Diversity of Avian Fauna of Al-Dalmaj Wetlands and the surrounding terrestrial areas, Iraq

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Abstract

Dalmaj area, or Hor Ad-Dalmaj wetlands, is considered as one of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Iraq and the Middle East region due to various ecological values and richness in species and habitat diversity. Dalmaj area includes wide spectrum of habitats that ranges of wetlands: open-water lake, reed-beds marsh, marsh margins, mudflats, and the open lake; in addition to the terrestrial habitats that include the arid lands, shrub-lands, and the desert and semi-desert areas. This wide range of habitats in Dalmaj and the surrounding areas have enriched the avifauna and bird diversity. Based on the results of intensive field surveys that extended over more than a decade (in addition to some observations back to 30 years made by MS) important observations were made on the numbers of the species and their counts in addition to their distribution within the study area where considerable numbers of resident and migrant bird species were observed. This includes 261 of the resident and migrant bird species (breeding and non-breeding) have been recorded in Dalmaj wetlands and the surrounding areas. Such a level of richness in bird diversity, that exceeds 60% of the Iraqi bird checklist, illustrates the necessity of taking the required measures to protect the biodiversity in general and the birds and their habitats in particular in this important hotspot on the national, regional, and global levels. The process of watching the birds and their habitats in Dalmaj along more than a decade have included long-term capacity-building activities that ended in creating solid, capable national team. The team of the Iraqi Organization for Conservation of nature (IOCN) has contributed in quite extensive surveys in Dalmaj area during the field work. The results of the 30-years surveys presented by this paper represent the most comprehensive work on the avifauna of Dalmaj area and in Iraq as well. The team is confident that this work would contribute positively to the conservation effort in Dalmaj area.

Keywords: Dalmaj, Hor Delmaj, Birds, Avifauna, Iraq, Wetlands, Middle Euphrates, Marshes.

Introduction
The location of Iraq as well as the morphology and diversity in habitat made it one of the countries that are rich in biodiversity and in the diversity of bird species (Allouse, 1953; IMoE, 2014). Iraq has considerable area of nine different Eco-region of which some are threatened habitat as shown in Figure-1 (WWF, 2006). The different habitats have created colorful panorama of diversity for flora and fauna species that include endemic and threatened species (Guest, E. 1966; Townsend, & Guest 1968). Iraq is well known with it wetland of different types, as there are considerable number of lakes and marshland that harbor good biological diversity being providing the shelter and food for different creatures. The wetlands of Iraq, including Dalmaj wetlands, have their international importance on the global, regional (Middle East), as well as national level (Evans, 1994; Scott, 1995). In addition to the endemic and threatened birds that are occur in the marshlands within southern Iraq, millions of individual birds using these areas either as wintering destination, or key stop over sites during their long ranged annual migration over Eurasia and Africa (Salim, et.al, 2009).

Dalmaj area lies within two Terrestrial Eco-regions (Figure-1) :

1-  Tigris-Euphrates alluvial salt marsh,
2-  Arabian desert and eastern Sahera-Arabian xeric shrub-lands.

![Figure 1: Eco-regions of Iraq with main two Eco-regions that present in Dalmaj Wetlands (IMoE, 2014)](image)

The Study Area

Dalmaj wetlands are wetlands are vast wetlands at the Middle Euphrates area in the upper parts of southern Iraq. It is located to the south of Tigris River and the west of Gharraf River, shared by Al-Qadissiya and Wasit Governorates. The northern part of Dalmaj is located around 120 km southeast to Baghdad City, 37 km northwest of Kut city, and 38 km north east to Diwaniya city.
The wetland can be reached either from Wasit side via the Al-Rahma agricultural project and canals, or from the western side of the study area from Diwaniya side through Afak sub-district. It consists of relatively shallow-water lake with vast marshland habitat of dense and scattered reed beds (Abed et.al, 2014; IMoE, 2014). The wetlands of Dalmaj include considerable diversity in the fauna and avifauna species including the richness in the waterfowl species during winter as well as the existence of many threatened and endemic bird species that made it eligible to be considered as a Key Biodiversity area (KBA) and Important Bird Area (IBA) on the national and regional (Middle East) levels (Salim, 2010). The study area is considered as one of the most important Iraqi wetlands for Bird (Salim and Abed, 2017; IMOE 2014) where many waders and waterfowl species occur in Dalmaj wetlands in quite large numbers as well as the passerines and terrestrial species (Salim, 2010).

