

TRAVELREPORT

YEMEN IN WINTER

16 TO 30 JANUARY 2008



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ITENERARY

Wed	16-01	Flight from London Heathrow to Sana'a
Thur	17-01	Birded all day (without sleep) at Haman Garif near Sana'a
Fri	18-01	Birded at the Kawkaban area near Sana'a
Sat	19-01	Birded at Al Ahjur near Sana'a
Sun	20-01	Drove from Sana'a to Al Mahweet and birded at the route and near the town
Mon	21-01	Birded at Al Mahweet and drove to Al Hudaydah thru wadi Sarie'e (four wheel track) and birded in the evening from the balcony of the hotel (sea view)
Thue	22-01	Birded around the Al Dahy Cattle Farm, Hudaydah Harbour and sewage works
Wed	23-01	Birded around Al Mansuriyeh, Jebel Bara all in the Hudaydah area
Thur	24-01	Birded at the Hudaydah Fish market, Hudaydah Lagoon and sewage works, after that drove back to Sana'a.
Fri	25-01	Flew in the very early morning from Sana'a to Socotra and birded in the Ayfath NP
Sat	26-01	Birded at Socotra mainly the Dixam Plateau
Sun	27-01	Birded at Socotra in the morning a boat trip from Qualensiyah in the afternoon a sea watch
Mon	28-01	In the morning birded on Socotra at the Khors Dibni, Sirhin and Dyfath and flew in the afternoon to Aden and birded just for two hours around Aden marsh.
Thue	29-01	Birded the hotel in Aden in the early morning, later that day flew back to Sana'a for an (old) city walk
Wed	30-01	Flew from Sana'a to Londen and home..

Legenda:

*AAAA = New (Holarctic) Species (31)

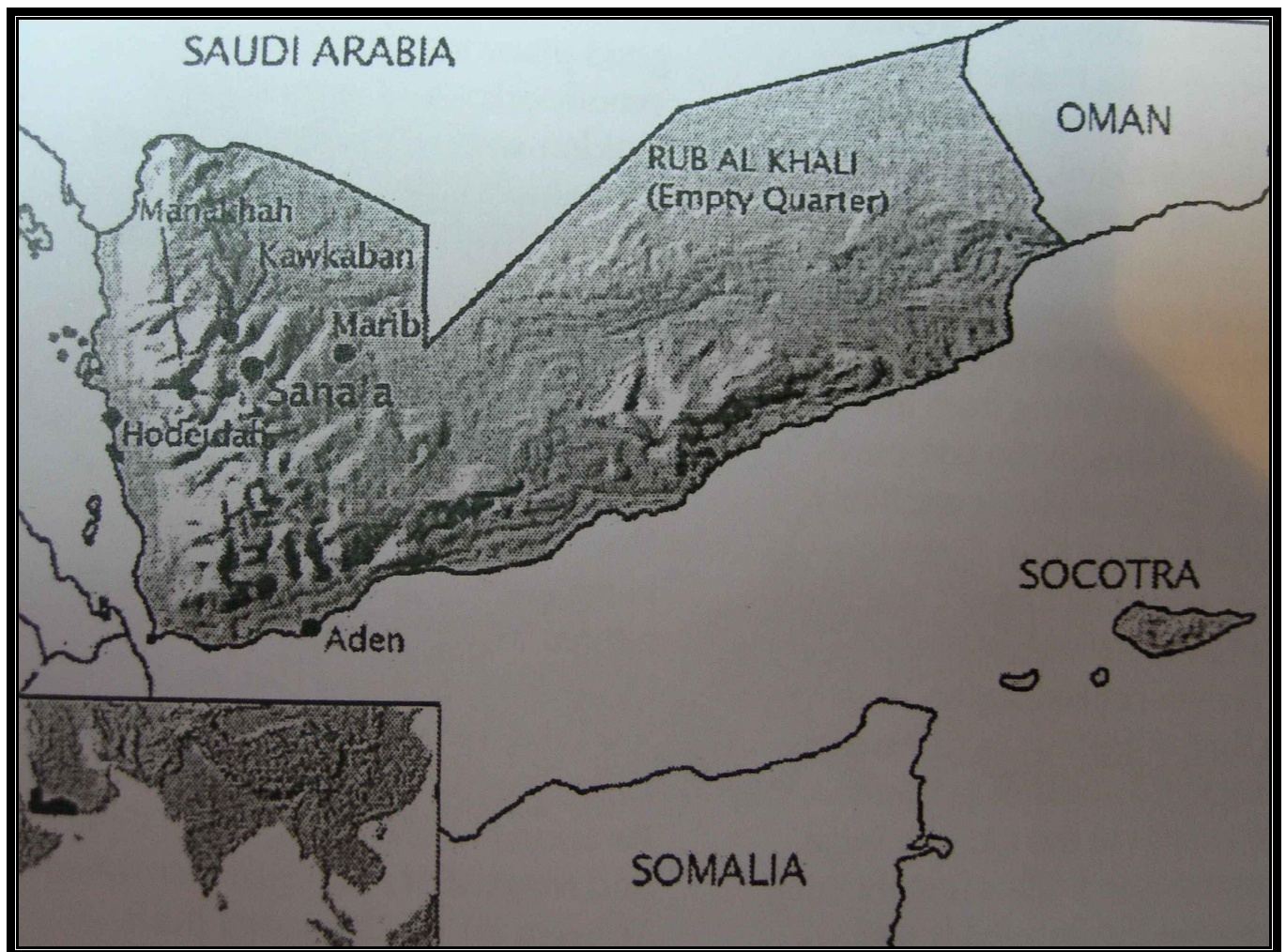
*AAAA = New Species (8)

AAAA = Good bird for the area or for myself

The Dutch name is given when known (according to van den Berg, Dutch Birding-namen). The list order is conform Palaearctic Birds by Beaman with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue. Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field.

Only new bird species SEEN mentioned.

The weather was good, with nice coolness in the mountains and hot humid weather in the lowlands. On Socotra there was a nice breeze in the afternoon. The temperature varied between 7 in the night and 32 during the day. It was almost always sunny with partial clouding and no rain.



The visited area's



Photo of Google earth of Socotra on thru scale

THE BIRDSPECIES

001 LITTLE GREBE – *tachybaptus ruficollis*

(dodaars)

A total of 20 birds seen at the sewage works of Al Hudaydah.

002 BLACK-NECKED GREBE – *podiceps nigricollis*

(kuifduiker)

24-01 1 ex. at the Al Hudaydah sewage works.

003 JOUANIN'S PETREL – *BULWERIA FALLAX

27-01 1 ex. Seen quite well flying east past Socorra on a sea watch just before dusk. Luckily an other trip member got in in the scope because I could not find it. As an over exaggerated Bowler's Petrel, all black, with long neck, hooked long wings, long tail en round head. Looked bigger than Bowlers.

004 STREAKED SHEARWATER – *calonectris leucomelas*

26-01 1 ex. flying west, during a sea watch. Not very good views, the face was very white.

