

European Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis. Very local breeding resident in northern woodlands (MB56, NI).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*.

Widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI).

Daurian Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*.

Passage migrant and winter visitor, more frequent in south and central Iraq (A60–62, NI).

Turkestan Isabelline Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*.

Uncommon passage migrant (A60–62).

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*.

Fairly widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI, Plate 17).

Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius pallidirostris*.

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to eastern Iraq (see A60–62, MB57, NI). Recently separated from *L. excubitor* (Great Grey Shrike) and subsequently from *L. meridionalis* (see eg Gonzales *et al* 2008, Bannikova 2010, Olsson *et al* 2010, Porter & Aspinall 2010). Most migrant ‘great grey’ shrikes in Iraq will be *pallidirostris*.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*.

Local resident in central Iraq and possibly a passage migrant (see A60–62, MB57, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).

Recently separated from *L excubitor* and recorded as such in early literature

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*. Widespread breeding summer visitor to north and parts of central Iraq; widespread passage migrant (A60–62, MB56, NI).

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*. Breeding summer visitor to north and parts of central Iraq; passage migrant (A60–62, MB56, McGeoch 1963, NI, Plate 18).

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*. Breeding summer visitor to woodlands of northern Iraq; widespread passage migrant (A60–62, MB56, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).



Plate 17. Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*, Al Habbaniya lake, Anbar province, Iraq, May 2011. © Omar Fadhil Al-Sheikhly



Plate 18. Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*, Kurdistan, Iraq, May 2009. © Korsh Ararat Majeed

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*. Breeding resident in wooded hills of northern Iraq, where also winter visitor (A60–62, NI).

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*. Widespread breeding resident; less frequent in southern Iraq (A60–62, NI).

Red-billed Chough *Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*. Fairly local breeding resident in the high mountains in north Iraq; much commoner than Yellow-billed Chough (A60–62, NI, Ar11).

Yellow-billed Chough *Pyrhacorax graculus*. Very local breeding resident in the high mountains of north Iraq (Ar11).

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. Uncommon breeding resident in northern Iraq; widespread in winter when range extends to southern and central Iraq (A60–62, MB57, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*. Fairly widespread winter visitor (A60–62, NI).

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*. Uncommon breeding resident in northern Iraq (A60–62, NI).

Mesopotamian Crow *Corvus capellanus*. Breeding resident of the plains and date orchards of southern and central Iraq;



Plate 19. Mesopotamian Crow *Corvus capellanus*, central Iraq, December 2009. © Omar Fadhil Al-Sheikhly



Plate 20. Hypocoliuses *Hypocolius ampelinus*, southern Iraq, June 2010. © Mudhafar Salim



Plate 21. Sombre Tit *Poecile lugubris*, Kurdistan, Iraq, May 2009. © Korsh Ararat Majeed

also found in the stable and floating reedbeds of the southeastern marshes (A60–62, NI, Plate 19).

Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*. Uncommon breeding resident in desert and arid grasslands of southern and western Iraq (A60–62, NI).

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*. Breeding resident in the mountains of northern Iraq, very local in the eastern hills (A60–62, NI).

Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus*. Breeding summer visitor to southern and central Iraq where especially found in oases, date orchards, *Tamarix* and thorny woodlands, usually near water (A60–62, NI, Plate 20).

Sombre Tit *Poecile lugubris*. Widespread and not uncommon breeding resident in the northern woodlands, especially *Quercus* (Ar11, Plate 21).

Great Tit *Parus major*. Breeding resident in the woodlands of northern Iraq (A60–62, NI).

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*. Rather local breeding resident in the woodlands of northern Iraq (A60–62, NI).

Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*. Uncommon winter visitor (A60–62, MB56, NI).

Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*. Widespread breeding resident in the western, central and southern deserts (A60–62, MB57, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).



Plate 22. Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*, southern Iraq, June 2010. © Mudhafar Salim

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*. Breeding resident in the agricultural lands and plains of central and northern Iraq; also winter visitor central to south Iraq (A60–62, MB57, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).

Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*. Status uncertain; appears to be an uncommon or perhaps irregular passage migrant and winter visitor; but there is some indication of breeding (birds singing in April) in central Iraq, in early 20th century (A60–62, Al-Dabbagh 1998).

Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*. Breeding resident in western deserts (A60–62, NI).

