

WHO ARE THE UAE'S TOP LISTERS?

Emirates Bird Report: 19

Richardson, C. 1997. Who are the UAE's Top Listers?

Emirates Bird Report:19:129-133.

Emirates Bird Records Committee, Dubai.

The UAE's birding community is very small (there are perhaps a dozen active and experienced field observers in the country at any one time) and there is much territory to be covered. Migrants pour through the country and vagrants regularly occur. Birdwatching is fun and it seems natural that an element of competition would arise amongst some of the long-staying birders. We thought it might be interesting to publish the most recent 'ticks' of some of our (unofficial) '300 Club' members, as of December 1996. For added interest they each admit to a number of 'gaps' and boast about their 'blockers'!

**No. of species*

Colin Richardson	355
Simon Aspinall	341
Steve James	328
Adrian Chapman	317
John Bannon	314
Jenny Hollingworth	312

* the integrity of the observers and their lists have not been assessed by the rarities committee!

Colin Richardson (355)

No. of years birdwatching in the UAE: 15; Total No. of years birdwatching: 18.

GAPS: Golden Eagle, Merlin, Black Tern, Alpine Swift, Blackbird and Little Bunting.

BLOCKERS: Red-breasted Merganser, Oriental Pratincole, White-throated Bee-eater, Black Bush Robin, Redwing, Black Drongo, Wattled Starling and White-capped Bunting.

298	Black Kite	02.12.90	Ramtha tip
299	Little Swift	21.02.91	Khor Kalba
300	Sooty Falcon	21.3.91	Rugheilal Farm, Fujairah
301	Spanish Sparrow	05.04.91	Hamraniyah
302	Lesser Kestrel	05.04.91	Hamraniyah
303	Namaqua Dove	19.04.91	Digdaga
304	Crag Martin	02.05.91	Sir Bani Yas Island
305	Sabine's Gull	16.07.91	Ramtha tip
306	Montagu's Harrier	19.07.91	Al Habab
307	Hobby	04.10.91	Rugheilal Farm
308	Small Skylark	27.12.91	Al Wathba
309	Wattled Starling	21.01.92	Zabeel
310	Mistle Thrush	27.01.92	Safa Park
311	Sacred Ibis	05.02.92	Emirates golf course
312	Great Knot	31.03.92	Khor al Beidah
313	Trumpeter Finch	04.04.92	Jebel Faiyah
314	Black Bush Chat	15.04.92	Emirates golf course
315	Egyptian Nightjar	30.04.92	Zabeel
316	White-breasted Kingfisher	01.09.92	Ramtha tip
317	Radde's Warbler	19.10.92	Emirates golf course
318	White-capped Bunting	05.11.92	Emirates golf course
319	Olive-backed Pipit	06.11.92	Emirates golf course
320	Black-shouldered Kite	06.11.92	Hamraniyah

321	White-breasted Waterhen	12.11.92	Ramtha tip
322	Oriental Pratincole	23.11.92	Emirates golf course
323	Finsch's Wheatear	18.03.93	Emirates golf course
324	Little Tern	11.06.93	Umm al Quwain
325	Bar-tailed Desert Lark	22.08.93	Inland Ghantoot
326	Blyth's Pipit	13.10.93	Abu Dhabi
327	Indian Koel	13.11.93	Emirates golf course
328	Yellow-browed Warbler	25.12.93	Emirates golf course
329	Black-winged Pratincole	29.12.93	Kalba beach
330	Woodpigeon	02.01.94	Zabeel fish ponds
331	Common Crane	09.01.94	Al Ain camel track
332	Bewick's Swan	25.01.94	Nadd al Sheba
333	Golden Plover	06.03.94	Emirates golf course
334	Blyth's Reed Warbler	05.05.94	Zabeel fish ponds
335	Pied Stonechat	06.05.94	Emirates golf course
336	Wilson's Storm-petrel	01.07.94	Sandy Beach Motel
337	Lesser Noddy	16.09.94	Ras Dibba
338	Forest Wagtail	10.10.94	Emirates golf course
339	Intermediate Egret	13.01.95	Ramtha tip
340	Short-eared Owl	13.01.95	Dibba dairy farm
341	Calandra Lark	03.02.95	Al Wathba
342	Goldfinch	13.02.95	Dibba dairy farm
343	Bay-backed Shrike	16.04.95	Emirates golf course
344	Sooty Shearwater	30.04.95	Kalba
345	Red-necked Stint	01.07.95	Khor Dubai
346	Amur Falcon	10.07.95	Al Wathba
347	Kittlitz's Plover	24.09.95	Abu Dhabi
348	Masked Booby	01.12.95	off Khor Fakkan
349	Crested Honey Buzzard	16.01.96	Zabeel fish ponds
350	Little Gull	22.03.96	Khor Kalba
351	Common Gull	27.03.96	Rams rubbish dump
352	Shikra	27.06.96	Zabeel
353	Spotted Sandgrouse	06.09.96	Sila
354	Houbara Bustard	21.11.96	Umm al Quwain
355	Lesser White-fr. Goose	07.12.96	Ramtha tip

Simon Aspinall (341)

No. of years birdwatching in the UAE: 5; Total No. of years birdwatching: 31.