005 PERSIAN SHEARWATER – *puffinus carneipes*

27-01 21 ex. seen very well close to the (small) boat, swimming and flying over the boat. Also two seen in the afternoon during the sea watch. A small shearwaters with greyish feather lines on the axillaries

004 MASKED BOOBY – *SULA DACTYLATRA* ssp: *melanops

26-01 26 ex. seen at a sea watch, in small groups

27-01 40 ex. seen during the boat trip and at a sea watch.

All adults, very nice views.

005 BROWN BOOBY – *sula leucogaster* ssp: *plotus*

25-01 4 ex. seen swimming from the north coast of Socotra

27-01 20 ex. seen from both the boat trip and the sea watch. Nice views.

005 GREAT CORMORANT – *phalacrocorax carbo* ssp: *lucidus* + *sinensis*?

(aalscholver)

27-01 2 ex. at two birds, one very convincing lucidus at two khors on Socotra.

28-01 1 ex. at one of the visited khors.

006 SOCOTRA CORMORANT – *phalacrocorax nigrogularis*

Seen daily around Socotra with about 20+ as a maximum on a day. No summer plumage birds.

007 GREAT WHITE PELICAN – *pelecanus onocrotalus*

(roze pelikaan)

22-01 1 imm. together with two pink backed pelicans at Hudaydah harbour.

008 PINK-BACKED PELICAN – *pelecanus rufescens*

Seen at most coastal sites with a total of 57 birds, with a maximum of thirty on one day (22-01).



009 YELLOW BITTERN – ixobrychus sinensis

28-01 1 immature male at khor Sirhin. An immature male with an very orange side neck. Seen on a fence, in the scope. This bird was probably also seen in the autumn at this site in a poor condition.

010 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON – nycticorax nycticorax

(kwak)

28-01 1 ex. in a quarry at khor Dibni.

011 STRIATED HERON – butorides striatus

24-01 1 immature in a mangrove swamp at Hudaydah lagoon.

29-01 2 in Aden Harbour.

012 INDIAN POND HERON – ardeola grayii

27-01 1 ex. in non-breeding plumage at a khor near Qualensiyah, good views.

It had a dark-eye lining on the lores, bold neck streaking plus a rather dark back. These are all the features of IPH and not the Squacco



foto: Janos Olah

013 CATTLE EGRET – bubulcus ibis

(koereiger)

Seen at most sites often in the lowlands and also on Socotra. A maximum of 50+ a day.

014 WESTERN REEF EGRET – egretta gularis

Seen at all the coastal sites, with a maximum of 4 birds on a day on the mainland, but much more common at Socotra. Dark and white faces seen.

015 LITTLE EGRET – egretta garzetta

(kleine zilverreiger)

Seen almost daily at fresh water sides, also in the mountains (up to 1400 meter) with a maximum of 10 birds on a day (24-01).

016 INTERMEDIATE EGRET – egretta intermedia ssp: *intermedia* or *brachyrhyncha*

27-01 2 ex. seen at different khors at Socotra.

28-01 1 ex. at khor Sirhin.

017 GREAT WHITE EGRET – egretta alba

(grote zilverreiger)

28-01 1 ex. at khor Sirhin

018 GREY HERON – ardea cinerea

(blauwe reiger)

Seen at most area's with water.

019 BLACK-HEADED HERON – ardea melanocephala

22-01 4 ex, one flying in from sea and later four present at the sewage works of Hudaydah.

24-01 1 ex. at the sewage works of Hudaydah.

28-01 6 ex. scattered around at Aden Marsh.

Very nice views, and a high number for this african "vagrant".

020 PURPLE HERON – ardea purpurea

(purperreiger)

27-01 1 ex. seen at the khor near Qualensiyah.

28-01 2 ex. seen at different khors.

021 HAMERKOP - scopus umbretta

18-01 1 ex. seen at a small lake near a village on the plateau near Sana'a.

***022 ABDIM'S STORK – CICONIA ABDIMII**

21-01 26 in one flock on the rubbish dump near Al Hudaydah

22-01 4 ex. on the sewage works of Al Hudaydah

24-01 2 ex. on the sewage works of Al Hudaydah

28-01 237 !! in one huge flock above the rubbish dump of Aden

Nice views of these birds with a white "sigar" on the back. Also two immatures seen (with brown neck and head)

023 WHITE STORK – ciconia ciconia

(ooievaar)

21-01 110 in one flock at the rubbish dump near Al Hudaydah, with the Abdim's.

24-01 45 at the same area.

024 GLOSSY IBIS – plegadis falcinellus

(zwarte ibis)

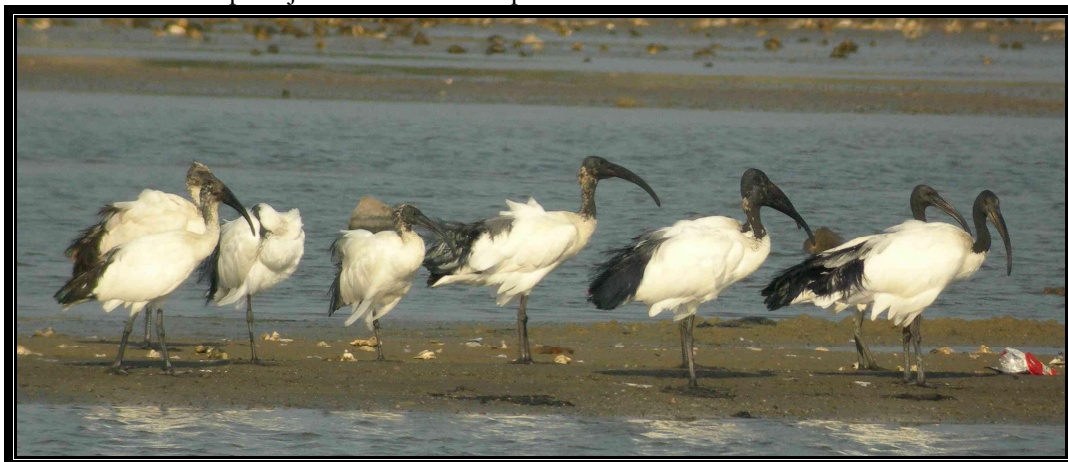
22+24-01 7 ex. at the sewage ponds near Al Hudaydah.

27-01 1 ex. at khor Sirhin on Socotra.

28-01 100 ex. at the Aden marshes.

025 SACRED IBIS – threskiornis aethiopicus

28-01 17 ex. at a fishpond just outside Aden airport.



026 EURASIAN SPOONBILL – *platalea alba*
(lepelaar)

24-01 16 ex. at Hudaydah Lagoon.

28-01 22 ex. around Aden marshes.

027 GREATER FLAMINGO – *phoenicopterus roseus*
(flamingo)

22+24-01 300+ at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah.

28-01 Common at Aden marsh.

028 LESSER FLAMINGO – *phoenicopterus minor*
(kleine flamingo)

22+24-01 2200+ at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah

28-01 400+ at the Aden marshes



029 COTTON PYGMY-GOOSE – *nettapus coromandelianus*

27-01 2 ex. both juv. at a khor near Qualensiyah on Socotra.

