

The Kuwait

Bird Report

2006

THE YEAR 2006

The year 2006 was a remarkable one for recording birds in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti and expatriate members of the Bird Monitoring and Protection Team (BMAPT) of the Kuwait Environmental Protection Society (KEPS) and of the Voluntary Work Centre (VWC), worked hard during the year to provide bird records and photographs from many areas of Kuwait.

Employees of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) and of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) continued their coverage of protected areas of Kuwait producing valuable records and photographs.

Members of the Photography Group of the VWC developed an interest in bird photography and conservation through their field work at Sulaibikhat Nature Reserve and the Sabah Al-Ahmad Natural Reserve.

Brian Foster, brian_foster_uk@yahoo.co.uk, continued as the Country Correspondent for the Ornithological Society of the Middle East (OSME).

The VWC continued its work of managing the Sabah Al-Ahmad Natural Reserve, which continued to regenerate its ground cover of vegetation. Additionally, it was involved in a number of environmental clean-up operations.

Mike Jennings, the Coordinator of the Atlas of Breeding Birds of Arabia (ABBA) and George Gregory visited Kuwait to carry out the 37th ABBA Breeding Bird Survey from 15 to 31 March. They recorded much new breeding data from different parts of the state. The Atlas, due to be published in the next year or so, will include a number of species that have bred in Kuwait and nowhere else in the Arabian peninsula.

A group of three birders from Finland covered many sites from 5 to 15 April. Their visit overlapped with that of a group of four birders from Denmark from 8 to 18 April. These groups provided many valuable records, including the first Great Tit for Kuwait and several highest daily counts ever in the state. In view of the success of the visits of these groups from Europe, and of the increasing realisation that Kuwait hosts a number of Western Palearctic bird species that are difficult to see elsewhere in the region, planning for a number of future visits by such groups was begun.

Several other expatriate bird-watchers visited Kuwait during the year and contributed valuable bird records and photographs.

As a result of this greatly increased coverage, there was a corresponding increase in the amount of bird data, including both field observations and breeding records. Four species were added to the Kuwait Bird List: Armenian Gull, Pallid Scops Owl, Forest Wagtail and Great Tit. Also, there were new highest daily counts for many species.

Status reference, given after the scientific name, for each species recorded in 2006

Abundant: occurs annually in very large numbers (10,000+)

Very Common: occurs annually in large numbers (1,000 - 9,999)

Common: occurs annually in moderate numbers (100 - 999)

Uncommon: occurs annually in small numbers (10 - 99)

Scarce: occurs annually in very small numbers (1 - 9)

Rare: does not occur annually but has occurred more than 10 times in total

Vagrant: has occurred less than 10 times in total

Irregular: occurs, not necessarily every year, in very variable numbers

Migrant: passage through Kuwait in spring and autumn

Winter: present in Kuwait from November 1st to February 29th

Resident: present in Kuwait all year

Breeds: breeds every year or most years

Has Bred: breeding proved in the past but not recently

The 2006 report contains a full list of all species seen in Kuwait and their status.

Contributing Observers during 2006

Kuwait-based for all or part of the year

Khalid Al-Ghanim KAG
Mishal Al-Jeriwi MAJ
Khalid Al-Nasrallah KAN
Hussain Al-Qallaf HAQ
Abdulrahman Al-Sirhan AAS
AbdulMuhsen Al-Suraye'a AMS
Gary Brown GB
Edgardo Delima ED
Pekka Fågel PF
Brian Foster BF
George Gregory GG
Mohammed Kandari MK
Paul Lascelles PL
Mike Ling ML
Rosemary Ling ML
Mike Pope MP
Essa Ramadan ER
Mahmoud Shehab MS

Visitors

Simon Aspinall SA
David Bradford DB

Peter Cowan PC
Danish Group (Tommy Frandsen, Andreas Hagerman, Jens Søggaard
Hansen, Martin Poulsen) DG
Finnish Group (Rami Lindroos, Keijo Wahlroos, Ilkka Sahi) FG
Mike Jennings MCJ
Graham Langley GL
Charlie Moores CM
David White DW
Kay White KW

Initials are given for the observers of all vagrant and rare species, and also for most of the breeding records and highest daily counts for 2006.

Selected records of all species recorded during 2006

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) Rare winter visitor

A single bird was at South Doha Nature Reserve (SDNR) on 6 February (BF, CM).

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) Common migrant and winter visitor

At least 100 were present at Sulaibikhat Nature Reserve (SNR) on 15 December, and up to 200, the highest count, were present further east in Sulaibikhat Bay in late December.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

Small groups were recorded in winter months at Jahra East Outfall (JEO) and Doha Spit.

Teal (*Anas crecca*) Common winter visitor

The highest counts were 156 at the warm water outflow at North Doha Nature Reserve (NDNR) on 6 February and 150 there on 8 December.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Common winter visitor

The highest ever count for Kuwait was 126 at NDNR on 6 February (BF, PF) 120 were there on 8 December. Other records were three at Sabah Al-Salem (SAS) on 23 May and one at JEO on 10 November.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) Uncommon migrant

Birds were recorded at JEO and SDNR only, with a highest count of two at the former site on 5 March.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

The highest count was 8 at NDNR on 6 February and 8 December. The only other record was of at least three at JEO on 18 March.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

The highest winter counts were 56 at NDNR on 6 February and 18 there on 8 December. In spring birds seen at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Natural Reserve (SAANR), Sulaibikhat Bay and JEO, peaking at the latter site at 25+ on 18 March. Also, in December two were at SNR on 15th.

Common Pochard (*Aythya farina*) Rare migrant and winter visitor
One was observed at JPR on 7 December (KAG).

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) Vagrant
One female/immature at SAS pool from 14 to 24 December (PF, BF, MP, GG)
was at least the third record.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) Common migrant; has bred
12 in the SAANR on 17 March were the highest ever daily count (MCJ, GG).
Others migrant birds were seen at Pipeline Beach, SNR and JEO.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
There was confirmed breeding at JPR in July, with an adult and four chicks
observed on 23 July (KAG).

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
Single birds were recorded at Abdali Farms on 14 December, and at SAS on
23 December.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) Very common winter visitor
This species was seen at most coastal sites with a highest count of at least
2000 at Doha Spit on 8 December.

Socotra Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*) Uncommon disperser
The highest count was eight on a platform off Pipeline Beach on 16 April, and
one was off Fahaheel next day.

White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) Rare disperser; has bred
A single bird was seen at JEO on 11 March (AAS).

