

## JORDAN TRIP REPORT

March 25th to April 2nd 2005

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### Itinerary

March 25th: Azraq and Shaumari

March 26th: Shaumari

March 27th: The Dead Sea and road to Wadi Dana

March 28th: Wadi Dana

March 29th: Petra

March 30th: Road to Wadi Rum and Wadi Rum

March 31st: Wadi Rum, Disi, Aqaba, Wadi Araba

April 1st: Wadi Araba and Aqaba

April 2nd: Wadi Araba and Aqaba

### March 25th:

We arrived via Istanbul to Amman Airport around 3 am, and were on the road within 30 minutes in a car, that was rented at Avis. We headed east towards Azraq; Crested Lark was the first bird of the trip, it was singing while it was still dark. Around dawn we arrived to Azraq.

Common birds (such as Collared Dove, Crested Lark and Lesser Whitethroat) are often omitted from the totals.

### Azraq:

Many of the smaller birds, including Namaqua Dove, White-cheeked Bulbul, wheatears, and Rüppell's Warbler were seen in a small field and a scrubby area, north and north-east of the entrance to Azraq Wetland Reserve. Chiffchaff was the most abundant migrant. A small fee has to be paid, to get access to Azraq Wetland Reserve. 1.800 birds were ringed here during the spring of 2004, according to a local warden. One Lesser Whitethroat and one Reed Warbler were caught, during our visit. A Mallard pair apparently bred in Azraq Wetland Reserve during the spring of 2005. A small crane (Little / Baillon's Crane) was glimpsed twice in a swampy area in Azraq Wetland Reserve by MKH and CBN.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) 2, SQUACCO HERON (*Ardeola ralloides*) 2, PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*) 2, BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*) 15 (all used trees in Azraq City as roost site at sunset), MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*) 1, HEN / PALLID HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus / macrourus*) 1 2 cy / female (seen on too long distance, to be identified), STEPPE BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) 31 (30 used trees in Azraq City as roost site at sunset), **LITTLE / BAILLON'S CRAKE (Porzana**

**parva / pusilla**) 2, BLACK-WINGED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*) 1, COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*) 2, QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*) 1, SENEGAL DOVE (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) 6, **NAMAQUA DOVE (*Oena capensis*) 1**, COMMON SWIFT (*Apus apus*) 2 migr. north, CRESTED LARK (*Galerida cristata*) 50, WATER PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*) 1, WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*) 60, **WHITE-CHEEKED BULBUL (*Pycnotus leucotis*) 6**, ROBIN (*Erithacus rubecula*) 1, BLUE THROAT (*Luscinia svecica*) 5, WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) 2, ISABELLINE WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 6, BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe hispanica*) 1, **CYPRUS WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) 2 (1 male + 1 female)**, COMMON STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata rubicola*) 2, **RÜPPEL'S WARBLER (*Sylvia rueppelli*) 8**, GRACEFUL WARBLER (*Prinia gracilis*) 15, SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) 2, **REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) 100**, EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER (*Hippolais pallida*) 1, **CHIFFCHAFF (*Ptyloscopus collybita*) 500**, PENDULINE TIT (*Remiz pendulinus*) 4, WOODCHAT SHRIKE (*Lanius senator*) 2, GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor aucherii*) 1, SPANISH SPARROW (*Passer hispaniolensis*) 2, CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING (*Emberiza caesia*) 2, CORN BUNTING (*Miliaria calandra*) 2.

#### Shaumari:

Cream-coloured Courser and other desert species were mainly seen south of the entrance-road to Shaumari Wildlife Reserve. Dunn's Lark was seen on this stretch during the spring of 2004. Citrine Wagtail, and pipits were seen in fields just west of Shaumari Wildlife Reserve. The Great-spotted Cuckoo was seen briefly flying between trees behind the fence surrounding the reserve.

MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*) 4, HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*) 1 female, PALLID HARRIER (*Circus macrourus*) 1 female, COMMON CRANE (*Grus grus*) 7, CREAM-COLOURED COURSER (*Cursorius cursor*) 9, **GREAT-SPOTTED CUCKOO (*Clamator glandarius*) 1 2cy (only seen by MKH)**, COMMON SWIFT (*Apus apus*) 2, HOPOOE (*Upupa epops*) 6, WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*) 1, SHORT-TOED LARK (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) 80, BIMACULATED LARK (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) 1, TEMMINCK'S HORNED LARK (*Eremophila bilopha*) 5, BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) 60, RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (*Hirundo daurica*) 10, TAWNY PIPIT (*Anthus campestris*) 4, WATER PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*) 2, MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*) 10, TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*) 5, RED-THROATED PIPIT (*Anthus cervinus*) 15, WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*) 30, YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*) 40 (many ssp. feldegg and some grey-headed types), **CITRINE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla citreola*) 1 female**, BLUE THROAT (*Luscinia svecica*) 2, REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 3 (1 male samamisticus, at least), BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) 5, WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) 5, ISABELLINE WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 10, BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe hispanica*) 2, **CYPRUS WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) 3**, BLUE ROCK THRUSH (*Monticola solitarius*) 1 female, ROCK THRUSH (*Monticola saxatilis*) 1 male, WOODCHAT SHRIKE (*Lanius senator*) 1, GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*

aucheri) 1, SPANISH SPARROW (*Passer hispaniolensis*) 2, TRUMPETER FINCH (*Bucanetes githagineus*) 1 male, DESERT FINCH (*Rhodospiza obsoleta*) 2.

March 26th:

We searched for a qa (shallow lake) that was reported to us by a local warden at Azraq Wetland Reserve, yesterday, for app. 30 minutes east of the northern part of Azraq City. However, we failed to locate it. It is difficult to communicate with locals, because most of them only speak Arabic. Find one with a big car, since there is a better chance, that he / she speaks English. A Wood Sandpiper fed in a small puddle next to the main road through the northern part of Azraq City.

Shaumari:

Bimaculated -, Hoopoe -, and Bar-tailed Desert Lark were seen south of the entrance road to Shaumari Wildlife Reserve. Desert Wheatears were seen north of the entrance road. A small entrance fee has to be paid, to access the Wildlife Reserve. Arabian Oryx and Ostrich are being bred in the Wildlife Reserve.

Owls and Semi-collared Flycatchers were seen inside the reserve. Spectacled -, and Asian Desert Warbler were in the savannah-like habitat, which is inside the Reserve. We paid a small fee, and got a tractor-ride to the savannah. A guide, accompanied us on the savannah. He had just begun bird-watching, and we told him how to identify birds. A possible Houbara Bustard was glimpsed by MKH; however, the sighting did not make it to the trip-list. The habitat, with scattered bushes, up to 1 meter, and large flats without vegetation seems right to Houbara. Shaumari and its vicinity was one of the last places with regular Houbara sightings in Jordan; 21 sightings were made between 1975 and 1979 (Andrews, 1995).

Shaumari:

HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*) 1 female, PALLID HARRIER (*Circus macrourus*) 1 female, QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*) 14, CREAM-COLOURED COURSER (*Cursorius cursor*) 6, GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*) 2, **LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*) 1**, BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*) 1 dead, SCOPS OWL (*Otus scops*) 5, WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*) 2, SHORT-TOED LARK (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) 40, LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK (*Calandrella rufescens*) 7, **BIMACULATED LARK (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) 450 (400 in one flock, and smaller groups)**, TEMMINCK'S HORNED LARK (*Eremophila bilopha*) 17, HOOPOE LARK (*Alaemon alaudipes*) 5, BAR-TAILED DESERT LARK (*Ammomanes cinturus*) 1 (only seen by MKH), TAWNY PIPIT (*Anthus campestris*) 9, TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*) 5, BLUE THROAT (*Luscinia svecica*) 2, REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 3, WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) 1, ISABELINE WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 8, DESERT WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe deserti*) 2 (1 male + 1 female), BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe hispanica*) 6, **CYPRUS WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) 2 (males)**, STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata rubicola*) 3 (1 male + 2 females), **SIBERIAN STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata maura*) 1 female**, BLUE ROCK THRUSH (*Monticola solitarius*) 2 (1 male + 1 female), SPECTACLED WARBLER (*Sylvia conspicillata*) 10, **ASIAN DESERT WARBLER (*Sylvia nana*) 1**, **SEMI-COLLARED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula semitorquata*) 2 (1 male + 1 female)**, WOODCHAT