Nice views together with a Garaganey

030 EURASIAN WIGEON – *anas Penelope*
(smient)

22-01 15 ex. in one group at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah

28-01 1 ex. at Aden marsh.

031 EURASIAN TEAL – *anas crecca*
(wintertaling)

22+24-01 30 ex. at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah

28-01 6 ex. at Aden marsh.

032 NORTHERN PINTAIL – *anas acuta*

(pijlstaart)

22+24-01 10 ex. at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah.

27-01 6 ex. at khor Sirhin.

28-01 20 ex. at Aden marshes.

033 GARGANEY – *anas querquedula*

(zomertaling)

22+24-01 15 ex. at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah

27-01 15 ex. at khor Sirhin.

28-01 50 ex. at Aden marshes.

034 NORTHERN SHOVELER – *anas clypeata*

(slobeend)

22+24-01 300 ex. at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah

27-01 1 female at khor Sirhin.

28-01 common at Aden marshes.

035 COMMON POCHARD – *aythya farina*

(tafeleend)

22+24-01 3 ex. at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah.

036 FERRUGINOUS DUCK – *aythya nyroca*

(witoogeend)

22+24-01 2 females at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah

037 TUFTED DUCK – *aythya fuligula*

(kuifeend)

24-01 2 immatures at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah.

27-01 2 immatures at khor Sirhin, Socotra.

038 BLACK SHOULDERED KITE – *elanus caeruleus*

(grijze wouw)

23-01 1 adult sitting on top of a bush at Al Mansuriyeh.

039 BLACK KITE – *milvus migrans*

(zwarte wouw)

Common on the mainland of Yemen, most birds were of the “look alike” liniatus type.

040 YELLOW BILLED KITE – *milvus aegyptius*

Common on the mainland of Yemen, not always checked which species was involved.

041 LAMMERGEIER – *gypaetus barbatus*

(lammergeier)

17-01 2 ad. seen flying on our way to Haman Garif, the first bird of the trip....

042 EGYPTIAN VULTURE – *neophron percnopterus*

A total of 5 birds seen on the mainland of Yemen.

Very common on Socotra.

043 EURASIAN GRIFFON VULTURE – *gyps fulvus*

A total of 21 birds seen on the trip, with 15 on one on day (20-01) near a colony.



foto: Erica klim

044 SHORT-TOED EAGLE – *circaetus gallicus*

(slangenarend)

21-01 2 ex. seen along the way.

045 WESTERN MARSH HARRIER – *circus aeruginosus*

(bruine kiekendief)

A total of 6 birds seen al on the mainland Yemen.

046 PALLID HARRIER – *circus macrourus*

(steppe kiekendief)

21-01 1 first winter seen in the lowlands close to Al Hudaydah .

23-01 2 ex. one fine adult male and a “ringtail” seen wel around Al Hudaydah.

The first winter was a bird with “boa and boomerang”.

047 MONTAGU’S HARRIER – *circus pygargus*

(grauwe kiekendief)

23-01 1 fine male hunting in the dunes near Al Hudaydah.

048 DARK CHANTING GOSHAWK – *melierax metabates*

22-01 2 ex. around Al Hudaydah.

23-01 3 ex. all around Al Hudaydah.

24-01 1 juv. caught by a local, handed over to the nearby police and the bird was released..

049 EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK – *accipiter nisus*

(sperwer)

A total of 6 birds seen during the trip, al on mainland Yemen.

050 SHIKRA – *accipiter badius*

23-01 2 ex. see very well at Jebel Bara, one perched on a wire and one flying over.

Like a orange eyed Levant’s.

051 STEPPE BUZZARD – *buteo buteo ssp: vulpinus*

(steppebuizerd)

A total of 9 birds seen on the mainland of Yemen.

---- SOCOTRA BUZZARD – *buteo buteo ssp: socotranus*

A total of 6 birds seen on Socotra, Quite dark birds resembling adult Rough-legged on the underparts but mostly resembles common Buzzard.

052 LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD – *buteo rufinus*

(arendbuiserend)

A total of 9 birds seen on the mainland of Yemen, with a maximum of 5 birds on one day (23-01),

053 GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE – *aquila clanga*

(bastaardarend)

22-01 1 ex. an adult over the sewage ponds of Hudaydah.

23-01 1 ad. over Jebel Bara.

054 STEPPE EAGLE – *aquila nipalensis*

(steppearend)

A total of 38 birds seen. Seen on most day, the most (25) on 19-01. This was the most common eagle on the trip. All on the mainland of Yemen.

055 TAWNY EAGLE – *aquila rapax ssp: belisarius*

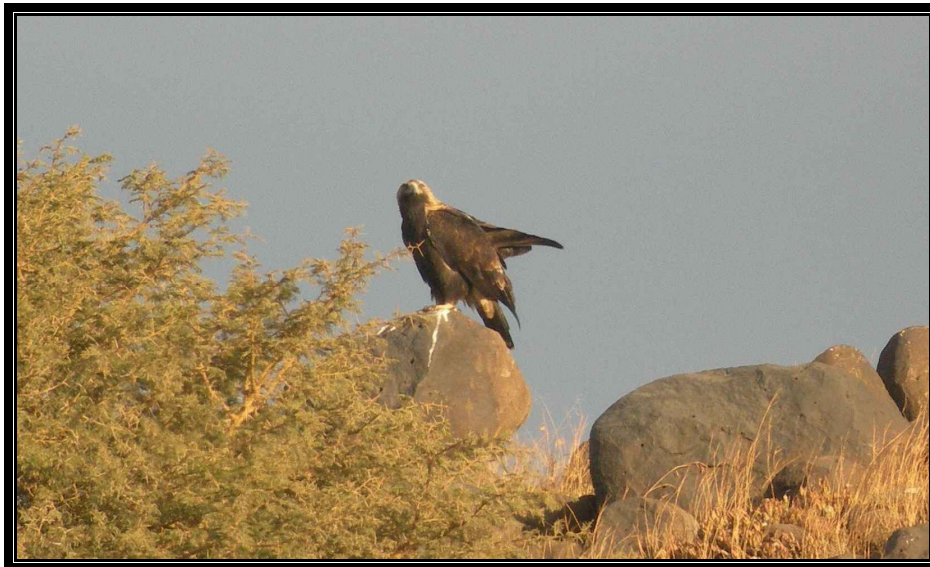
22-01 1 adult seen at the sewage ponds of Hudaydah

Very nice views, flying over, quite grey/sandy collared, totally no white line on the underwings. Longer necked and bigger headed than 054.

056 IMPERIAL EAGLE – *aquila heliaca*

(keizerarend)

A total of 7 birds seen spread over the trip. Both juveniles and adults. Some very nice views of birds sitting in full view.



057 BOOTED EAGLE – *hieraaetus pennatus*

(dwergarend)

23-01 1 dark face flying over Jebel Bara.