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) Uncommon migrant; scarce breeder
The highest count was a flock of nine migrating north along the Wadi Al-Batin
sand berm, 100 kilometres inland across dry desert, an unusual sight at
midday on 14 April. Other inland records were in the SAANR on 27 April and
at Al-Abraq Al-Khabari (AAAK) on 14 May. At JEO up to seven birds were
present in June and July, and a juvenile present there on 5 June was
confirmed breeding.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) Scarce migrant; has
bred
Eight roosting adult birds, the highest count, were shot by hunters at AAAK,
an oasis farm 100 kilometres inland, on 14 April. One to two were seen on
various dates in spring and autumn at SNR, SDNR and Shuwaikh.

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) Uncommon migrant; possible breeder
Birds were seen at all wetland sites with a highest count of 69 around JEO on
6 March.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) Uncommon disperser in autumn, winter and spring

The two highest ever daily counts for Kuwait were 200+ at Sulaibiya Pivot Fields on 21 March (GG, MCJ) and 50 at Wafra Farms on 25 March (GG, MCJ).

Western Reef Egret (*Egretta gularis*) Very common resident; breeds
Pairs were nesting in mixed colonies on one metre high sand ridges within five metres of the high tide mark on Bubiyan Island. Nest with eggs were present on 24 March.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
Birds were recorded at all wetland sites, with a highest count of four at JEO on 18 May and 25 November.

Great Egret (*Egretta albus*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
This species was recorded only at JEO with the highest count there of seven on 8 October.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) Common resident; breeds
Pairs were nesting in mixed colonies on one metre high sand ridges within five metres of the high tide mark on Bubiyan Island. Nest with eggs and young were present on 24 March.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) Uncommon migrant; rare winter visitor
The highest daily count was seven at JEO on 20 September. Others were seen at SDNR, Qaisat, Sewer Plant Reeds and Sulaibikhat Bay.

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) Vagrant
The fifth record for Kuwait was a single photographed by HAQ at SNR on 29 September, and the sixth record was a single photographed by AAS at JEO on 3 December.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) Scarce migrant
Single birds were seen at SDNR on 10 April and at JEO on 10 September.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) Uncommon migrant
The highest count was eight at JEO on 21 March. Others were seen at SAS and Doha South Nature Reserve.

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) Uncommon resident; breeds
A highest count of 30 birds was recorded on Bubiyan Island on 24 March. Small numbers were recorded in Jahra Bay in spring.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) Very common winter visitor
Birds were seen regularly around Kuwait and Sulaibikhat Bays, with a highest count of 3000+ at SNR on 15 December.

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) Vagrant
One was seen by the Abdali Road by PL, then presumably the same bird was photographed at JPR by KAG, on 14 November (5th record).

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) Common migrant and winter visitor

This species was recorded at many sites on passage and in winter, with a highest count of 50+ at Sulaibiya Pivot Fields on 21 March.

Eurasian Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) Scarce disperser

One was observed on a dubh (Spiny-tailed Agamid) carcass near Khabari Al-Awazah in north Kuwait on 28 March. Other singles were seen in the SAANR on 6 April, near Subiya Power Station on 10 April, and in the SAANR on 9 November.

Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) Uncommon migrant; rare winter visitor
A juvenile bird at AAK on 18 June presumably hatched in a nearby country. Small numbers were also recorded at SAANR, Khiran and JEO.

Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) Uncommon migrant and winter
The highest count was five at JEO on 5 November. Others were recorded at SAANR, Wafra Farms, SDNR, AAK, Khiran, Jal Az-Zor and SNR, in winter, spring and summer.

Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) Common migrant
Migrants were seen at many sites in both spring and autumn, with a highest count of five at Jal Az-Zor on 17 April.

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) Uncommon migrant
There was a good spring passage with a new highest ever daily count of six over Jal Az-Zor escarpment above Qaisat on 15 April (DG). Others were recorded at Doha East, SAANR and Khiran.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) Common migrant; uncommon in winter
A total of 29 migrating birds at JEO and Jal Az-Zor on 15 April was a new highest daily count for Kuwait (DG). Other migrants and wintering birds were seen at many sites.

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) Scarce migrant and winter visitor
The only records were one at the drinking pool at Tulha in the SAANR on 3 to 6 June, and one juvenile at Abdali Farms on 31 December.

Levant Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*) Rare migrant
One was observed at Kabd on 12 April (SA).

Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) Common migrant; scarce winter visitor
Surprisingly, only low daily counts were achieved, with a peak of three in the SAANR on 9 April. Most of the passage was obviously missed.

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) Scarce migrant; uncommon winter visitor
Single birds were seen on various dates at East Doha, SAANR, JEO, and near AAK.

Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) Uncommon migrant; scarce winter visitor

Wintering birds were at JEO, East Doha, Sulaibikhat Bay and SAANR, and only one passage bird, at Kuwait Airport on 8 April, was recorded.

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) Common migrant; scarce winter visitor
Clearly, most passage was missed since the highest count was only five in the SAANR on 9 April. Smaller numbers of migrants were seen at a number of other sites.

Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) Uncommon migrant; scarce winter visitor
Small numbers were recorded at JEO, north-west Kuwait, SAANR and Sulaibikhat Bay in spring and autumn.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) Vagrant
A second-year bird photographed in the SAANR on 25 May was the 6th Kuwait record (MAJ).

Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) Scarce migrant
There was a good spring passage with a new highest daily count of six over Qaisat on 9 April (DG). On 15 April three were over JEO and two were over the Jal Az-Zor escarpment, while next day one was at Khiran.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) Scarce migrant; rare winter visitor
Single birds were recorded at Qaisat, JEO and Jal Az-Zor in April, May and December.

Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) Common migrant
A total of 100+ over Subiya on 14 April represented the highest daily count for years. Much smaller numbers were seen at many other sites, mostly in April.

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) Uncommon migrant; breeding resident
A total of 83 birds recorded on 16 April from Pipeline Beach to Khiran was the highest daily count for many years. Other birds were regularly seen at many other sites.

Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*) Rare disperser
A single adult was seen over Khiran Resort on 11 April and a second year bird over the Jal Az-Zor escarpment on 15 April (DG). This species is now being recorded increasingly in Kuwait.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) Uncommon migrant
One to two birds were seen in April at SAS, Khiran, Jal Az-Zor and Jahra Farms, while one at JPR on 14 November was very late.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) Rare winter visitor
Single birds were seen at Doha Spit on 16 February (BF) and 8 December (GG, BF, PF, MP) and at JEO on 28 October and 24 and 25 November (AAS).

Saker (*Falco cherrug*) Rare passage migrant; has wintered
An approachable bird at Sulaibikhat Bay on 16 March did not have jesses (GG, MCJ).

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) Scarce disperser
One was observed on Bubiyan Island on 24 March and another over Qaisat on 17 April. A bird flew off the tower at Qaroh Island in the Arabian Gulf on 26 April, and the feathers and wings of various passerines were found under the tower. Up to two birds were repeatedly seen in central Kuwait City from mid November into 2007.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) Uncommon migrant and resident; has bred
Single birds were heard at most wetland sites in spring, autumn and winter.

Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*) Uncommon migrant and resident
Obvious migrants were at Tulha in the SAANR on 4 May (two) and 7 May (one). Other birds were seen or heard at SAS, SNR and JEO, the highest count being eight at SAS on 13 April.

Little Crake (*Porzana parva*) Uncommon migrant and resident; breeds
There were surprisingly few records this year, with singles recorded at SDNR and SAS in March and April.

Baillon's Crake (*Porzana pusilla*) Scarce migrant
One was seen at Pipeline Beach on 12 April (DG).

Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) Uncommon migrant; rare winter visitor
Single birds were seen at Tulha in the SAANR on 29 April and 4, 6 and 14 May.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) Uncommon resident; breeds
Birds were recorded at most wetland sites, with highest counts of 24+ at SAS on 12 April and at JEO on 13 April. Breeding was confirmed by a juvenile seen with two adults at SAS on 23 May.

Purple Swamp-Hen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) Scarce resident; has bred
Birds continued to be resident at South Doha, with six individuals calling from late February. However, breeding was still not confirmed.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) Uncommon migrant and resident
Small numbers were recorded at most wetland sites in most months.

Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueeni*) Irregular winter visitor; has bred
There were three confirmed records. Single birds were seen flying over Power Plant Reeds near Zour Port on 20 November (PF), in the SAANR on 23 November (KAN), and at Liyah on 24 November.

Unsubstantiated reports of many birds being shot or pursued by falconers are worrying and there has been evidence of illegal entrance into restricted areas in pursuit of this species.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) Common migrant and winter

A total of 64 birds at JEO on 9 July was the highest count. Otherwise, birds were seen at numerous coastal sites in winter, spring and autumn.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) Common; small numbers breed
One pair bred in Burgan Oil Field, with chicks observed in mid March (ED).
The highest count was 106 in the SAANR on 27 April.

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
Up to 14 were present on pools at the old Municipal Rubbish Tip during November and December. Otherwise small numbers were seen at several coastal and inland sites.

Crab Plover (*Dromas ardeola*) Common resident; breeds
Several pre-breeding flocks totalling 2600 birds were seen on a visit to Bubiyan Island on 13 April. The highest winter count was 332 in Sulaibikhat Bay on 5 January.

Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus oedicephalus*) Uncommon migrant; rare winter visitor
One was captured by hunters for use with falcons near Khabari Al-Awazah on 27 March. Single birds were seen at JEO on 28 May and at Sulaibikhat Bay on 21 October.

Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*) Common disperser; breeds
Fairly low numbers were observed near AAK, JEO, Salmi/Wadi Al-Batin and Shuwaikh in winter, spring and autumn.

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) Common migrant; scarce in summer
A total of 200+ around a flooded area in the SAANR on 27 April was the highest ever daily count (BF). Lower counts were obtained at numerous other sites in spring, while five in the SAANR on 2 November were a late record.

Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*) Uncommon passage migrant
A highest ever daily count of at least 74 birds were positively identified amongst the Collared Pratincoles on 27 April after flooding in the SAANR (BF)
Other birds were seen at SDNR, JEO, Bubiyan Island, AAK and from several motorways in spring.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) Uncommon migrant
The highest count was 10+ at Shuwaikh Free Zone on 26 August (AAS). Birds were repeatedly seen at JEO in June and July, indicating possible breeding (AAS).

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) Common migrant and in winter

The highest count was 300 at JEO on 15 April. Otherwise birds were frequently recorded at coastal and wetland sites.

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) Very common resident; breeds Pairs bred far inland in Burgan Oil Field and in the SAANR, with chicks observed in mid March (ED, KAN, MCJ, GG). Eggshells were found about one kilometre inland on Failaka Island on 26 March (MCJ, GG). The highest count was of 120 in the Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February.

Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) Common migrant and winter visitor
Birds were seen at many wetland and coastal sites. The highest ever count was of 1400 in the Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February (BF, PF).

Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) Uncommon migrant and winter
Fairly small groups were recorded at many coastal sites. The highest count was 30 at JEO on 8 July.

Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus*) Uncommon migrant
The second highest ever daily count was 12 in the SAANR on 16 March. The only other record was 11 at Ratqa on 26 March.

Eurasian Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*) Rare winter visitor
Three were observed near AAK on 11 November (AAS).

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) Common migrant and winter visitor
Birds were present for most of the year at coastal sites, peaking at 95 at Doha Spit on 15 April.

Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*)
A single bird was at Sulaibikhat Bay on 6 October (BF, DW, KW).

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) Scarce migrant and winter visitor
One was seen at JEO on 17 November.

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Hoplopterus indicus*) Scarce disperser; has bred
Several birds were present at Abdali Farms for most of the year. Breeding was confirmed there with the discovery of adult birds and 3 nests with nought, two and three eggs on 10 April. Unfortunately a visit on 27 April only found a dead adult bird near to the nest which had contained three eggs. This bird was probably shot by hunters, a major problem facing breeding and migrating birds in Kuwait even though it is supposed to be illegal. The highest count was 10 elsewhere at Abdali Farms on 31 December. Other birds were seen at Qaisat, JPR, JEO and Rawdatain in various months

White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*) Uncommon migrant
Three birds were present at JEO on 3 March, and singles were there on 25 March, 5, 7 and 12 June, and 16 September, then four on 18 September, two on 23 September, one on 30 September and two on 28 November.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) Common migrant and winter visitor
Birds were recorded in generally low numbers at several coastal sites on passage and in winter. The highest count was of 58 in the Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February.

Little Stint (*Calidris minutus*) Very common migrant and winter visitor
The highest daily counts were 1000 in the Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February, and 500 at JEO and Doha Spit on 17 and 21 April. Many other birds were recorded at coastal and wetland sites in winter, spring and autumn.

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
The highest count was five at JEO on 17 April. Smaller numbers were observed at SAS and Sulaibikhat Bay on several occasions.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) Common migrant
A total of 700 at Doha Spit on 12 April was the highest ever daily count (BF, PF, MP). Many other birds were observed at coastal and wetland sites on passage.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) Abundant migrant and winter visitor
Regularly seen at coastal and wetland sites in most months, peaking at 20000+ at Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February.

Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinella*) Common migrant and winter visitor
The highest counts were 500+ at Doha Spit on 2 February and 21 April. Others were recorded at JEO, Sulaibikhat Bay, SNR and Shuwaikh in winter, spring and autumn.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) Common passage migrant and winter visitor
Birds were commonly recorded at wetland and coastal sites mostly on passage, with a highest count of 156 on a flooded area in the SAANR on 27 April.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) Scarce migrant and winter visitor
The only records were single birds at JEO on 18 March, and on 1 and 13 April.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) Common passage migrant and winter visitor
Generally low numbers were recorded at wetland sites in winter, spring and autumn.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) Uncommon migrant; rare winter visitor
A single bird was present on 27 April in the SAANR after the flood. A group of 14 photographed at JEO on 10 September was the highest ever daily count in Kuwait (AAS). Four were at Shuwaikh Port on 26 August.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) Common migrant and winter visitor

The highest counts were 164 at Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February and 150 there on 15 April. Smaller numbers were seen at sites in Jahra and Sulaibikhat Bays.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) Common migrant; rare winter visitor
Passage birds were seen in generally low numbers at coastal sites. One at SNR on 15 December was wintering. The highest count of 14 in the Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February was a good winter record.

