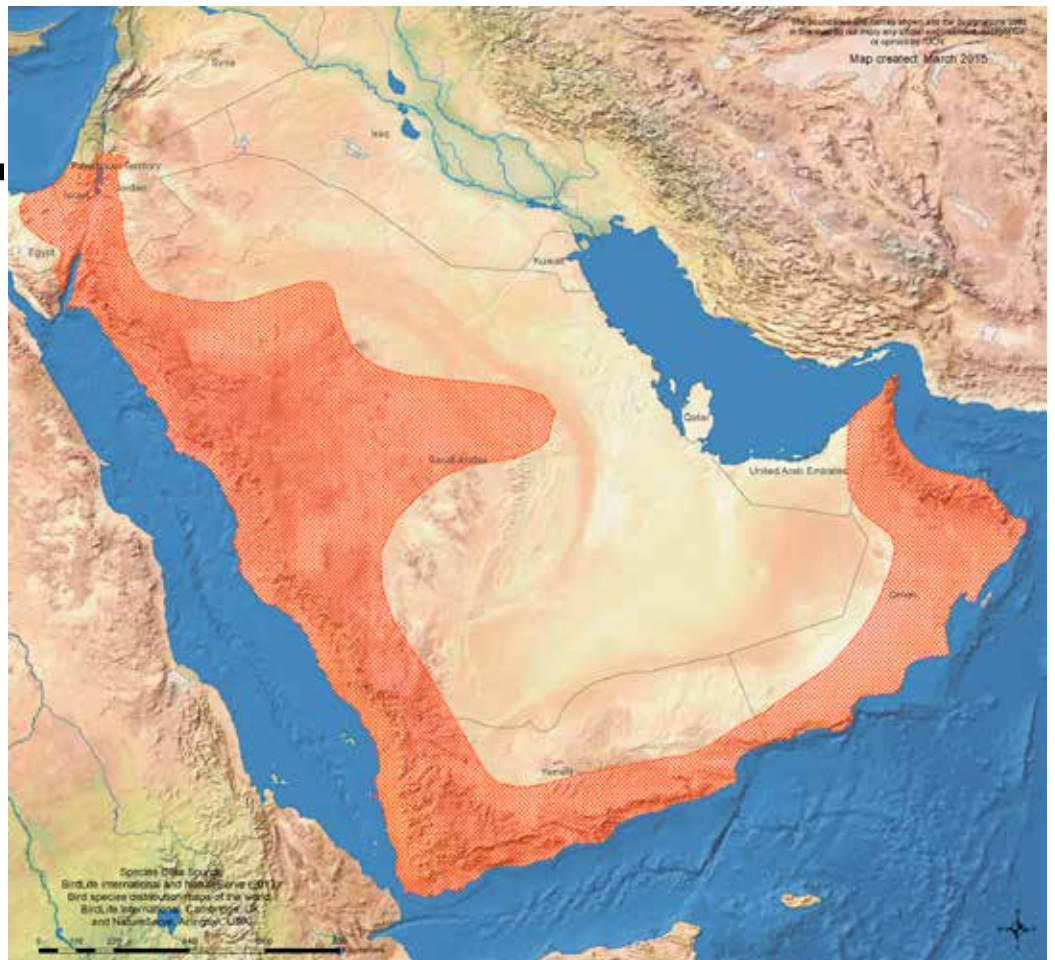


Socotra Bunting  
*Emberiza socotrana*



Arabian Babbler  
*Turdoides squamiceps*

NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



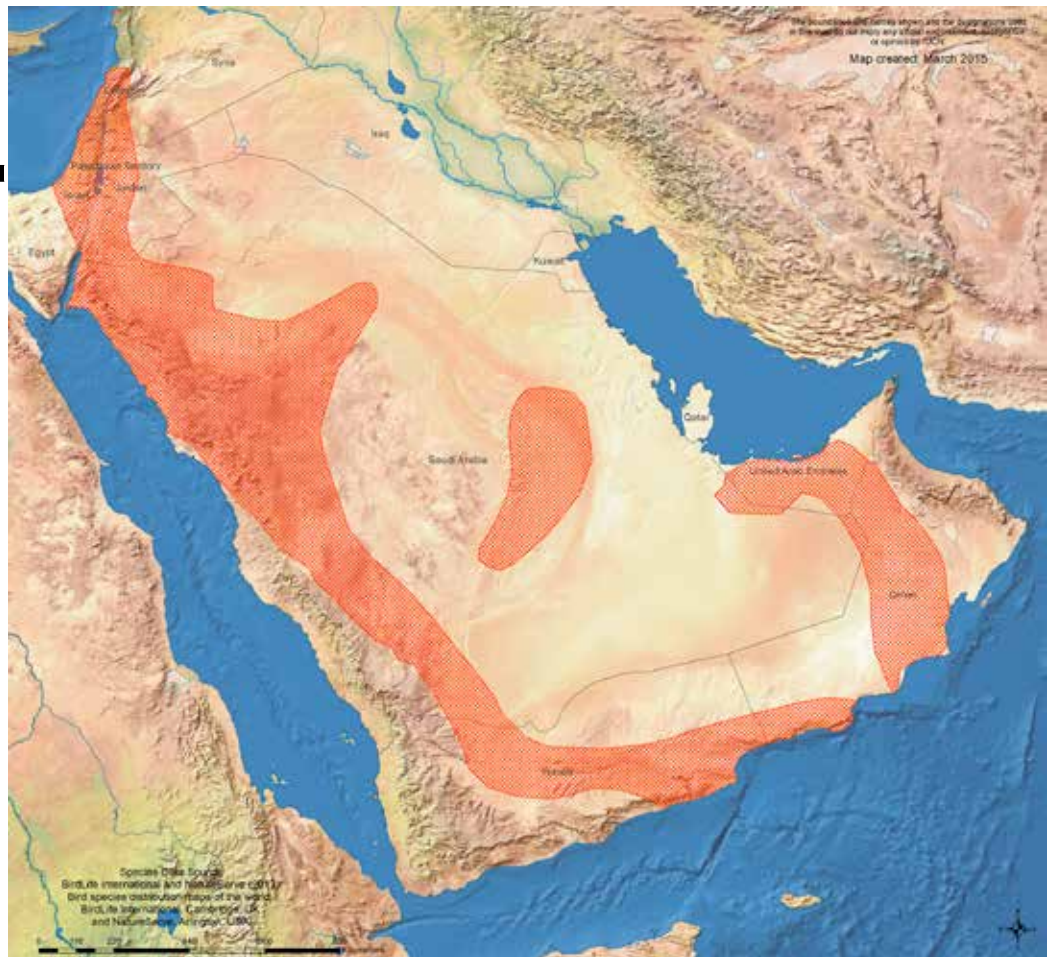
