

EGYPT

March 20 to April 1, 2002

Participants:

**Søren Bøgelund,
Flemming Byskov,
Kurt Kaack Hansen
Michael Mosebo Jensen (text),
(mmj@doffyn.dk)**

Introduction

As it proved much cheaper to extend our planned Easter in Egypt to 11 days from the original cramped 7 days by charter we did so thus paying 2700 Dk.kr (£ 230) from Billund, Denmark via Frankfurt to Cairo (Lufthansa). However, it was not as easy to bargain when it came to renting a car in the airport: 5200 Dk.kr (£430) was the price for 11 days with free mileage and insurance. The Corolla drove 2900 km without complaining, though. Apart from that it was a cheap journey. We spent 200 Dk.kr (£18) per person per day on traditional bread and water during the day and a good hearty local meal after sunset every day, gasoline (2 Dk.kr / litre (18p/litre)) and hotels.

Our itinerary was the following: Along the west coast of the Red Sea from Suez 700 km down to a bit south of Marsa Alam, back to take the ferry from Hurghada to Sharm el-Sheikh (on the Sinai Peninsula) (an idea that turned out quite expensive, i.e. 2000 Dk.kr (£180)). From The southern tip of Sinai we went up the east coast via St Catherine to the west coast to end in Suez. From here we went north to Port Said and toured the Nile Delta around Ishmailia – Abbasa - Bilbais and Az-Zaqaziq.

We had problems with the military along the Red Sea Coast with the climax being a (very polite) arrest and interrogation for six hours. After that experience we only chanced birding after having screened possible viewing from observation towers, which were placed at intervals of only three kms in certain areas. It is perceived suspicious to watch through scopes or even bins close to the Red Sea! In the Sharm el-Sheikh area the hotel resorts had taken nearly all of the coast and turned the rest into building sites, which meant that we wasted quite some time in that area. The reservation of Nabq was the only site really worth visiting. However, away from the coast Sinai proved very interesting indeed. The area around St Catherine is highly recommendable. The Delta

was extremely nice, abundant and vigorous and very friendly and not at all pushy inhabitants in the many villages. There were also here occasional police checks because we were still rather odd creatures, but it was much more relaxed birding in that area.

Itinerary

(Including an attempt to list all observations systematically, with the more interesting ones given an exact location).

March 20

17.05-19.05 Cairo International Airport-Suez (140 Km's Drive)

Black Kite 1, Pallid Swift 10, Palm Dove 16, Rock Dove 12, Hoopoe 1, Barn Swallow 3, White Wagtail 23, Yellow Wagtail 3, Hooded Crow 22, House Sparrow 9.

21.00-21.30 Port Tawfiq (Suez)

(Park near Red Sea Hotel – and the military!)

House Crow 300 roosting, Barn Owl 2.

We stayed the night at the Arafat Hotel in Port Tawfiq paying E.£17 each (34 Dk.kr, £3). Nothing fancy, but OK.

March 21

5.20-6.30, Suez Bay

Western Reef Heron 1, Grey Heron 1, Cattle Egret 3, Kestrel 1, Slender-billed Gull 16, Black-headed Gull 20, Lesser Black-backed Gull 3, Sandwich Tern 14, Rock Dove 20, Palm Dove 3, Hoopoe 1, Barn Swallow 1, White Wagtail 3, Yellow-vented Bulbul 3, Lesser Whitethroat 4, House Sparrow 10.

After this morning's stopover we drove south following road 44 to Ain Sukhna, stopping when we felt for it.

6.35-8.10 Suez- 37.7 Km S Suez

Grey Heron 1, Spur-winged Plover 12, Kentish Plover 1, Greenshank 1, Wood Sandpiper 5, Slender-billed Gull 12, Palm Dove 62, Collared Dove 2, Hoopoe 2, Short-toed Lark 79, Barn Swallow 19, African Rock Martin 5 (at 23 km), White Wagtail 3, Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Chiffchaff 1, House Crow 104, Brown-necked Raven 2, House Sparrow 23.

8.10-9.45, 37.7 Km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort

(Hilly area).

Egyptian Vulture 10 N, Griffon Vulture 1 N, Steppe Eagle 48 N, Imperial Eagle 2, Lesser Spotted Eagle 588 N, Booted Eagle 2, Short-toed Eagle 85 N, Black Kite 18 N, [Steppe] Buzzard 136 N, Long-legged Buzzard 8, Kestrel 5 N, Short-toed Lark 21 + 4 N, Barn Swallow 4 N, Red-rumped Swallow 13 N, House Martin 7 N, Pallid Swift 2 N.

9.45-10.30, 37.5 –58.7 Km S Suez

Lesser Spotted Eagle 1, Short-toed Eagle 1, Black Kite 1, Palm Dove 1, Barn Swallow 1, Sand Martin 1, Short-toed-Lark 350, Crested Lark 1, Yellow Wagtail 6, Wheatear 2, Chiffchaff 1, Brown-necked Raven 17, House Sparrow 20.

10.30-11.00, Oasis 58.7 Km S Suez

(Palm trees, bushes)

Lesser Spotted Eagle 18 N, Short-toed Eagle 6 N, [Steppe] Buzzard 40 N, Black Kite 1 N, Kestrel 5 N, Pallid Swift 2 N, Hoopoe 2, Barn Swallow 20, Red-rumped Swallow 1, Sand Martin 1, House Martin 1 N, Crested Lark 2, Eastern Bonelli's Warbler 2, Chiffchaff 4.

11.00-11.50 Wadi Ghuwaiba, Stopover at 58.7 km S Suez

(Reedbeds, rocky hills)

White Stork 1, Egyptian Vulture 1, Lesser Spotted Eagle 650 N, Steppe Eagle 2 N, Short-toed Eagle 18 N, Booted Eagle 1 N, Long-legged Buzzard 4 N, [Steppe] Buzzard 400 N, Black Kite 17 N, Marsh Harrier 2 N, Kestrel 4, Rock Dove 4, Alpine Swift 1 N, Hoopoe 1, Red-rumped Swallow 19 N, Short-toed Lark 50, White Wagtail 1, Wheatear 2, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Blue Rock Thrush 1, Woodchat Shrike 1.

11.50-12.30 + 13.20-14.30 Wadi Ghuwaiba-Ain Sukhna (8 Km's Drive)

Whiskered Tern 3, Short-toed Lark 70, White Wagtail 2, Tawny Pipit 2, Yellow Wagtail 2, Wheatear 3, Black-eared Wheatear 1, White-crowned Black Wheatear 3, Sardinian Warbler 1, Brown-necked Raven 7.

12.30-13.20 8 km S Ain Sukhna

(Pleasant restaurant with lawns and a pool)

Quail 1, Ruff 1, Sandwich Tern 3, Herring Gull 3, Short-toed Lark 16 N, Yellow Wagtail 27 N, Sedge Warbler 8, Reed Warbler 2.

14.30-15.25, Oasis 2 km S Ain Sukhna

(Bushes, palm trees surrounded by rocky hills)

Lesser Spotted Eagle 13 N, Short-toed Eagle 16 N, African Rock Martin 3 (nesting), White-crowned Black Wheatear 1, Spectacled Warbler 1, Reed Warbler 1, Chiffchaff 1.

17.10- 18.15 Wadi Ghuwaiba, 58.7 km S Suez

(Reedbeds, rocky hills).

