

## EGYPT: Birds and History

“Without doubt the most significant aspect of our Egypt birds-and-history tour this year was the fact that we were frequently the only tourists around, even in the 10,000-visitors-a-day Valley of the Kings or at Kom Ombo temple – a unique opportunity to photograph the historic sites free of crowds. Similarly we were often the only guests at our chosen hotel.

Memorable also were our three very different but equally satisfying boat trips: through the first cataract and around the islands at Aswan (with no less than nine species of heron including Mangrove/Striated and Little Bittern); on Lake Nasser (with White Pelican, Greater Flamingo, African Pied Wagtail, and climactically Yellow-billed Stork); and on the Red Sea (with superb views of the first Sooty Falcon of the year). And even our shorter boat trip to view Philae temple on Egelika island provided definitive views of our first Egyptian Goose plus 22 (Red Data Book) Ferruginous Ducks and our only White-winged Black Terns.

On land, each new location hosted its own special birds: Crocodile Island at Luxor presented Greater Painted Snipe (the first record there for several years) and our first Senegal Thick-knee, African Swampphen, and Nile Valley Sunbirds; Abessa gave us Senegal Coucal, Streaked Weaver, and a profusion of White-throated Kingfishers; the Sinai came up trumps with the eponymous Rosefinch, Tristram’s Grackle, Yellow-vented Bulbul, Blackstart, and at least a glimpse of Sand Partridge; Sharm el Sheikh gave us dramatic views of Lichtenstein’s Sandgrouse plus a more elusive Little Crake and Bluethroat; Wadi Hegul Hoopoe Lark, Rock Thrush, and Mourning Wheatear (now split from Maghreb Wheatear in North-west Africa); Daraw camel market Namaque Doves; the Red Sea coast Sooty and White-eyed Gulls and the parting gift of a close perched Lanner; Aswan fish-farm the Three-banded Plover; Shalatein Lappet-faced Vulture; Suez Crested Tern and summer-plumage Greater Sand Plover; Abu Simbel Rufous Bush Robin, Collared Pratincole, African Collared Dove, and spectacularly African Mourning Dove (this must have been the first birding tour ever to seen three Collared Dove look-alikes on the same trip)... And our decision to take the coastal route around the southern Sinai paid off with a classic example of visible migration – the magnificent spectacle of ten thousand White Storks in a never-ending stream above our vehicle. Even the Valley of the Kings will be remembered for our only Trumpeter Finches (outnumbering the tourists at that moment by three to one). All in all, we saw more than thirty species which in the Western Palearctic are restricted to that little corner of our area and a further thirty which, by any standards, have to be rated as very special. A sequence of memorable moments.

And, although temples and tombs are not as mobile and unpredictable in their year-to-year appearances as the birds, we also enjoyed the best-ever views of the historical sites uncluttered by tourists and unimpeded by football-crowd jostling.”

### BIRD LIST:

- Column A = Number of tours on which this species has been recorded
- Column B = Number of days this species was seen on the last tour
- Column C = Maximum daily count for this species on the last tour
- H = Heard only
- (I) = Introduced

A	B	C		
5	1	1	H	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
3				<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
6				<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
5				<i>Sula leucogaster</i>