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) Very common migrant and winter visitor
The highest count was 320 at Doha Spit on 24 October. Otherwise, birds were seen at coastal and wetland sites in most months.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) Scarce migrant; rare winter visitor
One was observed at Sulaibikhat Bay on 14 April, and a breeding-plumaged bird was present on 27 April in the SAANR after the flood.

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) Very common migrant and winter visitor
Birds were present in most months at wetland and coastal sites. The highest count was 400 in the Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) Common migrant; uncommon winter
Generally low numbers were recorded at many coastal and wetland sites in most months. The highest count was 25 at JEO on 21 April.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) Common migrant; uncommon winter
The highest count was 10 at JEO on 21 April. Birds were frequently observed at most wetland and coastal sites, mostly on passage.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
Birds were seen in generally low numbers at wetland and coastal sites in most months.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) Common migrant; rare winter visitor
The highest count was 120 in the SAANR on 27 April. Two birds at JEO as late as 3 December were clearly wintering.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) Common migrant and winter visitor
Birds were recorded at coastal and wetland sites on many occasions. The highest count was 400 on Bubiyan Island on 13 April.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) Uncommon migrant; scarce in winter
The highest count was 50 at SNR on 3 July. Otherwise, generally small numbers were observed at wetland and coastal sites in most months.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) Common passage and winter visitor
The highest count was 200+ at JEO and Doha Spit on 21 April. Birds were recorded at mostly coastal sites on many occasions.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) Uncommon migrant

An exceptionally large flock of 83 at JEO on 21 April was the highest ever daily count (BF et al). Remnants of this flock remained until 14 June.

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) Uncommon migrant
One flew north offshore from Fahaheel marina on 29 March with two Arctic Skuas, and one was photographed at JEO on 13 and 17 July.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) Uncommon migrant
Three were seen from the ferry to Failaka Island on 26 March. From Fahaheel marina two were observed on 29 March, and a single on 16 April, all moving north.

Pallas's Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*) Uncommon winter visitor
Birds wintered at Doha Spit from 1 January to 16 March with a high count of 18 on several dates.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) Abundant winter; uncommon summer
Birds were commonly seen at many sites in most months. The highest daily count was 1000 Doha Spit on 2 February.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) Vagrant
A first winter bird, the fourth record for Kuwait, was present and photographed at JEO on 23 February (BF, DW, KW).

Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*) Common resident; breeds
The highest count was 2000 on Bubiyan Island on 13 April. Birds were seen in most months at all coastal sites.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) Common migrant and winter visitor
Birds were frequently recorded mostly at coastal sites in winter, spring and autumn. The highest count was 600 at Doha Spit on 2 February.

Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*) Very common migrant and winter visitor
Passage and wintering birds were observed regularly at coastal and wetland sites. The highest count was 200 at Doha Spit on 2 February.

Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*) Vagrant
The first properly authenticated record for Kuwait involved up to six individuals, several of which were photographed, along the shore from Sulaibikhat to the Free Zone at Shuwaikh from 23 August to 25 December (AAS).

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) Very common resident; breeds
An estimated 500 pairs were breeding on Bubiyan Island. Nests with eggs were present on 24 March. Otherwise, birds were seen throughout the year at coastal sites with a highest count of 120 in the Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) Common resident; breeds

Birds were fairly regularly recorded in most months around Jahra and Sulaibikhat Bays. The highest count was 56 at Doha Spit high tide roost on 2 February.

Greater Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*) Common in summer; breeds
On Bubiyan Island 'many' were present on 24 March and 25 on 13 April. Smaller numbers were seen from the Failaka ferry, and at Khiran, Sulaibikhat Bay and Umm Al-Maradim Island in spring and autumn.

Lesser Crested Tern (*Sterna bengalensis*) Common in summer; breeds
The highest count was 115 at Khiran on 16 April. Smaller numbers were occasionally recorded in spring and autumn at Doha Spit, Failaka Island, Umm Al-Maradim and Sulaibikhat Bay.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) Uncommon migrant
Birds were occasionally observed at coastal sites, mostly on passage. The highest count was 30 at Doha Spit on 15 April.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) Scarce migrant
Passage birds were recorded only at Doha Spit and JEO, where the highest count was four on 4 May.

White-cheeked Tern (*Sterna repressa*) Very common summer visitor; breeds
Small numbers were seen at Doha Spit, Fahaheel and Khiran from spring to autumn.

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) Very common summer visitor; breeds
A total of 200 at Khiran on 8 April was a high count for the mainland. Others were seen at Umm Al-Maradim Island and Pipeline Beach several times in spring.

Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) Common migrant; rare summer and winter
There were many records this year at coastal and wetland sites in spring and autumn. The highest count was 25 at Green Island on 8 April.

Saunders's Tern (*Sterna saundersi*) Uncommon migrant
Four birds were at East Doha on 14 and 18 April. At Shuwaikh three were present on 25 August, one on 26 August and two on 9 September.

Little/Saunders's Tern (*Sterna albifrons/saundersi*)
At Shuwaikh a mixed group of Saunders's and Little Terns numbered 34+ on 8 July, 87 on 10 July, 7 on 14 July and 26 on 17 July. It was not possible to obtain exact counts of each species.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) Vagrant
The second for Kuwait was seen at SDNR on 4 June by AAS, who saw and photographed the first record last year.

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) Uncommon migrant

This was a good year for records. A single bird was in the SAANR on 27 April. At JEO there were four on 28 May, one on 22 June, one on 8 July, three on 11 July and one on 26 July. At Sulaibikhat Bay were seen one on 28 July and six on 23 November. At JEO in November were one on 24, four there next day, and one on 30.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) Very common migrant; has bred
The highest ever daily count of 2300 birds present on temporary lakes in the SAANR on 27 April was an amazing site in this desert environment (BF, KAN). Also, single birds were found at AAK, an oasis farm 100 kilometres inland near the Iraq border, on 14 and 28 May, being found dead on the latter date. There were many other records of passage birds at coastal and wetland sites.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (*Pterocles alchata*) Irregular disperser
One male came to drink at a storm drain by the Fahaheel highway 30, five kilometres south of Fahaheel at the Ahmadi junction, on 14 December (MP).