058 BONELLI'S EAGLE – *hieraaetus fasciatus*

(havikarend)

17-01 2 ex., a pair at Haman Garif, nice views.

23-01 1 adult seen during the day.

059 OSPREY – *pandion haliaetus*

(visarend)

22-01 1 ex. seen at Hudaydah lagoon.

28-01 1 ex. at khor Sirhin, Socotra

060 COMMON KESTREL – *falco tinnuculus*

(torenvalk)

A total of 10 seen in Yemen and Socotra.

061 SAKER – *falco cherrug*

22-01 1 ex., most likely an immature migrating(?) south and flying over at Hudaydah lagoon.

Nice views of the light head and underwing pattern, with very streaked dark line on the underwing, and streaked underwing coverts.

062 PHILBY'S PARTRIDGE – *ALECTORIS PHILBYI

18-01 25 ex. together in one big flock with 063 on the plateau on the way to Kawkaban. Nice views.



063 ARABIAN PARTRIDGE – *ALECTORNIS MELANOCEPHALA

18-01 14 ex, mixed in with 062 on the plateau on the way to Kawkaban. Nice views.

19-01 2 ex, at a ridge near Sana'a.



064 COMMON QUAIL – *coturnix coturnix*

(kwartel)

23-01 1 ex. flushed in a coastal area near Al Hudaydah.

065 SPOTTED CRAKE – *porzana porzana*

(porseleinhoen)

28-01 1 adult at khor Sirhin on Socotra. New bird for a 8000+ member.

066 COMMON MOORHEN – *gallinula chloropus*

(waterhoen)

28-01 8 ex. at two different khors on Socotra.

067 EURASIAN COOT – *fulica atra*

(meerkoet)

A total of 17 seen on the trip, also on Socotra

068 EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER – *haematopus ostralegus*

(scholekster)

24-01 2 ex. at Hudaydah lagoon.

28-01 1 ex., at Aden marshes.

069 BLACK-WINGED STILT – *himantopus himantopus*

(stelkluit)

Common on all sweet water places, sometimes 200+ at favourite places.

070 PIED AVOCET – *recurvirostra avosetta*

(kluit)

22+24-01 9 ex. at the Hudaydah sewage works

28-01 27 ex. at Aden marshes.

071 CRAB PLOVER – *dromas ardeola*

24-01 1 immature seen well at Hudaydah lagoon, eating crabs..

072 STONE CURLEW – *burhinus oedipoda*

(grielt)

22-01 4 ex. all together in one flock around the Al Dahy Cattle Farm.

073 CREAM-COLOURED COURSER – *cursor cursor*

(renvogel)

26-01 11 ex. in one flock near Hadibo on Socotra.

074 COLLARED PRATINCOLE – *glareola pratincola*

(vorkstaartplevier)

22-01 60 ex. in one flock at the Hudaydah sewage works. Most in winter plumage, with broad white trailing edges at the tops of the secondaries.

075 LITTLE RINGED PLOVER – *charadrius dubius*

(kleine plevier)

22-01 1 ex. at the Hudaydah sewage works.

27+28 1 ex. at khor Sirhin on Socotra.

Both in winter plumage.

076 COMMON RINGED PLOVER – *charadrius hiaticula*

(bontbekplevier)

Seen at all coastal sites with a maximum of 200 birds on a day (24-01).

077 KENTISH PLOVER – *charadrius alexandrinus*

(strandplevier)

Seen at all coastal sites with a maximum of 100 birds on a day (24-01).

078 LESSER SAND PLOVER – *charadrius atrifrons*

23-01 20 ex. on the high tide roost at Hudaydah Lagoon

24-01 30 ex. on the mudflats at Hudaydah Lagoon.

All winter plumaged birds

079 GREATER SANDPLOVER – *charadrius leschenaultia*

(woestijnplevier)

23-01 40 ex. on the high tide roost at Hudaydah Lagoon

24-01 40 ex. on the mudflats at Hudaydah Lagoon.

All “normal” billed birds in winter plumage.

080 PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER – *pluvialis fulva*

(aziatische goudplevier)

28-01 2 ex. in winter plumage at Aden marsh.

081 GREY PLOVER – *pluvialis squatarola*

(zilverplevier)

Seen at all the mudflat places during the trip, with a maximum of 5 birds on a day.

082 SPUR-WINGED LAPWING – *vanellus spinosus*

(sporenkievit)

22+24-01 a maximum of 20 birds at the sewage works of Hudaydah.

083 WHITE-TAILED LAPWING – *vanellus leucurus*

(witstaartkievit)

28-01 8 ex, standing together at Aden marsh, nice birds and rare in Yemen.

084 SANDERLING – *calidris alba*

(drieteenstrandloper)

23-01 4 ex. at d high tide roost Huaydah lagoon.

085 LITTLE STINT – *calidris minuta*

(kleine strandloper)

The most common stint along the coasts of Yemen and Socotra, with up to 200+ on a day.

086 TEMMINK’S STINT – *calidris temminckii*

(temmink’s strandloper)

27-01 3 ex. at khor Sirhin.

28-01 20 ex, at different khors at Socotra.

087 CURLEW SANDPIPER – *calidris ferruginea*

(krombekstrandloper)

A total of 56 seen at most coastal places visited also at Socotra.

088 DUNLIN – *calidris alba*

(bonte strandloper)

24-01 5 ex. at Hudaydah sewage works

089 BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER – *limicola falcinellus*

(breedbekstrandloper)

24-01 3 ex. seen well at Hudaydah lagoon, one bird coming into summer plumage.

090 RUFF – *philomachus pugnax*

(kemphaan)

Seen at all sweet water places mainly on the mainland of Yemen, but also one bird on Socotra, with 500+ in Aden marshes as the maximum day count.

091 COMMON SNIPE – *gallinago gallinago*

(watersnip)

25-01 2 ex. at a small pond on the north Socotra coast.

28-01 1 ex. at Aden marsh.

092 PINTAIL SNIPE – *gallinago stenura*

25-01 1 ex. with 091 at a small pond on the north Socotra coast. Nice flight views, without a white trailing edge, darker and a more dark barred underwing.

093 BLACK-TAILED GODWIT – limosa limosa

(grutto)

A total of 140 birds seen during the trip on the mainland of Yemen. Seen on three days at sweet water places.

094 BAR-TAILED GODWIT – limosa limosa

(rosse grutto)

23+24-01 a maximum of 20 ex. at Hudaydah Lagoon.

095 EURASIAN WHIMBREL – numenius arquata

(regenwulp)

A total of 8 birds seen in Yemen and Socotra.

096 EURASIAN CURLEW – numenius arquata ssp: *orientalis*?

(wulp)

A total of 13 seen on the mainland of Yemen.

097 SPOTTED REDSHANK – tringa erythropus

(zwarte ruiter)

A total of 5 birds seen spread over the trip, all singles.

098 COMMON REDSHANK - tringa tetanus

(tureluur)

A total of 80 birds spread over the trip.

099 MARSH SANDPIPER – tringa stagnatilis

(poelruiter)

28-01 30 ex. all together in one spread out flock at Aden marshes.