The Main Outfall Drain (MOD) is the major feeder for Al-Dalmaj Wetlands via the feeding canal. The total length of the MOD is 565 km, which is divided into three sections of which the middle sector is part of function hydrological system in association with Al-Dalmaj wetlands that’s considered as one of the key lakes in Iraq (Mousa, 2013).

Methodology

The data presented in this paper were collected over wide span of time, however all of the different seasons and the majority of the different conditions were covered. The bird observations have been started as early as 1990 when MS has established the delineation of the study area and started visiting Dalmaj area and conducting bird surveys in different locations and habitats within the study area (Fig-2). The team was able to survey the different habitats and sites during winter, spring, summer, and autumn and conducting more than one survey in each season.

The bird surveys have been continued until recently, but the team has decided to consolidate the old and recent bird observations in one document, which is the current paper. Recently, starting from 2010, the field survey was comprised of selecting sampling sites throughout the study area of Dalmaj, other than continuing the random (or general) observations, to collect enough information that would best give an overview of the environmental conditions as a whole. The key set of criteria of selecting the observation sites was based on the diversity of the habitats that they have. The map below shows the location of Dalmaj area within Iraq, and the delineation of the study area in Dalmaj and the surrounding terrestrial areas.
Maps of the study area (of 1:100,000 scale) were used to trace the field work path and locate the observation sites with the aid of a GPS devise. New satellite images were also consulted to guide the team to obtain the best observations. While in the field, the selected locations were potted using the “go to” feature on the GPS device, and a path-track was used as well in order to find and stand on the same sites specifically.

Field vehicles (4x4) were used during all of the surveys in order to get better coverage of the study area and to enable the team to get closer to the birds’ flocks for better identification and count processes. The boats and canoes were also used while surveying the depths of the marsh and the lake especially during surveying the winter waterfowl and in spring and summer during the breeding season. Various types of binoculars and telescopes have been used during the field surveys.

Results and Discussion

The results of the long-range surveys that extended over three decades have shed much light on the status of the various taxa within the study area in Dalmaj and the surrounding areas, not only on the avifauna, but including the plant-cover and other fauna species within the study area. A total of 261 bird species has been recorded by the team (Annex-1). These bird species have distributed over wide range of habitat with more concentration (in species numbers and diversity) at the marshy areas and the lake, and this supports the results of previous work made in Dalmaj by Mohammad (2014).
The 261 bird species that were observed in Dalmaj belong to different Orders and Families of birds of which most of them are either resident or common wintering or passage species, such bird diversity has been also referred to by Salim & Abed (Abed et al., 2014). The waterfowl and waders were the highest of the congregatory bird species among all of the other observed bird species. Scott 1995, has referred to similar large congregations of waterfowl at the marshes of Southern Iraq, however, there marshes are much wider and larger in the size of the water-body (Scott, 1995; Salim et al., 2009).

The number of the bird species that have been recorded in Dalmaj and the surrounding areas (which is 261 bird species) is considered as high number in comparison with the study area taken into consideration that the bird species that have been recorded in Iraq until the time of the current work is more than 430 species; this highlights that Dalmaj and the surrounding areas consists of more than 60% of the bird species diversity in Iraq (Fig-3). Despite of the high numbers of bird species that have been observed in Dalmaj area, the team still thinks that there are more potential bird species yet to be observed. This is either for their being shy bird species or might be overlooked; however, new bird species have been observed in Dalmaj recently as the first record for Iraq or the first breeding observation for the country – some examples for these bird species can be found in Salim, 2008; Salim, 2002; and Salim, et al., 2019.

![Figure 3: The percentage of the number of the bird species in Dalmaj area to the number of the bird species of Iraq.](image_url)

Some of the Bird species of Dalmaj area are considered to be trigger species to the Important Bird Areas (IBA) and the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) (IOCN, unpublished internal reports). The bird species listed below are the IBAs & KBAs trigger species that were found in Dalmaj:

**Globally threatened species (A1)**

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (Winter visitor), Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* (Rare Winter visitor, rare), Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (Resident), White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* (Winter visitor), Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus...*
griseldis (Summer visitor), and Macqueen’s Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii* (Winter visitor; may breed).

**Figure 4:** The Globally-threatened Macqueen’s Bustard (or Houbara) is regular wintering bird species in Dalmaj in considerable numbers. © Mudhafar A. Salim.

*Restricted-range species (A2)*

Iraq Babbler *Turdoides altirostris* (Resident), Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*. In addition, the 'semi – Restricted-range species Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* breeds in considerable numbers in the suitable habitats in Dalmaj and the surrounding areas.