## EGYPT Birds and History: Bird List...2

9	Continental Cormorant	2	8	<i>Phalacrocorax (carbo) sinensis</i>
1	Long-tailed Cormorant			<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
10	White Pelican	1	1	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
2	Dalmatian Pelican			<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
7	Pink-backed Pelican			<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
10	Little Bittern	1	4	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
12	Night Heron	7	100	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
12	Striated Heron	2	3	<i>Butorides striatus brevipes</i>
12	Squacco Heron	13	50	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
12	Cattle Egret	13	'00s	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
12	Western Reef Egret	2	20	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
12	Little Egret	11	100	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
10	Great Egret	5	5	<i>Egretta alba</i>
12	Grey Heron	7	100	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
12	Purple Heron	5	6	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
9	Yellow-billed Stork	1	1	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
4	Black Stork			<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
12	White Stork	2	10'000	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
7	Glossy Ibis	3	50	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
12	Spoonbill	1	2	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
7	Greater Flamingo	2	200	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
12	Egyptian Goose	3	500	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>
4	Wigeon			<i>Anas penelope</i>
5	Teal	1	5	<i>Anas crecca</i>
6	Mallard			<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
4	Pintail			<i>Anas acuta</i>
8	Garganey			<i>Anas querquedula</i>
11	Shoveler	1	30	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
3	Pochard			<i>Aythya ferina</i>
4	Ferruginous Duck	2	22	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
8	Tufted Duck			<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
1	Goldeneye			<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
2	Honey Buzzard	1	1	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
12	Black-winged Kite	1	10	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
12	Black Kite	12	50	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
4	Black-eared Kite	5	2	<i>Milvus lineatus</i>
2	Griffon Vulture			<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
3	Lappet-faced Vulture	1	20	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
12	Egyptian Vulture	2	8	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
12	Short-toed Eagle	2	2	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
10	Marsh Harrier	3	3	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
3	Pallid Harrier			<i>Circus macrourus</i>
8	Montagu's Harrier			<i>Circus pygargus</i>
10	Sparrowhawk	4	2	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
4	Levant Sparrowhawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>
12	Steppe Buzzard	9	100	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>
10	Long-legged Buzzard	1	4	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
7	Lesser Spotted Eagle			<i>Aquila pomarina</i>
7	Spotted Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila clanga</i>

### EGYPT Birds and History: Bird List...3

12	Steppe Eagle	2	1	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
3	Tawny Eagle			<i>Aquila rapax</i>
8	Imperial Eagle			<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
9	Booted Eagle	2	2	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
3	Bonelli's Eagle			<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>
12	Osprey	4	20	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
5	Lesser Kestrel			<i>Falco naumanni</i>
12	Kestrel	10	6	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
4	Sooty Falcon	1	3	<i>Falco concolor</i>
6	Lanner	2	2	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
1	Saker			<i>Falco cherrug</i>
1	Peregrine			<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
2	Barbary Falcon			<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>
6	Chukar			<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
8	Sand Partridge	1	1	<i>Ammoperdix heyi</i>
9	Quail			<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
2	Spotted Crake			<i>Porzana porzana</i>
1	Little Crake	1	1	<i>Porzana parva</i>
12	Moorhen	7	60	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
12	Purple Swamp-hen	3	8	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
5	Coot			<i>Fulica atra</i>
5	Common Crane			<i>Grus grus</i>
8	Painted Snipe	1	1	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
8	Oystercatcher			<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
12	Black-winged Stilt	2	20	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
3	Avocet			<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
1	Stone-curlew			<i>Burhinus oedichenus</i>
12	Senegal Thick-knee	3	2	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>
7	Cream-coloured Courser			<i>Cursorius cursor</i>
6	Collared Pratincole	1	1	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
11	Little Ringed Plover	2	2	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
12	Ringed Plover	3	25	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
8	Kittlitz's Plover			<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
11	Kentish Plover	2	4	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
4	Greater Sand Plover	1	1	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
1	Caspian Plover			<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>
1	Three-banded Plover	1	1	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
12	Grey Plover	2	120	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
12	Spur-winged Lapwing	8	30	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
1	White-tailed Lapwing			<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>
1	Knot			<i>Calidris canutus</i>
2	Sanderling			<i>Calidris alba</i>
12	Little Stint	4	50	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
7	Temminck's Stint	2	3	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
9	Curlew Sandpiper			<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
12	Dunlin	1	40	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
12	Ruff	2	230	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
1	Jack Snipe			<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>
10	Common Snipe			<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>