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*. Fairly widespread breeding resident but absent from the extreme north (A60–62, MB57, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI, Plate 22).

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*. Breeding resident in fields and arid grasslands of northern Iraq; widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, MB57, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*. Resident and winter visitor (A60–62, MB56, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*. Widespread breeding resident (A60–62, NI).

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*. Fairly widespread breeding resident in open woodland in the northern foothills; more widespread winter visitor (A60–62, MB56, Ar11).

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. Widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, MB56, Marchant 61, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).

Black-crowned Sparrow-lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*. Breeding resident in extreme southern Iraq (Ticehurst *et al* 1922, 1926, A60–62), but no records since 1920s.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*. Very local breeding resident in high mountains of north Iraq (A63, Ar11).

Temminck's Lark *Eremophila bilopha*. Breeding resident in western and southern deserts and arid grasslands (A60–62, Marchant 1961, NI).

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*. Widespread breeding resident in woodland groves, especially palm, in central, western, southern and northeast Iraq; appears to be spreading north as now found in northern areas where absent in 1940s (A60–62, MB56, Sage 1960, NI, Plate 23).

White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*. Status uncertain, probably a rare resident on the Euphrates in western Iraq. The only record is that in Rasmussen (1992). The observer considered the possibility of the birds being escapes from captivity and concluded they were wild. The NIBRC reconsidered the evidence and also came to this conclusion, especially as it has since been discovered this species occurs on the Euphrates in Syria, fairly close to the site where Rasmussen observed his birds (David Murdoch *in litt*, Porter & Aspinall 2010).



Plate 23. White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*, Kurdistan, Iraq, May 2010. © RF Porter

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. Breeding summer visitor, mainly along major river courses; passage migrant (A60–62, NI).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. Fairly widespread breeding summer visitor; widespread passage migrant; very few winter in southern Iraq (A60–62, NI).

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*. Breeding summer visitor to northern Iraq; very local in central and southeast Iraq; passage migrant (A60–62, NI).

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*. Rather local breeding summer visitor or resident in hills and mountains of northern and eastern Iraq; also passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI; see also MB56).

Pale Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*. Breeding recorded at two mountain sites in north Iraq; otherwise status uncertain, passage bird recorded in the south (A60–62, Ar11).

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*. Breeding summer visitor to northern and central Iraq; widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*. Breeding resident in northern Iraq, mostly in dense vegetation near water courses; winter visitor (A60–62, NI).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*. Very local breeding resident in mountain woodland in northern Iraq (A60–62, Ar11).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI).

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. Widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI).

Caucasian Mountain Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus (sindianus) lorenzii*. Status uncertain; probably a rare passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI).

Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus*. Breeding summer visitor recorded at one mountain site in 2011 in northeast Iraq, where nest was found in *Artemisia* scrub on the edge of a rocky cliff at c2400 m (NI, Balmer & Harrison 2011).

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*. Probably rare passage migrant with singing birds May 2010 and 2011 in woodland in extreme north (NI). These records under review.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Vagrant (A60–62).

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*. Vagrant or rare winter visitor (SC82).

Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* E.
Breeding summer visitor to the extensive reedbeds of the southern marshes and recently discovered further north in the marshes of central Iraq and at one site in western Iraq (A60–62, NI, Plate 24). Endemic, though now recorded breeding outside Iraq in Kuwait and Israel (Porter & Aspinall 2010).

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. Rather local breeding summer visitor to wetlands and water courses with reedbeds throughout Iraq; also a widespread passage migrant; birds recorded in the southern marshes in early February may be overwintering or early migrants (A60–62, NI, MS).

Indian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus (stentoreus) brunescens*. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to the southern marshes and possibly rare or uncommon breeding resident. All birds identified, including those trapped and photographed, have been of the race *brunescens* (Kainady 1977, SC82, NI, OFA-S).