**Figure 5:** The Globally-threatened and restricted-range Basra Reed Warbler is regular breeding bird species in Dalmaj. © Mudhafar A. Salim.
Biome-restricted range species (A3)

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* (Resident), *Chlamydotis macqueenii* (Winter visitor; may breed), Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* (Resident), Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei*, Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius* (Summer visitor), Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* (Summer visitor), Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cincutre*, Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes* (Resident), White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis* (Resident), Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* (Summer visitor), Iraq Babbler *Turdoides altirostris* (Resident), Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus* (Resident).

1% or more of biogeographical population of a congregatory waterbird species (A4i)

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (Resident), Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* (Resident & winter visitor), Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (Passage migrant & winter visitor).

![Figure 6: The Vulnerable Marbled Duck breeds and winters in Dalmaj wetlands in quite considerable numbers. © Mudhafar A. Salim.](image)

1% or more of global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species (A4ii)

Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus* (Resident) and White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* might be added to this category as its numbers might exceed the global 1% threshold; however, this is one of the key issues that the IOCN follows to confirm.

Except very few cases that have been mentioned in details in the bird list in Annex 1, all of the observations of the birds were of high certainty even those of the rare birds and the bird species that were observed for only one time; e.g., the case with the White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* is not considered as 100% certain observation, because it was based on a claim of which is still under investigation by the IOCN (Salim, et.al., 2020).
It is also worth to mention that due to the instability of the availability of water, the observations were fluctuated in the occurrence of the bird species from year to other; it is also applied for their numbers and distribution within the study area. This fluctuation and changing in the distribution is considered as natural dynamic movements as a result of some dedicated studies like Monfils & Gregory, 2018.

The surveys did not target only the bird observations and count, they also covered the various types of threats that facing the birds and their habitats in Dalmaj and the surrounding areas of which the poaching and bird netting is the most serious threat along with some other types of threats and factors that affect the biodiversity in Dalmaj including the resident and migrant birds and their habitats. Based on the results of the intensive surveys in Dalmaj and in other areas (mainly KBAs & IBAs) in Iraq that were made by the IOCN, the team would like to highlight its disagreement with the figures presented in Brochet et.al. (2019) where it seems that the data of the estimated numbers that represent Iraq were not accurate, subsequently we don’t consider them reflecting the actual pressure of illegal hunting that facing the birds in Iraq.

Summary and Recommendations

Based on the results presented in this paper, the team would like to highlight and recommend the following:

- Holding 60% of the bird-checklist of Iraq, Dalmaj should be dealt with as one of the hottest areas in terms of birdlife, for this reason it was listed as protected area by the National Committee for the Protected Areas, and should be considered as priority for conservation on the national level;
- Dalmaj protected area should be targeted by continuous monitoring programme that target the wintering and breeding birds;
- The management plan of Dalmaj protected area should focus on the birds and their habitats and the different kinds of threat that they face as a priority for conservation in addition to other components of the biodiversity and human dimension in the area;
- Conducting long-term capacity building programme for the staff directly involved in the monitoring programme with more focus on bird identification;
- The hydrological management of Dalmaj should be addressed as key factor in the conservation actions on-ground, and this requires close coordination with the Ministry of Water Resources and the related local authorities;
- Long-term environmental educational and awareness plan should be designed and implemented in Dalmaj area;
- In order to have better understanding on the illegal bird kill in Iraq, it would be highly recommended that Iraq part in the paper “Preliminary assessment of the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of wild birds in the Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq” is to be reviewed and corrected.
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Annex 1: Bird checklist of Dalmaj wetlands and the surrounding terrestrial areas based on 30-years of field observations.

