

# SOUTHERN ISRAEL FROM 03-04 UNTILL 11-04-2005



## Itinerary

- 03-04 Arrival late in the evening in Kibbutz Lothan ( 53 KM north of Eilat)
- 04-04 Birding between Eilat and Kibbutz L., in the evening Wadi Barak, 50 km N.of Lothan
- 05-04 Birding between Eilat and Lothan
- 06-04 Birding between Eilat and Lothan
- 07-04 Birding between Eilat and Lothan
- 08-04 Birding between Eilat and Lothan, in the evening Wadi Parran
- 09-04 Birding between Eilat and Kibbutz Yahel, in the evening Neot Hakkikar
- 10-04 Birding between Eilat and Lothan

I specially concentrated on migrating birds and almost ignored the desert specialities which I saw in spring 1990 in Israel and various other desert trips to other countries.

## Legenda

- AAAAA = A good record for me or for the area
- \*AAAAA = New species for me

## The Bird list

- 001 Little Grebe – 3 birds seen at different wet locations.
- 002 White Pelican – 1 sub adult at the ponds around K 18.5
- 003 Cormorant – 7 birds mainly K 20
- 004 Little Bittern – 1 male in the pond at Neot Hakkikar
- 005 Mangrove Heron – 3 birds during all visits at the North Beach
- 006 Squacco Heron – 7 birds in total mostly not in breeding plumage
- 007 Cattle Egret – 4 birds mostly at Km 18.5
- 008 Little Egret – Common.
- 009 Western Reef Egret – 5 birds from the North Beach with 1 dark face flying in on the evening of 04-04.
- 010 Purple Heron – 1 bird at K 18.5
- 011 Grey Heron – Quite common migrating in small flocks.
- 012 Black Stork – 1 bird migrating.
- 013 White Stork – Quite common sometimes in the beginning of the stay very large flocks.
- 014 Eurasian Spoonbill – 1 adult briefly present at K 18.5 on 07-04.
- 015 Flamingo – Common at K 20
- 016 Shelduck – About 50 birds present in flock at K 20
- 017 Common Teal – 10 birds seen mainly the ponds at Yotvata
- 018 Garganey – 8 birds seen al at the ponds at Yotvata
- 019 Pintail – 20 birds at K 30
- 020 Mallard – 2 a pair at the ponds at Yotvata
- 021 Shoveler – Common in large flocks at K 20
- 022 Black Kite – 20 birds all migrating north
- 023 Egyptian Vulture – 2 birds seen.
- 024 Montagu's Harrier – 1 immature female was present at the fields of Yotvata on 10-04
- 025 Sparrowhawk – 6 seen on migration
- 026 Levant Sparrowhawk – 3 females seen over the period. Surprisingly easy with blackish wingtips and orangey belly also the jizz is more elongated
- 027 (Steppe) Buzzard – Common on migration in sometimes very large flocks.
- 028 Steppe Eagle – 7 birds seen all immatures on migration
- 029 Booted Eagle – 5 birds seen both faces but mainly dark
- 030 Osprey – 3 birds seen
- 031 Common Kestrel – 2 birds seen.
- 032 Sand Partridge – 2 birds seen in Wadi Barak
- 033 Quail – 5 seen mainly at Lothan.
- 034 Little Crake – 3 female birds at the pond of Neot Hakkikar nice scope views.
- 035 Baillon's Crake – 1 bird in the scope at Neot Hakkikar
- 036 Corncrake – 2 birds in the open on a lawn of a house at a Kibbutz great views.
- 037 Moorhen – 4 birds seen
- 038 Eurasian Coot – 5 birds seen
- 039 Black-winged Stilt – Common at many wet places
- 040 Stone Curlew – 1 flying at night around K 18.5 during nightjar searching.
- 041 Collared Pratincole – 14 birds on 10-04, of which a flock on a dike at K 20 and a solitaire bird at the Yotvata fields
- 042 Little Ringed Plover – Quite common at K 20
- 043 Ringed Plover – Less common than Little at K 20
- 044 Kentish Plover – 40+ at K 20