Plate 24. Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*, southern marshes, Iraq, June 2008. © Mudhafar Salim

- Moustached Warbler** *Acrocephalus melanopogon*. Status uncertain; recorded as probably breeding in the southern marshes in 1920s, but not since; present, very locally, in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat on rivers in northern Iraq; otherwise observed irregularly during migration periods in north and central Iraq, and occasionally in winter (A60–62, Marchant & Macnab 1962, SC82, NI).
- Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Passage migrant; found at one riverine site in breeding season in northern Iraq (A60–62, NI).
- Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Passage migrant with one proven record of breeding in the southern marshes (A60–62, Al-Dabbagh 1998, Ar11, NI). The status of this species has been complicated by the earlier confusion with Basra Reed Warbler. Many early references to ‘reed warblers’ probably referred to Basra Reed Warbler (see eg MB56)
- Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*. Passage migrant (A60–62) but recent status unclear as rarely observed during NI KBA surveys which have taken place outside the main periods of this warbler’s migration.
- Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna pallida*. Widespread breeding summer visitor to open woodland and scrub in northern, central and southern Iraq; also a fairly widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI).
- Upcher’s Warbler** *Hippolais languida*. Fairly widespread breeding summer visitor to scrub and wooded hills in northern Iraq, where less frequent than Eastern Olivaceous Warbler; passage migrant (A60–62, Ar11).
- Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*. Vagrant or rare passage migrant (A60–62, Kainady 1977, NI).
- Common Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*. Vagrant (Kainady & Al-Joborae 1975).
- Savi’s Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*. Rare or uncommon passage migrant, but probably overlooked (Kainady & Al-Joborae 1975, Kainady 1977, Ctyroky 1987).
- River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis*. Vagrant or rare passage migrant, but undoubtedly overlooked (A60–62, NI).
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*. Rather local breeding resident at and near wetlands in southern and central Iraq; apparently absent from northern Iraq. Some suggestion of dispersal outside breeding season (A60–62, MB56, NI).
- Graceful Prinia** *Prinia gracilis*. Widespread breeding resident in central and southern Iraq, very local in north and northeast Iraq (A60–62, MB56, Marchant & Macnab 1962, Sage 1960, NI).
- Iraq Babbler** *Turdoides altirostris*. Breeding resident in reedbeds, mainly along the Tigris and Euphrates, and extending its range northwards along the latter (A60–62, NI, Plate 25). Endemic, though now recorded along the Euphrates in Syria and southern Turkey (Porter & Aspinall 2010).
- Afghan Babbler** *Turdoides huttoni*. Breeding resident in southern, western and central Iraq, mainly in arid areas with scrub (A60–62, NI).
- Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*. Passage migrant; some may winter (A60–62, MB56, NI).



Plate 25. Iraq Babbler *Turdoides altirostris*, southern Iraq. © KF Drweesh

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. Passage migrant (A60–62, MB56, Marchant & Macnab 1962, NI).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*. Passage migrant (A60–62, NI).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*. Passage migrant (A60–62, MB56, Marchant & Macnab 1962, NI).

Eastern Orphean Warbler *Sylvia crassirostris*. Breeding summer visitor to several areas of open woodland in northern Iraq; rarely recorded on passage (A60–62, Ar11, NI).

Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana*. Uncommon winter visitor (A60–62, SC82, Ali Nema pers comm).

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*. Recorded breeding in western Iraq (2011) and probably breeds in north Iraq as birds present in suitable habitat in summer; otherwise a passage migrant (A60–62, NI, OFA-S).

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*. Vagrant (A60–62, Sage 1958).

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*. Status uncertain; a not uncommon winter visitor to northern Iraq, with specimens obtained (Ticehurst *et al* 1926) but none seen since 1920s.

Ménétries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*. Fairly widespread breeding summer visitor to scrub, especially riverine, in northern Iraq, and locally elsewhere; passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI).

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Winter visitor to northern Iraq, recorded south to Baghdad; breeds very locally (only one proven record) in the northern mountains (A60–62, NI, Ar11).

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*. Fairly widespread breeding resident in the wooded hills and mountain slopes of northern Iraq (MB56, Ar11).

Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer*. Widespread breeding resident in the mountains and foothills, often with woodland, of northern Iraq (A60–62, NI, Plate 26).

Eastern Rock Nuthatch *Sitta tephronota*. Widespread breeding resident of the rocky hills with open woodland of northern Iraq (A60–62, NI, Plate 27).

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*. Uncommon winter visitor to northern and central Iraq (A60–62, MB56, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*. Local, non-native, resident, found in date-palm orchards in southern Iraq (Salim 1998).

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*. An irregular passage migrant recorded only in April and May (A60–62, NI).



