

ISRAEL BIRD REPORT for period 16 to 27 March 2014

By Joan and Paddy Heyland, members of The Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club.

Objectives:

To observe raptor and passerine migration @ Eilat
To observe resident birds.
To increase life and Western Palearctic Tick Lists

Notes

Birds in bold are new birds that we have been able to add to our personal WP and or Lifer list, as well as other notables seen.

Bird sites and areas in bold italics.

START OF BIRD REPORT

Shalom !

Saturday 15 March

Train to Luton Parkway and overnight @ Hotel Ibis

Sunday 16 March

Morning flight from London (Luton) to Tel Aviv (Ben Gurion) with Easyjet.
Overnight stay at the Hotel Sadot, Ben Gurion Airport.

Birds seen @ airport and surrounding area:

Spur Winged Lapwing, Collared, Laughing and Turtle doves, Rose ringed Parakeet, Hooded Crow, **Common Myna** and House Sparrow.

Monday 17 March

Internal flight Tel Aviv to Eilat with Arkia airways and booked into the Crown Plaza hotel at North Beach, Eilat .

A late afternoon stroll along *North Beach* produced a handsome Caspian Tern offshore, a few **White Eyed Gull** and good numbers of **Slender Billed Gull** were noted offshore and on the beach near the Jordanian border.

A pair of Common Kingfishers were perched on the banks of the sewage canal. In the resort area there abundant numbers of House Sparrow, Turtle and Collared Doves with attendant **Laughing Dove**, Feral Pigeon, **Yellow Vented Bulbul**, **Common Myna**, (**Indian**) **House Crow** and Carrion Crow.

A tree with surrounding bushes and scrub in the play park held House and **Spanish Sparrow**, an **Eastern Orphean Warbler** and Willow Warbler.

Back at the hotel we were lucky to be given a free upgrade to a top floor room. The balcony overlooks the Gulf of Aqaba, with clear views to Aqaba and Jordan to the left and the Eilat mountains to the right. Setting up the 'scope on the balcony with cold beers in hand we gained distant views of raptors thermalling over the mountains. Too far to distinguish species but certainly the majority appeared to be Steppe Buzzard. Confusing the hotel for a rock face, Three **Rock Martins** hawked past our balcony and visited us every day in the mornings and evenings.

Tuesday 18 March

The International Eilat Birdwatching and Research Centre,(IBRCE) Eilat.

Directions: The centre lies just north of the large desalination plant along Route 90 (Arava Highway). If travelling by car drive south until you see a large Brown sign " Birdwatching". It can also be walked from the resort hotels by taking the track that runs along the eastern edge of the large desalination plant.

The 'Centre has International status and has been purposefully constructed to attract resident birds as well as migrants. It also has a ringing stations and educational facility, staffed by resident wardens and overseas volunteers.

If **Graceful Prinia** is on your tick list, this is certainly the place to come. They were by far the common bird on the reserve itself. The reserve's internal pond was pretty quiet, just a pair of Mallard, Little Egret and Great Cormorant, with good numbers of squawking Spur Winged Lapwing . **Lesser Whitethroat** were again in good numbers. We gained our first view of **Blackstart** from the walkway and picked two more en-route. A small acacia on the western edge of the reserve held a good number of Spanish Sparrows, one female **Common Rosefinch** and one male **Ortolan Bunting**. Other notable birds seen on the reserve were **Palestine Sunbird**, a male **Bluethroat** and a pair of **Little Green Bee Eaters** overhead.

One of the volunteer ringers directed us to the Raptor observation hide where Arabian Babbler had been seen that morning, we didn't see any but did spot a male **Sand Partridge** evidently searching and calling for a mate, on a nearby sandy ridge.

The adjacent saltwater reservoir held large numbers of **Black Winged Stilt**, a few **Greater Flamingo**, and four Spotted Redshank together with Common Redshank, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper and Pied Wagtail. Raptors continued to move south over the Eilat Mountains to the west.

With closer views from the 'Reserve, as ever the vast majority were **Steppe Buzzard** together with a couple of **Steppe Eagle**.

A large flock of Slender billed Gull with **Lesser Black backed Gull (Baltic race)** and Black-headed Gull were sleeping, loafing and generally doing nothing in the midday heat on the salt pans adjacent to the reserve.