SHRIKE (*Lanius senator*) 1, MASKED SHRIKE (*Lanius nubicus*) 1 female, GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor aucheri*) 3, SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*) 1, DESERT FINCH (*Rhodospiza obsoleta*) 1, ORTOLAN BUNTING (*Emberiza hortulana*) 2.

Azraq to Amman, c.70 km. east of Amman:

Warblers were seen in a wadi, south of the main road between Azraq and Amman. Any vegetation along the road can attract vagrants, because of the desert environment.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE (*Curcaetus gallicus*) 2, HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*) 6, BLUETHROAT (*Luscinia svecica*) 1, REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 3, ROCK THRUSH (*MONTICOLA SAXATILIS*) 1 female, SARDINIAN WARBLER (*Sylvia melanocephala*) 3, COMMON WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia communis*) 1, LINNET (*Carduelis cannabina*) 1, CORN BUNTING (*Miliaria calandra*) 11.

March 27th:

River outfall, just north of Suwayma:

Little Stints were seen at river outfall, to The Dead Sea just north of Suwayma. Birding is difficult, because of the proximity to Palestine. We were detained for 30 minutes at a small military camp, since we were very close to the Palestinian border.

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Vanellus spinosus*) 4, LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minutus*) 2, REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*) 2, **NAMAQUA DOVE (*Oena capensis*) 4 (2 males + 2 females)**, YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*) 4, GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor aucheri*) 1, BROWN-NECKED RAVEN (*Corvus ruficollis*) 1, TRISTAM'S GRACKLE (*Onychognathus tristramii*) 1.

Suwayma, at the Funfair:

Two singing Dead Sea Sparrows and nests were found in tamarix shrub, c.200 m. from The Dead Sea Shore. The Woodpigeon, which migrated north, was approximately the 5th record in Jordan. However, it is possible that it is more common, than the few records suggest, since it is a fairly common winter visitor to northern Israel (Shirihai, 1996).

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Vanellus spinosus*) 4, GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*) 4, REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*) 1, COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*) 1, **WOODPIGEON (*Columba palumbus*) 1 migr. north**, **NAMAQUA DOVE (*Oena capensis*) 5**, YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava feldegg*) 1, EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER (*Hippolais elaeucia*) 15, EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER (*Phylloscopus orientalis*) 2, GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor aucheri*) 1, **DEAD SEA SPARROW (*Passer moabiticus*) 2 singing males.**

Road along the eastern shore of The Dead Sea:

Sand Partridge is apparently fairly common in the wadi's, heading east to west, east of the road. Access to the wadi's is by foot. The Long-billed Pipit was seen c.10 km. north of Ghor Al Haditha. Hooded Wheatear is supposed to have one of its strongholds in

the wadi's along the eastern shore of The Dead Sea. Any vegetation along the road is worth investigating, because of migrants.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE (*Circaetus gallicus*) 1 migrating north, SAND PARTRIDGE (*Ammoperdix heyi*) 7, DESERT LARK (*Ammomanes deserti*) 3, ROCK MARTIN (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*) 7, RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (*Hirundo daurica*) 11, **LONG-BILLED PIPIT (*Anthus similis*) 1**, NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) 1, BLACKSTART (*Ceromela melanura*) 4, BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*) 5, LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*) 20, GRACEFUL WARBLER (*Prinia gracilis*) 5, MASKED SHRIKE (*Lanius nubicus*) 2, PALESTINE SUNBIRD (*Nectarinia osea*) 3, BROWN-NECKED RAVEN (*Corvus ruficollis*) 1, FAN-TAILED RAVEN (*Corvus rhipidurus*) 6.