100 COMMON GREENSHANK – tringa nebularia

(groenpootruiter)

A total of 52 birds seen during the trip.

101 GREEN SANDPIPER – tringa ochropus

(witgat)

A total of 10 birds seen on the mainland of Yemen. Some in wadi's in the dessert.

102 WOOD SANDPIPER – tringa glareola

(bosruiter)

A total 67 birds seen during the trip, also in small groups.

103 TEREK SANDPIPER – xenus cinereus

(terekruiter)

23+24-01 a maximum of 20 birds seen at Hudaydah Lagoon.

27-01 1 ex. at a khor near Qualensiyah on Socotra.

104 COMMON SANDPIPER – actitis hypoleucos

(oeverloper)

Quite common throughout the trip.

105 RUDDY TURNSTONE – arenaria interpres

(steenloper)

A total of 28 seen on the trip, also on Socotra.

106 RED-NECKED PHALAROPE – phalaropus lobatus

(grauwe franjepoot)

23-01 1 ex. at Hudaydah Lagoon.

24-01 2 ex. at Hudaydah sewage works.

All juveniles.

106 SOOTY GULL – *larus hemprichii*

Common along all visited coasts in quite large numbers.

107 WHITE-EYED GULL – *larus leucophthalmus*

22-01 1 ex. flying south along the coast at Hudaydah.

24-01 6 ex. at the fish market of Hudaydah.

108 PALLAS'S GULL – *larus ichthyaetus*

(reuzenzwartkopmeeuw)

24-01 1 ex. at the fish market of Hudaydah.

28-01 10 ex. at Socotra and later on 2 ex. in summer plumage at Aden marsh.

109 BLACK-HEADED GULL – *larus ridibundus*

(kokmeeuw)

Quite common at most suitable places during the trip, with a maximum of 200 birds a day.

110 SLENDER-BILLED GULL – *larus genei*

(dunbekmeeuw)

Quite common at most suitable places during the trip, with a maximum of 400 birds a day (24-01)

111 BALTIC GULL – *larus fuscus* ssp: *fuscus*

(baltische mantelmeeuw)

A total of 5 seen spread over the trip, all adults.

112 STEPPE GULL – *larus barabensis*

23-01 1 ex. at a gull flock at Hudaydah lagoon. Small, short billed, very yellow legs.

113 CASPIAN GULL – *larus cachinnans*

(pontische meeuw)

23-01 1 ad. at a gull flock at Hudaydah lagoon.

114 HEUGLIN'S GULL – *larus heuglini*

(heuglins meeuw)

The common gull (presumed..) at all visited sites, also on Socotra.

115 CASPIAN TERN – *sterna caspia*

(reuzensterne)

A total of 15 birds seen at most coastal sites visited.

116 GREATER CRESTED TERN – *sterna bergii*

Seen almost daily along the coast, with a maximum of 20 birds a day, all in winter plumage.

117 LESSER CRESTED TERN – *sterna bengalensis*

A total of 60 birds seen spread along the coasts during the trip.

118 SANDWICH TERN – *sterna sandvicensis*

(grote stern)

Seen daily along the coasts with up to 60 birds on a day.

119 COMMON TERN – *sterna hirundo*

(visdief)

27-01 3 ex. during the boat trip, all in winter plumage.

120 SAUNDERS'S TERN – *sterna saundersi*

Seen daily along the coast of Hudaydah, with up to 5 birds a day.

121 WHISKERED TERN – *chlidonias hybridus*

(witwangstern)

22-01 1 ex. at the sewage works of Hudaydah

27-01 80 ex. in one flock on the sea during the boat trip on Socotra.

122 WHITE-WINGED TERN – *chlidonias leucopterus*
(witvleugelstern)

The common marsh tern seen mainly on the mainland of Yemen with up to 300 birds a day, but also a few birds on Socotra.

123 LICHTENSTEIN'S SANDGROUSE – *pterocles lichtensteinii*

26+27-01 2 birds, one male and one female at Socotra's north coast near a nest, very close views.

124 CHESNUT-BELLIED SANDGROUSE – *pterocles exustus*

22-01 27 seen during the evening in small groups spread over the afternoon.

23-01 2 ex. near Hudaydah.

125 ROCK DOVE – *columba livia*

Seen daily in the higher parts around Sana'a, with up to 40 birds on a day. Only looked at pure birds.

126 OLIVE PIGEON – *COLUMBA ARQUATRIX

20-01 1 ex. seen well at Al Mahweet flying and sitting in a tree. Yellow bill, yellow feet, purple colour and white spots on the neck area seen when sitting in the tree. This bird was a surprise, we thought it was a rare summer visitor, but is maybe colonizing Yemen.

127 AFRICAN COLLARED DOVE – *streptopelia roseogrisea*

22-01 20 ex. around Hudaydah, also sitting in a lagoon bush.

23-01 Commonly seen around Hudaydah.

128 RED-EYED DOVE – *streptopelia semitorquata*

20-01 3 ex. seen around Al Mahweet.

21-01 5 ex. seen around Al Mahweet.

23-01 3 ex. spread over the day.

129 DUSKY TURTLE DOVE – *STREPTOPELIA LUGENS

A total of 8 birds seen around mainly the Hadda Inn hotel at Sana'a. Nice views, quite dusky grey.

130 LAUGHING DOVE – *streptopelia senegalensis*

The common dove at the trip, at all the visited sites.

131 NAMAQUA DOVE – *oena capensis*

17-01 2 ex. seen in Haman Garif.

22-01 10 ex. seen spread over the day.

23-01 3 ex. seen spread over the day.

132 BRUCE'S GREEN PIGEON – *treron waalia*

28-01 5 ex. seen and heard well at Ayfath NP.

133 WHITE-BROWED COUCAL – *CABTROPUS SUPERCILIOSUS

21-01 1 ex. seen quite well sitting on a dead branch, facing us

23-01 1 ex. in Jebel Bara. Seen crossing a waddy

Head, breast and red wings seen well.

134 SOCOTRA SCOPS OWL – *OTUS SOCOTRANUS

26-01 3 ex. seen and heard well during the early night, responding to the tape and seen in the spotlight. Call completely different than African Scops owl.

135 HUME'S OWL – *STRIX BUTLERI

18-01 2 birds at a ridge near Sana'a. The bird appeared during dusk (I found it perched on a building) while playing the tape. It responded in calling and coming in the beam light, showing extremely well in the spotlight at a short distance, and in flight in the beam light. Orange eyes, quite pale and open face, carpal patch on the underwing. Quite big. After three attempts in twenty years, finally, the bird of the trip...

136 NUBIAN NIGHTJAR – *caprimulgus nubicus*

22-01 2 ex. seen and heard well sitting on the ground and flying by. A small nightjar with orange underparts and white wing patches.



photo: Martin Edwards

137 ALPINE SWIFT – *apus melba*

(alpengierzwaluw)

A total of 40 birds seen spread over the trip with 30 on one day (09-01)

138 LITTLE SWIFT – *apus affinis*

(huisgierzwaluw)

23-01 2 ex. seen near Jebel Bara.