## EGYPT Birds and History: Bird List...4

7	Black-tailed Godwit			<i>Limosa limosa</i>
7	Bar-tailed Godwit			<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
10	Whimbrel	1	1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
11	Curlew			<i>Numenius arquata</i>
12	Spotted Redshank	1	1	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
11	Redshank	1	6	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
11	Marsh Sandpiper			<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
12	Greenshank	7	15	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
12	Green Sandpiper	3	7	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
12	Wood Sandpiper	5	10	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
4	Terek Sandpiper			<i>Xenus cinercus</i>
12	Common Sandpiper	6	6	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
7	Turnstone	2	30	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
3	Arctic Skua			<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
12	Sooty Gull	3	50	<i>Larus hemprichii</i>
12	White-eyed Gull	5	50	<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>
3	Great Black-headed Gull			<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>
12	Black-headed Gull	3	5	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
12	Slender-billed Gull	3	100	<i>Larus genei</i>
12	Lesser Black-backed (Baltic) Gull	2	8	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
10	Caspian Gull			<i>Larus (cachinnans) cachinnans</i>
6	Armenian Gull	1	1	<i>Larus armenicus</i>
12	Gull-billed Tern	4	10	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
12	Caspian Tern	3	10	<i>Sterna caspia</i>
9	Sandwich Tern	1	5	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
10	Common Tern	2	3	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
10	Little Tern	3	20	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
9	Crested Tern	1	2	<i>Sterna bergii</i>
5	Lesser Crested Tern	1	1	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>
9	White-cheeked Tern	1	15	<i>Sterna repressa</i>
12	Whiskered Tern	6	10	<i>Chidonias hybrida</i>
5	Black Tern	1	2	<i>Chidonias niger</i>
7	White-winged Black Tern	1	2	<i>Chidonias leucopterus</i>
3	African Skimmer			<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>
7	Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	1	50	<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>
10	Crowned Sandgrouse			<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>
9	Spotted Sandgrouse			<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>
12	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	14	50	<i>Columba livia</i>
6	African Collared Dove	4	2	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>
12	Collared Dove	5	14	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
1	African Mourning Dove	2	1	<i>Streptopelin decipiens</i>
12	Turtle Dove	7	50	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
12	Laughing Dove	15	100	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
2	Namaqua Dove	1	60	<i>Oena capensis</i>
1	Great Spotted Cuckoo			<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
2	Cuckoo			<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
10	Senegal Coucal	1	1	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
8	Barn Owl			<i>Tyto alba</i>
7	Pharaoh Eagle Owl			<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>

## EGYPT Birds and History: Bird List...5

7	Little Owl				<i>Athene noctua</i>
5	Hume's Tawny Owl				<i>Strix butleri</i>
5	Egyptian Nightjar	1	1	H	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>
2	Alpine Swift				<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
12	Common Swift	2	10		<i>Apus apus</i>
12	Pallid Swift	2	40		<i>Apus pallidus</i>
12	White-breasted Kingfisher	2	30		<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
9	Kingfisher	1	1		<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
12	Pied Kingfisher	11	50		<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
12	Little Green Bee-eater	8	20		<i>Merops orientalis</i>
12	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	3	5		<i>Merops superciliosus</i>
10	European Bee-eater	2	4		<i>Merops orientalis</i>
3	European Roller				<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
12	Hoopoe	12	15		<i>Upupa epops</i>
2	Rose-ringed Parakeet (I)	3	6		<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
2	Alexandrine Parakeet (I)	1	2		<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
11	Wryneck	2	2		<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
6	Bar-tailed Desert Lark	1	2		<i>Ammomanes cincturus</i>
12	Desert Lark	2	4		<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>
10	Hoopoe Lark	1	2		<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>
2	Bimaculated Lark				<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>
12	Short-toed Lark	2	50		<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
1	Lesser Short-toed Lark				<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>
12	Crested Lark	6	20		<i>Galerida cristata</i>
12	Sand Martin	1	8		<i>Riparia riparia</i>
12	Rock Martin	7	10		<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
6	Crag Martin	1	12		<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
12	Swallow	11	50		<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
12	Mosque (Egyptian) Swallow	8	20		<i>Hirundo rustica savignii</i>
12	Red-rumped Swallow	1	40		<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
12	House Martin	3	10		<i>Delichon urbica</i>
3	Richard's Pipit				<i>Anthus novaerseelandiae</i>
12	Tawny Pipit	2	7		<i>Anthus campestris</i>
1	Buff-bellied Pipit				<i>Anthus rubescens</i>
12	Tree Pipit	6	20		<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
11	Meadow Pipit	1	1		<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
12	Red-throated Pipit	2	1		<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
3	Water Pipit				<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
12	Yellow Wagtail	6	3		<i>Motacilla flava</i>
8	Black-headed Wagtail	2	4		<i>Motacilla feldegg</i>
3	Grey Wagtail	2	1		<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
2	Citrine Wagtail				<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
12	White Wagtail	6	6		<i>Motacilla alba</i>
9	African Pied Wagtail	2	8		<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
10	Yellow-vented Bulbul	2	20		<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>
12	Common Bulbul	6	7		<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
9	Rufous Bush Robin	2	1		<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>
2	Robin				<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
3	Thrush Nightingale				<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>