Road between Al Mazraa and Al Karak:

Mourning Wheatear is quite common along the road. Finch's Wheatear may occur during winter. All Mourning Wheatears were carefully checked, and all showed the diagnostic white bases on primaries. The dark upper back on Mourning Wheatear; this character is similar to Pied Wheatear, is more difficult to pick out in the field, compared to the white bases on primaries.

DESERT LARK (*Ammomanes deserti*) 3, BLACKSTART (*Ceromela melanura*) 1, MOURNING WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe lugens*) 3, CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING (*Emberiza caesia*) 1.

Road between Al Karak via At Tafila to Dana:

The White Stork and raptors, except Lesser Kestrel, were on migration.

WHITE STORK (*Ciconia ciconia*) 1, EGYPTIAN VULTURE (*Nephron percnopterus*) 1 ad, BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*) 2, STEPPE BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) 60, LESSER KESTREL (*Falco naumanni*) 2 (1 male + 1 female), CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*) 1 singing, HOOPOOE (*Upupa epops*) 1 singing, DESERT LARK (*Ammomanes deserti*) 2, MOURNING WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe lugens*) 2, SCRUB WARBLER (*Scotocerca inquieta*), BROWN-NECKED RAVEN (*Corvus ruficollis*) 2.

Barra Forest, near Wadi Dana:

CHUKAR (*Alectoris chukar*) 2, CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*) 1 singing, GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*) 2, CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING (*Emberiza caesia*) 1.

March 28th:

Barra Forest, near Wadi Dana:

Syrian Serin was found after a two hour search in the morning. They frequented the lower part of the forest, near the big house, which is fenced off, at the end of the road. A male drank from a puddle, created by a broken water-pipe.

BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros semirufus*) 1 male, BLUE ROCH THRUSH (*Monticola solitarius*) 2, SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*) 5, GREAT TIT (*Parus*

major) 2, PALESTINE SUNBIRD (*Nectarinia osea*) 2, GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*) 2, **SYRIAN SERIN (*Serinus syriacus*) 4.**

Dana village:

DESERT LARK (*Ammomanes deserti*) 2, BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros semirufus*) 1 male, BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe hispanica*) 8.

Wadi Dana:

Raptors migrated throughout the day. They were seen from Dana village until mid-afternoon. The northern slope was used as vantage-point during the rest of the day. Griffon Vultures, Bonelli's Eagles, and Lesser Kestrels were local birds.

GRIFFON VULTURE (*Gyps fulvus*) 3, EGYPTIAN VULTURE (*Nephron percnopterus*) 1 adult, STEPPE EAGLE (*Aquila nipalensis*) 6, BONELLI'S EAGLE (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*) 3 (1 2 c.y., 2 adult), BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*) 50, PALLID HARRIER (*Circus macrourus*) 2 (1 2 c.y., 1 adult male), LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD (*Buteo rufinus*) 2, STEPPE BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) 500, SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter nisus*) 4, LESSER KESTREL (*Falco naumanni*) 7, PALLID SWIFT (*Apus pallidus*) 2, ALPINE SWIFT (*Apus melba*) 2, WOOD LARK (*Lullula arborea*) 1 singing, CRAG MARTIN (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) 5, **LONG-BILLED PIPIT (*Anthus similis*) 1**, ROCK THRUSH (*Monticola saxatilis*) 1 male, WOODCHAT SHRIKE (*Lanius senator*) 1.

March 29th:

Petra:

The access fee is 10.5 JD. However, students can get a 50% discount, if they carry an international student card. Hume's Tawny Owl was not seen, nor heard, during our visit. Our visit was probably too early, since we already left around 9.00 pm. The chance for hearing or seeing Hume's Tawny Owl can probably be increased, if you join the 'Petra by Night' excursion. It is arranged on Monday and Thursday nights, starts at 8 pm, and lasts approximately to 10 pm, according to Jordan Lonely Planet Guide. Tickets are bought at the visitor centre near the entrance to Petra.