Little Egret 3, Cattle Egret 4, White Stork 1, Long-legged Buzzard 1, Marsh Harrier 4, Moorhen 1, Water Rail 1, Ruff 12, Little Stint 8, Wood Sandpiper 4, Greenshank 1, Marsh Sandpiper 1, Little Ringed Plover 8, Black-winged Stilt 1, White-eyed Gull 5, Red-rumped Swallow 13, Sand Martin 1, Tawny Pipit 2, Yellow Wagtail 6, Lesser Whitethroat 1, House Sparrow 10.

March 22

We stayed at the Portrait Hotel, Ain Sukhna paying 250 Dk.kr (£ 22) each including dinner and breakfast. Good value, especially having in mind the excellent birding facilities the following morning around the premises (lawns, bushes, flower beds, a brook running out into the Red Sea, a beach and a pier for gulls and terns):

6.30-8.30

Squacco Heron 4, [Steppe] Buzzard 2, Kestrel 1, Yellow-vented Bulbul 3, Little Ringed Plover 4, Wood Sandpiper 1, Lesser Black-backed Gull 100, Herring Gull 60, White-eyed Gulls 74, Black-headed Gulls 100, Slender-billed Gulls 500, Whiskered Tern 1, Sandwich Tern 21, Swift Tern 1, Lesser Crested Tern 2, Pied Kingfisher 2, Hoopoe 5, Barn Swallow 35, Red-rumped Swallow 30, Short-toed Lark 25 N, Tree Pipit 1, Yellow Wagtail 5, White Wagtail 2, Isabelline Wheatear 2, Wheatear 2, Bluethroat 1, Redstart 3, Blue Rock Thrush 4, Chiffchaff 10, Masked Shrike 2, Woodchat Shrike 1, House Sparrow 20.

9.15-9.50 Ain Sukhna-29.3 Km S

Rock Dove 6, Hoopoe 2, Barn Swallow 3 N + 5, Short-toed Lark 265 N, Yellow Wagtail 14 N, Isabelline Wheatear 1, White-crowned Black Wheatear 1, Blue Rock Thrush 1.

9.50-12.30 29.3 Km S Ain Sukhna

(Plain with shattered bushes, surrounded by rocky hills and a stretch of sand along the rocky Red Sea coast line).

Cattle Egret 1, Montagu's Harrier 1, Pallid Harrier 1 N, Short-toed Eagle 1 N, [Steppe] Buzzard 4, Kestrel 1, Little Ringed Plover 2 N, Spotted Sandgrouse 2, White-eyed Gull 40, Sandwich Tern 7, Swift Tern 3, Great Black-headed Gull 1, Swift 1, Hoopoe 1 N + 2, Wryneck 1, Short-toed Lark 750 N + 10, Barn Swallow 20 N, Sand Martin 1 N, Yellow Wagtail 26 N + 11, White Wagtail 1, Tree Pipit 1 N, Red-throated Pipit 1, Tawny Pipit 4 N, Isabelline Wheatear 2, Desert Wheatear 1 N, Wheatear 10 N + 6, Finch's Wheatear 1, Sedge Warbler 1, Olivaceous Warbler 1, Chiffchaff 15, Woodchat Shrike 2, Brown-necked Raven 2.

12.30-13.05 32 km S Ain Sukhna, Military Camp at the Red Sea

(Two isles close to the coast (under normal circumstances no admittance, but...)).

White-eyed Gull 63, Swift Tern 6, Short-toed Lark 10 N.

13.05-14.50 32 Km S - 172 km S (Ras Gharid Military Camp)

Steppe Eagle 1 imm, Kestrel 3, Short-toed Lark 25, Barn Swallow 9, Brown-necked Raven 13.

14.50-15.30 Ras Gharid Military Camp

Western Reef Heron 1, Cattle Egret 2, Long-legged Buzzard 1, Palm Dove 1, Barn Swallow 1, House Crow 39, Brown-necked Raven 2.

15.30-17.00 Ras Gharid Military Camp – (Back to) Café at 75 Km N Ras Gharid

Montagu's Harrier 1 2cy, Pallid Harrier 1 ad male.

17.00-17.15 Café 75 Km N Ras Gharid

Yellow Wagtail 5, Black-eared Wheatear 1, Wheatear 4, Chiffchaff 1, Brown-necked Raven 12.

18.25 139 Km N Hurghada

Eagle Owl (ascalaphus) 1

March 23

We spent the night in Sigala, just north of Hurghada at Golden Sun Hotel paying E£ 75 (Dk.kr 150 (£ 13)) for each double. OK value.

5.30-8.30 + 10.00-10.40 Sigala-Hurghada-Magawish

Cattle Egret 1, Kestrel 3, White-eyed Gull 82, Caspian Tern 1, Palm Dove 27, Hoopoe 1, Barn Swallow 15, Red-rumped Swallow 6, House Martin 4, Yellow Wagtail 50, White Wagtail 3 Tawny Pipit 3, Wheatear 3, Sedge Warbler 3, Lesser Whitethroat 2, Chiffchaff 4, Hooded Crow 4, Brown-necked Raven 1, House Sparrow 15.

8.00- 8.10 4 Km N Hurghada, Small Lagoons by the Sea (and Heavy Military Presence).

Osprey 1, Ringed Plover 1, Kentish Plover 2, White-eyed Gull 44, Caspian Tern 5, Palm Dove 1, Red-rumped Swallow 1.

10.40-11.40 Magawish - Safaga

Cattle Egret 4, Black Kite 1, Palm Dove 13, Short-toed Lark 290, Barn Swallow 27, Tawny Pipit 1, Desert Wheatear 1, Brown-necked Raven 2.

11.40-14.45 Safaga – 68 Km S towards Quseir

Western Reef Heron 12, Kestrel 2, Palm Dove 16, Hoopoe 2, Short-toed Lark 37, Barn Swallow 9, Yellow Wagtail 4, Isabelline Wheatear 2, Brown-necked Raven 25, House Sparrow 8.

Short-stop at 68 Km S Safaga

Osprey 2, Little Stint 1, Crowned Sandgrouse 2.

13.30-13.50 Short-stop at 96 Km S Safaga

Great Cormorant 1, Western Reef Heron 1, Lanner Falcon 1 chasing a Hoopoe, Caspian Tern 1, White-crowned Black Wheatear 1, Sardinian Warbler 1. [Dorgas Gazelle 4].

14.45-18.15 El-Quseir Hotel

Western Reef Heron 25, Cattle Egret 106, Spoonbill 1, Osprey 1, Ringed Plover 4, Spur-winged Plover 1, Grey Plover 1, Wood Sandpiper 1, Redshank 5, Curlew 1, Sooty Gull 1 2cy, Caspian Tern 7, Palm Dove 6, Rock Dove 1, Hooded Crow 2.

We also stayed overnight at this very pleasant elegantly renovated hotel paying E£ 90 (Dk.kr 180 (£ 16) a double.

March 24**5.10-8.15 El-Quseir Hotel**

Western Reef Heron 2, Cattle Egret 105, Osprey 1, Marsh Harrier 1 N, Common Sandpiper 1, White-eyed Gull 5, Caspian Tern 1, Palm Dove 42, White Wagtail 1, Lesser Whitethroat 2, Hooded Crow 2.