- 045 Greater Sand Plover – 3 birds ssp: *columbinus* one at the North Beach, and two at K 20  
all female type birds
- 046 Spur-winged Lapwing – Common in pairs
- 047 Little Stint – Common at wet places, mostly in winter plumage
- 048 Curlew Sandpiper – 1 moulting bird at K 20
- 049 Common Snipe – 1 at the waterpools near K 40
- 050 Black-tailed Godwit – 5 birds in one flock at Neot Hakkikar
- 051 Redshank – Relatively common at K 20
- 052 Marsh Sandpiper – Common around K 20
- 053 Greenshank – 20 at K 20
- 054 Green Sandpiper – Seen daily at wet places
- 055 Wood Sandpiper – Seen daily in small flocks
- 056 Ruff – Seen daily at many wet places all moulting birds
- 057 Common Sandpiper – 5 birds seen
- 058 Red-necked Phalarope – 2 birds in mostly winter plumage present at the pools near the  
ringing station.
- \*059 **WHITE-EYED GULL** – 50+ birds present near the North beach in various plumages  
also nice adult summer birds.
- 060 Little Gull – 3 immature birds at K 20 and the North beach during the week
- 061 Common Black-headed Gull – 50 birds at K 20 and the North Beach
- 062 Slender-billed Gull – Common at various sites mostly immatures but also some nice  
adults
- 063 Baltic (Lesser Black-backed) Gull – 40 seen in small groups migrating (also through the  
Negev)
- 067 Heuglins Gull – 1 seen among a group of Baltic Gulls at K 20, slightly havier build and  
grey like graelsii
- 068 Caspian Gull – Quite common mostly (difficult) immatures
- 069 Gull-billed Tern – 7 birds seen mainly at K 20
- 070 Caspian Tern – 7 birds seen at the North Beach and the saltpans at the ringing station
- 071 Sandwich Tern – 3 birds seen around the North Beach on some occasions.
- 072 Common Tern – 25 seen at the North Beach
- 073 Little Tern – 1 migrating bird at Neot Hakkikar frequently calling
- 074 Whiskered Tern – 8 birds seen only one breeding plumage the rest in winter plumage
- 075 White-winged Black Tern – 2 birds seen one at the old salt pools and one at Neot  
Hakkikar
- 076 Rock Pigeon – Counted because seen in the desert??
- 077 Collared Dove – Very common around all the places
- 078 Turtle Dove – 5 birds in total seen
- 079 Laughing Dove – Very common everywhere
- 080 Namaqua Dove – 6 birds seen spread over the trip, males and females.
- Ring-necked Parakeet – 10 birds seen just north of Eilat
- Hume's Tawny Owl – 1 female heard (a obvious single "hooot") at one of the Wadi's to  
the north of Eilat. I do not count hear species. No response to tape luring

- \*081 **NUBIAN NIGHTJAR** – ssp: *tamaricis* 3 ex. seen and heard near Neot Hakkikar. One bird heard quite close around dusk (a pauw-pauw call). Later on we drove with 2 guides for almost two hours with a strong light around and saw one bird flying up from the road and latter on a bird which showed two times in the light and giving scope views and flight views in the bins. A small nightjar with a sandy colour (a bit orange on the belly) with barring. Quite obvious oval white wing spots on dark primaries. On the ground we saw stripes on the head and a white gape stripe (quite broad) and a collar. I did not concentrate on the tail.
- 082 Common Swift – Common on migration increasing during the week
- 083 Pallid Swift – 50+ at Neot Hakkikar drinking.
- 084 House Swift – 1 bird seen in a group of Common Swifts near Lothan.
- 085 Alpine Swift – 3 birds together on migration
- 086 Common Kingfisher – 1 bird seen at the North Beach flying in
- 087 Pied Kingfisher – 2 birds seen daily around the canal and the North Beach
- \*088 **BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER** – ssp: *persicus*, 1 bird alone and not with bee-eaters flushed from a dike in strong northern winds and later perched on dead wood on 05-04. All the features seen in particular the blue on the head, cheeks and supercilium and the yellow and red on the throat. Looked bigger headed than bee-eater and longer billed.
- 089 European Bee-eater – Common sometimes in large flocks moving though.
- 090 Little Green Bee-eater – Seen daily in several pairs
- 091 Hoopoe – Common
- 092 Wryneck – Seen daily in small numbers
- 093 Bimaculated Lark – 5 seen spread over the period at several places (mainly at a wet compost heap near K40) but also between flocks of Short-toed Larks at Yotvata. Very nice views
- 094 Short-toed Lark – Common seen daily in large flocks
- 095 Crested Lark – Common
- 096 Sand Martin – 20 seen at the old salt pools near the ringing station
- 097 Barn Swallow – Common
- 098 House Swallow – Common seen also in the hand at the ringing station
- 099 African Rock Martin – Seen almost daily with just a few birds also in dry wadis. smaller than Rock martin seen white in the tail.
- 100 Red-rumped Swallow – Common seen daily.
- 101 Richard's Pipit – 1 bird seen very well in the wet grasslands at Yotvata
- 102 Tawny Pipit - Seen daily in small numbers
- 103 Tree Pipit – Common
- 104 Red-throated Pipit – Common also a lot not red birds
- 105 Water Pipit – ssp: *coutellii*, 10 birds seen in breeding plumage, mainly at the wet fields at Yotvata
- 106 Yellow Wagtail – ssp: *Feldegg* – The most common  
*Flava* – The second most common  
*Thunbergi* – seen a few birds over the period  
*Lutea* – 1 bird found by Jonathan Meyrav on 08-04 and also seen on 10-04. Very nice male. The head was more yellow than on flavissima with also a yellow crown, very long legged and an immaculate green back



Also seen some interbreeding forms of Yellow Wagtail.