The Date Plantations and Cultivations between IBRCE and Eilat Resort.

Joan and I decided to walk back to the hotel along the tarmac road, passing the date plantation to see what birds were around. By now it was early afternoon and getting pretty hot.

The reward was good views of a pair of **Marsh Harriers** drifting overhead. On the ground two **Crested Lark**, a further two **Little Green Bee Eater** on a telegraph line were observed. Coming straight from the Northumbrian tundra, the heat started to get to us, but the exercise did us good and merited a good evening meal and drinks

Wednesday 19 March 2013.

Km 20; Reservoir, Plantation and Cultivations and Km31.

Directions: The key birding areas @ KM 19 and KM 20 can be accessed by driving north to these checkpoints along the Arava Highway, though beware that the sudden turn off can be a bit tricky if other traffic is following. It is much easier to take the same turn to the IBRCE described from the road signs marked the "Yizhak Rabin Border Crossing" and "Birdwatching". Turn left at the first T Junction. Drive along a driveable narrow access road that runs parallel to the 'Highway itself. The stench emanating from the cattle sheds will alert you that you have arrived at Km 19.

A hire car is essential to get around. There is a bike route that circumvents Eilat but we had real problems finding a bike hire shop. When we did we realised that the price of bike hire was compatible with car hire. So we picked up a hire car in the morning and drove to the recommending birding areas around Km 20.

As we drove slowly along the access track towards the KM 19 and 20 birding areas, a skylark was heard singing overhead. Stopped the car and looked up at the bird as it slowly rose in the air. First impression by its voice was that it was just an ordinary skylark, then noticed its distinct buff brown underparts and slightly different jizz. A quick reference to Collins Bird Guide was necessary and then another long look at the bird, confirmed it as **Oriental Skylark**.

Turning right at the end of the access road we drove towards the two large reservoirs @ KM 20.

The acacia trees bordering the plantation held up to four **Arabian Warbler**, with good numbers of Lesser Whitethroat. At the end of track overlooking the reservoirs, we noticed a lot of activity in a seemingly dead tamerisk bush. Six sparrows flew in just as we were parking. First impressions were House Sparrow, but their size, buffness, yellowish side markings and especially their smaller bills readily identified them as **Dead Sea Sparrow**. A migrating **Whinchat** and two **Little Green Bee Eater** was also observed in the same area.

The reservoirs themselves held good numbers of **Greater Flamingo** and **Black Winged Stilt**, with **Spotted** and **Common Redshank**, **Little Ringed Plover** and **Spoonbill**.

To end a memorable birding visit, we were treated to a fly past by a handsome male **Pallid Harrier**, as we left the plantation heading back to the 'Highway.

On to KM31 (aka Amrein Nature Reserve,) once noted as a key location place to see desert species. Driving past the greenhouses etc to the desert edge and parking carefully away from a row of active bee hives we searched the area. Unfortunately the area is under agricultural development, even the reserve itself was been "sandscaped". Our only reward was a large flock of Spanish Sparrow and a single Northern Wheatear.

Exiting the area we stopped by an area of burnt ground to look for Wheatears and just about anything that may be about. A female Bluethroat hopped across the path into nearby scrub. Joan then noticed a "weird looking Buzzard" sitting in one of the date palms. A speedy consultation with Collins Bird Guide ensued, with further close observations that confirmed it as **Crested Honey Buzzard**. Evidently, through later confirmation from a ranger at the Bird Centre, a Crested Honey Buzzard has been in resident in the area for at least the past two years.

Thursday 20 March 2014

Holland Park, Eilat Cemetery, Amram's Pillars and IBRCE.

Holland Park is located in the northern suburbs of Eilat, accessed by the Eilat by-pass road. Recommended by previously read bird reports and local birders; it is a real gem of a site, noted for local species and primarily as a stop site for small migrants. The 'park' itself is contained and easily workable, containing a wide range of trees and shrubs, with bike and 4 x 4 tracks leading off into the desert.

An early morning trip here produced an abundance of Lesser Whitethroat and Spanish Sparrow. Good views were had of **Eastern Bonelli's Warbler**, **three Blackstart**, **Graceful Prinia**, **a pair of Scrub Warbler** and **a migrating Whinchat**. The area south of the entrance appeared to be a particularly good area for birds

Two Arabian Babbler's were spotted flying over the ridge and landing in a nearby bush and a small party of **Tristram's Starling** made their presence known overhead.