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) Abundant resident; breeds
Birds were commonly recorded in almost all areas of the state in all months.

Common Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*) Scarce disperser
One flew over Dai'ya in Kuwait City on 31 November.

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Common breeding resident
Birds were regularly seen in all vegetated areas throughout the year.

African Collared Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*) Scarce resident
At Kabd five were recorded on 12 April and one on 18 April. Birds have been present at this site for years.

European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) Common migrant; has bred
Small groups were observed at many sites in spring and autumn, with a highest count of 20 at Kabd on 12 April.

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) Abundant resident; breeds
Birds were commonly seen at all sites with trees during the year.

Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*) Uncommon resident; breeds
There was a big increase in the number of records this year as the species increases its population in the state. Every major site with trees and bushes produced records. The highest count was six at Kabd on 12 April. Breeding was proven in SNR by KAN who found a nest with 3 eggs, 2 of which hatched and fledged in June.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) Common resident; breeds
Birds were seen mostly in winter, peaking at 50 at Jahra Farms on 10 November.

Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*) Rare passage migrant

One was at Kabd on 11 March (ED). A juvenile seen by AAS at Tulha in the SAANR on 6 August was observed to be attacked by a worrall (Desert Monitor Lizard).

Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) Uncommon migrant

A hepatic female was seen at Tulha in the SAANR on 12 May. Other single birds were seen at Rawdatain, SAS, Jahra Farms, JEO and Khiran in spring and autumn.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) Scarce disperser; has bred

One was observed at Judailiyat on 25 August.

Pallid Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*) Vagrant

The first for Kuwait was photographed at Tulha in the SAANR on 24 October (KAN, MP, BF).

European Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) Uncommon migrant

In April single birds were seen at Tulha in the SAANR, Qaisat, Hujaijah and Pipeline Beach.

Pallid/European Scops Owl (*Otus brucei/scops*)

Due to the difficulty of separating these two species in the field, even if photographed, one at Tulha in the SAANR on 17 March, nine other birds there on 24 October, and six there and one at Liyah on 2 November, could not safely be specifically identified.

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) Uncommon resident; breeds

Single birds were seen in the SAANR on 23 March, 9 April and 9 November.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) Rare winter visitor

Single birds were present in the SAANR on 2 March (KAN), at JEO on 10 November (MK) and (dead) at AAK on 17 November (BF, PF, MP, GG).

European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) Uncommon migrant

This species was clearly under-recorded this year, with just two records of single birds at AAK on 11 May and at Tulha in the SAANR on 6 August.

Egyptian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*) Uncommon migrant and resident

Again this was a poor year for records with just a single bird seen at Pipeline Beach on 12 April.

Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*) Scarce passage migrant

One flew over the SAANR on 16 March.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*) Common migrant; rare in winter

This species was clearly under-recorded during the year due to the difficulty of distinguishing the eastern subspecies (*A. a. pekinensis*) from the following species. Two were at Khiran on 12 April, but there were clearly many other birds passing through.

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*) Very common migrant and winter visitor
Both small and large groups were seen at many sites from January to May, then again from October to December.

White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) Uncommon in winter; breeds

This species was recorded in most months, with one to three birds being observed at SNR, Jahra Farms, JEO, Sulaibikhat Bay and Shuwaikh.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) Scarce migrant and winter visitor
Single birds were at JEO on 8 October, at SNR on 15 December and at Shuwaikh Free Zone on 22 December.

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) Scarce winter visitor

One photographed at SNR on 28 October, and another at Green Island on 16 December (MP), were the only records.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (*Merops persicus*) Abundant migrant; has bred
Migrant flocks were frequently encountered at many sites, with a highest count of 68 at AAK on 14 May.

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) Abundant migrant

Many migrant flocks were seen, peaking at 135 at Pipeline Beach on 12 April.

European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) Uncommon migrant

A juvenile bird at Sulaibikhat Bay on 26 July once again gave rise to the suspicion that this species breeds somewhere in the state. There were numerous other records of migrants at many sites.

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) Scarce disperser mainly in winter

Two birds wintering at Jahra Farms were last seen on 20 January.

Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) Common migrant

Birds were frequently seen on passage, with five even on Umm Al-Maradim Island on 11 April. The highest count was 30 at Khiran on 12 April.

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) Uncommon migrant

There were many records of migrants at a number of sites, with a highest count of five at Pipeline Beach on 11 April.

Black-crowned Sparrow-lark (*Eremopterix nigriceps*) Uncommon resident; breeds

This species was observed to be common at Kabd during April, and there was confirmed breeding there in May (GB), as well as in the SAANR with 10+ adults with juveniles observed on 18 May. Unfortunately an adult female and her 2 chicks were found dead in the nest after the flooding in the SAANR on 26 April (KAN). Birds were also recorded at Salmi/Wadi Al-Batin, Jal Az-Zor, Khiran and JEO.

Dunn's Lark (*Eremalauda dunnii*) Uncommon resident; breeds

There was confirmed breeding at the SAANR, Salmi/ Wadi Al-Batin area and Kabd (GB) during March to May. At Kabd this species was observed to be common on 29 March, with pairs and several singing males observed.

Bar-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes cinctura*) Common resident; breeds
Confirmed breeding was obtained in the SAANR on 23 March, with a nest containing five eggs observed, and at Salmi/ Wadi Al-Batin area when two fledglings were seen on 2 and 7 April. The highest count was 70 in the SAANR on 9 November. Other records were at Liyah and near AAK.

Desert Lark (*Ammomanes deserti*) Uncommon resident; breeds
Small numbers were present and confirmed breeding at Salmi/ Wadi Al-Batin area during March to May. One was nearby, near AAK, on 11 May.

Greater Hoopoe Lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*) Common resident; breeds
This species was confirmed breeding at Salmi/ Wadi Al-Batin area on March 17 with a nest and four eggs observed (KAG) and SAANR nest with 4 eggs on February 25 (BF, DW, KW). The highest count was 11 near the SAANR on 15 December. There were many other records in open areas.

Thick-billed Lark (*Rhamphocoris clotbey*) Rare disperser in spring; has bred
Two birds were observed at Salmi/Wadi Al-Batin several times in February but breeding was not confirmed.

Bimaculated Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) Uncommon migrant; has bred
The highest count was about 30 at Subiya on 19 March. The only other records were one at Salmi/Wadi Al-Batin on 27 March, and one at Liyah on 2 November.

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) Common resident; breeds
The highest count was 60 in the SAANR on 27 March. Other birds were seen at Liyah, Salmi/Wadi Al-Batin, Subiya and Umm Al-Maradim Island, mostly on passage.

Lesser Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella rufescens*) Common resident; breeds
The highest count was 50 in the Salmi/Wadi Al-Batin area on 10 November. Smaller groups were also recorded at many other sites, mostly in winter.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) Very common resident; breeds
This species was commonly observed almost everywhere with some low vegetation throughout the year. A total of 100 at Tulha in the SAANR on 18 August was the highest count.