29-01 10 ex. above Sana'a.

139 AFRICAN PALM SWIFT – *cypsiurus parvus*

Seen almost daily in the lowlands with a maximum of 30+ birds on a day (23-01).

140 LITTLE GREEN BEE-EATER – *merops orientalis* ssp: *cyanophrys*

Seen daily at the mainland of Yemen with a maximum of 25 birds on a day.

141 EUROPEAN ROLLER – *coracias garrulus*

(scharrelaar)

22-01 1 ex. along the road to Hudaydah.

23-01 1 ex. on a wire near Al Mansuriyeh.

Nice views, always difficult to exclude 142 with a moulting tale.

142 ABYSSINIAN ROLLER – *coracias abyssinicus*

A total of 10 birds seen in the lowlands around Hudaydah.

143 EURASIAN HOOPOE – *upupa epops*

(hop)

20-01 3 ex. seen at a little village near Al Mahweet.

21-01 1 ex. seen along the way.

144 AFRICAN GREY HORNBILL – *tockus nasutus*

A total of 23 seen in the lowlands and wadi's in the mountains during the trip.

145 WRYNECK – jynx torquilla
(draaihal)

17-01 1 ex. in the middle of the desert on the plateau near Sana'a.

21-01 1 ex. seen in a wadi along the way.

***146 ARABIAN WOODPECKER – DENDROCOPOS DORAE**

19-01 1 male near Al Ahjur.

20-01 2 ex. a pair seen very well for a long time in a tree, also hear calling.

A very fine and neat little woodpecker, with a red belly patch..



photo: Erica Klim

147 BLACK-CROWNED SPARROW-LARK – eremopterix nigriceps

23-01 5 ex. around Al Mansuriyeh.

Common, mainly along the coast at Socotra.

148 GREATER HOOPOE LARK – alaemon alaudipes

23-01 1 ex. seen well in the dunes around Hudaydah.

***149 BLANFORD'S LARK – CALANDRELLA BLANFORDI**

18-01 5 ex. seen at a piece of rock desert near Sana'a. Two birds were together at a few meters away. Like a red capped buffy Greater ST Lark.. The males were singing.

150 GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK – calandrella brachydactyla

(kortteenleeuwerik)

23-01 200+ in big flocks in the harvested fields near Al Mansuriyeh.

151 CRESTED LARK – galerida cristata

(kuifleeuwerik)

18-01 common on the plateau near Sana'a.

22-01 2 ex. somewhere along the way.

152 SAND MARTIN – riparia riparia

(oeverzwaluw)

22-01 very common at the sewage works of Hudaydah. Gone in the next days.

153 ROCK MARTIN – hirundo fuligula

Seen on most days in the mountain area 's with up to 5 birds a day.

154 EURASIAN CRAG MARTIN – *hirundo rupestris*

(rotszwaluw)

21-01 1 ex. seen at a wadi along the way.

29-01 1 ex. at the garden of the hotel in Aden.

155 BARN SWALLOW – *hirundo rustica*

(boerenzwaluw)

24-01 1 ex. migrating north at the sewage works of Hudaydah.

156 RED-RUMPED SWALLOW – *hirundo daurica*

(roodstuitzwaluw)

20-01 Common around Al Mahweet.

157 COMMON HOUSE MARTIN – *delichon urbica*

(huiszwaluw)

17-01 3 ex. seen flying on our way to Haman Garif.

158 TAWNY PIPIT – *anthus campestris*

(duinpieper)

22-01 7 ex. spread over the day, more heard than seen.

23-01 2 ex. at Al Mansuriyeh.

159 LONG-BILLED PIPIT – *anthus similes*

17-01 1 ex. seen very well on our way to Haman Garif.

20-01 2 ex. seen very well at Al Mahweet.

----- SOCOTRA PIPIT – *anthus similes* ssp: *socrotranus*

Seen daily at Socotra, quite common. Some looked more greenish than the mainland subspecies, but most looked the same.

160 TREE PIPIT – *anthus trivialis*

(boompieper)

20-01 3 ex. seen at Al Mahweet, overwintering birds.

161 RED-THROATED PIPIT – *anthus cervinus*

(roodkeelpieper)

28-01 5 ex. at the marsh of Aden, most not very red on the throat.

162 SYKES WAGTAIL – *motacilla flava* ssp: *beema*

22-01 2 ex. in a flock of Black-headed at the sewage works of Hudaydah.

----- BLACK HEADED WAGTAIL – *motacilla flava* ssp: *feldegg, melanogrisea?*

(balkankwikstaart)

21+22-01 a total of 150 ex. at the sewage works of Hudaydah.

28-01 10 ex. in Aden marsh.

163 CITRINE WAGTAIL – *motacilla citreola*

(citroenkwikstaart)

28-01 1 female at Aden marsh.

164 GREY WAGTAIL – *motacilla cinerea*

(grote gele kwikstaart)

A total of 4 birds seen in wadi's around Sana'a.

165 WHITE WAGTAIL – *motacilla alba*

(witte kwikstaart)

Seen at most visited locations in Yemen and Socotra, all birds looked as the nominate.

166 WHITE-SPECTACLED BULBUL – *pycnonotus xanthopygos*

Common on the mainland of Yemen.

***167 ARABIAN ACCENTOR – PRUNELLA FAGANI**

18-01 4 ex. at Kawkaban. Very nice views, of at least one immature bird (less dark streaking on the underparts) and three adults. All where in a little mountain wadi.

168 BLACK BUSH ROBIN – *cercotrichas podobe*

21-01 4 ex. seen spread over the day, in the lowlands.

22-01 4 ex. spread over the day and visited locations

169 BLUETHROAT – *luscinia svecica* ssp:??

(blauwborst)

28-01 1 ex. in winter plumage at khor Sirhin.

170 BLACK REDSTART – *phoenicurus ochuros* ssp: *ruviventris*, *phoenicuroides*?

(zwarte roodstaart)

A total of 3 females seen at several sites around Sana'a, looking very like "our" subspecies

171 COMMON REDSTART – *phoenicurus phoenicurus* ssp: *samamisicus*

19-01 1 male with very white wingpatches at Al Ahjur.

21-01 1 ex. in a wadi along the way.

172 BLACKSTART – *cercomela malanura*

A total of 8 birds seen in the higher parts of the mainland of Yemen.

173 AFRICAN STONECHAT – *saxicola torquata*

20-01 4 ex. seen, two pairs at visited sites on the route.

174 EASTERN BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR – *oenanthe melanoleuca*

(oostelijke blonde tapuit)

21-01 1 very nice male when entering the lowlands going to Hudaydah. This seems to be a very rare species in Yemen.

175 ISABELLINE WHEATEAR – *oenanthe isabellina*

(isabeltapuit)

A total of 3 birds seen in the lowlands near Hudaydah, nice views.