A pair of **Bonelli's Eagle** were spotted flying high between the park and the base of the Eilat mountains to the west.

Eilat Cemetery

After Holland Park we made the short trip along the bypass road to the cemetery, to look for House Bunting. No sign of House Bunting. Just four Blackstart, several Lesser Whitethroat and flocks of House and Spanish Sparrow were the only birds seen.

Amram's Pillars

The Amram Pillars rock formations can be accessed and are clearly signposted from the Arava Highway. Follow the ston/gravel covered dirt track for circa 2 KM, then take the signposted right fork

It was getting towards late morning by the time we arrived at the Amram's Pillars rock formations. Principal reason being recent reports of Sinai Rosefinch observed by the car park area. Some time spent here produced nothing. Only bird of note was a single **White Crowned Black Wheatear** on a rock along the access road.

The 'Pillars are spectacular rock formations and the sheer silence of the desert is a well worth and never to be forgotten experience.

By whim we drove back to the road fork and took the left fork to She'horet Canyon, looking for desert species. A pair of White Crowned Wheatears appeared to "accompany" us along the way. The area is barren desert but after a couple of Kms at the area marked "Campground" there are several acacia and tamarisk trees and bushes and it was here that we really hit on the following species. A male **Sand Partridge** with only one thing on its mind was seen chasing the female equivalent around an acacia bush. The White Crowned Black Wheatears perched in the shade of a tree, which also contained Blackstart and an **Arabian Warbler**. A scan of the small cliffs that surround the campsite area finally produced a superb **Desert Lark**. Two Hoopoe scabbled around looking for some sort of shade from the midday sun and a **Steppe Eagle** was observed wending its way north.

On our return the female Sand Partridge had by this time stopped running and seemed barely able to walk. The male was in even worse condition, so exhausting in fact that we nearly ran over it. That the path of true love is never smooth apparently applies to birds as well as humans.

Back to the hotel for a shower, food, drink, change of clothes etc and general chill out until the evening.

IBRCE Centre Revisit

We revisited the Bird Centre at about 5pm when the temperature had cooled. Again numerous Black Winged Stilt dominated the pools, with large numbers of Slender Billed Gull with a small numbers of **Caspian Gull** and **White Eyed Gull** were roosting on the various dykes separating the salt ponds at the Desalination plant.

On the pond a single **Red necked Phalarope** was happily skitting around in typical Phalarope fashion. Both Spotted and Common Redshank, Little Egret, Wood and Common Sandpiper and a single Avocet were present.

Friday 21 March

Yotvata and Lotan Kibbutz

Yotvata is located @ the Km 50 marker on the Arava Highway.

Behind the visitor centre and holiday village are large areas of cultivated fields, demarcated with tall acacia trees, bushes and scrub.

Large numbers of **Yellow Vented Bulbul**, Lesser Whitethroat, House and Spanish Sparrow were present. Four **White Stork** and a Steppe Buzzard flew north. WE had been given information that **Bimaculated Lark** had been seen around the onion and melon fields. Quite a bit of time was spent searching for them, until Joan spotted two in a acacia bush by one of the onions fields. Just further south by the kibbutz farm, a small flock of **Desert Finch** flew into a crop field.

Up to six **Ostrich** were seen at the Hai Bar reserve to the south, easily observable from the Arava Highway. They are part of a re-introduction programme, having become or being made extinct in Israel in the 1920s, and are gradually being released, together with other previously extinct desert mammals such as gazelle and deer.

Leaving the Yotvata reserve an Eastern Bonelli's Warbler was observed at close range in a small acacia tree near the Holiday Park.

Lotan Kibbutz

The Lotan Kibbutz is another noted birding spot just a few Kms north of Yotvata. The Kibbutz is gated for security reasons but access is readily available and everyone we met there were both very friendly and helpful. The Kibbutz itself is impressive, a superbly designed and managed oasis in the midst of semi-arid desert. A oasis too for migrants.

We met some british birders, who were staying on the Kibbutz acting as volunteer ringers who gave valuable information about recent sightings. If any reader is a qualified ringer as well as birder this is definitely the place to come.