| Bird Name                  | Scientific Name                                      |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Black Francolin            | Francolinus francolinus                              |
| Common Quail               | Coturnix coturnix                                    |
| White-faced Whistling Duck | Dendrocygna viduata                                 |
| Eastern Greylag Goose      | Anser anser rubrirostris                             |
| Greater White-fronted Goose| Anser albifrons                                      |
| Lesser White-fronted Goose | Anser erythopus                                      |
| Mute Swan                  | Cygnus olor                                          |
| Bewick's Swan              | Cygnus columbianus bewickii                          |
| Whooper Swan               | Cygnus cygnus                                        |
| Common Shelduck            | Tadorna tadorna                                      |
| Ruddy Shelduck             | Tadorna ferruginea                                   |
| Gadwall                    | Anas strepera                                        |
| Eurasian Wigeon            | Anas penelope                                        |
| Mallard                    | Anas platyrhynchos                                   |
| Northern Shoveler          | Anas clypeata                                        |
| Northern Pintail           | Anas acuta                                           |
| Garganey                   | Anas querquedula                                     |
| Eurasian Teal              | Anas crecca                                          |
| Marbled Duck               | Marmaronetta angustirostris                          |
| Red-crested Pochard        | Netta rufina                                         |
| Common Pochard             | Aythya farina                                       |
| Ferruginous Duck           | Aythya nyroca                                        |
| Tufted Duck                | Aythya fuligula                                      |
| Greater Scaup              | Aythya marila                                        |
| White-headed Duck          | Oxyura leucocephala                                  |
| Little Grebe               | Tachybaptus ruficollis                               |
| Great Crested Grebe        | Podiceps cristatus                                   |
| Black-necked Grebe         | Podiceps nigricollis                                 |
| Greater Flamingo           | Phoenicopterus roseus                                |
| Black Stork                | Ciconia nigra                                        |
| Western White Stork        | Ciconia ciconia                                      |
| Glossy Ibis                | Plegadis falcinellus                                 |
| Eurasian Spoonbill         | Platalea leucorodia                                  |
| Eurasian Bittern           | Botaurus stellaris                                   |

1 This has been listed only based on a claim provided by L.A. that c. 10 individuals have been seen in Dalmaj wetlands. This claim is still under investigation by the IOCN team (Salim et.al. 2020).
2 This is very rare species, and based on reporting of hunters and locals.
3 It seems that this species is the most common Sygnus in Dalmaj, however, it is very rare bird.
Little Bittern  
Black-crowned Night Heron  
Squacco Heron  
Western Cattle Egret  
Grey Heron  
Purple Heron  
Western Great Egret  
Little Egret  
Great White Pelican  
Pygmy Cormorant  
Great Cormorant  
European Honey Buzzard\(^4\)  
Black-winged Kite\(^5\)  
Black Kite  
Egyptian Vulture  
Eurasian Griffon Vulture  
Short-toed Snake Eagle  
Western Marsh Harrier  
Hen Harrier  
Pallid Harrier  
Montagu's Harrier  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk  
Steppe Buzzard  
Long-legged Buzzard  
Greater Spotted Eagle  
Steppe Eagle  
Eastern Imperial Eagle  
Golden Eagle  
Booted Eagle  
Bonelli’s Eagle  
Lesser Kestrel  
Common Kestrel  
Merlin  
Eurasian Hobby  
Saker Falcon  
Peregrine Falcon  
Macqueen’s Bustard\(^6\)  
Little Bustard\(^7\)  
Water Rail  
Little Crake

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\(^4\) There are also reporting on the existence of Crested Honey Buzzard, but it was excluded due to uncertainty.

\(^5\) Has bred recently in Dakmaj.

\(^6\) There are also reporting on the existence of Great Bustard, but it was excluded due to uncertainty.

\(^7\) Based on reporting from hunters.
Baillon's Crake  
Spotted Crake  
Corncrake  
Purple Swamphen  
Common Moorhen  
Eurasian Coot  
Demoiselle Crane  
Common Crane  
Eurasian Stone-curlew  
Eurasian Oystercatcher  
Black-winged Stilt  
Pied Avocet  
Northern Lapwing  
Spur-winged Lapwing  
Red-wattled Lapwing  
White-tailed Lapwing  
Eurasian Golden Plover  
Grey Plover  
Common Ringed Plover  
Little Ringed Plover  
Kentish Plover  
Greater Sand Plover  
Caspian Plover  
Eurasian Dotterel  
Jack Snipe  
Great Snipe  
Common Snipe  
Black-tailed Godwit  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Whimbrel  
Eurasian Curlew  
Spotted Redshank  
Common Redshank  
Marsh Sandpiper  
Common Greenshank  
Green Sandpiper  
Wood Sandpiper  
Terek Sandpiper  
Common Sandpiper  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Sanderling  
Little Stint