176 RED-BREASTED WHEATEAR – *OENANTHE BOTTAE

A total of 32 birds seen on most days at the plateau around Sana'a. A big Isabelline like wheatear, with a dark eye stripe and lore. Somehow the birds resembled Mongolian Plover...



177 NORTHERN WHEATEAR – *oenanthe oenanthe*

(tapuit)

21-01 1 immature in a wadi near a stream driving to Hudaydah.

178 PIED WHEATEAR - *oenanthe pleschanka*

(bonte tapuit)

21-01 1 male on a wire between Al Mahweet and Hudaydah

26-01 1 female (with a white throat, Eastern Pied??) at the Dixam plateau

179 DESERT WHEATEAR – *oenanthe deserti*

(woestijntapuit)

A total of 4 birds seen around Hudaydah.

Common on Socotra.

180 SOUTH ARABIAN WHEATEAR – *OENANTHE LUGENTOIDES

A total of 27 birds mostly in pairs (with a 178 like female) seen around the plateau at Sana'a

Like a dark capped Mourning Wheatear.

181 LITTLE ROCK THRUSH – *MONICOLA RUFOCINEREA

A total of 10 birds seen around Sana'a mainly in the wadi's on the higher places.

Small, redstart like

182 BLUE ROCK THRUSH – *monticola solitarius*

(blauwe rotslijster)

A total of 6 birds seen in the mountains around Sana'a.

183 YEMEN THRUSH – *TURDUS MENACHENSIS

18-01 1 ex. seen well at Kawkaban.

19-01 1 ex. seen very well at Al Ahjur.

20-01 2 ex. at Al Mahweet.

Nice thrush, like a grey blackbird, but very shy.



184 SOCOTRA CISTICOLA – *CISTICOLA HAESITATA

Seen daily with 3 birds a day along the northern coast at Socotra. As a big Zitting cisticola with a totally different sound and very pale.

----- CISTICOLA "SPEC"

27-01 1 ex. along the north coast of Socotra. A very reddish cisticola, looking like a short billed Pallas's Grasshopper warbler, with a very reddish rump. The whole bird was streaky on the upperparts and quite reddish. The head was cisticola like.

185 GRACEFUL PRINIA – *prinia gracilis*

Common and mainly heard on the mainland in the higher parts of Yemen, with about 5 birds a day.

***186 SOCOTRA WARBLER – INCANA INCANA**

25-01 2 ex. seen and heard well Ayfath NP.

26-01 3 ex. together at the Dixam plateau.

Like a short tailed prinia, with a reddish crown and a white “stepped” tail from beneath. Strange bird.

187 SCRUB WARBLER – *scotocerca inquieta* ssp: *buryi*

18-01 3 ex. at Kawkaban. Nice views, of these dark subspecies.

188 AFRICAN REED WARBLER – *acrocephalus baeticatus* ssp: *avicenniae

24-01 2 ex. seen and heard singing in the mangroves at Hudaydah Lagoon. The birds appeared quite pale and olive and not brown, with more whitish underparts than known from European. The song was less typical than of the known European birds. ID based on song, time of the year (European should be farther south) and habitat (mangroves)

189 CLAMOROUS REED WARBLER – *acrocephalus stentoreus*

24-01 1 ex, heard and briefly seen at the mangroves near Hudaydah.

Seems quite pale than the birds known from Israel.

190 EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER – *hippolais pallida*

21-01 10 ex. seen along the way when getting lower to see level mainly in wadi Sarie’e. Also singing.

191 YEMEN WARBLER – *PARISOMA BURYI

18-01 1 ex seen well at Kawkaban.

19-01 1 ex. seen very well at Al Ahjur.

Very nice views, all the features recorded, like , white eye, dark brown overall plumage with buff/reddish undertail coverts and whitish throat and darkish head. The tail was long resembling Dartford warbler.

192 MENETRIES’S WARBLER – *Sylvia mystacea*

22-01 3 ex. seen Al Dahy Cattle Farm, two males and a female.

24-01 1 male along the way at a roadblock stop.

The call of the males is rattling, vaguely resembling Sardinian warbler

Very nice views of the males.

193 ARABIAN WARBLER – *Sylvia leucomelaena*

17-01 1 ex. seen very well in a wadi entering Haman Garif.

Good views of this big sylvia foraging in the bushes.

194 (DESERT) LESSER WHITETHROAT – *Sylvia curruca* ssp: *minula/halimodendri*??

17-01 1 ex. seen well at a wadi entering Haman Garif. A small very pale individual almost looking like a f. 192.

22-01 1 ex. seen Al Dahy Cattle Farm. A more normal looking bird, with a quite obvious mask.

195 BROWN WOODLAND WARBLER – *PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX

18-01 2 ex at Kawkaban.

19-01 1 ex. at Al Ahjur.

20-01 1 ex. at Al Mahweet.

Like a bulky short-tailed dusky warbler with an obvious green wing panel. Also heard well, very distinctive.

196 CHIFFCHAFF – *phylloscopus collybita* ssp: *abietinus* and/or *tristis*?

(tjiftjaf)

19-01 5 ex at Al Ahjur. Some grey birds and some brown/green birds. Not heard

20-01 2 ex. around Al Mahweet.

197 AFRICAN PARADISE FLYCATCHER – *TERPSIPHONE VIRIDIS

23-01 2 males at Jebel Bara. Nice views, coming close to the tape. Not fully grown tales, very black underparts.

198 ARABIAN BABBLER – *turdoides squamiceps*

A total of 19 birds seen on three days at the mainland of Yemen, as well in the highlands as in the lowlands. Some (but not all) had yellowish bills as pictured in the guide’s for Yemen.

***199 NILE VALLEY SUNBIRD – ANTHREPTES METALLICUS**

17-01 2 ex. a pair seen well at Haman Garif.

The male was in superb plumage (like Pygmy), the female was yellowish on the underparts and small, excluding Palestine. We heard many others but did not pay much attention on them.

***200 SHINING SUNBIRD – NECTARINIA HABESSINICA**

A total of 13 birds seen mainly at the higher parts of Yemen, but also in the lowlands. Of these ten birds on one day (17-01). A big sunbird, quite easy to distinguish.

201 PALISTINE SUNBIRD – *nectarinia osea*

A total of 16 recorded on the mainland of Yemen often in pairs, smaller than 200.

***202 SOCOTRA SUNBIRD – NECTARINIA BALFOURI**

25-01 6 ex. seen very well in Ayfath NP on Socotra.

26-01 2 ex. on the Dixam plateau.

A striking sunbird without many colours, but with a striking head pattern.

***203 ABYSSINIAN WHITE-EYE – ZOSTEROPS ABYSSINICUS**

Quite common on the mainland and a total 46 seen in all parts of Yemen.

Obvious (dull) whitish breast and pinkish flanks.

----- SOCOTRA WHITE –EYE – *zosterops abyssinicus* ssp: *socotranus*

25-01 2 ex. seen at Ayfath NP on Socotra.

26-01 2 ex. seen going up the Dixam plateau.

Not seen much difference with 203.