Resident birds seen around the Kibbutz gardens and cultivations included Little Green Bee Eater, Hoopoe, Yellow Vented Bulbul, Lesser Whitethroat, House and Spanish Sparrow, Blackstart, Arabian Warbler and Hoopoe. Migrants included Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Blackcap. Raptor wise a pale form **Black Kite** soared overhead. One of the ringers informed us that both a female Semi-Collared Flycatcher and **Black Bush Robin** had recently been trapped and ringed and were still loose somewhere in the kibbutz gardens.

Taking great care not to intrude into people's gardens we finally caught up with the **Black Bush Robin** in a bush by the swimming pool. Sadly though, no sign of the Semi-Collared Flycatcher.

Friday 21 March contd (Evening)

KM 19 Reservoir

Following a recommendation from a dutch birder that the reservoir @ KM 19 was the only reliable site to see Liechtenstein's Sandgrouse in the Eilat area, we ventured forth to await their arrival at dusk.

Directions

As before, take the turn off the Arava highway signposted " Yizhak Rabin Border Crossing" and the brown " Birdwatching" sign. After leaving the ' Highway make a left turn at the T junction and drive north along the metalled track until you see the large cowsheds to your right. Don't worry I can't miss them. Again your nose will tell you that you are close!

Park at the end of the rough dirt track that runs adjacent to the cow sheds, under, or by, a large single tree. Walk through the broken fence (please take great care not to step on any razor wire lying on the ground).

The idea is to be in position by sitting down on the pebbled embankment well before dusk, so as not to disturb the target birds.

During our wait a newly arrived large migrant flock of Yellow Wagtail (*sp. Motacilla flava feldeggii*) just a few feet from where we and other birders were patiently sitting. Their intention to drink from a water outlet in the northeast corner of the reservoir (point closest to the parking area). The reservoir itself was full of birds; large numbers of Coot with Mallard, Teal, Wigeon and Shoveler were reminders of any pond back the UK. However, what was first taken on 'jizz' to be a small group of Tufted Duck morphed into a small number of **Ferruginous Duck**. Seven **Egyptian Geese** sat on the embankment to our right and both **Squacco Heron** and **Reef Egret** were present at the water's edge around the reservoir. Another birder called the presence of A Barbary Falcon that flew over our head. We dipped on that sighting. Don't you just hate it when that happens to you?. Other birds seen around the

reservoir were **Citrine Wagtail**, Common and Wood Sandpiper, Black Winged Stilt and Sedge Warbler.

Not long after darkness fell one of the birders spotted the arrival of a pair of **Liechtenstein's Sandgrouse** no more than 15 feet to the right of where we were sitting. It was magical to watch them from such close range as they went down the embankment to drink.

Note: From local knowledge, over time the numbers of Liechtenstein's Sandgrouse arriving to drink at the reservoir have fallen from large numbers of between 30 and 40 and sometimes more, to just half a dozen. But it is still well worth a visit here to see this rare bird.

Saturday 22 March

Raptor Watching in Eilat Mountains, En Nephratim and Km 19 revisit

Raptor watching here is a lot easier than Gibraltar. For unlike the latter most raptors here tend to migrate from collection stations on the Egyptian side of the northern Sinai and follow a route north over a narrow stretch of the Eilat mountains.

Directions

Take route 12 that leads in a westerly direction out of Eilat (signposted " Eilat Mountains"). Once into the mountains raptors will easily be seen to your left, thermalling over the mountain ridges beyond.

We drove up to the ' High Mountain' view point at Mount Yoash located at circa Km 8 – 9, where a good group of birders were already on watch.

The sheer numbers coming over though the mountains and ravines will take your breath away. Thermalling groups of plus or minus 100 birds were coming over every 10 to 15 minutes. This was just from our viewpoint because other 'groups were also seen lower down the overwhelming majority were **Steppe Buzzard**, which made it easier to pick up other species. Small numbers of **Black Stork** joined the ' Buzzards and occasional views of **Steppe Eagle** were seen. Other raptors seen were individual **Booted Eagle** and **Short Toed Eagle**. Eastern Imperial Eagle and Griffon Vulture had been seen earlier in the morning but we didn't see any.

Birds were clearly struggling against a prevailing strong northerly breeze coming off the desert that did them no favours at all.

If you thought Gibraltar was good (and it usually is) just wait until you've been to Eilat. The experience alone is worth the trip.