Porzana pusilla
Porzana porzana
Crex crex
Porphyrio porphyrio
Gallinula chloropus
Fulica atra
Anthropoides virgo
Grus grus
Burhinus oedicnemus
Haematopus ostralegus
Himantopus himantopus
Recurvirostra avosetta
Vanellus vanellus
Vanellus spinosus
Vanellus indicus
Vanellus leucurus
Pluvialis apricaria
Pluvialis squatarola
Charadrius hiaticula
Charadrius dubius
Charadrius alexandrines
Charadrius leschenaultia
Charadrius asiaticus
Charadrius morinellus
Lymnocryptes minimus
Gallinago media
Gallinago gallinago
Limosa limosa
Limosa lapponica
Numenius phaeopus
Numenius arquata
Tringa erythropus
Tringa totanus
Tringa stagnatilis
Tringa nebularia
Tringa ochropus
Tringa glareola
Xenus cinereus
Actitis hypoleucos
Arenaria interpres
Calidris alba
Calidris minuta

* Based on reporting from hunters.
Temminck's Stint  
Curlew Sandpiper 
Dunlin 
Broad-billed Sandpiper 
Ruff 
Red-necked Phalarope 
Cream-coloured Courser 
Collared Pratincole 
Slender-billed Gull 
Common Black-headed Gull 
Great Black-headed Gull 
Caspian Gull 
Armenian Gull 
Baltic (Lesser Black-backed) Gull 
Gull-billed Tern 
Caspian Tern 
Little Tern 
Common Tern 
Whiskered Tern 
White-winged Tern 
Black Tern 
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse 
Spotted Sandgrouse 
Rock Dove 
Common Woodpigeon 
Speckled Pigeon 
European Turtle Dove 
Eurasian Collared Dove 
Laughing Dove 
Namaqua Dove 
Common Cuckoo 
Western Barn Owl 
Pallid Scops Owl 
Eurasian Scops Owl 
Eurasian Eagle Owl 
Short-eared Owl 
Little Owl 
European Nightjar 
Egyptian Nightjar 
Common Swift 
European Roller

Calidris temminckii
Calidris ferruginea
Calidris alpina
Limicola falcinellus
Philomachus pugnax
Phalaropus lobatus
Cursorius cursor
Glareola pratincola
Chroicocephalus genei
Chroicocephalus ridibundus
Larus ichthyaetus
Larus cachinnans
Larus armenicus
Larus fuscus fuscus
Gelochelidon nilotica
Hydroprogne caspia
Sternula albifrons
Sterna hirundo
Chlidonias hybridus
Chlidonias leucopterus
Chlidonias niger
Pterocles alchata
Pterocles senegallus
Columba livia
Columba palumbus
Columba guinea
Streptopelia turtur
Streptopelia decaocto
Spilopelia senegalensis
Oena capensis
Cuculus canorus
Tyto alba
Otus brucei
Otus scops
Bubo bubo
Asio flammeus
Athena noctua
Caprimulgus europaeus
Caprimulgus aegyptius
Apus apus
Coracias garrulus