Raptor migration in the afternoon near the top of Petra, at the Al Deir Monastery, produced good numbers of Steppe Buzzards and eagles. Compared to Dana, views of the migrating raptors were much better at Petra. All raptors mentioned were migrating.

Sinai Rosefinch is commonly seen in the Siq area and near Al Deir Monastery.

GRIFFON VULTURE (*Gyps fulvus*) 1, EGYPTIAN VULTURE (*Nephron percnopterus*) 2 (adult), OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) 1, STEPPE EAGLE (*Aquila nipalensis*) 7, SHORT-TOED EAGLE (*Circaetus gallicus*) 2, BOOTED EAGLE (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) 4 (1 pale, 1 intermediate, 2 dark morph), BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*) 40, PALLID HARRIER (*Circus macrourus*) 1 male, STEPPE BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) 1.500, PALLID SWIFT (*Apus pallidus*) 20, HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*) 1, DESERT LARK (*Ammomanes deserti*) 4, CRAG MARTIN (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) 10, MARTIN (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*) 20, BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe hispanica*) 1 female, MOURNING WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe lugens*) 10, PALESTINE SUNBIRD

(*Nectarinia osea*) 1, FAN-TAILED RAVEN (*Corvus rhipidurus*) 6, **SINAI ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus synoicus*) 15.**

March 30th:

Petra town:

BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*) 1, PALLID HARRIER (*Circus macrourus*) 1 female, SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*) 1.

Ras An Naqab, near Abu Al Lussan, road between Petra and Rum:

PALLID HARRIER (*Circus macrourus*) 1 female, SHORT-TOED LARK (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) 10, DESERT LARK (*Ammomanes deserti*) 1, TEMMINCK'S HORNED LARK (*Eremophila bilopha*) 2, **LONG-BILLED PIPIT (*Anthus similis*) 1**, BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe hispanica*) 3, MOURNING WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe lugens*) 1, ROCK THRUSH (*Monticola saxatilis*) 1 female.

Rum:

To unidentified large falcons were probably Barbary Falcon. Verreaux's Eagle was not seen. The cliff faces (east and west of Rum Village) were under constant observation for all afternoon of March 30th and all morning till noon (March 31st). Apparently, this site has hosted the major part of Verreaux's Eagle observations in Jordan since 1990. The last sighting was an adult seen between 7.30 and 9.52 am, during March 27th, 2004. However, the Rum Desert is vast, and several days exploration will increase your chance. A jeep is essential, if you want to explore the more remote parts of the desert. The Disi area, just east of Rum, has apparently also yielded sightings, according to a local source.

Sinai Rosefinch is commonly seen.

GRIFFON VULTURE (*Gyps fulvus*) 1, SHORT-TOED EAGLE (*Circaetus gallicus*) 1 migrating, large falcon sp. (probably Barbary [*Falco pelegrinoides*]) 2 (1 2 c.y., 1 adult), WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*) 1, DESERT LARK (*Ammomanes deserti*) 8, THRUSH NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia luscinia*) 1, REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 2, BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochrurus*) 3, ISABELINE WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 1, MOURNING WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe lugens*) 1, WHITE-CROWNED BLACK WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe leucopyga*) 7, BLUE ROCK THRUSH (*Monticola solitarius*) 2, BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*) 1 male, EASTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER (*Sylvia crassirostris*) 4, SCRUB WARBLER (*Scotocerca inquieta*) 1, BROWN-NECKED RAVEN (*Corvus ruficollis*) 23, **SINAI ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus synoicus*) 19**, **MOUNTAIN BUNTING (*Emberiza striolata*) 1.**

March 31th:

Rum:

GRIFFON VULTURE (*Gyps fulvus*) 2, STEPPE EAGLE (*Aquila nipalensis*) 1 immature, BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) 1, WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*) 2, REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 1, EASTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER (*Sylvia crassirostris*) 1, EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER (*Hippolais pallida*) 1, BROWN-NECKED RAVEN (*Corvus ruficollis*) 33.

Disi:

STEPPE BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) 3, HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*) 1, WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*) 1, TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*) 6, REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 2, COMMON CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*) 20.