## EGYPT Birds and History: Bird List...6

10	Nightingale	1	1		<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
8	Bluethroat	1	1		<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
4	Black Redstart				<i>Phoenicurus cinerea</i>
11	Redstart	2	1		<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
7	Blackstart	2	7		<i>Cercomela melanura</i>
7	Whinchat	3	3		<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
2	Stonechat				<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
1	Siberian Stonechat				<i>Saxicola maura variegata</i>
11	Isabelline Wheatear	3	2		<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>
12	Northern Wheatear	7	10		<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
7	Pied Wheateater	1	1		<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>
3	Cyprus Pied Wheatear				<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>
12	Black-eared Wheatear	3	1		<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
8	Desert Wheatear	2	5		<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
11	Mourning Wheatear	1	1		<i>Oenanthe lugens</i>
5	Hooded Wheatear				<i>Oenanthe monacha</i>
12	White-crowned Wheatear	5	15		<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>
2	Persian Wheatear				<i>Oenanthe xanthopyrna</i>
5	Rock Thrush	2	1		<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
10	Blue Rock Thrush	1	1		<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
11	Blackbird	1	2	H	<i>Turdus merula</i>
12	Fan-tailed Warbler	3	8		<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
12	Graceful Warbler	6	10		<i>Prinia gracilis</i>
7	Scrub Warbler				<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>
2	Savi's Warbler				<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
3	Moustached Warbler				<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
12	Sedge Warbler	5	1		<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
5	Marsh Warbler				<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
12	Reed Warbler	4	2		<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
11	Clamorous Reed Warbler	3	4		<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>
4	Great Reed Warbler				<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
12	Olivaceous Warbler	6	6		<i>Hippolais pallida</i>
4	Icterine Warbler				<i>Hippolais icterina</i>
8	Subalpine Warbler				<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
1	Ménétries's Warbler				<i>Sylvia mystacea</i>
5	Sardinian Warbler	1	1		<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
8	Rüppell's Warbler				<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>
12	Lesser Whitethroat	8	30		<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
9	Whitethroat	2	2		<i>Sylvia communis</i>
1	Garden Warbler	1	1		<i>Sylvia borin</i>
8	Blackcap				<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
12	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	8	3		<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>
6	Wood Warbler	1	2		<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
12	Chiffchaff	6	16		<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
2	Willow Warbler				<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
3	Spotted Flycatcher				<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
6	Semi-collared Flycatcher				<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>
5	Collared Flycatcher				<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>
4	Pied Flycatcher				<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>

## EGYPT Birds and History: Bird List...7

12	Nile Valley Sunbird	4	8	<i>Anthreptes metallicus</i>
8	Palestine Sunbird			<i>Nectarinia osea</i>
1	Golden Oriole			<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
4	Isabelline Shrike			<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>
10	Southern Grey Shrike			<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
12	Woodchat Shrike	6	1	<i>Lanius senator</i>
12	Masked Shrike	10	4	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>
12	House Crow	3	200	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
12	Hooded Crow	11	50	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
12	Brown-necked Raven	11	10	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>
10	Tristram's Grackle	1	20	<i>Pnychognathus tristramii</i>
11	House Sparrow	14	100	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
8	Spanish Sparrow	4	50	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
1	Tree Sparrow			<i>Passer montanus</i>
1	Pale Rock Sparrow			<i>Carpospiza brachydactyla</i>
4	Streaked Weaver (I)	1	1	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>
4	Red Avadavat (I)			<i>Amandava amandava</i>
1	Chaffinch			<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
1	Serin			<i>Serinus serinus</i>
1	Tristram's Serin			<i>Serinus syriacus</i>
2	Greenfinch			<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
9	Goldfinch			<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
1	Siskin			<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
1	Linnet			<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
11	Trumpeter Finch	1	15	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>
9	Sinai Rosefinch	1	2	<i>Carpodacus synoicus</i>
4	Ortolan Bunting			<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
2	Cretzschmar's Bunting			<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>