GAPS: Armenian Gull, Black Tern, Barn Owl, Egyptian Nightjar and Trumpeter Finch.

BLOCKERS: Golden Eagle, White-eyed Gull, Alpine Swift, Redwing, Cetti's Warbler, Dead Sea Sparrow and Goldfinch.

300	Wilson's Storm-petrel	30.06.94	Al Aqqah
301	Blyth's Reed Warbler	10.09.94	Merawah
302	Brambling	17.09.94	Jebel Ali Hotel
303	Long-toed Stint	28.09.94	Al Ain camel track
304	Steppe Buzzard	02.10.94	Al Ain
305	Kittlitz's Plover	09.10.94	Merawah
306	Blyth's Pipit	15.10.94	Abu Dhabi racetrack
307	Forest Wagtail	16.10.94	Merawah
308	Olive-backed Pipit	27.10.94	Bateen
309	Sociable Plover	11.11.94	Fuj.Nat.Dairy farm
310	Intermediate Egret	23.12.94	Ramtha
311	Ruddy Shelduck	23.12.94	Ramtha
312	Saker Falcon	21.01.95	Arzanah
313	Black-throated Thrush	21.01.95	Arzanah
314	Pied Kingfisher	07.02.95	Zabeel
315	Goldfinch	13.02.95	Fuj.Nat.Dairy farm
316	Squacco Heron	31.03.95	Abu Dhabi airport
317	Calandra Lark	02.04.95	Al Wathba
318	Red-headed Bunting	18.04.95	Abu al Abyadh
319	Sooty Shearwater	30.04.95	Kalba
320	Avocet	05.05.95	Al Ghar
321	Sabine's Gull	19.05.95	Kalba
322	Red-necked Stint	02.07.95	Khor Dubai
323	Amur Falcon	09.07.95	Al Wathba
324	Wood Warbler	10.08.95	Khalidiyah
325	Lesser Noddy	18.09.95	Ras Dibba
326	Little Crake	20.09.95	Emirates golf course
327	Purple Gallinule	12.10.95	Ruwais
328	Baillon's Crake	12.10.95	Ruwais
329	Red-crested Pochard	01.12.95	Khor Dubai
330	Blackbird	09.12.95	Jebel Ali hotel
331	White-breasted Waterhen	09.12.95	Jebel Ali hotel
332	Hen Harrier	20.03.95	Al Ain camel track
333	Pied Stonechat	23.03.96	Emirates golf course
334	Shikra	28.06.96	Zabeel
335	Great Reed Warbler	23.08.96	Fuj.Nat.Dairy farm
336	Spotted Sandgrouse	30.08.96	Sila
337	Greenish Warbler	04.10.96	Emirates golf course
338	Rustic Bunting	22.11.96	Emirates golf course
339	Cotton Teal	03.12.96	Khatt lake
340	Lesser White-fr. Goose	08.12.96	Ramtha tip
341	Lesser Spotted Eagle	24.12.96	Ramtha tip

Steve James (328)

No. of years birdwatching in the UAE: 5; Total No. of years birdwatching: 35.

GAPS: Red-crested Pochard, Corncrake, Namaqua Dove, Barn Owl, Mourning Wheatear, Black-throated Thrush, Yellow-browed Warbler, Siskin, Cinereous Bunting.

BLOCKERS: Little Bustard, Mediterranean Gull, Common Noddy, Wire-tailed Swallow, Greenish Warbler, Reed Bunting.

299	White-breasted Waterhen	20.01.95	Jebel Ali Hotel
300	Merlin	24.01.95	Al Wathba
301	Pied Kingfisher	01.02.95	Zabeel
302	Calandra Lark	02.02.95	Al Wathba
303	Lesser Spotted Eagle	12.02.95	Khor Dubai
304	Egyptian Nightjar	12.03.95	Al Wathba
305	Scops Owl	17.03.95	Al Wathba
306	Crag Martin	28.03.95	Al Wathba
307	Bay-backed Shrike	14.04.95	Al Wathba
308	Sooty Shearwater	11.05.95	Fujeirah
309	Common Noddy	16.06.95	Ras Dibba
310	Amur Falcon	09.07.95	Al Wathba
311	Sooty Falcon	01.09.95	Ras Ghumais
312	Kittlitz's Plover	23.09.95	Abu Dhabi
313	Radde's Warbler	17.10.95	Bateen Wood
314	Purple Gallinule	10.11.95	Ramtha
315	Moustached Warbler	17.11.95	Ain al Faydah
316	Great Knot	04.01.96	Merawah
317	Crested Honey Buzzard	18.01.96	Zabeel
318	Armenian Gull	22.01.96	Al Ghar Lake
319	Wire-tailed Swallow	20.02.96	Al Ghar marsh
320	Bar-tailed Desert Lark	22.03.96	Inland desert, Abu Dhabi
321	Little Gull	03.05.96	Sila
322	Shikra	28.06.96	Zabeel
323	Spotted Sandgrouse	30.08.96	Sila
324	Cotton Teal	14.11.96	Al Ghar lake
325	Great Crested Grebe	28.11.96	Khor Dubai
326	Golden Eagle	05.12.96	Rams
327	Lesser White-fr. Goose	05.12.96	Ramtha
328	Little Bustard	17.12.96	Mushref Palace gardens

Adrian Chapman (317)

No. of years birdwatching in the UAE: 11 (1981-92); Total years birdwatching 40.