Aqaba / Wadi Araba:

Wind from a southern direction is best for seawatching. The beach at Aquamarina Beach Hotel seems to be the best place for seawatching. It is private property, of course, but it was possible to walk through the entrance at the hotel. Remember, to tell the guards you visit their beach, because of birdwatching. A Crested Tern and a Lesser Crested Tern were reported at Eilat, Israel, during March 31st 2005. Caspian and Sandwich Tern, were the only large terns, we recorded.

Aquaba Sewage Work is difficult to access. Contact, at least two weeks prior to your visit, Khaled Nasser ([jssd@go.com.jo](mailto:jssd@go.com.jo)) and/or Mohammed Alshamlih ([alshamlih@yahoo.com](mailto:alshamlih@yahoo.com)). A permit is necessary to access the site, because it is near the Israeli border.

The Sewage Work is located between Aqaba, and Israel. Scattered palms are located at a big roundabout in the western part of Aqaba.

Wadi Araba, between Aquaba and the Dead Sea, is only accessible east of the main road, because of the Israeli border. 15 pairs of Arabian Warbler is breeding in the Jordanian part of Wadi Araba, according to a local source. It is possible, it is an underestimate. However, we only found one bird (a male). Any vegetation in Wadi Araba is worth checking, because of migrants. Contact Khaled Nasser and/or Mohammed Alshamlih, if you want guiding in Wadi Araba. Alshamlih, was our guide, and he showed us the Arabian Warbler.

Sandgrouses were not seen during our visit. A local guide will increase your chance for sandgrouses, since the exact whereabouts of these nomadic birds is dependent of water sources.

Aqaba:

BLACK-WINGED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*) 18, RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*) 1, BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*) 1, WHITE-EYED GULL (*Larus leucopthalmus*) 24, SANDWICH TERN 1, COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) 10, CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*) 1, COMMON KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*) 1, HOUSE CROW (*Corvus splendens*) 10.

Wadi Araba, Rahma:

LITTLE GREEN BEE-EATER (*Merops orientalis*) 2, ROCK THRUSH (*Monticola saxatilis*) 1 male.

April 1st:

Wadi Araba, near the airport:

**BARBARY FALCON (*Falco pelegrinoides*) 1 adult (sitting on pylon).**

Wadi Araba, near Rahma:

STEPPE EAGLE (*Aquila nipalensis*) 2, LITTLE GREEN BEE-EATER (*Merops orientalis*) 2, WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*) 1, NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) 1, BLUETHROAT (*Luscinia sveciaca*) 1, REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 2, BLACKSTART (*Cercomela melanura*) 3, BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe hispanica*) 2, BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*) 15, EASTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER (*Sylvia crassirostris*) 5, LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*) 30, RÜPPELL'S WARBLER (*Sylvia ruepelli*) 1 female, EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER (*Phylloscopus orientalis*) 3, COMMON CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*) 3, PALESTINE SUNBIRD (*Nectarinia osea*) 4, ORTOLAN BUNTING (*Emberiza hortulana*) 1.

Aqaba, near eastern perimeter of Sewage Plant:

QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*) 1, **NAMAQUA DOVE (*Oena capensis*) 1 male**, WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*) 3, RÜPPELL'S WARBLER (*Sylvia ruepelli*) 1 female, EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER (*Hippolais pallida*) 1, EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER (*Phylloscopus orientalis*) 1, MASKED SHRIKE (*Lanius nubicus*) 3.

Aqaba Marine Nature Reserve:

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*) 1, WHITE-EYED GULL (*Larus leucophthalmus*) 4, CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*) 1, RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (*Hirundo daurica*) 2.

Aqaba Back Road (near Dump):

LITTLE GREEN BEE-EATER (*Merops orientalis*) 1, BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*) 4, MASKED SHRIKE (*Lanius nubicus*) 1.

Aqaba Downtown (dusk):

HOUSE CROW (*Corvus splendens*) 48.

April 2nd:

Aqaba Downtown (early morning):

PALLID HARRIER (*Circus macrourus*) 1 male migr. N, ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (*Psittacula krameri*) 1.