8.15-15.50 El-Quseir – 10 Km S Marsa Alam (143 Km out, Then Return)

Grey Heron 1, Western Reef Heron 7, Cattle Egret 13, Spoonbill 6, Osprey 1, Kestrel 1, Lanner Falcon 1 (at 6.5 km), Curlew 1, Greenshank 1, Caspian Tern 6, Palm Dove 2, Rock Dove 7, Hoopoe 1, Short-toed Lark 37, Barn Swallow 8, Crag Martin 1, Yellow Wagtail 41, Tawny Pipit 1, Isabelline Wheatear 3, Wheatear 1, Desert Wheatear 2, Great Reed Warbler 1, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Woodchat Shrike 3, Brown-necked Raven 33.

Besides:

8.40-8.50 Short-stop at 14.5 Km

(Humid shrub)

Nightingale 1, Olivaceous Warbler 2, Sedge Warbler 2, Lesser Whitethroat 2, Chiffchaff 1.

9.05-9.35 Short-stop at 39.5 Km

(Shrubs, palm trees, flowery bushes)

Curlew 2, Osprey 1, Short-toed Lark 10, Red-throated Pipit 1, Yellow Wagtail 4, White Wagtail 1, Wheatear 2, Nightingale 1, Bluethroat 1, Lesser Whitethroat 5, Great Grey Shrike (aucheri) 1, Masked Shrike 1, Brown-necked Raven 18.

15.50-17.30 El-Quseir – Safaga

Western Reef Heron 4, Osprey 3, Marsh Harrier 1, Kestrel 1, Kentish Plover 1, Greenshank 2, Palm Dove 4, Rock Dove 1, Caspian Tern 2, Hoopoe 1, Yellow Wagtail 1, White Wagtail 1, Barn Swallow 2, Short-toed Lark 18 N, White-crowned Black Wheatear 1, Chiffchaff 1, Brown-necked Raven 7, House Sparrow 2

Besides:

16.50-17.00 Short-stop at 62 Km N El-Quseir

(Mangrove)

Western Reef Heron 12, Curlew 1, Pied Kingfisher 1.

17.30-Nightfall Safaga-Hurghada

Kestrel 2, Barbary Falcon 2 (1 at northern outskirts of Safaga), Spur-winged Plover 1, Caspian Tern 1, Palm Dove 13, Short-toed Lark 40 N + 75, Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, Hooded Crow 1, Brown-necked Raven 2, House Sparrow 30.

March 25

5.15-7.45 Hurghada – Sharm el-Sheikh

Western Reef Heron 1, Caspian Tern 1, Slender-billed Gull 2, White-eyed Gull 3.

7.45-9.00 Sharm el-Sheikh

Cattle Egret 1, Kestrel 1, White-eyed Gull 5, Palm Dove 23, Hoopoe 1, African Rock Martin 1, Yellow Wagtail 1, White Wagtail 1, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Brown-necked Raven 1, House Sparrow 70.

9.00-10.25 Sharm el-Sheikh: Sewage Ponds

Squacco Heron 1, Cattle Egret 1, Moorhen 1, Spur-winged Plover 1, Palm Dove 12, Collared Dove 6, House Martin 1, African Rock Martin 1, Barn Swallow 3, Red-rumped Swallow 1, Red-throated Pipit 15, Yellow Wagtail 10, Reed Warbler 2, Sedge Warbler 2, Lesser White.throat 1, Chiffchaff 1, House Sparrow 30.

10.25-11.20 Sewage Ponds – Shark's Bay

Cattle Egret 2, Palm Dove 13, White-eyed Gull 4, Caspian Tern 1, Yellow Wagtail 2, Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, House Sparrow 10.

11.20-13.00 Shark's Bay – Nabq

Ringed Plover 1, Kentish Plover 6, Grey Plover 1, Dunlin 2, House Sparrow 10.

13.00-17.15 Nabq

(Admission E£115 (DK.kr 230, £21) for one car + 4 people)

(Sandy stretch of land along the coast with occasional lagoons and mangrove)

Great Cormorant 2, Western Reef Heron 13, Spoonbill 2, Osprey 4, Oystercatcher 6, Ringed Plover 6, Kentish Plover 19, Greater Sand Plover 4, Grey Plover 44, Turnstone 14, Curlew 6, Whimbrel 1, Redshank 20, Greenshank 4, Dunlin 40, White-eyed Gull 11, Sooty Gull 14, Caspian Tern 4, Palm Dove 1, Rock Dove 4, Barn Swallow 1, Isabelline Wheatear 4, Wheatear

Stayed overnight in bamboo huts at Shark's Bay Camp paying E.£75 (Dk.kr 150 /£12) a double, a perfect solution in this tropical night.

March 26

5.00-5.45 + 7.20-8.20 Shark's Bay

Cattle Egret 15, White-eyed Gull 22, Caspian Tern 3, Palm Dove 3, House Sparrow 10.

5.45-7.20 Shark's Bay – Ras Mohammed (36 Km out, Then Return)

Cattle Egret 20, Grey Heron 1, Kestrel 1, Rock Dove 13, Crested Lark 1, Barn Swallow 6, Palm Dove 4, Brown-necked Raven 2, House Sparrow 20.

8.20-9.30 Shark's Bay - Wadi Madsus (42 Km from Turn-off to Naama)

Yellow Wagtail 3, White-crowned Black Wheatear 1, Brown-necked Raven 1.

9.30-10.15 Wadi Madsus

(Dried-out wadi in rocky surroundings)

[Steppe] Buzzard 11, Pallid Swift 10, Alpine Swift 2

10.50-12.25 Following Turn-off Westwards from Nuweiba - Dahab Road, Stopover after 10 Km

Short-toed Lark 3, Isabelline Wheatear 1, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Rüppel's Warbler 1.

12.35-13.00 Stopover at 18 km

(Rocky area)

[Steppe] Buzzard 403 N, Marsh harrier 1 N, Black Kite 9 N.

13.10-13.20 Stopover at 22 km

Blackstart 2, [Steppe] Buzzard 76 N.

13.20-15.30 22 Km – 143 Km (Turn-off to St. Catherine) – 60 Km Following the Turn-off

[Steppe] Buzzard 45 N, Black Kite 1 N, Isabelline Wheatear 2, White-crowned Black Wheatear 3, Masked Shrike 1.

15.30-16.30 At 60 Km

African Crag Martin 1, Mourning Wheatear 2, Eastern Bonelli's Warbler 1, Scrub Warbler 3, Woodchat Shrike 1.

17.00- 17.15 Village of St Catherine

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler 1, Black-eared Wheatear 1, Woodchat Shrike 1.

We stayed overnight at the monastery - a good and interesting place though paying E£552 (Dk.kr 1100 /£95) for four persons in doubles including dinner and breakfast.

March 27

5.00-8.00 Monastery of St Catherine

Chukar 16+, Palm Dove 8, Rock Dove 130, African Rock Martin 1, Desert Lark 5, Tawny Pipit 1, Sand Partridge 12, White-crowned Black Wheatear 3, Scrub Warbler 5, Chiffchaff 4, Sinai Rosefinch 6.

9.50-11.25 Village of St Catherine

African Rock Martin 9, Mourning Wheatear 1, White-crowned Black Wheatear 3, Redstart 1, Eastern Bonelli's Warbler 2, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Rüppel's Warbler 2, Chiffchaff 2, Tristram's Grackle 3 (at the Plaza Tower).

11.25-11.50 Village of St Catherine - 20 km Westwards

African Crag Martin 2, White-crowned Black Wheatear 1.