En Netaphim

After a couple of hours raptor watching we drove further along Route 12 to En Netaphim. The turn is just after an army checkpoint, overlooking the Egyptian border. As Gosney et al state, the steep track down to the Nephratim spring is no place to drive a hire car. We walked down the track to the view point in the valley (take water is advisable !). The “spring” itself had apparently long since dried up. Just a large bush and discoloured ground indicating the spot.

Down in the valley just one bird could be heard calling. By happy chance it turned out to be a **Blue Rock Thrush**. Nothing else was seen or heard. By now getting towards early afternoon the heat was bouncing off the rocks and we commenced a hot and tiring walk back on the track. A single White Crowned Black Wheatear was seen en-route. Then having nearly reached the top where our car was parked a pair of **Brown Necked Ravens** called and displayed, so another life tick became a welcome reward for a hot trek.

KM19 Revisit

An afternoon chill out back at the hotel was followed by an early evening trip back to KM 19. This time we checked all around the reservoir for additional birds. Birds seen in addition to previous birds were; Little Grebe, Green Sandpiper, **Red Rumped Swallow, Marsh Harrier, Black Kite, Cattle Egret, Spotted Redshank** and Grey Heron.

KM20 Revisit

Final call of the day was another visit down the road to the KM20 reservoirs. The large reservoir was now dominated by over 300 Greater Flamingo and large numbers of Black Winged Stilt. Four species of plover were present , **Spur-Winged, Common, Little Ringed and Kentish Plover**, in close proximity to one another at the southern end of the large reservoir and two **Little Stint** at either end of the reservoir. Two **Blue checked Bee Eater** were observed close to where we had parked and we had a great close up views of a superb male **Barbary Falcon** over the northern end of the reservoir. Three **Red necked Phalarope** were present, while Gulls dominated the roosting bar in the middle of the large reservoir, the vast majority Slender Billed Gull, with Black Headed Gull, a few White Eyed Gull and at least one **Caspian Gull**.

On the salty mudflats of the mainly dried up smaller reservoir to the south a large party of **Ruff** were present, **along with Common and Spotted Redshank and both Common and Marsh Sandpiper**.

Sunday 23 March

En Gedi, Dead Sea

We had decided in advance that a trip to the Dead Sea was a must. The round trip from Eilat along Route 90 is about 350 miles but it was worth it. Once past Lotan, the green cultivated land gives way to arid and semi-arid desert. No birds of note seen en-route but a “comfort break” at a petrol station around the half-way mark produced a number of **Pallid Swift and a party of Desert Finch.**

We arrived at the En Gedi Spa and parked the car. The spa building is surrounded by a number of acacia trees and bushes, most of them full of resident and migrant birds. Some **Fan Tailed Raven** landed near the car and further observations of the surrounding vegetation revealed the presence of a handsome Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, Blackstart, Robin, Common Myna and Willow Warbler. A small flock of Tristram's Starling squawked and squabbled noisily by the main entrance.

We took the tractor train down to the Dead Sea and enjoyed the customary float in the Dead Sea. Not only is it impossible to sink it's difficult to stand up! If you go there try the free mudbath it does wonders for the skin!

Back to the car after a shower and change and a flock of 24 White Stork were circling over the Dead Sea as a number of migrant raptors slowly wended their way north over the mountain tops.

Driving out of En Gedi on our way back a lone **Isabelline Wheatear** presented itself on a rock just out of the resort area. A number of Rock Martin was also seen. Once out of the Dead Sea area and back to sea level we took a slow drive with several stop offs (traffic allowing) to scan the desert for more birds. It was in an area between Tsofar and Tsukim that we finally found one of our main target species. A small flock of six **Sinai Rosefinch** flew across the Highway and landed on rocks several feet from the road. Tried hard to park the car for better views but by the time we had managed to do that and avoid potential accidents, the Sinai Rosefinch had flown off. These were the only sightings we had of Sinai Rosefinch we were to have all trip. Nevertheless a wonderful find.

Monday 24 March

Revisits to Holland Park, Mount Yoash, Km 19, Birdwatching Centre and Yotvata are (North Circular Fields).