Plate 26. Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer*, Kurdistan, Iraq, April 2010. © Khalid Faik



Plate 27. Eastern Rock Nuthatch *Sitta tephronota*, Kurdistan, Iraq, March 2008. © Khalid Faik

- Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Very local breeding resident in open woodland in north Iraq. Contrary to Ar11, breeding was first recorded in 1988 (Al-Dabbagh *et al* 1992); widespread winter visitor (A60–62, NI).
- Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*. Apparently a rare or irregular winter visitor (A60–62, Marchant 1960).
- Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula*. Widespread breeding resident in northern wooded hills, occasional in central Iraq; widespread winter visitor (A60–62, Al-Dabbagh 98, NI).
- Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis*. Uncommon winter visitor to central and southern Iraq (A60–62, MB57).
- Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*. Uncommon winter visitor (A60–62, Marchant 1961, 1962, Marchant & Macnab 1962).
- Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*. Rare winter visitor or vagrant (Marchant & Macnab 62).
- Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*. Irregular winter visitor (A60–62, MB56).
- Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*. Thinly distributed breeding resident in woodland in northern mountains and foothills; also an uncommon winter visitor (A60–62, MB56, Ar11).
- European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*. Fairly widespread winter visitor (A60–62, NI).
- Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*. Fairly widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI).
- Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*. Fairly widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI).
- Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*. Breeding summer visitor to woodland, especially riparian and scrubby habitats in northern, eastern and central Iraq; also passage migrant (A60–62, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI). Observations, both recent and previously, appear to suggest that most (all?) nightingales in Iraq are not *L. (megarhynchos) golzii* (Eastern Nightingale); however this requires further study.
- White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis*. Fairly local breeding summer visitor to open woodlands in hills and mountains in northern Iraq; passage migrant (A60–62, NI, Ar11, Ctyroky 1972, Plate 28).
- Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes*. Fairly widespread breeding summer visitor, but absent from western Iraq; passage migrant (A60–62, NI)
- Eversmann's Redstart** *Phoenicurus erythronotus*. Vagrant (A60–62).
- Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochrurus*. Rare, local, resident breeder in mountains in north Iraq; birds identified as being of the race *ochrurus*, but one pair possibly *semirufus* (see Ar11); otherwise a widespread winter visitor with races *ochrurus* and eastern *phoenicuroides* recorded (A60–62, NI).
- Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Local breeding summer visitor to woodlands in north Iraq with both *phoenicurus* and *samamisticus* recorded; otherwise a widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI, Ar11, Ctyroky 1986).
- Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*. Passage migrant; reference to past winter records have not been confirmed in recent surveys (see Ticehurst *et al* 1922, A60–62, NI)



Plate 28. White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis*, Kurdistan, Iraq, April 2009. © RF Porter

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*. Fairly widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI).

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*. Local breeding summer visitor (race *armenica*) to northeastern hills and mountains; fairly widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI, Ar11).

Red-rumped Wheatear *Oenanthe moesta*. Status uncertain; no reports since 1920s (A60–62).

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*. Breeding summer visitor to hilly country in northern Iraq; widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI).

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Very local breeding summer visitor to mountain slopes and foothills in northeast; widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI, Ar11).

Kurdistan Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopyrmyna*. Very local breeding summer visitor to mountain slopes in northeast Iraq; uncommon passage migrant, mainly in north and central Iraq (A60–62, MB56, Ar11, NI, Plate 29).



Plate 29. Kurdistan Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopygna*, Kurdistan, Iraq, March 2010. © Omar Fadhil Al-Sheikhly

Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe chrysopygia*. Uncommon passage migrant; pairs present in spring in suitable habitat in mountains of northeast Iraq may suggest breeding (A60–62, NI, Ar11).

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*. Passage migrant mainly in central, southern and eastern Iraq (A60–62, MB56, Sage 1960, NI).

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*. Breeding summer visitor to northern hilly country; widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI).

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*. Passage migrant and winter visitor, but rarely in north (A60–62, NI).

Eastern Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens*. Local and uncommon resident or summer visitor to mountain foothills in northeast and central Iraq; also a rare passage migrant or winter visitor, including to central and southern Iraq (A60–62, Harrison 1959, MB56, Marchant 1961, NI, Ar11, Plate 30). Ar11 states that this wheatear had not been recorded in Iraq prior to NI surveys; this requires correction as the observations of Harrison (1959), Marchant (1961) and MB56 indicate it is also a rare passage migrant or winter visitor.

Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*. Resident breeder in northern foothills; winter visitor (A60–62, NI, Ar11).



Plate 30. Eastern Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens*, Kurdistan, Iraq, May 2011. © RF Porter



Plate 31. Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*, Kurdistan, Iraq, April 2009. © Korsh Ararat Majeed

Hume's Wheatear *Oenanthe albonigra*. Rare resident in rocky valleys in hills of extreme east (NI, Sage 1960).

White-crowned Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*. Vagrant (Salim 2010).

Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*. Local breeding summer visitor to mountains in northern Iraq, with first proven record in 2009; rather uncommon passage migrant (A60–62, NI, Plate 31).

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*. Breeding resident and also probably breeding summer visitor to mountains in north; fairly widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. Breeding summer visitor to northern Iraq; widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI, Ar11).

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*. There are no confirmed records and most past claims clearly refer to Semi-collared Flycatcher (see A60–62, MB57, Marchant 1962).

Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* NT. Passage migrant, mostly observed in spring in northern Iraq (A60–62, MB57, NI, Plate 32). Previously this taxon was regarded as a race of Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* and appeared as such in older literature (see eg MB57).

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*. Rare or uncommon passage migrant (A60–62, NI).

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*. Very local breeding resident on streams in the northern mountains (A60–62, MB57, NI, Ar11).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Widespread breeding resident (A60–62, NI).

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*. Local breeding resident in north and central Iraq; widespread winter visitor (A60–62, NI, Ar11).



Plate 32. Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*, Kurdistan, Iraq, April 2009. © Mudhafar Salim

Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus*. Local breeding resident found especially along major watercourses; widespread in winter (A60–62, Al-Dabbagh 1998, NI).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*. Rare winter visitor to north and central Iraq (A60–62, MB57, NI).

Pale Rockfinch *Carpospiza brachydactyla*. Local breeding summer visitor in the northern hills; passage migrant (A60–62, NI, Ar11).

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*. Local breeding resident in northern hills and mountains (A60–62, MB57, NI, Ar11).

Yellow-throated Sparrow *Gymnoris xanthocollis*. Local breeding summer visitor in montane oak woodland in northern Iraq and in willow, tamarix and date palms in southern Iraq; passage migrant (A60–62, MB57, NI).

White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*. Very local breeding resident in high mountains of northern Iraq; winter visitor (MB57, NI, Ar11).

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*. Local winter visitor to northern Iraq where may breed (A60–62, MB57, NI, Ar11).

Radde's Accentor *Prunella ocularis*. May breed in high mountains in north Iraq where singing birds seen in May; also recorded in October and January, possibly wintering birds from Turkey (MacKenzie *in litt* to MI Evans 2007, NI, Laith Ali pers comm, OFA-S, MS).

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*. Rare winter visitor to northern Iraq (A60–62, MB57, NI).

- Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*. Widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI). The following races have been observed on migration: *lutea*, *superciliaris*, *dombrowski*, *flava*, *beema*, *thunbergi*. Of these the most regular appear to be *lutea*, *dombrowski* and *thunbergi* (A60–62, NI).
- Black-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla (flava) feldegg*. Widespread passage migrant; may breed in the southern wetlands (A60–62, MB57, NI, Ar11). The race *melanogrisea* (Eastern Black-headed Wagtail) has also been recorded and photographed (NI).
- Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor (SC82, NI).
- Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. Local breeding resident on streams in northern Iraq; widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, MB57, NI).
- White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*. Local breeding resident in northern Iraq; widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI).
- Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*. Fairly widespread passage migrant, a few remaining in winter (A60–62, NI).
- Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis*. Vagrant (A60–62).
- Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*. Passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, MB57, NI).
- Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*. Passage migrant (A60–62, NI).
- Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*. Passage migrant (A60–62, NI).
- Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*. Probably breeds as found in suitable breeding habitat at a mountain site in northeast Iraq in June 2011 (Mariwan Qadir pers comm); fairly widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, MB57, NI).
- Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*. Local breeding resident in wooded hills in northern Iraq; fairly widespread winter visitor but uncommon in south (A60–62, MB57, NI, Ar11).
- Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*. Uncommon winter visitor to northern Iraq (A60–62, MB57).
- Red-fronted Serin** *Serinus pusillus*. Very local breeding resident in the northern mountains; winter visitor to northern Iraq (A60–62, NI, Ar11).
- European Serin** *Serinus serinus*. Uncommon winter visitor to northern Iraq (A60–62, MB57).
- Syrian Serin** *Serinus syriacus*. Status uncertain. Ticehurst *et al* (1926) wrote: “Appeared at Dohuk at the latter half of December in fairly large numbers, feeding on the seeds of reeds and became common”. These observations are not dated but probably refer to the mid 1910s/early 1920s. In addition a male collected by La Personne from Dohuk, in northern Iraq, on 22 December 1922 (Unnithan 2004) is in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society. Despite coverage of this area by other observers, notably Moore & Boswell and Nature Iraq in their KBA surveys, no others have been observed. The feeding on reed seeds is unknown in the Syrian Serin, but there are *Artemisia* shrublands in the Dohuk region, a plant which Syrian Serins are known to feed on (Khoury 1998, 2003). It is possible that there is a yet to be discovered colony in north Iraq.