11.50-12.10 Stopover at an Oasis at 20 Km

African Rock Martin 10, White-crowned Black Wheatear 7, Tristram's Grackle 2, Rüppel's Warbler 8, Chiffchaff 1.

12.10-16.40 20 Km – 105 Km (the Turn-off towards Suez)- 310 Km

Kestrel 1, Spur-winged Plover 2, Palm Dove 31, Rock Dove 1, Collared Dove 5, Pallid Swift 6, Hoopoe 1, African Rock Martin 2, House Martin 1, Barn Swallow 3, Short-toed Lark 80, Crested Lark 7, White Wagtail 2, Reed Warbler 1, Brown-necked Raven 2, House Sparrow 60.

16.40-17.00 310 Km – 10 Km after Passing the Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel and Turning S towards Suez

Cattle Egret 15, Spur-winged Plover 3, Palm Dove 8, Hoopoe 1, Crested Lark 1, House Crow 18, House Sparrow 3.

17.00-18.10 10 Km S of the Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel

Cattle Egret 1700 S, Moorhen 8, Ruff 41, Common Sandpiper 1, Wood Sandpiper 4, Green Sandpiper 2, Redshank 1, Spur-winged Plover 12, Green Bee-eater 15, Sand Martin 80, Barn Swallow 70, Yellow wagtail 5, White Wagtail 220, Hoopoe 1, Palm Dove 5, Fan-tailed Warbler 1, Graceful Warbler 1, House Crow 2000 S, House Sparrow 500 S.

March 28

5.45-6.30 Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel – Faid (N along a Canal and Greater Bitter Lake on the West Side)

Cattle Egret 3, Spur-winged Plover 3, Palm Dove 108, Hoopoe 5, Crested Lark 8, Barn Swallow 2, White Wagtail 1, House Sparrow 55.

6.30-12.40 Faid

Great Crested Grebe 1, Cattle Egret 49, Squacco Heron 15, Little Bittern 2, Black-shouldered Kite 12, Marsh Harrier 1, Kestrel 6, Moorhen 10, Spur-winged Plover 10, Green Sandpiper 1, Slender-billed Gull 4, Black-headed Gull 4, Little Tern 1, Palm Dove 174, Green Bee-eater 57, Little Green Bee-eater 1, Kingfisher 2, Pied Kingfisher 33, White-breasted Kingfisher 37, Wryneck 1, Pallid Swift 56, Hoopoe 6, Sand Martin 24, House Martin 20, Barn Swallow 80, Red-rumped Swallow 49, Red-throated Pipit 4, White Wagtail 16, Clamorous Reed Warbler 6, Blackbird 4, Yellow-vented Bulbul 54, Graceful Warbler 7, Fan-tailed Warbler 31, Lesser Whitethroat 3, Chiffchaff 4, Hooded Crow 30, House Crow 20, Goldfinch 2, House Sparrow 380.

14.00-15.05 + 16.30-Nightfall Ismailia

Squacco Heron 2, Cattle Egret 90, Black-shouldered Kite 1, Spur-winged Plover 4, Herring Gull 16, Common Tern 25, White-breasted Kingfisher 1, Pied Kingfisher 5, Green Bee-eater 2, Hoopoe 4, Palm Dove 24, Crested Lark 2, Barn Swallow 6, Red-rumped Swallow 5, House Martin 4, White Wagtail 1, Yellow-vented Bulbul 5, Clamorous Reed Warbler 3, Hooded Crow 2, House Sparrow 20.

15.05-15.20 9 Km from the Centre of Ismailia at a Railroad + the Port Said-Cairo Road

(Destroyed wetland)

Cattle Egret 4, Spur-winged Plover 65, Hoopoe 2, Barn Swallow 7, White Wagtail 10.

15.20-16.15 Canal 500 M West of Ismailia

Cattle Egret 18, Little Bittern 1, Kestrel 2, Green Bee-eater 5, Kingfisher 1, Pied Kingfisher 3, Palm Dove 30, Barn Swallow 20, Red-rumped Swallow 20, Sand Martin 30, Yellow Wagtail 1, Clamorous Reed Warbler 1, Fan-tailed Warbler 8, Graceful Warbler 1, Hooded Crow 4.

16.15-16.30 Waterhole at the Bridge 500 M West of Ismailia

Spur-winged Plover 3, Common Sandpiper 1, White-breasted Kingfisher 1, White Wagtail 1, Graceful Warbler 1, House Sparrow 10.

March 29

5.15-7.00 Ismailia – Al-Qantara al Gharbiya (32 Km N)

Cattle Egret 11, Grey Heron 1, Shoveler 2, Kestrel 1, Moorhen 1, Ruff 3, Common Sandpiper 1, Spur-winged Plover 36, Slender-billed Gull 28, Herring Gull 41, Collared Dove 8, Palm Dove 22, Hoopoe 2, Pied Kingfisher 22, White-breasted Kingfisher 1, Crested Lark 4, House Martin 1, Sand Martin 84, Barn Swallow 12, White Wagtail 3, Yellow-vented Bulbul 3, Blackbird 1, Clamorous Reed Warbler 1, Fan-tailed Warbler 2, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Hooded Crow 1, House Sparrow 420.

7.00-8.20 Al-Qantara al Gharbiya (at 33 km on the Ismailia-Port Said Road)

(Waterhole across Co-op gas filling station to the right when heading W, 5 km from the ferry)

Cattle Egret 67, Black-shouldered Kite 1, Spur-winged Plover 8, Ringed Plover 2, Common Snipe 2, Painted Snipe 1 female, Little Stint 2, Temminck's Stint 3, Wood Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 1, Ruff 4, Green Bee-eater 2, Crested Lark 8, Barn Swallow 200, Red-rumped Swallow 1, Water Pipit 1, Yellow Wagtail 1, White Wagtail 4, Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, Graceful Warbler 1, Fan-tailed Warbler 1, Hooded Crow 4, House Sparrow 20.

8.30-9.25 At 33 Km on the Ismailia-Port Said Road

(Waterhole to the west)

Cattle Egret 50, Moorhen 1, Common Snipe 3, Spur-winged Plover 56, Little Ringed Plover 8, Ringed Plover 8, Kentish Plover 10, Kittlitz's Plover 1, Marsh Sandpiper 16, Greenshank 3, Wood Sandpiper 5, Green Sandpiper 1, Ruff 180, Temminck's Stint 6, Little Stint 148, Pied Kingfisher 2, Palm Dove 3, Hoopoe 2, Sand Martin 15, Barn Swallow 20, Red-rumped Swallow 3, Short-toed Lark 10, Crested Lark 10, Yellow Wagtail 1, Bluethroat 1, Rüppel's Warbler 1, Fan-tailed Warbler 1, Graceful Warbler 3, Hooded Crow 8, House Sparrow 100.

9.30-9.55 At 40 Km on the Ismailia-Port Said Road

(Water basins to both sides of the road)

Cattle Egret 1, Painted Snipe 1 male, Wood Sandpiper 2, Marsh Sandpiper 2, Ruff 14, Little Stint 2, Pied Kingfisher 1, Palm Dove 4, Crested Lark 1, Water Pipit 4, White Wagtail 3, Black-eared Wheatear 1, Hoopoe 1, Hooded Crow 2, House Sparrow 60.

