

# Jordan Journal of Natural History



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# Jordan Journal of Natural History

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## Editorial Preface

It is a pleasure to present issue 2 of volume (12) of Jordan Journal of Natural History (JJNH), a journal published by the Conservation Monitoring Centre, The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). The Jordan Journal of Natural History (JJNH) is an open access international scientific journal publishing original research and reviews in nature history in its broadest sense. This is taken to include conservation biology, botany, geology, paleontology, zoology, and ecology, including a broad range of systematics papers encompassing traditional taxonomic revisions and descriptions, cladistics analyses and molecular phylogenetic. The editorial policy of JJNH will follow the lines of most international journals. All manuscripts received by the editor will be examined by referees, who will be instructed to judge the papers by the significance and novelty of the results reported and to favour brevity of presentation.

The editorial board will make every effort to ensure prompt processing of the manuscripts received and to widen the circulation of the journal as far as possible. A group of distinguished scholars have agreed to serve on the editorial board. Without the service and dedication of these eminent scholars, JJNH would have never existed. Now, the editorial board is encouraged by the continuous growth of the journal and its formation into a true multidisciplinary publication. We are also honored to have the privilege of working with all members of the international advisory board served by a team of highly reputable researchers from different countries across the globe. We are also delighted with our team of national and international reviewers who are actively involved in research in different natural history fields and who provide authors with high quality reviews and helpful comments to improve their manuscripts.

We would like to reaffirm that the success of the journal depends on the quality of reviewing and, equally, the quality of the research papers published. In addition to being a hard-copy journal, JJNH is an open access journal which means that all contents are freely available for the users and their institutions free of charge. Users are allowed to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of the articles in this journal without asking for prior permission from the publisher or the author. This is in accordance with the BOAI definition of open access.

At the end of this preface, would like to thank our readers and authors for their continuing interest in JJNH, and each member of our editorial and review boards for their continued hard work, support and dedication, which made it possible to bring another new issue of JJNH to the multidisciplinary international audience. We very much appreciate your support as we strive to make JJNH one of the most leading and authoritative journals in the field of Natural History Sciences.

June, 2025



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## Instruction to Authors

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**Introduction:** Should include a short introduction to the background, a brief literature survey, the scope and aim of the work done.

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Rabia, B and Attum O. 2018. Shoreline encounter and stranding rates of cetanceans and loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* in North Sinai, Egypt. *Jordan Journal of Natural History*, **5** (1): 75-78.

Hamidan, NA, Geiger, MF and Freyhof, J. 2014. *Garra jordanica*, a new species from the Dead Sea basin with remarks on the relationship of *G. ghorensis*, *G. tibanica* and *G. rufa* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae). *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters*, **25** (3): 223-236.

### **Reference to a book**

Brown WY and White SR.1985. **The Elements of Style**, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. MacMillan, New York.

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## **Reference to a chapter in an edited book**

Mettam, GR and Adams, L B. 2010. How to prepare an electronic version of your article. *In*: Jones, B S and Smith, R Z. (Eds.), **Introduction to the Electronic Age**. Kluwer Academic Publishers. Netherlands, Pp. 281–304.

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## An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Syria

### Species Diversity, Subspecies, Distribution, and Conservation Status

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#### Abstract

This manuscript presents a comprehensive and updated checklist of the birds of Syria, the first since the publication of the previous checklist in 2008. Twenty-one new species have been added, and 16 species have been confirmed as breeding for the first time. The taxonomy, as well as the status and distribution of many species, has been updated. The proposed checklist was developed through a combination of field observations and a comprehensive review of all available published articles, research papers, and reports. It includes 415 species belonging to 25 orders and 74 families, of which 194 are breeding, 114 are residents, 82 are summer visitors, 132 are winter visitors, 210 are passage migrants, 15 formerly bred, 46 are vagrants, four are extinct, one is introduced, and 13 have uncertain or unclear status. We report up-to-date information on taxonomic revisions to the Global Avian Checklist, v2025, together with the conservation status recently assessed by the IUCN Red List.

**Key words:** Levant, avifauna, zoogeographical distribution

#### Introduction:

Threats to living species continue due to increasing habitat loss, population expansion, and climate change, and birds are also affected. According to BirdLife International (2022), around 90% of bird

species are affected by more than one threat, and 12% of the world's birds are classified as endangered or critically endangered (IUCN, 2024). Many birds in Syria are threatened due to unregulated hunting and trapping, which has transformed from a hobby to a widespread activity that led to the extermination of entire bird populations (Aidek, 2024), the European Goldfinch, which was once widespread in the coastal region, has become very rare to see as a result of hunting, capture, and illegal trade. In addition to unregulated hunting, habitat loss (driven by climate change, weak law enforcement, and agricultural expansion) is another main reason for the local extinction of some rare species and the disappearance of breeding populations (e.g., Bald Ibis, Great and Little Bustards). Moreover, large numbers of migratory birds are hunted during their passage according to observations of the authors and reports of hunters. Updating information on the status and distribution of birds' species is therefore of great importance for conservation efforts.