Wood Lark (*Lullula arborea*) Rare winter visitor and passage migrant
Single birds seen at Fahaheel Park on 5 October (BF) and Tulha in the SAANR on 26 November (AAS) were the first records for several years.

Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) Common winter visitor

Birds were regularly seen at Liyah, the SAANR, Salmi/Wadi Al-Batin area and JEO during the winter months, with a highest count of 200 in the SAANR on 16 November.

Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*) Scarce winter visitor
The only record was of a single bird in the SAANR on 9 November.

Temminck's Lark (*Eremophila bilopha*) Common disperser; breeds
Three chicks were observed on 1 March (KAG) and three separate pairs, each feeding grass seeds taken from live plants to newly fledged young, in the Salmi/Wadi Al-AI-Batin area on 16 March. Two adults plus two pulli were seen near AAK on 14 April.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) Abundant migrant
Birds were commonly observed in spring and autumn at many sites.

Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) Scarce passage migrant
Single birds were observed at JEO on 21 October and at Pipeline Beach on 27 October.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Abundant migrant; rare summer
Small and large groups were commonly recorded at many sites in most months.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*) Common migrant
Once again this species was only observed in spring, with records from SAANR, AAK, East Doha, Fahaheel Park, JEO and SNR.

Common House Martin (*Delichon urbica*) Abundant migrant
This species was frequently seen, though generally in small numbers, in spring and autumn at many sites

Hirundine Passage

On 26 April BF recorded an average of 12 Sand Martins, 46 Barn Swallows and 6 House Martins per minute flying north past his classroom window at The English School, Fahaheel for several hours from 0800 to 1400 hours. This passage was also observed by KAN in the SAANR and continued till dusk at Fahaheel shore (BF). Hundreds of thousands of hirundines passed through Kuwait on this day. On the following day the passage had slowed considerably with about 500 Barn Swallows seen over the SAANR.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*) Rare migrant
Two were present at JEO on 31 May, with a single there next day (AAS).

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) Common migrant and winter visitor
Birds were observed at many sites in winter, spring and autumn, with a highest ever daily count of 35 in the SAANR on 7 April (FG).

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) Scarce winter visitor

The only records were of one at AAK on 10 November, four there next day, and one at JEO on 25 and 28 November.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) Common migrant; rare winter visitor
Migrant birds were seen in fairly small numbers at many sites.

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) Very common migrant; scarce winter
This species was recorded at SAS, SAANR, JEO, AAK, Sewer Plant Reeds, Khiran, Qaisat, SDNR, Pipeline Beach and East Doha, mostly in spring. The highest count was a total of 70 at various sites on 10 April. One at JEO in late November was probably wintering.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) Common migrant and winter visitor
Birds were observed in fairly low numbers at JEO, AAK, East Doha and SNR, mostly in winter. There seem to be many fewer birds recorded in the state compared to previous years.

Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*) Vagrant
A bird photographed at AAK on 10 November was the first not only for Kuwait but also for the Western Palearctic (MP, BF, PF).

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) Very common migrant; rare summer visitor
Migrants were frequently observed at all areas with fresh water, peaking at 100 at various sites on 12 April. Small numbers lingered at JEO into June, but there was no other evidence of breeding.

Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) Scarce migrant
This was a good year for records, with one at JEO on 6 and 11 March, two juveniles in the SAANR on 17 August, one there on 26 and 27 August, and one at JEO on 25 and 30 November.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) Uncommon migrant; scarce winter visitor
Small numbers were seen on passage at JEO, SAANR, Rawdatain, Jahra Farms and Pipeline Beach.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) Abundant migrant and winter visitor
This species was commonly recorded at many sites on passage and in winter.

White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucogenys*) Very common resident; breeds
Birds were easily seen at almost all urban and suburban sites with trees throughout the year.

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) Uncommon resident; breeds
The only records were from Green Island, where up to four were seen throughout the year.

Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

The highest count was a flock of 24 near Green Island on 12 April. Smaller numbers were seen at Jahra Farms, SNR, Tulha in the SAANR, Pipeline Beach, Abdali Farms, Dai'ya and AAAK in spring, autumn and winter.

Black Scrub Robin (*Cercotrichas podobe*) Vagrant

The second record and the first live bird for Kuwait was found by KAN at Tulha in the SAANR on 26 April and remained until the 6 May, causing a successful twitch for expatriate (GB, BF) and Kuwaiti birders.

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (*Cercotriches galactotes*) Common migrant; breeds

Migrant birds were frequently seen at many sites, with a highest count of 15 at Tulha in the SAANR on 21 April.

European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) Uncommon winter visitor

This was a poor year for records, with just two at AAAK on 10 November and one there on 17 November.

Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*) Uncommon migrant

Single birds were observed at Tulha in the SAANR on 2 and 9 September.

Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) Uncommon migrant

Migrant birds were recorded at Tulha in the SAANR, Pipeline Beach, Umm Al-Maradim Island and Power Plant Reeds, mostly in spring, with a highest count of eight at Tulha on 27 April.

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) Common migrant and winter visitor

Small numbers were frequently observed at many sites with bushes or reeds, usually near fresh water, in winter, spring and autumn.

White-throated Robin (*Irania gutturalis*) Uncommon migrant

There was an exceptional spring passage of this species. New highest ever daily counts were 25 at Pipeline Beach on 11 April (DG) followed by 60 at Kabd on 12 April (SA, GB). Lower numbers were recorded at many other sites in both spring and autumn.

Eversmann's Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythronotus*) Vagrant

A male and a female at Sabriya Farm on 22 and 23 December were the sixth Kuwait record (GG, AAS).

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

A female at Tulha in the SAANR as late as 17 June was remarkable for a spring bird. Other single birds were seen at Liyah, Qaisat and Abdali Farms in winter and spring.

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) Very common migrant

Migrant birds were frequently seen at many sites in spring and autumn. A total of 103 at Pipeline Beach, Umm Al-Maradim Island and Power Plant Reeds on 11 April was the highest count. Three at AAAK on 11 November were quite late.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) Uncommon migrant; rare in winter
A total of 80 birds at Pipeline Beach, Khiran and Umm Al-Maradim Island on 11 April was the highest ever daily count (DG). Smaller numbers of migrant birds were recorded at many other sites.

Common Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) Uncommon migrant and in winter
Generally small numbers were seen at SNR, JEO, AAK, SAANR, SDNR, East Doha, Jahra Farms and Sulaibikhat Bay, in winter, spring and autumn.

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellinus*) Very common migrant and winter visitor

This species was very commonly observed at almost all sites. A single bird lingered near Tulha in the SAANR until 17 June, and one was there as early as 4 July. The highest count was 18 in the SAANR on 21 August.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) Common migrant

The highest count was 10 in the SAANR on 9 April. One at JEO on 9 November was late. Smaller numbers were seen as usual in spring and autumn.

Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) Very common migrant and winter visitor

There was a good spring passage, with birds recorded at many sites and one as late as 15 June at JEO. The highest count was 20 in the SAANR on 24 October.

Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*) Uncommon migrant

The highest count was six near AAK on 15 December, a late record. Other birds were seen in the SAANR, Pipeline Beach, Khiran, Umm Al-Maradim Island, Salmi/Wadi Al-Batin and JEO in spring and autumn.

Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*) Common migrant and winter visitor

Birds were frequently recorded at a number of sites in winter, spring and autumn. The highest count was 10 at AAK on 10 November.

Finsch's Wheatear (*Oenanthe finschii*) Scarce migrant and winter visitor

Single birds wintered in the SAANR and at Doha Spit until 20 February. One was in the SAANR on 17 December

Mourning Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens*) Uncommon winter visitor

Single birds were seen in the SAANR on 24 October and 9 November. Two were at Liyah on 2 November with one there next day. Single birds were observed at SNR on 16 November and 15 December.

Red-tailed Wheatear (*Oenanthe chrysopygia*) Uncommon winter visitor

Three separate birds wintering in the SAANR were last seen on 30 March, and single birds were seen there between 24 October and 11 November.

Kurdish Wheatear (*Oenanthe xanthopyrna*) Scarce winter visitor

A single bird was seen in the SAANR on 24 October.

Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) Uncommon migrant
In spring single birds were seen at Pipeline Beach, SAANR, Power Plant Reeds, Zour, Salmi/Wadi Al-Batin, Khiran, SAS and AAAK between 9 April and 4 May. There was just one autumn record, a single bird at Tulha in the SAANR on 10 September.

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
The only records were three at Tulha in the SAANR on 9 September, one there on 24 October and one at Liyah on 2 November.

Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) Scarce winter visitor
Four at AAAK on 17 November were the highest daily count ever for Kuwait.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) Rare winter visitor
The visiting Finnish group found one at Qaisat on 9 April but it was not present the next day.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) Common migrant and winter visitor
Birds were recorded at many sites with trees in winter, spring and autumn, but numbers were lower than in recent years. One was on Umm Al-Maradim Island on 11 April.

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
One at AAAK on 10 November was the only bird recorded, although others were no doubt present but skulking at various sites.

Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) Common resident; breeds
Throughout the year birds were seen at JEO, SNR, SDNR and SAS. The highest ever daily count was 40 at several sites on 6 April (FG).

Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*) Scarce migrant
Single birds were observed at Failaka Island on 26 March and at Tulha in the SAANR on 17 August.

Savi's Warbler (*Locustella lusciniodes*) Uncommon migrant
Three birds were singing at SDNR on 17 March, as were two birds on 26 March. This species is suspected of breeding in Kuwait, but confirmation has never been obtained.

Moustached Warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*) Uncommon breeder
Two or three at SAS on 23 May were the only record, although others were no doubt present at various sites but unobserved due to skulking habits.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) Common migrant
One to two migrant birds were seen at wetland and other sites, mostly in spring, with a single bird as late as 17 June at Tulha in the SAANR.

European Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) Very common migrant; breeds

Several were singing at SAS on 23 May, and birds were present at all reed-bed sites from April to June. However, confirmation of breeding was not obtained this year. There was a light autumn passage, mostly in August.

Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) Common migrant

The first arrival was a single bird at AAK on 14 April. 20 birds at Tulha in the SAANR on 12 May and at AAK on 14 May were the highest counts. Other spring records were from Pipeline Beach.

Basra Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*) Uncommon migrant

Several were seen on passage and probably breeding at SAS reed-bed with a bird collecting hairs from a dead goat for nesting material on 27 April (GB, BF), and two singing on 28 April (DB, BF). Others were seen at SDNR, the SAANR and Pipeline Beach.

Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*) Uncommon migrant

One to two birds were singing at SDNR on 16 March and at Sewer Plant Reeds on 20 and 25 March. Other spring records were one at Bubiyan Island on 13 April and at SAS on 23 May.

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) Common migrant; breeds

Birds were observed in spring at many wetland and other sites, with a peak of 12 in the SAANR on 27 April. There was a light autumn passage at a few sites.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Hippolais pallida*) Common migrant; breeds

There were frequent records at many sites in spring and autumn, peaking at 10 at Pipeline Beach on 11 April.

Sykes's Warbler (*Hippolais rama*) Scarce migrant

Single birds were seen at Tulha in the SAANR on 21 and 27 April, 4, 8 and 12 May, and at AAK on 14 May.

Upcher's Warbler (*Hippolais languida*) Uncommon migrant

One to three birds were recorded at many sites in both spring and autumn. A wintering individual at Jahra Farms on 30 December was remarkable.

Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*) Scarce passage migrant

On 12 April a single bird was seen in trees behind villas north of Pipeline Beach and four at Kabd, the latter being the highest daily count since 1961.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) Very common migrant

The highest count was 20 at AAK on 14 April. Birds were frequently recorded at many sites on passage.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) Common migrant

This was a fairly disappointing year for this species, with a highest count of only five at Tulha in the SAANR on 9 September. Otherwise only one or two were observed at a few sites on passage.

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) Common migrant
Birds were frequently seen at many sites in spring and autumn, peaking at 10+ at Tulha in the SAANR on 9 September.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) Common migrant
The highest count was 20 in the SAANR on 27 April. Migrants were fairly frequently seen at many sites in both spring and autumn. Single individuals probably referable to Hume's Lesser Whitethroat (*S. c. althaea*) were recorded at Pipeline Beach on 11, 12 and 16 April, and at AAAK on 14 April.

Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia crassirostris*) Uncommon migrant
On 12 April there were two at Khiran and one at Zour. These were followed by single birds at AAAK on 14 April and at SAS on 28 April. Further single birds were seen at Tulha in the SAANR on 4, 7 and 12 May. In autumn there were again single birds at Tulha on 2 and 10 September.

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) Very common migrant
The highest count of 24 was recorded in the SAANR on 27 April. Lower numbers were frequently observed at many sites on passage.

Asian Desert Warbler (*Sylvia nana*) Common migrant and scarce winter visitor
Small numbers were seen at various sites, mostly in April and November.

Ménétries's Warbler (*Sylvia mystacea*) Common migrant; scarce winter visitor
Generally low numbers were recorded at many sites in spring and autumn. The highest ever daily count was six at AAAK on 14 April (DG, FG, BF).

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) Rare passage and winter
A single bird was seen in trees behind villas north of Pipeline Beach on 12 April (DG, FG).

Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) Rare migrant
One at AAAK on 14 April (DG) was amazingly still present in the same area when the site was next visited on 14 May (BF, PF).