9 Based on reporting from hunters.
10 This species has started in establishing its breeding grounds in Dalmaj recently.
11 There are also reporting on the existence of Indian Roller, but it was excluded due to uncertainty.
| Bird Name                          | Scientific Name   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| White-throated Kingfisher         | *Halcyon smyrnensis* |
| Common Kingfisher                 | *Alcedo atthis*    |
| Pied Kingfisher                   | *Ceryle rudis*     |
| Blue-cheeked Bee-eater            | *Merops persicus*  |
| European Bee-eater                | *Merops apiaster*  |
| Eurasian Hoopoe                   | *Upupa epops*      |
| Eurasian Wryneck                  | *Jynx torquilla*   |
| Red-backed Shrike                 | *Lanius collurio*  |
| Daurian Isabelline Shrike         | *Lanius isabellinus* |
| Turkistan Isabelline Shrike       | *Lanius phoenicuroides* |
| Lesser Grey Shrike                | *Lanius minor*     |
| Steppe Grey Shrike                | *Lanius pallidirostris* |
| Southern Grey Shrike              | *Lanius meridionalis* |
| Woodchat Shrike                   | *Lanius senator*   |
| Masked Shrike                     | *Lanius nubicus*   |
| Eurasian Golden Oriole            | *Oriolus oriolus*  |
| Western Jackdaw                   | *Corvus monedula*  |
| Rook                              | *Corvus frugilegus*|
| Mesopotamian Crow                 | *Corvus capellanus*|
| Hypocolius                        | *Hypocolius ampelinus* |
| Penduline Tit                     | *Remiz pendulinus* |
| Greater Hoopoe-Lark               | *Alaemon alaudipes*|
| Calandra Lark                     | *Melanocorypha calandra* |
| Greater Short-toed Lark           | *Calandrella brachydactyla* |
| Crested Lark                      | *Galerida cristata* |
| Woodlark                          | *Lullula arborea*  |
| Eurasian Skylark                  | *Alauda arvensis*  |
| Temminck's Lark                   | *Eremophila bilopa*|
| White-eared Bulbul                | *Pycnonotus leucotis* |
| Sand Martin                       | *Riparia riparia*  |
| Barn Swallow                      | *Hirundo rustica*  |
| Eurasian Crag Martin              | *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* |
| Common House Martin               | *Delichon urbicum* |
| Cetti’s Warbler                   | *Cettia cetti*     |
| Willow Warbler                    | *Phylloscopus trochilus* |
| Common Chiffchaff                 | *Phylloscopus collybita* |
| Wood Warbler                      | *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* |
| Basra Reed Warbler                | *Acrocephalus griseldis* |
| Clamorous Reed Warbler            | *Acrocephalus stentoreus* |
| Great Reed Warbler                | *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* |
| Moustached Warbler                | *Acrocephalus melanopogon* |
| Sedge Warbler                     | *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* |
| Eurasian Reed Warbler             | *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* |
| Marsh Warbler                     | *Acrocephalus palustris* |
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler  
Upcher's Warbler  
Zitting Cisticola  
Graceful Prinia  
Iraq Babbler  
Afghan Babbler  
Eurasian Blackcap  
Garden Warbler  
Barred Warbler  
Lesser Whitethroat  
Eastern Orphean Warbler  
Asian Desert Warbler  
Common Whitethroat  
Ménétries’s Warbler  
Common Starling  
Eurasian Blackbird  
Ring Ouzel  
Mistle Thrush  
Song Thrush  
European Robin  
Bluethroat  
Thrush Nightingale  
Common Nightingale  
White-throated Robin  
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin  
Black Redstart  
Common Redstart  
Whinchat  
European Stonechat  
Siberian Stonechat  
Isabelline Wheatear  
Northern Wheatear  
Pied Wheatear  
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear  
Desert Wheatear  
White-crowned Wheatear  
Finsch’s Wheatear  
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush  
Blue Rock Thrush  
Spotted Flycatcher  
Semi-collared Flycatcher  
House Sparrow  
Spanish Sparrow  
Dead Sea Sparrow

Iduna pallid  
Hippolais languid  
Cisticola juncidis  
Prinia gracilis  
Turdoides altirostris  
Turdoides huttoni  
Sylvia atricapilla  
Sylvia borin  
Sylvia nisoria  
Sylvia curruca  
Sylvia crassirosstris  
Sylvia nana  
Sylvia communis  
Sylvia mystacea  
Sturnus vulgaris  
Turdus merula  
Turdus torquatus  
Turdus viscivorus  
Turdus philomelos  
Erithacus rubecula  
Luscinia svecica  
Luscinia luscinia  
Luscinia megarhynchos  
Irania gutturalis  
Cercotrichas galactotes  
Phoenicurus ochruros  
Phoenicurus phoenicurus  
Saxicola rubetra  
Saxicola rubicola  
Saxicola mauro  
Oenanthe isabellina  
Oenanthe oenanthe  
Oenanthe pleschanka  
Oenanthe melanoleuca  
Oenanthe deserti  
Oenanthe leucopyga  
Oenanthe finschii  
Monticola saxatilis  
Monticola solitarius  
Muscicapa striata  
Ficedula semitorquata  
Passer domesticus  
Passer hispaniolensis  
Passer moabiticus
| Bird Name                          | Scientific Name      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Yellow-throated Sparrow           | Gymnoris xanthocollis|
| Yellow Wagtail                    | Motacilla flava      |
| Black-headed Wagtail              | Motacilla feldegg    |
| Citrine Wagtail                   | Motacilla citreola   |
| Grey Wagtail                      | Motacilla cinerea    |
| White Wagtail                     | Motacilla alba       |
| Tawny Pipit                       | Anthus campestris    |
| Meadow Pipit                      | Anthus pratensis     |
| Tree Pipit                        | Anthus trivialis     |
| Water Pipit                       | Anthus spinoletta    |
| Common Chaffinch                  | Fringilla coelebs    |
| Eurasian Siskin                   | Carduelis spinus     |
| Desert Finch                      | Rhodospiza obsoleta  |
| Western Cinereous Bunting         | Emberiza c. semenowi|
| Ortolan Bunting                   | Emberiza hortulana   |
| Corn Bunting                      | Emberiza calandra    |