9.55-13.45 40 Km N Ismailia - Port Said

Grey Heron 1, Cattle Egret 38, Little Egret 1, Kestrel 8, Spur-winged Plover 22, Ringed Plover 8, Little Ringed Plover 1, Kentish Plover 25, Redshank 6, Marsh Sandpiper 7, Wood Sandpiper 5, Common Sandpiper 1, Ruff 12, Little Stint 140, Dunlin 185, Curlew Sandpiper 2, Slender-billed Gull 50, Herring Gull 5, Lesser Black-backed Gull 1, Gull-billed Tern 1, Caspian Tern 4, Collared Dove 1, Green Bee-eater 22, Barn Swallow 105, Hoopoe 2, Pied Kingfisher 18, Palm Dove 8, Crested Lark 9, White Wagtail 1, Meadow Pipit 2, Clamorous Reed Warbler 1, Fan-tailed Warbler 9, Hooded Crow 4, House Sparrow 110.

13.45-14.30 Port Said – 10 km towards Dumyat

Great Crested Grebe 20, Shoveler 2, Garganey 2, Kentish Plover 9, Ringed Plover 4, Little Stint 5, Slender-billed Gull 28 V, Sandwich Tern 15, Gull-billed Tern 4, Common Tern 30, Whiskered Tern 200, Hoopoe 2, Barn Swallow, Isabelline Wheatear 1,

14.30-16.50 10 km W Port Said – Turning Left, Driving 11 Km out an Embankment (New) and Back

Great Crested Grebe 1, Great Cormorant 34, Mallard 1, Garganey 150, Little Egret 12, Common Snipe 3, Spur-winged Plover 27, Ringed Plover 13, Black-winged Stilt 33, Ruff 630, Marsh Sandpiper 262, Little Stint 15, Dunlin 15, Black-headed Gull 60, Slender-billed Gull 650, Gull-billed Tern 4, Whiskered Tern 1700, Pied Kingfisher 25, Kingfisher 1, Sand Martin 100, White Wagtail 35, Graceful Warbler 6, House Sparrow 50.

16.50-17.05 Embankment – Port Said–Ismailia Road (a Stretch of 12 Km), Thus avoiding Port Said on Our Way Back

Marsh Harrier 7, Kestrel 2, Spur-winged Plover 8, Slender-billed Gull 60, Whiskered Tern 3, Pied Kingfisher 9, Pallid Swift, Palm Dove 1, Crested Lark 1, White Wagtail 15, House Sparrow 220.

17.10-Nightfall At 34 Km S Port Said, 45 Km N Ismailia, at a Busstop 500 M S of a Toll Place

Cattle Egret 42, Black-shouldered Kite 3, Moorhen 1, Spur-winged Plover 16, Ringed Plover 24, Kentish Plover 3, Dunlin 140, Temminck's Stint 1, Little Stint 100, Spur-winged Plover 20, Common Snipe 2, Painted Snipe 5(1 male + 3 females in display at 18.00 + 1), Marsh Sandpiper 2, Wood Sandpiper 1, Herring Gull 1, Pied Kingfisher 3, Palm Dove 3, Clamorous Reed Warbler 1, Hooded Crow 1, House Sparrow 10.

March 30

5.15-5.20 7.5 Km's Driving along the Ismailia-Abbassa Road

Black-crowned Night Heron 1, Cattle Egret 134 E, Little Egret 1, Moorhen 1, White-breasted Kingfisher 4, Palm Dove 4, Yellow-vented Bulbul 2, Blackbird 1, Clamorous Reed Warbler 2, Savi's Warbler 2 Lesser Whitethroat 4, Hooded Crow 3, House Crow 31, Gold Finch 2, House Sparrow 30.

5.20-6.35 At 7.5 Km

(3-4 m tall reedbeds hosting a nice colony of herons and egrets)

Squacco Heron 50, Little Egret 1, Cattle Egret 1400, Black-crowned Night Heron 169, Moorhen 9, Spur-winged Plover 10, Pied Kingfisher 1, White-breasted Kingfisher 2, Ring-necked Parakeet 1, Green Bee-eater 3, Palm Dove 3, Barn Swallow 20, Sand Martin 10, White Wagtail 3, Yellow Wagtail 2, Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, Graceful Warbler 3, Savi's Warbler 1, Clamorous Reed Warbler 5, Fan-tailed Warbler 2, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Chiffchaff 5, Hooded Crow 1, House Sparrow 5.

6.35-8.50 Driving from 7.5 Km to 39.5 Km Ismailia-Abbassa Road

Squacco Heron 4, Cattle Egret 185, Little Egret 1, Black-shouldered Kite 2, Kestrel 5, Moorhen 2, Spur-winged Plover 16, Wood Sandpiper 1, Whiskered Tern, Hoopoe 5, Green Bee-eater 47, White-breasted Kingfisher 12, Pied Kingfisher 14, Palm Dove 66, Rock Dove 1, Crested Lark 1, Barn Swallow 95, Sand Martin 50, White Wagtail 4, Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, Blackbird 1, Clamorous Reed Warbler 2, Fan-tailed Warbler 6, Hooded Crow 24, House Sparrow 43.

8.50-9.20 At 39.5 Km

(Fish ponds at the northern side of the road (following the northern bank of the canal))

Cattle Egret 4, Little Bittern 3, Black-shouldered Kite 2, Kestrel 1, Moorhen 2, Spur-winged Plover 12, Senegal Thick-knee 15, Green Sandpiper 1, Pied Kingfisher 10, Palm Dove 15, Barn Swallow 20, White Wagtail 5, Clamorous Reed Warbler 5, Chiffchaff 2, Great Grey Shrike 1, Hooded Crow 6, House Sparrow 10.

9.20-10.00 39.5 Km W Ismailia – Abbassa

Cattle Egret 3, Squacco Heron 1, Black-shouldered Kite 4, Kestrel 4, Palm Dove 47, Green Bee-eater 23, Pied Kingfisher 12, White-breasted Kingfisher 2, Collared Dove 1, Barn Swallow 1, Sand Martin 60, Fan-tailed Warbler 7, Hooded Crow 3.

10.00-12.45 Right to the East of Abbassa, at a Canal Crossing the Road

Squacco Heron 1, Little Egret 3, Black-shouldered Kite 4, Kestrel 2, Moorhen 2, Spur-winged Plover 25, Common Sandpiper 2, Whiskered Tern 4, Kingfisher 1, Senegal Coucal 2, Green Bee-eater 8, Little Green Bee-eater 3, White-breasted Kingfisher 5, Pied Kingfisher 4, Palm Dove 25, Hoopoe 2, Red-throated Pipit 11, Wheatear 1, Yellow-vented Bulbul 2, Fan-tailed Warbler 3, Graceful Warbler 3, Clamorous Reed Warbler 2, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Great Grey Shrike 1, Hooded Crow 4, Streaked Weaver 2.

13.00-14.30 SW Abbassa: Fish Ponds

Little Egret 39, Squacco Heron 3, Cattle Egret 4, Black-shouldered Kite 2, Marsh Harrier 1, Moorhen 2, Spur-winged Plover 64, Little Ringed Plover 1, Green Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 2, Wood Sandpiper 4, Ruff 1, Little Stint 1, Whiskered Tern 3, Little Tern 1, Pied Kingfisher 35, White-breasted Kingfisher 3, Green Bee-eater 23, Hoopoe 1, Rock Dove 5, Palm Dove 17, Crested

Lark 5, White Wagtail 10, Clamorous Reed Warbler 3, Graceful Warbler 10, Fan-tailed Warbler 4, House Sparrow 30.