Holland Park

An early morning trip and additional birds seen on this visit included a handsome **Long Legged Buzzard, and an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler.**

Mount Yoash

Another raptor watch produced similar birds seen on our previous visit. A single **Short Toed Eagle** being the only addition. The prevailing wind had eased, which may have accounted for an even greater number of thermalling groups rising up from the Sinai. There were a considerable number of birders further down the road towards Eilat, who were getting even closer views. Information was that Imperial Eagle had been seen earlier, but again we dipped on that bird.

Bird Centre and Km 19

On the saltpans and Bird Centre salt pond, birds included Temminck's Stint, Dunlin, Little Ringed Plover, large numbers of Slender Billed and Black Headed Gull.

The road to KM 19 produced one **Woodchat Shrike and a pair of Booted Eagle.**

Yotvata

Following a previous day's sighting of Namaqua Dove, we ended our day's bird watch in the Yotvata North Circular Field area. The rich planted vegetation and ready water supply, courtesy of the adjacent Ecological Research Centre, is a proper magnet for migrant and resident birds. A skulking Steppe Buzzard roosting in the midst of the vegetation did little to persuade other birds to hang around, but we did catch sight of a **Spectacled Warbler**, Blackstart and several Lesser Whitethroat. A pair of **White Stork** drifted over and plonked themselves in a nearby cultivated field. No sign of Namaqua Dove.

Tuesday 25 March 2014

Holland Park revisited

We had time to kill before taking the afternoon flight back to Tel Aviv then on to Luton, so we decided to spend the morning in Holland Park where birders had reported sighting migrating Sub-Alpine and Rueppel's Warbler.

A good scan of the area produced species already reported, with increased numbers of Graceful Prinia and a further three Arabian Babbler in the southernmost corner of the park. A Barn Swallow sat on a thorn bush so completely exhausted it never moved. Not a good place to perch because raptors various regularly patrol the park area on the look out for exhausted migrants. Hopefully the fact that it chose a thorn bush may save it.

No sign whatever of either Sub-Alpine or Rueppel's Warblers. Walking northward from the entrance we chanced upon a birding tour group; its leader helpfully pointed us in the direction of a distinct red coloured bush where Rueppel's had been sighted.

Sure enough up to four **Rueppel's Warbler** were present, having a real ruck with some Lesser WhiteThroat for territorial rights. No sign of the Sub-Alpine Warbler.

BIRD REPORT ENDS

References

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Thanks also to the friendly staff at the Eilat Birding Centre and Birders/Ringers at Lotan Kibbutz, to the many fellow birders of many different nationalities for their willingness to exchange information of current and recent sightings information and finally to those who have posted bird reports on the ‘net over the years.

BIRD SPECIES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Key:

Common: Abundant and easily seen or found

Fairly Common: Seen most days

Bold Type: our personal Life and or WP Ticklist.

Birds

Avocet.	Fairly common
Babbler, Arabian.	At least four in Holland Park (south end of park).
Blackcap.	Two at IBRCE, one at En-Gedi
Bee eater, Little Green.	Common
Bee eater, Blue Cheeked.	Two at Km19
Blackstart.	Common
Bluethroat.	One @ IBRCE and one at Km31
Bulbul, Yellow Vented.	Common
Bunting, Ortolan.	One at IBRCE
Buzzard, Crested Honey.	One @ plantations at Km 31
Buzzard, Long legged.	One at Holland Park
Buzzard, Steppe.	Common
Chiffchaff.	Fairly common in single numbers on migration
Coot.	Large flock at Km19 reservoir