Adrian was the first birdwatcher in the UAE to pass the magic 300 mark, which he did in 1990.

GAPS: Main 'gap' considered to be Namaqua Dove, missed by minutes at Digdaga on 19.04.91, but seen by CR & JKB. Other gaps include Lanner Falcon, Little Crane, Avocet, Great Snipe, Striated Scops Owl, Thrush Nightingale, Eversmann's Redstart and Savi's Warbler.

BLOCKERS: Golden Eagle, Little Pratincole, Temminck's Horned Lark, Eye-browed Thrush and Dead Sea Sparrow (seen without binoculars on Das Island).

John Bannon (314)

No. of years birdwatching in the UAE: regular visitor for 10 years (average 4 visits per year); Total No. of years birdwatching: 25. John is the UAE's top non-resident lister!

GAPS: Obvious gaps include Houbara, Little Pratincole, Spotted Sandgrouse, Pied Kingfisher, Bar-tailed Desert Lark and Brambling.

BLOCKERS: Merlin, Namaqua Dove, Barn Owl, White-throated Bee-eater, Blackbird and White-capped Bunting.

283	Stone Curlew	18.9.92	Jebel Ali
284	White-capped Bunting	05.11.92	Emirates golf club
285	Olive-backed Pipit	06.11.92	Emirates golf club
286	Black-shouldered Kite	06.11.92	Hamraniyah
287	Oriental Pratincole	02.12.92	Ramtha
289	Peregrine Falcon	06.12.92	Zabeel fish ponds
290	Great Knot	20.01.93	Khor al Beidah
291	Honey Buzzard	04.03.93	Abu Dhabi
292	Egyptian Goose	05.03.93	Abu al Abyadh
293	Short-eared Owl	05.03.93	Abu al Abyadh
294	Black Francolin	05.03.93	Abu al Abyadh
295	Red-whiskered Bulbul	05.03.93	Bateen wood, Abu Dhabi
296	Finsch's Wheatear	28.03.93	Al Wathba
297	Trumpeter Finch	17.06.93	north of Al Ain
298	Little Tern	18.06.93	Umm al Quwain
299	Griffon Vulture	29.08.93	Fuj.Nat.Dairy farm
300	Blyth's Pipit	13.10.93	Abu Dhabi
301	Siskin	03.11.93	Emirates golf course
302	Bittern	06.11.93	Al Wathba
303	Yellow-browed Warbler	17.02.94	Emirates golf course
304	Robin	17.02.94	Emirates golf course
305	Great Crested Grebe	17.02.94	Ramtha
306	Eversmann's Redstart	18.02.94	Abu Dhabi
307	Hypocolius	25.03.94	Al Wathba
308	Lesser Noddy	29.09.94	Ras Dibba
309	Intermediate Egret	13.01.95	Ramtha
310	Cinereous Bunting	29.03.95	Emirates golf course
311	Brahminy Mynah	15.06.95	CR's Zabeel garden
312	Forest Wagtail	18.10.95	Bateen wood
313	Crested Honey Buzzard	06.01.96	Zabeel
314	Common Crane	15.10.96	Al Ain camel track

Jenny Hollingworth (312)

No. of years birdwatching in the UAE: 20 (on foot!); Total No. of years birdwatching: 28.

GAPS: Forest Wagtail, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Radde's Warbler, Red-billed Tropicbird, Kittlitz's Plover, White-breasted Waterhen.

BLOCKERS: Levant Sparrowhawk, Little Pratincole, Redwing, Bay-backed Shrike, Goldfinch and Linnet.

293	Grey Hypocolius	24.11.89	Ladies Beach, AD
294	Bay-backed Shrike	01.12.89	Ladies Beach AD
295	Trumpeter Finch	15.12.89	Jebel Hafit
296	Bonelli's Eagle	26.01.90	Dhabiyah
297	Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	08.11.90	Hatta
298	Hooded Wheatear	28.01.91	Hatta
299	Dotterel	14.12.91	Al Wathba
300	Black Drongo	22.02.91	Jebel Ali
301	Hen Harrier	03.05.91	Sir Bani Yas
302	Eagle Owl	01.05.92	Al Ain
303	Montagu's Harrier	02.10.92	Al Habab fields
304	Pintail Snipe	02.10.92	Emirates golf course
305	Chukar	05.11.92	Wadi Bih
306	White-fronted Goose	14.01.94	Eastern lagoon
307	Purple Gallinule	10.11.95	Ramtha tip
308	Eversmann's Redstart	01.12.95	Khalidiyah spit, AD
309	Robin	19.01.96	Bateen wood
310	Oriental Skylark	13.12.96	Al Ain race track
311	Little Bustard	17.12.96	Mushref gardens
312	Buff-bellied Pipit	26.12.96	Al Ghar marsh