15.00-17.05 SW Abbassa: Fishing Ponds Further 500 M to the SW at a Small Mosque

(With a policeman under cover kindly escorting us!)

Black-crowned Night Heron 17, Grey Heron 2, Squacco Heron 40, Great White Egret 1, Little Egret 320, Sparrow Hawk 1, Kestrel 2, Teal 2, Spur-winged Plover 63, Senegal Thick-knee 2, Common Snipe 12, Painted Snipe 2 females, Ruff 150, Little Ringed Plover 9, Little Stint 340, Temminck's Stint 6, Whiskered Tern 5, Senegal Coucal 1, Pied Kingfisher 30, White-breasted Kingfisher 1, Green Bee-eater 50, Palm Dove 15, Barn Swallow 70, Crested Lark 10, Red-throated Pipit 1, Yellow-vented Bulbul 1, Graceful Warbler 3, Clamorous Reed Warbler 2, Hooded Crow 1, Goldfinch 2, House Sparrow 25.

17.05-18.00 Abbassa - Az-Zaqaziq

Black-crowned Night Heron 1, Little Egret 1, Cattle Egret 52, Black-shouldered Kite 1, Moorhen 1, Spur-winged Plover 1, Pied Kingfisher 13, White-breasted Kingfisher 1, Hooded Crow 2.

March 31

5.30-6.30 Az-Zaqaziq – Abbassa

Little Egret 1, Cattle Egret 116, Kestrel 1, Pied Kingfisher 1, Palm Dove 6, Hooded Crow 4.

6.30-8.00 E of Abbassa, at the Canal Crossing the Road

Squacco Heron 1, Little Bittern 5, Little Egret 2, Black-crowned Night Heron 6, Cattle Egret 20, Black-shouldered Kite 2, Kestrel 1, Moorhen 3, Common Snipe 1, Painted Snipe 1 female, Spur-winged Plover 11, Ruff 200, Green Bee-eater 8, Little Green Bee-eater 7, Pied Kingfisher 7, White-breasted Kingfisher 3, Hoopoe 2, Palm Dove 10, Crested Lark 1, Sand Martin 10, Red-throated Pipit 9, White Wagtail 7, Clamorous Reed Warbler 3, Fan-tailed Warbler 4, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Chiffchaff 1, Hooded Crow 6, Streaked Weaver 9, House Sparrow 220.

8.00-8.30 E of Abbassa, a Village on the Southern Side of the Canal (10 Km and Back)

Black-shouldered Kite 2, Spur-winged Plover 12, Senegal Coucal 1, Sand Martin 40, House Martin 4, Barn Swallow 30, White Wagtail 3, Tawny Pipit 3, Clamorous Warbler 2, Graceful Warbler 1, Fan-tailed Warbler 1.

8.30-8.55 E Abbassa – 15 Km E

Black-crowned Night Heron 1, Squacco Heron 1, Cattle Egret 3, [Steppe] Buzzard 1, Black Kite 2, Kestrel 2, Spur-winged Plover 2, White-breasted Kingfisher 2, Pied Kingfisher 12, Little Green Bee-eater 3, Green Bee-eater 1, Hoopoe 1, Palm Dove 2, Barn Swallow 20, Sand Martin 1, Fan-tailed Warbler 2, Hooded Crow 10, House Sparrow 20.

8.55-9.40 15 Km E Abbassa: Fish Ponds (Second Visit)

Little Bittern 2, Squacco Heron 3, Cattle Egret 6, Black-shouldered Kite 2, Senegal Thick-knee 7, Painted Snipe 1 female, Spur-winged Plover 8, Green Sandpiper 1, Little Green Bee-eater 1, Green Bee-eater 7, Pied Kingfisher 3, Palm Dove 6, Barn Swallow 4, Yellow Wagtail 2, White Wagtail 3, Fan-tailed Warbler 1, Clamorous Reed Warbler 1, Great Grey Shrike 1, Hooded Crow 2, Corn Bunting 55.

9.40-10.20 15 Km E Abbassa – S of the Canal and Back

Cattle Egret 1, Kestrel 1, Spur-winged Plover 2, Short-eared Owl 1, Green Bee-eater 26, Palm Dove 3, Barn Swallow 2, House Sparrow 5.

12.00-13.00 At 3 Km SW Abbassa: Fishing Ponds

(A colony of herons and egrets)

Cattle Egret 2000, Squacco Heron 110, Black-crowned Night Heron 1300, Little Egret 600, Moorhen 2, Purple Gallinule 1, Senegal Thick-knee 2, Senegal Coucal 1, Pied Kingfisher 1, Green Bee-eater 4, Clamorous Reed Warbler 3, Fan-tailed Warbler 1.

13.05-17.00 Abbassa-Bilbais-Qanater

Little Egret 1, Cattle Egret 129, Black Kite 2, Kestrel 6, Moorhen, Black-winged Stilt 4, Spur-winged Plover 2, Green Sandpiper 1, Whiskered Tern 1, Palm Dove 12, Pied Kingfisher 15, White-breasted Kingfisher 6, Hoopoe 3, Little Green Bee-eater 1, Barn Swallow 40, Sand Martin 130, Graceful Warbler 1, Fan-tailed Warbler 2, Hooded Crow 9, House Sparrow 40.

17.00-18.30 Qanater

Cattle Egret 20, Squacco Heron 2, Little Egret 5, Mallard 2, Kestrel 2, Moorhen 2, Whiskered Tern 4, Pied Kingfisher 12, Hoopoe 2, Little Green Bee-eater 2, Palm Dove 10, Barn Swallow 30, White Wagtail 10, Yellow Wagtail 1, Blackbird 1, Clamorous Reed Warbler 4, Lesser Whitethroat 1, Chiffchaff 1, Hooded Crow 5, House Sparrow 200.

Systematic List of Birds

(In case of many observations of one species only the highest numbers are mentioned. Gatherings at a locality are here preferred to counts of a stretch of road. Date, time and other specifications do not occur on this list as they are supposedly easy to find in the itinerary once you know the place of observation. Observations are mentioned chronologically. Bold numbers indicate numbers of birds, bold letters, direction of migration. If numbers and letters are not bold they refer to itinerary and locations)

159 species recorded:

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

20 Port Said – 10 km W. Otherwise very few in the Delta.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

34 Embankment W Port Said. Besides only a couple seen in the south.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

2 Faid/ **1** Ismailia/ **3** 39.5 km W Ismailia/ **5** E Abbassa/

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

169 7.5 km W Ismailia/ **17** SW Abbassa/ **1300** at a colony 3 km SW Abbassa. Otherwise observed with regularity in the Delta

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

15 Faid/ **50** 7.5 km W Ismailia/ **40** SW Abbassa/ **110** at a colony 3 km SW Abbassa. Besides single birds were seen regularly.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

1700 S 10 km S Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel/ 1400 in a colony 7.5 km W Ismailia / 2000 in a colony 3 km SW Abbassa. Otherwise also numerous at other times, especially in the north.