Cormorant, Great.	Common
Crow, Carrion.	Fairly Common
Crow, (Indian) House.	Common
Dove, Collared.	Common
Dove, Laughing.	Common
Dove, Turtle.	Common
Duck, Ferruginous.	Several at Km19 reservoir
Dunlin.	Fairly common
Eagle, Bonelli's	two seen overhead near the Eilat mountains
Eagle, Booted.	Fairly common (possibly the same pair ?)
Eagle, Short Toed.	One seen on migration
Eagle, Steppe.	Several seen on migration
Egret, Cattle.	Km19 reservoir
Egret, Little.	Fairly common
Egret, Reef.	Km 19 reservoir
Falcon, Barbary.	One male at KM20 reservoir
Finch, Desert.	Yotvata and roadside en-route Dead Sea
Flamingo, Greater.	Large numbers @ KM20 and IBRCE res.
Goose, Egyptian.	Up to seven at KM19 reservoir
Grebe, Black necked.	Km19 reservoir
Grebe, Little.	Fairly common
Greenshank.	Fairly Common
Gull, "Baltic" (LBB)	Common
Gull, Blackheaded.	Common
Gull, Caspian.	Desalination plant
Gull, Slender Billed.	Common
Harrier, Marsh.	Pair area of Desalination plant
Harrier, Pallid.	Single male at Km 20
Hoopoe.	Fairly Common
Heron, Grey.	Common
Heron, Squacco.	Km19 reservoir
Kestrel.	Common
Kingfisher, Common.	One pair on sewage canal, North Beach
Kite, Black.	Fairly common on migration and plantations
Lapwing, Spur-Winged	Common
Lark, Bimaculated.	Two at Yotvata in cultivations area
Lark, Crested.	Fairly common
Lark, Desert.	Two in desert en-route She-horet canyon
Mallard.	Common
Martin, House.	Common
Martin, Rock.	Fairly common
Myna, Common.	Common
Ostrich.	(re-introduced species) at least six at Hai Bar res.
Parakeet, Rose ringed.	Common
Partridge, Sand.	Fairly common (e.g. IBRCE and Holland Park)
Phalarope, Red necked.	One at IBRCE salt pond, two at KM20 res.
Pigeon, Feral.	Common
Pintail.	Km19 reservoir
Plover, Kentish.	Km20 reservoir
Plover, Little Ringed.	Fairly common

Plover, Ringed.	Fairly common
Prinia, Graceful.	Common (esp Holland Park and IBRCE)
Raven, Brown necked.	Two at En Nephratim and several in Dead Sea area
Raven, Fantailed.	Several at En-Gedi spa
Redshank, Common.	Common
Redshank, Spotted.	Fairly common
Robin.	En-Gedi
Robin, Black Bush.	Lotan Kibbutz
Rosefinch, Common.	One female at IBRCE
Rosefinch, Sinai.	Six in desert along Route 90
Sandgrouse, Liechtenstein's	One pair at Km 19 Reservoir
Ruff.	KM20 (southernmost) reservoir
Sandpiper, Common.	Fairly common on salt pans and or reservoirs
Sandpiper, Green.	Ditto
Sandpiper, Marsh.	KM 19 and IBCRE
Sandpiper, Wood	Fairly common on salt pans and or reservoirs
Shoveler.	Km 19 reservoir
Shrike, Woodchat.	One on Access road to plantations
Skylark.	Fairly Common
Skylark, Oriental.	Two seen over access road between Km 19 and 20
Sparrow Dead Sea.	Up to six at Km20
Sparrow, House.	Common
Sparrow, Spanish.	Common
Spoonbill.	Km 20 reservoir
Starling, Tristram's.	Holland Park and En-Gedi
Stilt, Black-Winged.	Common
Stint, Little.	Two at Km 20 reservoir
Stint, Temminck's	One at salt desalination plant
Stonechat.	Fairly common
Stork, Black.	Fairly common in small numbers on migration
Stork, White.	Fairly common singly or in small numbers, plantations
Sunbird, Palestine.	IBRCE and Holland Park
Swallow, Barn.	Common
Swallow, Red rumped.	Km 20
Swift, Common.	Common
Swift, Little.	At least two seen at Eilat resort
Swift, Pallid.	Desert road side en-route En Gedi
Teal.	Common
Tern, Caspian.	Common
Thrush, Blue Rock.	One at En-Netaphim
Wagtail Citrine.	Small numbers at Km19 reservoir
Wagtail, Pied.	Common
Wagtail, Yellow (sp feldegg).	Large flock at Km21 res watering hole
Warbler, Arabian.	Locally fairly common (eg Km 20 res access track)
Warbler, Eastern Bonelli's.	Fairly common
Warbler, Eastern Olivaceous.	Fairly common
Warbler, Eastern Orphean.	IBRCE and Holland park
Warbler, Rueppell's.	Holland Park
Warbler, Scrub.	Two in Holland Park
Warbler, Sedge.	Km19 Reservoir

Warbler, Spectacled.	One at Yotvata North Circular field
Wheatear, Isabelline.	One seen in desert by roadside
Wheatear, Northern.	One at desert edge, Km 31
Wheatear, Pied.	One in Holland park
Wheatear, White Crowned, Black.	Common.

Toda !