- European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*. Uncommon winter visitor to north and central Iraq; birds seen in summer in open woodland in hills of northern Iraq may indicate breeding (A60–62, Ctyroky 1988, NI).
- Eurasian Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*. Winter visitor but uncommon in southern Iraq (A60–62, NI).
- European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*. Breeding resident in open woodland in north Iraq; passage migrant and winter visitor to north and central Iraq (A60–62, NI).
- Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*. Rare winter visitor or vagrant (A60–62).
- Common Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*. Rather local breeding resident in the northern hills; winter visitor (A60–62, NI).
- Eurasian Crimson-winged Finch** *Rhodopechys sanguineus*. Vagrant (A60–62).
- Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus*. Uncommon winter visitor (A60–62, MB57, NI).
- Desert Finch** *Rhodospiza obsoleta*. Fairly widespread winter visitor; may breed (A60–62, MB57, Ar11, NI).
- Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Vagrant (Kainady 1977).
- Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. Uncommon winter visitor in the north (A60–62, MB57, NI).
- Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*. Breeding resident in northern farmland and open woodland; fairly widespread passage migrant and winter visitor (A60–62, NI).
- Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*. Uncommon winter visitor to northern and central Iraq (A60–62, MB57, NI).
- Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*. Uncommon winter visitor to northern and central Iraq (A60–62, NI).
- Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia*. Winter visitor to the hills in northern Iraq where may breed (A60–62, MB57, NI, Ar11).
- Grey-necked Bunting** *Emberiza buchanani*. Rare summer visitor to mountains in northeast Iraq, where breeding recorded at one site in 2011 (NI; see also Ar11).
- Eastern Cinereous Bunting** *Emberiza semenowi* NT. Widespread and not uncommon breeding summer visitor to the northern open woodland and rocky hills; passage migrant (A60–62, NI, Ar11, Plate 33).
- Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*. Breeding summer visitor to the hills of northern Iraq; widespread passage migrant (A60–62, NI).
- Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*. Vagrant (A60–62, George & Mahdi 69).
- Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*. Widespread breeding summer visitor to open woodlands in northern Iraq; passage migrant (A60–62, NI).
- Common Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Uncommon winter visitor (A60–62, Kainady 77, NI).



Plate 33. Eastern Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza semenowi*, Kurdistan, Iraq, April 2009. © RF Porter

Records cited in the literature but no longer considered acceptable (lack of supporting detail)

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*. Past occasional winter records (see Allouse 1953) almost certainly refer to Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*.

Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus*. See Allouse (1953).

Desert Whitethroat *Sylvia minula*. Given in Al-Dabbagh (1998) but no supporting evidence.

The following species have been mentioned in past publications but no references to the original records have been found: **Shikra** *Accipiter badius*, **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*, **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*, **Asian Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella cheleensis*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following for helping with our questions and requests for information: Simon Aspinall, AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan, Peter Castell, Alan Dean, Mike Evans, Chris Gibbins, Fares Koury, Mary Hennen, Dick Newell, Robert Prys-Jones, Bryan Sage and David Willard. Our sincere thanks go to the staff of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment: Dr Kamal Latif (Technical Deputy) and Dr Ali Al-Lami (Ministerial Advisor) and their kind staff who helped in the surveys.

We would also like to thank the following colleagues in Nature Iraq for helping with fieldwork and giving their help, advice and support in the checklist's production: Laith Ali, Mariwan Qadir, Anna Bachmann and Azzam Alwash.

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