Mountain Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus sindianus*) Rare migrant
The only record was a single bird at Liyah on 3 November (BF, MP).

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) Abundant migrant and winter visitor
Birds were frequently recorded at many sites in winter, spring and autumn, but in generally lower numbers than usual, the highest count being 50 at AAAK on 10 November.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) Abundant migrant; rare winter visitor
As usual, this species was commonly observed in spring, with a highest count of 250 at Khiran on 12 April, and less commonly in autumn.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) Very common migrant

The highest count was 20 at Tulha in the SAANR on 4, 11 and 20 May and at AAK on 14 May. There were many other spring records at various sites. One at Tulha on 5 November was quite late.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) Scarce migrant

October records were a single bird at Tulha in the SAANR on 17th, and two at SNR on 21st. In November two were seen at Tulha on 5th, one at SNR on 9th, two at AAK on 10th, one there on 11th and three there on 17th. As in almost all previous years there were no spring records.

Semi-collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*) Uncommon migrant

As usual, the only records were in spring. Records were from the SAANR, Hujaijah, Rawdatain, AAK, SNR, SAS and Jahra Farms. There was a new highest daily count of 16 on 19 March at some of these sites (PF).

Common Babbler (*Turdoides caudatus*) Vagrant

The 5th and 6th records were a group of three at Tulha in the SAANR (KAN et al) and a group of up to eight at Abdali Farms from 31 December into 2007 (GG et al).

Great Tit (*Parus major*) Vagrant

The first for Kuwait was seen and heard singing on Green Island on 12 April by the visiting Danish Group. This species has not been seen for sale at the local Friday bird market, and it is a resident breeder some 200 kilometres NE in Iran. It was not relocated during a two-hour search early morning on 20 April.

Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) Common migrant; has bred

A male was singing at AAK on 14 April, two females were at Tulha in the SAANR as late as 4 June, and a first-summer/adult female was also at Tulha on 20 June, but no further evidence of breeding was obtained this year.

Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) Common migrant and winter visitor

This species was very commonly recorded in winter, spring and autumn at all suitable sites. The highest count was 20 at Khiran on 12 April.

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) Common migrant; rare in winter

Birds were frequently observed in spring and autumn at many sites, with a highest count of 24 in the SAANR on 27 April.

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) Vagrant

The second for Kuwait, an extensively photographed bird, was at SNR from 14 October into 2007 (HAQ et al).

Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*) Uncommon migrant

The highest count was three at Khiran on 17 April. Other single birds were seen at the SAANR, AAK, Pipeline Beach, Power Plant Reeds and JEO, mostly in spring.

Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) Common migrant and winter visitor

This species was recorded in generally small numbers at many sites in winter or on passage, with a peak of four near AAK on 15 December.

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*) Uncommon migrant

Small numbers were observed at sites with trees or bushes in spring and autumn. The highest count was 12 at Tulha in the SAANR on 9 April.

Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) Common migrant

The highest count was six at Tulha in the SAANR on 27 April. Otherwise only single birds were recorded at many sites, mostly in spring. One at Jahra Farms on 10 November was a late bird.

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) Uncommon resident; breeds

The highest count was 16 at Shuwaikh Free Zone on 28 December. Eight were seen beside the 4th Ring Road on 13 December.

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) Vagrant

A single bird photographed at Shuwaikh Free Zone from 23 December into 2007 (AAS et al) was only the 3rd record for Kuwait, and the first since 1963.

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) Very common winter visitor; common migrant

In November small groups were observed at JEO on several occasions. The wintering population in recent years seems to be much lower than in the 1980s and 1990s.

Rosy Starling (*Sturnus roseus*) Scarce migrant

At Tulha in the SAANR were one on 6 August, two on 17 August and a single on 25 August.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) Very common resident; breeds

This species was commonly observed in all urban areas throughout the year.

Bank Mynah (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) Uncommon resident; breeds

There was confirmed breeding with a pair feeding three newly fledged chicks at Jahra Farms on 14 April. This is the site for the only known Western Palearctic Bank Mynas.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Abundant resident; breeds

Groups were very commonly observed in many areas throughout the year.

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) Common resident; breeds

At least 500 pairs were found nesting in the SAANR on 17 March. Smaller numbers were also nesting at Sulaibiya Farms and Abdali Farms on 21 March. In winter flocks of 100 or more were frequently observed at SNR, Jahra Farms and Sulaibikhat Bay.

Pale Rockfinch (*Petronia brachydactyla*) Uncommon migrant; has bred

There was an exceptional spring passage with a flock of 200 birds in the SAANR on 17 March being a new highest daily count (MCJ, GG). About 100 were still there on 30 March. Other good counts were 6 on Failaka Island on 26 March and 22 at Pipeline Beach on 12 April. Other birds were seen at Subiya, Hujaijah, Power Plant Reeds, AAAK and Khiran.

Chestnut-shouldered Sparrow (*Petronia xanthocollis*) Uncommon migrant; breeds

The only records were at Tulha in the SAANR: one on 23 April, four on 27 April, two on 11 May, and one on 2 August.

Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*) Uncommon resident; has bred
The only records were four at SAS on 17 April, and one there on 27 October.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) Rare winter visitor

Single birds were observed at SNR on 9 November (PF, BF, MP) and at AAAK on 10 November.

Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus*) Uncommon resident; may breed
One was seen near Wadi Al-Al-Batin on 28 March and two were there on 2 April.

Desert Finch (*Rhodospiza obsoleta*) Vagrant

A group of eight birds at Kabd on 12 April (SA, GB) and one drinking at Tulha in the SAANR on 15 May (MAJ) were the fifth and sixth Kuwait records. This species is likely to colonise the state in the future.

Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) Common migrant

There was a heavy spring passage with a highest count of 200 at Khiran on 17 April. Other high counts were 150 in the SAANR on 13 April and 100 there on 9 April.

Cinereous Bunting (*Emberiza cineracea*) Scarce migrant

There was a good spring passage. A total of six were seen in late March and early April, with three at Tulha in the SAANR on 24 March, and single birds there on 7 April, at Khiran Resort on 8 April, at Pipeline Beach on 11 April, and at Khiran on 17 and 18 April.

Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*) Rare passage and winter
One was seen at Tulha in the SAANR on 18 July (AAS).

Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*) Uncommon migrant

At Tulha in the SAANR two were seen on 11 May, one on 20 June, 2 on 18 July, 2 on 8 August and one on 17 August.

Corn Bunting (*Miliaria calandra*) Uncommon migrant; common winter visitor

The only records were small numbers at Tulha in the SAANR: six on 17 March, one on 7 and 11 May, two on 12 and 21 May, and five on 26 November.

Additional Record for 2005

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) Vagrant

The fourth record for Kuwait was of a bird photographed at JEO on 25 October (AAS, MAJ).