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*

12 Safaga - 68 km S/ 25 El-Quseir/ 7 El-Quseir – Marsa Alam/ 4 El-Quseir – Safaga/ 12 62 km N El-Quseir/ 13 Nabq. Observed singly along the Red Sea coast as well.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

39 + 320 SW Abbassa/ 600 at a colony 3 km SW Abbassa. Single observations besides.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

1 SW Abbassa

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Single observations regularly.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

1 Wadi Ghuwaiba(58.7 km S Suez) proved to be the one and only!!

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

1 El-Quseir/ 6 El-Quseir – Marsa Alam/ 2 Nabq.

Teal *Anas Crecca*

2 SW Abbassa.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

1 Embankment W Port Said/ 2 Qanater.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

2 Port Said – 10 km W/ 130 Embankment W Port Said.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

2 Ismailia – Al-Qantara/ 2 Port Said – 10 km W.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

12 Faid/ 3 45 km N Ismailia/ 4 39.5 km W Ismailia - Abbassa / 4 E Abbassa. Besides singles or pairs observed regularly in the Delta.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

18 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort/ 17 N Wadi Ghuweiba/ 9 N 18 km after westward turn-off from Nuweiba – Dahab road. A few observations elsewhere.

Egyptian Vulture *Nephron percnopterus*

10 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort/ 1 Wadi Ghuweiba.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

1 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

85 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort/ 6 N oasis 58.7 km S Suez/ 18 N Wadi Ghuweiba/
16 N oasis 2 km S Ain Sukhna.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

4 Wadi Ghuweiba / 7 Embankment W Port Said. Besides observed regularly.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

1 ad male N 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna/ 1 ad male N Ras Gharid.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

1 N 29.3 km S ain Sukhna/ 1 N Ras Gharid.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

1 SW Abbassa.

[Steppe] Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

136 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort/ 400 N Wadi Ghuweiba/ 479 N 18 to 22 km after
westward turn-off from Nuweiba – Dahab road. Besides a few single observations.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

8 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort/ 4 N + 1 Wadi Ghuweiba/ 1 Ras Gharid.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

588 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort/ 18 N oasis 58.7 km S Suez/ 650 N Wadi
Ghuweiba/ 13 N oasis 2 km S Ain Sukhna.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

48 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort/ 2 N Wadi Ghuweiba/ 1 N Ras Gharib

Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

2 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

2 N 37.7 km S Suez at Palmera Beach Resort/ 1 N Wadi Ghuweiba.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

2 68 km S Safaga/ 3 El-Quseir – Safaga/ 4 Nabq. Besides single observations, especially at the Red
Sea.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Commonly observed throughout the itinerary.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

1 chasing a Hoopoe without luck 96 km S Safaga/ 1 6.5 km S El-Quseir.

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*

2 Safaga – Hurghada (1 at the northern outskirts of Safaga).

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*
16+ Monastery of St Catherine.

Sand Partridge *Ammoperdix heyi*
12 Monastery of St Catherine.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*
1 on the lawn of a restaurant 8 km S Ain Sukhna.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*
1 Wadi Ghuweiba.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
10 Faid. Seen regularly otherwise.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio*
1 3 km SW Abbassa.

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*
11 in all: 1 female Al Qantara/ 1 male 40 km N Ismailia/ 1 male + 3 females in display + 1 45 km N Ismailia/ 2 females SW Abbassa/ 1 female E Abbassa/ 1 female 15 km E Abbassa.

Oystercatcher *Haemotopus ostralegus*
6 Nabq.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
33 Embankment W Port Said/ 4 Abbassa – Bilbais – Qanater.

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*
15 39.5 km W Ismailia/ 2 SW Abbassa/ 2 3 km SW Abbassa.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
8 Wadi Ghuweiba/ 8 33 km N Ismailia/ 9 SW Abbassa. Some observations besides.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
13 Embankment W Port Said/ 24 45 km N Ismailia. Single observations as well.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*
1 33 km N Ismailia.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
19 Nabq/ 25 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said. Single observations throughout.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
4 Nabq.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
44 Nabq. A few observations besides.

Spur-winged Plover *Hoplopterus spinosus*

65 + 36 Ismailia/ **56** 33 km N Ismailia/ **64 + 63** SW Abbassa. Besides very common wherever possible.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

148 33 km N Ismailia/ **140** 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said/ **100** 45 km N Ismailia/ **340** SW Abbassa. Some observations besides.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

3 Al-Qantara/ **6** 33 km N Ismailia/ **6** SW Abbassa. Besides single birds observed.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

2 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

185 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said/ **140** 45 km N Ismailia. Some observations in smaller numbers, too.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

180 33 km N Ismailia/ **630** Embankment W Port Said/ **200** E Abbassa . Besides a few other observations.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

12 SW Abbassa. Otherwise only few birds seen.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

1 Nabq.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

6 Nabq – and a few singles at other localities.

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

5 El-Quseir/ **20** Nabq/ **6** 40 km Ismailia – Port Said. Nothing much besides that.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

16 33 km N Ismailia/ **7** 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said/ **262** Embankment W Port Said. Apart from these a few other observations.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

4 Nabq, otherwise few observations.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Seen in very low numbers at various localities.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

4 Wadi Ghuweiba/ **4** 10 km S Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel/ **5** 33 km N Ismailia. Besides single observations.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Single observations.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
14 Nabq.

Sooty Gull *Larus hemprichii*
1 El-Quseir/ 14 Nabq.

White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus*
74 Ain Sukhna/ 40 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna/ 63 32 km S Ain Sukhna/ 82 Sigala-Hurghada-Magawish/ 44 4 km N Hurghada. Besides seen very regularly at the Red Sea.

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*
1 2cy 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*
100 Ain Sukhna/ 60 Embankment W Port Said. Besides these not very many observed.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*
500 Ain Sukhna/ 650 Embankment W Port Said. Besides small assemblies noted.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
100 Ain Sukhna. A few more observations only.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
60 Ain Sukhna. Besides not seen that often.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
1 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said/ 4 Port Said – 10 km W/ 4 Embankment W Port Said.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*
5 4 km N Hurghada/ 7 El-Quseir/ 6 El-Quseir – Marsa Alam/ 4 Nabq/ 4 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said. Besides observed at several spots along the Red Sea.

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*
1 Ain Sukhna/ 3 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna/ 6 32 km S Ain Sukhna.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*
2 Ain Sukhna.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*
21 Ain Sukhna. Small gatherings observed also.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
25 Ismailia/ 30 Port Said – 10 km W. Besides a few more observations.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
1 Faid/ 1 SW Abbassa.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
200 Port Said – 10 km W/ 1700 Embankment W Port Said. Small groups noted as well.

Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus*
2 68 km S Safaga.

Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus*
2 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*
130 Monastery of St Catherine. Apart from that commonly seen.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Noted with much regularity, never in high numbers, however.

Palm Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*
108 Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel – Faid/ 174 Faid. Seemed to be all over the place.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*
1 7.5 km W Ismailia.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*
2 E Abbassa/ 1 SW Abbassa/ 1 E Abbassa, village S of canal/ 1 3 km SW Abbassa.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
2 Port Tawfig.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo ascalaphus*
1 39 km N Hurghada.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*
1 15 km E Abbassa.

Swift *Apus apus*
1 N 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*
Single observations. 10 N Wadi Madsus/ 56 Faid. A few more observations only.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*
1 N Wadi Ghuweiba/ 2 N Wadi Madsus.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
2 Faid, and a few more observations in the Delta.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

33 Faid/ 18 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said/ 25 Embankment W Port Said/ 35 + 30 SW Abbassa. It was very common in the Delta especially.