Wadi Araba, 6 km. S of Rama:

STEPPE BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) 50 migr., REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) 3, BLACKSTART (*Cercomela melanura*) 3, BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*) 5, EASTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER (*Sylvia crassirostris*) 2, **ARABIAN WARBLER (*Sylvia leucomelaena*) 1 male**, RÜPPELL'S WARBLER (*Sylvia ruepelli*) 2, MASKED SHRIKE (*Lanius nubicus*) 1.

Wadi Araba, c.50 km. N of Gharandal:

**BLACK STORK (*Ciconia nigra*) 1 migr.**, OSPREY (*Panion haliaetus*) 1 migr., STEPPE EAGLE (*Aquila nipalensis*) 1 migr., SHORT-TOED EAGLE (*Circaetus gallicus*) 1 migr., **STONE CURLEW (*Burhinus oedipnemus*) 1**, BIMACULATED LARK (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) 1, SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*) 1, EASTERN

ORPHEAN WARBLER (*Sylvia crassirostris*) 3, **ASIAN DESERT WARBLER (*Sylvia nana*) 1**, GRACEFUL WARBLER (*Prinia gracilis*) 1, REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) 1, **ARABIAN BABBLER (*Turdoides squamiceps*) 9 (4 + 5)**.

Aqaba, Scattered Palms and eastern perimeter of Sewage Work:

BOOTED EAGLE (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) 1 dark phase migr., QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*) 1, BEE-EATER (*Merops apiaster*) 3 migr., ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (*Psittacula krameri*) 3, WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*) 2, TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*) 15, RÜPPELL'S WARBLER (*Sylvia ruepelli*) 1 female, SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scoenobaenus*) 1, EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER (*Hippolais pallida*) 7, WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) 1, WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) 3, EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER (*Phylloscopus orientalis*) 5, PIED / SEMI-COLLARED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypoleuca* / *semitorquata*) 1 male, MASKED SHRIKE (*Lanius nubicus*) 1, DESERT FINCH (*Rhodospiza obsoleta*) 2.

Aqaba Sewage Work:

LITTLE GREBE (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) 3, GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*) 4, WHITE STORK (*Ciconia ciconia*) 1, MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 5, PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*) 4 (1 male + 3 female), TEAL (*Anas crecca*) 12, OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) 1, BOOTED EAGLE (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) 2 (1 light + 1 dark phase) migr., BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*) 1, MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*) 2 (male + female), STEPPE BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) 30, QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*) 2, MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*) 4, COOT (*Fulica atra*) 12, RED-WINGED PRATINCOLE (*Glareola pratincola*) 1, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Vanellus spinosus*) 30, TEMMINCK'S STINT (*Calidris temminckii*) 1, LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minutus*) 3, WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*) 15, GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*) 8, REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*) 1, MARSH SANDPIPER (*Tringa stagnatilis*) 4, BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*) 1, RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*) 17, SLENDER-BILLED GULL (*Larus genei*) 27, HEUGLIN'S GULL (*Larus [fuscus] heuglini*) 1 ad., HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*) 1, BEE-EATER (*Merops apiaster*) 6, LITTLE GREEN BEE-EATER (*Merops orientalis*) 3, ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (*Psittacula krameri*) 10, WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*) 1, TAWNY PIPIT (*Anthus campestris*) 1, TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*) 15, RED-THROATED PIPIT (*Anthus cervinus*) 1, WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*) 10, **CITRINE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla citreola*) 1 male**, RUFOUS-TAILED ROBIN (*Cercotrichas galactotes*) 1, BLUETHROAT (*Luscinia svecica*) 1, BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*) 30, WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) 5, EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER (*Phylloscopus orientalis*) 15, **COLLARED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula albicollis*) 1 male**, **ARABIAN BABBLER (*Turdoides squamiceps*) 4**, ORTOLAN BUNTING (*Emberiza hortulana*) 6.

The rest of the day, we spent driving to Amman, to catch our flight to Istanbul.