204 ISABELLINE SHRIKE – *lanius isabellinus* ssp: *phoenicuroides* + *isabellinus*

(isabelklaauwier)

21-01 1 ex. ssp *isabellinus*?? Coming out of the highlands on the way to Hudaydah.

22-01 15 ex. spread over the day, mainly *phoenicuroides*??

23-01 2 ex. not bothered to determine the (sub)species.

Again separation in the field was far more difficult than proposed in the literature. The first bird had very buff underparts, and most had of white underparts. All birds did look alike in upperparts colour (no difference in head and back colour, all crème coloured. No birds seen with reddish caps, so all the *phoenicuroides* birds must have been of the form *Karelini*??

205 SOUTHERN GREY SHRIKE – *lanius meridionalis* ssp: *buryi*

A total of 9 birds seen of this very dark form on the mainland and Socotra.

206 STEPPE GREY SHRIKE – *lanius pallidirostris*

(steppeklapekster)

22-01 2 ex., both adults in the lowlands at Al Dahy Cattle Farm.

23-01 2 ex. around Al Mansuriyeh.

Easy to record, because the local subspecies of 205 is very dark, but the light lore seen on most birds.

207 MASKED SHRIKE – *lanius nubicus*

21-01 6 ex. seen spread over the day coming out of the highlands, in the visited wadi's.

208 HOUSE CROW – *corvus splendens*

(huiskraai)

Common along the coast.

209 BROWN-NECKED RAVEN – *corvus ruficollis*

Common during the whole trip.

210 FAN TAILED RAVEN – *corvus rhipidurus*

Common during the whole trip.

***211 SOCOTRA STARLING – ONYCHOGNATHUS FRATER**

25-01 5 ex. together on a rock at Ayfath NP on Socotra.

28-01 1 ex. on the same rock.

After finding the first group we did not bother to look at all the chestnut winged starlings, but 212 seems to be far more common)

***212 SOMALI STARLING - ONYCHOGNATHUS BLYTHII**

Seen daily impairs on Socotra with up to 15 birds a day. The female with the nice grey head.

213 TRISTRAM'S STARLING – *onychnognathus tristramii*

Common on the mainland of Yemen, in small groups.

214 COMMON STARLING – *sturnus vulgaris*

(spreeuw)

27-01 1 ex. at a khor near Qualensiyah on Socotra.

This is a rare species in this corner of the world.

215 HOUSE SPARROW – *passer domesticus* ssp: *hufufae*?

(huismus)

Common on the mainland of Yemen, sometimes in big flocks.

216 SOCOTRA SPARROW – *PASSER INSULARIS

Common on Socotra, in small flocks. Remembered of Iago Sparrow, with the chestnut supercilium.

217 ARABIAN GOLDEN SPARROW – *PASSER EUCHLORUS

23-01 150 ex. seen in one flock near Al Mansuriyeh. Very nice views with at least 15+ adult males. Nice white tails and black cantered tertials with white edges. The bills of the males were not dark yet (as in breeding plumage). We searched about three days for this nomadic species.



218 BUSH PETRONIA – *petronia dentate*

21-01 2 ex. seen near Al Mahweet in a little village.

Nice views, singing on a wire.

219 RUPPELL'S WEAVER – *PLOCEUS GALBULA

A very common bird mostly in the highlands of Yemen, but also seen when descending down. Some nice males in breeding plumage. The buzzing sound was a daily noise.

***220 ARABIAN WAXBILL – ESTRILA RUFIBARBA**

17-01 4 ex. at Haman Garif, near water in the wadi, they came to drink.

21-01 50 ex., in one big flock drinking in a wadi along the way.

A nice waxbill, looking a bit like a common waxbill, but with a darker body and more obvious vermaculations and a white cheek. The red around the eye looked more obvious and the tail looked shorter.

221 AFRICAN SILVERBILL – *lonchura cantans*

A total of about 70 birds seen mostly in the lowlands of Yemen, in small flocks.

***222 ARABIAN SERIN – SERINUS ROTHSCILDI**

A total of 21 ex. spread over the trip, in the higher parts of Yemen all in the more overgrown area's, often singing, sometimes in good light conditions the yellowish rump was visible. The bill (often dark, but not always) was bigger than 223.

***223 YEMEN SERIN – SERINUS MENACHENSIS**

A total of 112 birds seen on the trip with hundred ex on 18-01 (plateau near Sana'a). Always on the rocky not vegetated habitats and more in flocks but also in the old city of Sana'a. Smaller than 222 with a smaller thinner bill never black.

***224 ARABIAN GOLDEN-WINGED GROSBEAK – RHYNCHOSTRUTHUS PERCIVALI**

17-01 2 males, seen and heard very well at Haman Garif.

19-01 1 male, seen and heard at Al Ahjur.

A very nice bird, as pictured in the bookes, with a black head and white cheek, with a melodius song.

----- SOCOTRA GOLDEN-WINGED GROSBEAK – *rhynchostruthus percivali* ssp: *socrotranus*

A total of 8 birds seen at Socotra. Seen very well often singing, with a chestnut brown head.

***225 YEMEN LINNET – CARDUELIS YEMENENSIS**

A total of 27 seen in the higher parts of the Yemen, most in small groups, with a maximum of fifteen on one day (20-01). Mostly seen in the morning when birds came down to drink. Most birds where not in breeding plumage, but some males where, with a nice grey/blueish head.

226 STRIOLATED BUNTING – *emberiza striolata*

17-01 common in the Haman Garif area, seen well and often not easy (mostly females and birds with obscured throats (black on 227, greyish on striated)), to distinguish from 226.

227 CINNAMON-BREASTED BUNTING – *emberiza tahapisi*

Seen almost daily, 14 in total, in the highlands of Yemen and Socotra. Some nice striking males with striped black heads.

***228 SOCOTRA BUNTING – EMBERIZA SOCROTRANA**

26-01 2 ex., one superb male and a female type at the Dixham plateau.

The adult male was seen very well, with reddish wings (manly wingcoverts), cinnamon breast, striking black and white head pattern and remembered a bit of White-capped bunting (especially when flew by). The female type was duller with a less striking head pattern but with the reddish wing coverts. This bird was with a 227.

***229 CINEREOUS BUNTING – EMBERIZA CINERACEA SSP: SEMENOWI**

21-01 2 ex. at a little village near Al Mahweet, in a Kat plantation.

One birds seen well on the back with the head facing right, so not seen yellow on the belly. The flanks appeared greyish (not solid grey) the other bird was sitting on a sandy ridge, with almost no yellow on the head, so maybe a first winter bird. Nice brown small lines on the scapulars. The head was quite yellow on the first bird and both had an obvious eye-ring.

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THE HAIRY LIST

1 Cape Hare – Lepus Capensis

18-01 1 ex. running on the plateau

2 Hamadryas Baboon – Papio hamadryas

17-01 4 ex (one male) at Haman Garif

23-01 10 ex. in one flock around Jebel Bara, quite aggressive gripping banana's out of the hand..

3 Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphin -

27-01 2 ex. at the sea watch from Socotra.

Useful addresses:

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