White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

37 Faid. Besides seen a lot in the Delta, but in the Delta only.

Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

1 Faid/ 7 E Abbassa/ 3 E Abbassa/ 1 15 km E Abbassa/ 1 Abbassa - Bilbais - Qanater / 2 Qanater.

Green Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

15 10 km S Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel/ 57 Faid/ 22 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said/ 47 7.5–39.5 km W Ismailia/ 23 39.5 km W Ismailia/ 23 + 50 SW Abbassa/ 26 15 km E Abbassa. Otherwise many observations in the Delta.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

5 Ain Sukhna/ 1 N + 2 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna/ 5 Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel – Faid/ 6 Faid/ 4 Ismailia. Besides many observations of single individuals.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

1 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna/ 1 Faid.

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*

5 Monastery of St Catherine.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

350 37.5-58.7 km S Suez/ 265 N Ain Sukhna-29.3 km S/ 750 N 29.3. km S Ain Sukhna/ 290 Magawish-Safaga. Abundant migration along the western Red Sea coast from Suez to Hurghada.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

9 40 km N Ismailia – Port Said/ 10 SW Abbassa. Otherwise observed widely in the north in small numbers.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

80 10 km S Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel/ 100 Embankment W Port Said. Observed in small numbers

African Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

5 23 km S Suez/ 3 pairs nesting at an oasis 2 km S Ain Sukhna/ 9 Village of St Catherine/ 10 oasis 20 km NW St Catherine. Singles also noted.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

1 El Quseir –Marsa Alam.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

70 10 km S Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel/ 80 Faid / 200 Al Qantara. Counted in small numbers otherwise.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

19 N + 13 Wadi Ghuweiba/ 30 Ain Sukhna/ 49 Faid. Many single birds noted throughout.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

20 Faïd – apart from that few observations.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Scattered observations at the Red Sea and in the Delta.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

1 Ain Sukhna, 1 N 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

2 40 km N Ismailia.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

15 Sharm el-Sheik/ 11 E Abbassa . Otherwise a few singles.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

1 Al-Qantara/ 4 40 km N Ismailia.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

50 Magawish, and numerous presence at the Red Sea and in the Delta, many of the race *feldegg*

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

220 10 km S Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel. Observed throughout the trip.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*

54 Faïd. Very regular in the Delta, observed in small numbers in the south.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

1 14.5 km S El-Quseir/ 1 39.5 km S El-Quseir.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

1 Ain Sukhna/ 1 39.5 km S El-Quseir/ 1 33 km N Ismailia.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

3 Ain Sukhna/ 1 Village of St Catherine.

Blackstart *Cercomela melanura*

A pair seen at 22 km on the road deviating westwards from the Nuweiba-Dahab road.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

4 Nabq. Otherwise observed regularly, mostly alone.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

10 N + 6 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna. Scattered observations, mostly at the Red Sea.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*

1 Wadi Ghuweiba-Ain Sukhna/ 1 75 km N Ras Gharid/ 1 Village of St Catherine/ 1 40 km N Ismailia.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

1 N 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna/ 1 Magawish-Safaga/ 2 El-Quseir – Marsa Alam.

Finch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finchii*

1 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna.

Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens*

2 N St Catherine/ 1 Village of St Catherine.

White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*

3 Wadi Ghuweiba-Ain Sukhna/ 3 Monastery of St Catherine/ 3 Village of St Catherine/ 7 oasis 20 km NW St Catherine. Observed with regularity in deserted places.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

1 Wadi Ghuweiba/ 4 Ain Sukhna/ 1 Ain Sukhna-29.3 km S.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

4 Faid. Single observations in the Delta.

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis*

31 Faid. Commonly observed in the Delta.

Graceful Warbler *Prinia gracilis*

7 Faid/ 10 SW Abbassa. Commonly noted in the Delta.

Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta*

3 N St Catherine area/ 5 Monastery of St Catherine.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

3 Ismailia – 7.5 km W.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus shoenobaenus*

8 at a restaurant 8 km S Ain Sukhna. A few more observations.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Noted occasionally.

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

6 Faid/ 5 7.5 km W Ismailia/ 5 39.5 km W Ismailia. Very regular in the Delta

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

1 El-Quseir – Marsa Alam.

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

1 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna/ 1 14.5 km S El-Quseir.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

1 oasis 2 km S Ain Sukhna.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*
1 Wadi Ghuweiba-Ain Sukhna/ 1 96 km S Safaga.

Rüppel's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli*
1 10 km after westward turn-off from Nuweiba – Dahab road/ 2 village of St Catherine/ 8 oasis 20 km NW St Catherine/ 1 33 km N Ismailia.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*
Widespread observations.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*
2 oasis 58.7 km S Suez/ 1 N St Catherine/ 1 Monastery of St Catherine/ 2 Village of St Catherine

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
15 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna. Observed regularly.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*
1 (*aucheri*) 39.5 km S El-Quseir/ 1 39.5 km W Ismailia/ 1 E Abbassa.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
1 Wadi Ghuweiba/ 2 Ain Sukhna/ 2 29.3 km S Ain Sukhna/ 3 El-Quseir – Marsa Alam/ 1 N St Catherine area/ 1 Village of St Catherine.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*
2 Ain Sukhna/ 1 39.5 km S El-Quseir/ 1 N St Catherine area.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Very common in the area around Suez: 300 Port Tawfig, 2000 S Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel, but also 39 as far south as Ras Gharid.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*
Seen a lot, but not in big numbers.

Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*
17 37.5-58.7 km S Suez/ 12 75 km N Ras Gharid/ 25 Safaga-68 km S/ 33 El-Quseir – Marsa Alam/ 18 39.5 km S El-Quseir. Many singles noted along the Red Sea.

Tristram's Grackle *Onychognathus tristramii*
3 Village of St Catherine/ 2 oasis 20 km NW St Catherine.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
500 S Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel/ 380 Faid. Very common.

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*
9 E Abbassa (a male building a nest).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
A couple of observations in the Delta.

Sinai Rosefinch *Carpodacus synoicus*
6 Monastery of St Catherine.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*
55 15 km E Abbassa.

Literature

- A. Humphreys et al, Egypt, Lonely Planet, 2002
- B. "DOF-storturen Ægypten 1982"
- C. Roger Kaufmann, „Egypten 10-20 april 2001“, www.club.300.se/resedatabas
- D. Lene og Niels Jørgen Larsen, „Fuglerapport fra Ægypten 2001“, www.netfugl.dk/tripreports
- E. Tommy Pedersen, "Birding South Sinai, December 1st –7th 2000",
www.club.300.se/resedatabas
- F. David Wimpfheimer et al, The Migration of Birds of Prey in the Northern Red Sea Area,
New York 1983
- G. "Birding Hotspots", www.birdingegypt.com
- H. Tobias Berger, "Egypten " 13-20/2 2001, www.club.300.se/resedatabas
- I. Sven Marling, „Kort reserapport från Hurghada 16-23 mars 2001,
www.club.300.se/resedatabas
- J. Kjetil Jensen, Reserapport från Hurghada, Egypten 2001.01.23-30,
www.club.300.se/resedatabas
- K. Hans Nordius et al, Reserapport från Hurghada, Egypten 10-17 april 2001,
www.club.300.se/resedatabas
- L. Thomas W Johansen, "Egypten, 16.3 – 10.4 1999" (unpublished notes)
- M. Dave Gosney, "Finding Birds in Egypt", 1993.