Tristram's Starling  
*Onychognathus tristramii*

NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



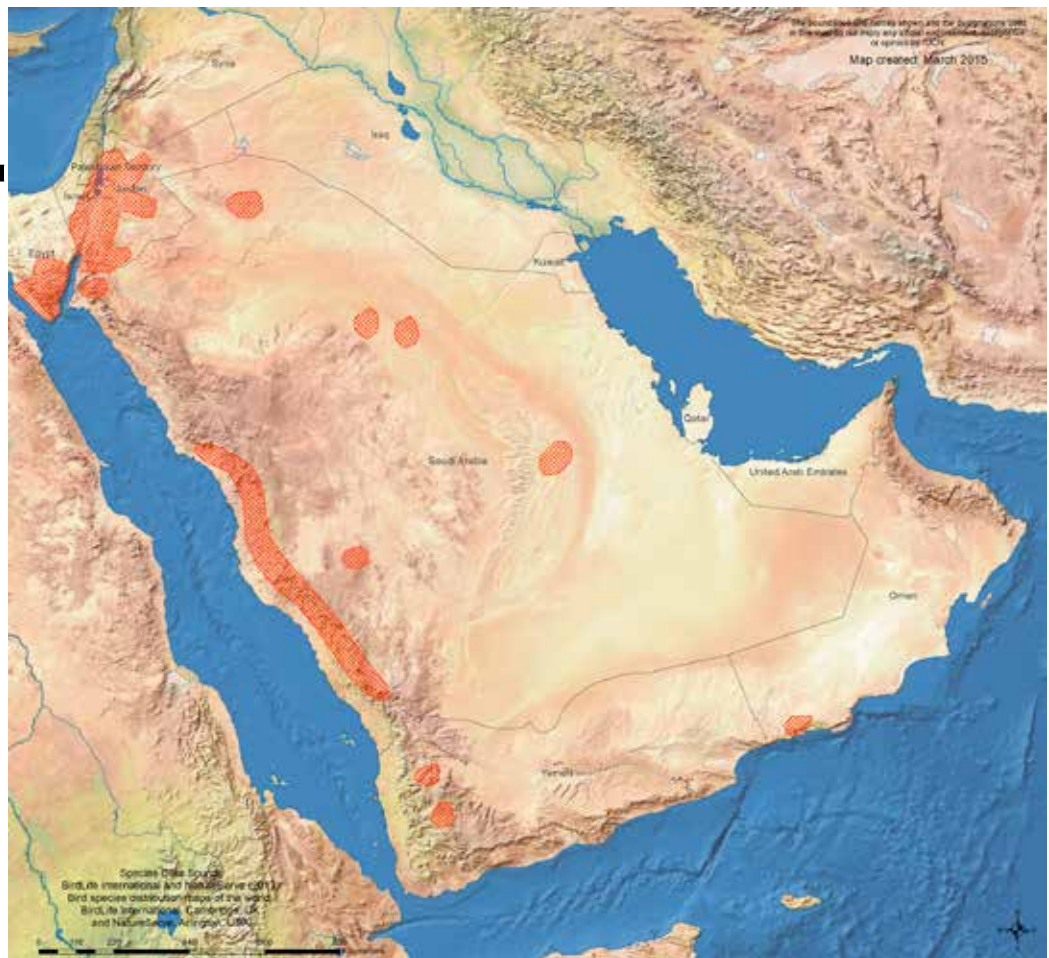
White-spectacled Bulbul  
*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*

NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



Hume's Owl  
*Strix butleri*

NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



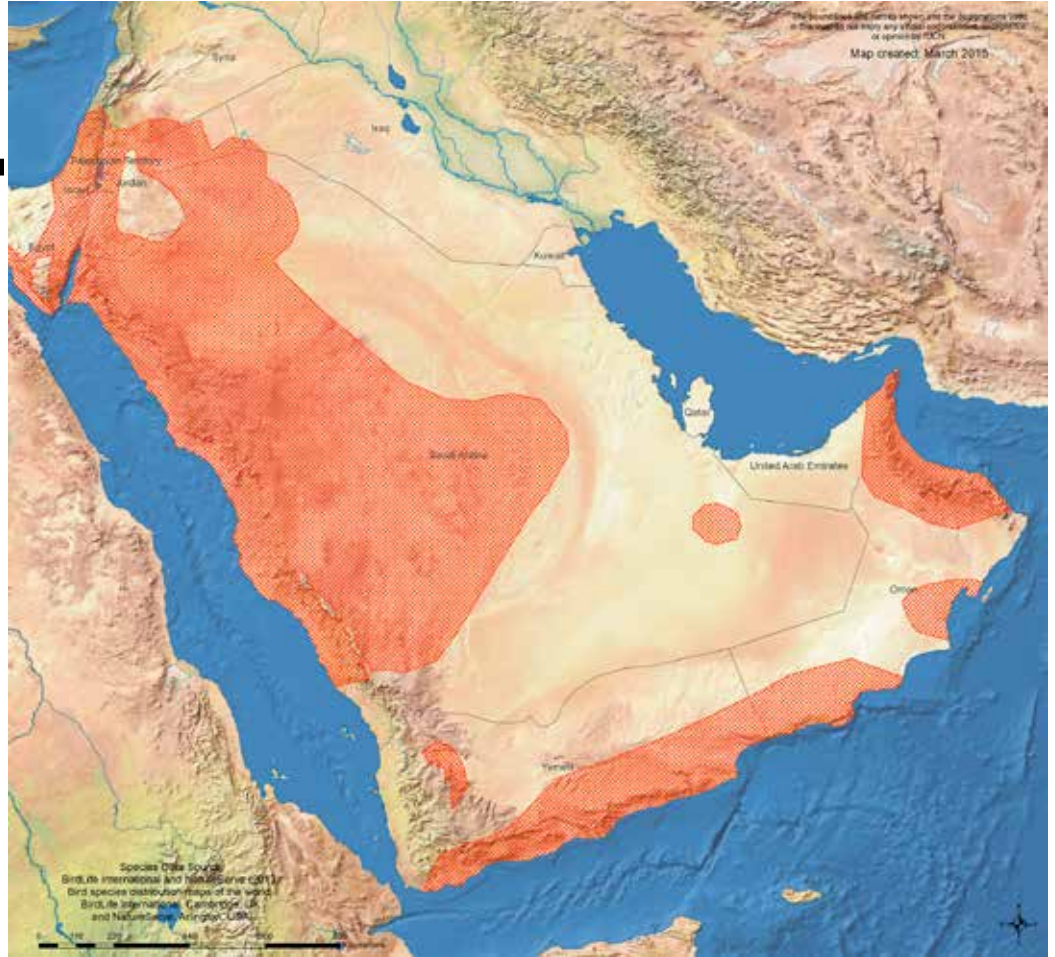
Iraq Babbler  
*Turdoides altirostris*

NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



Sand partridge  
*Ammoperdix heyi*

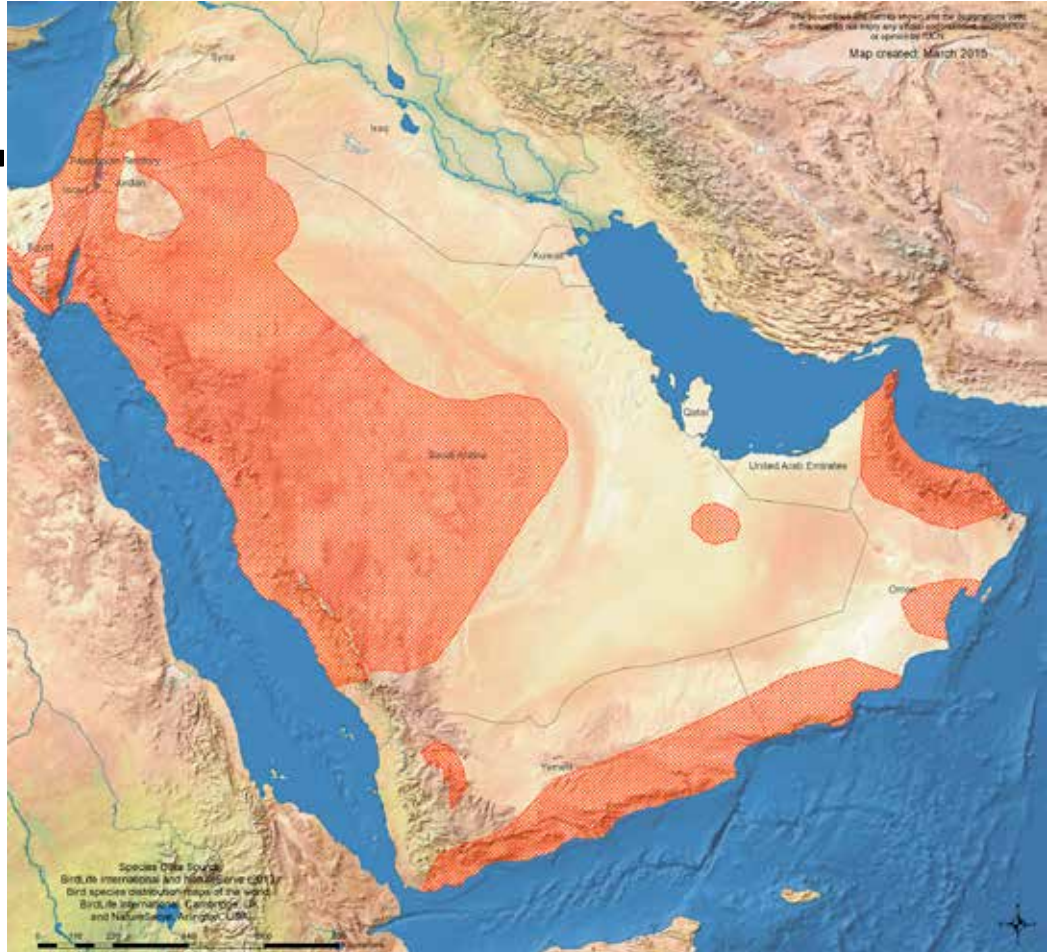
NE DD < LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX



Arabian Golden Sparrow  
*Passer euchlorus*



Sand partridge  
*Ammoperdix heyi*





Crab Plover  
*Dromas ardeola*



Palestine Sunbird  
*Nectarinia osea*





Iraq Babbler *Turdoides altirostris*. © Mudhafar Salim



Syrian Serin *Serinus syriacus*. © Ghassan Jarai/SPNL



White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis*. © Richard Porter



Yemen thrush *Turdus menachensis*. © Richard Porter





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