- 107 Yellow-vented Bulbul – Common
- 108 Rufous Bush Robin – 5 birds seen and hear, of which one in one bush with the Black.
- \*109 **BLACK BUSH ROBIN** – 1 female or first winter male on 09-04 at Kibbutz Yahel.  
Good views of the tail with white round feather endings. The bird had brownish wings and its plumage was not glossy black but just black.
- 110 Nightingale – Common seen mostly at the visited Kibbutz
- 111 Bluethroat – 2 female birds seen
- 112 Common Redstart – ssp: *samamasicus* -The less common of the 2 subspecies but at least one very clear one at Kibbutz Lothan  
ssp: *phoenicurus* – Common seen daily in small numbers
- 113 Blackstart – Common seen daily
- 114 Siberian Stonechat – 1 female type bird was seen at the fields of Yotvata
- 115 Isabelline Wheatear – Common seen daily mostly near water places
- 116 Common Wheatear – Common seen daily also together with the above species
- 117 Eastern Black-eared Wheatear – Common seen daily also some nice light throated birds.  
Most of the id feathers checked and very useful
- 118 Eastern Mourning Wheatear – 1 male seen in wadi Parran on 08-04, with white in the wings
- 119 White-crowned Wheatear – 2 birds seen in the mountains
- 120 Rock Thrush – 3 birds seen over the week
- 121 Graceful Prinia – Common in wet and reed area's often singing
- 122 Scrub Warbler – ssp: *inquieta* 2 birds seen near a small stream near Kibbutz Shizzafon, also singing and nice views
- 123 Reed Warbler – Common at Neot Hakkikar and 1 at Kibbutz Yahel.
- 124 Clamorous Reed Warbler – 20+ heard and seen at Neot Hakkikar
- 125 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler – Common also singing (very like a reed warbler)
- 126 Sardinian Warbler – 1 male at the small stream near Shizzafon
- 127 Ruppell's Warbler – 2 seen one male at Kibbutz Geofit and one first year male in the hand at the ringing station
- 128 Eastern Orphean Warbler – 2 birds seen one ad. Male at the entrance at Kibbutz Lothan and one first year (female??) with still a dark eye in the hand at Kibbutz Lothan. Both had very obvious marked undertail coverts and long bills
- 129 Lesser Whitethroat – ssp: *curruca*?? Very common the commonest bird seen.
- 130 Whitethroat – 10 birds seen of which one very light headed bird with an obvious yellow eyering at Kibbutz Lothan on 10-04 ssp: *icterops*??
- 131 Blackcap – Very common often mixed with Lesser Whitethroats

- 132 Easton Bonelli's Warbler – Common seen daily
- 133 Wood Warbler – 5 birds seen all at Lothan
- 134 Chiffchaff – Common especially in the beginning of the week
- 135 Semi collared Flycatcher – 2 one nice and out of the question male at one of the Kibbutzes with large white patches at the billbase, quite large white wingpatch, much white in the tail and a strong collar small (compared to collared) with a black neck, and one female with a small developed white secondary bar)
- 136 Collared Flycatcher – 12 birds seen all but one males giving very nice views. The female large and grey with the white spot at the base of the primaries
- 137 Pied Flycatcher – 3 birds seen and as such identified, because of almost no white in the tail, no noticeable collar and small white patch above the bill
- 138 Arabian Babbler – 15 seen in small family groups
- 139 Palestine Sunbird – Common on the Kibbutzes
- 140 Woodchat Shrike – Common seen daily near and at the Kibbutzes
- 141 Masked Shrike – Common seen daily also one female in the hand and ringed at Lothan
- 142 House Crow – Common at Eilat
- 143 Brown-necked Raven – Seen daily in small numbers north of Eilat
- 144 Tristram's Grackle – 40+ at Yotvata all near the visitors centre
- 145 European Starling – 1 in winter plumage at K 18.5 on 10-04
- 146 Rose Coloured Starling – 1 first year bird or female coming in to breeding plumage at Lothan on 04-04
- 147 House Sparrow – Common
- 148 Spanish Sparrow – Very Common in large groups also one albinistic bird at Yotvata
- 149 Dead Sea Sparrow – 10 birds seen at Neot Hakkikar, very nice views of singing males
- 150 Indian Silverbill – 7 birds seen all near K 40 also mating and singing
- 151 Common Greenfinch – 5 birds present at Lothan
- 152 Desert Finch – 6 birds seen, three at Lothan and three at the fields of Yotvata
- 153 Ortolan Bunting – Very common during the week taking over the mainly in large groups in the fields of Yotvata
- 154 Cretzschmar's Bunting – Common in the beginning of the week (first two days)
- 155 Corn Bunting – 1 seen well in the fields of Yotvata

Many thanks to Jonathan Meyrav and Arnon Tsiari (Nubian Nightjar) for helping and guiding me sometimes during this trip

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