This study provides an updated information on all bird species and subspecies recorded in Syria, reassessing their distribution and conservation status. It builds on the previously published checklist of the birds of Syria (Murdouch and Betton, 2008). Several new species have been added, and breeding has been confirmed for others. Additionally, the study offers detailed information on the updated distribution of species across different regions of Syria.

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## History of Ornithological Research in Syria

The first references to the avifauna of Syria originate from the accounts of adventurers, traders, and travelers who passed through the region during their journeys to Arabia. An early example is Belon (1555), who stopped in Aleppo and Damascus during his journey from Greece to Arabia in 1548. Similarly, Rauwolff (1582) visited Aleppo and the Euphrates and documented several bird species from the region. These early observers were followed by travelers and zoologists who contributed additional data on the birds of Syria. A comprehensive overview of historical references to Syrian avifauna — including books, articles, and reports — is provided in Appendix 1.

Later researchers built on previous reports and studies, as well as their fieldwork, to prepare comprehensive assessments of the birds of Syria. Hans Kumerloeve conducted numerous field trips to Syria, publishing a series of papers that were used to compile the first comprehensive list of Syrian bird species (Kumerloeve, 1967-1969). Wolfgang Baumgart took advantage of his professional posting in Damascus to undertake field trips throughout the country; he added new observations to produce the first major book on the birds of Syria, published first in German (Baumgart *et al.* 1995) and later translated into English by Tony Bannister, Gary Bletsch, Brian Hillcoat, and Christian Neumann on behalf of the Ornithological Society of the Middle East (OSME) in 2003 (Baumgart *et al.* 2003).

Gianluca Serra, a UN-affiliated researcher working on an FAO project aimed at establishing the Al-Talila Reserve in Syria, made many bird observations in the Palmyra region of central Syria (Serra *et al.* 2005a, 2005b), most notably the remarkable discovery of a Northern Bald Ibis colony in 2002 (Serra *et al.* 2003). The discovery of the Bald Ibis colony near Palmyra significantly increased international interest in Syrian

ornithology, coinciding with a slightly relaxed political climate in the early 2000s and growing opportunities for tourism, which allowed birdwatchers to visit the country. Consequently, the OSME Winter Expedition of 2004 (Murdoch *et al.* 2004, 2005) and several subsequent visits were conducted by Murdoch *et al.*, leading to new ornithological discoveries and the production of an updated checklist in 2008 (Murdoch and Betton, 2008). A comprehensive overview of these references, including articles and reports, is provided in Appendix 1.

A Dutch survey was conducted in 2007 to investigate the status of the Critically Endangered Sociable Lapwing in Syria. The survey report included a list of all bird species recorded during the expedition (Hofland and Keijl, 2008). Eskelin and Timonen (2010) provided a list of birds while surveying the Lesser White-fronted Goose along the Euphrates and adjacent wetlands. Sabkhat al-Jabboul<sup>1</sup>, one of the most important bird areas in the Middle East (Evans, 1994), was extensively studied between 2008 and 2009 (Hamidan and Moghrabi, 2010), resulting in the addition of many new species records. The outbreak of conflict in early 2011 led to a complete cessation of birdwatching activities. Since 2018, limited field trips have been possible in some secure areas. Most recent efforts were carried out by one of the authors, who studied the birds and biodiversity of the Euphrates Valley and Al-Badia region around Deir ez-Zor and its surroundings (Aidek, 2000, 2010). Moreover, a study on Syria's small mammals through owl pellets has also contributed valuable information on the country's owl species (Al-Sheikhly and Aidek, 2023).

## Study Area

The Syrian Arab Republic, hereafter referred to as Syria, is located in the western part of Asia, within the Levant region. It covers an area of 185,180 km<sup>2</sup>, situated on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea, between

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1 Sabkha (Sabkhat): seasonal saline lakes

32°19' and 37°30'N latitudes, and 35°45' and 42°25'E longitudes. The country has a coastline measuring 183 km (Figure 1).

### Geographical landscape

Although more than half of Syria's territory consists of arid and semi-arid regions, its diverse topographic landscape—comprising forests, rivers, lakes, and high mountains—distinguishes the country through its geographical variety. This diversity along with geographical location makes Syria home of a diverse avifauna and route for over a hundred bird species.

– The coastal mountains (Figure 2A-C) in the west are characterized by dense forests and abundant rainfall, with peaks reaching

1,562 m in Slenfeh (Figure 2B) and 1,720 m Jabal<sup>2</sup> al-Aqra. The Nahr<sup>3</sup> Al-Kabir Al-Shamali flows through the northern part of the coastal region, while the Nahr Al-Kabir Al-Janoubi forms the border with Lebanon. East of the coastal region, the Orontes River originates in Lebanon and flows northward into Türkiye (Figure 2D).

– Further east, in northern Syria stretch the plains of the Aleppo Plateau stretch towards the Euphrates. Two wetlands that are important for birds are located in this landscape: Sabkhat Al-Jabboul (Figure 3A), considered one of the most important bird areas in the Middle East, and Sabkhat Abu adh-Dhuhour



Figure 1. Map of Syria (© Ahmad Aidek)

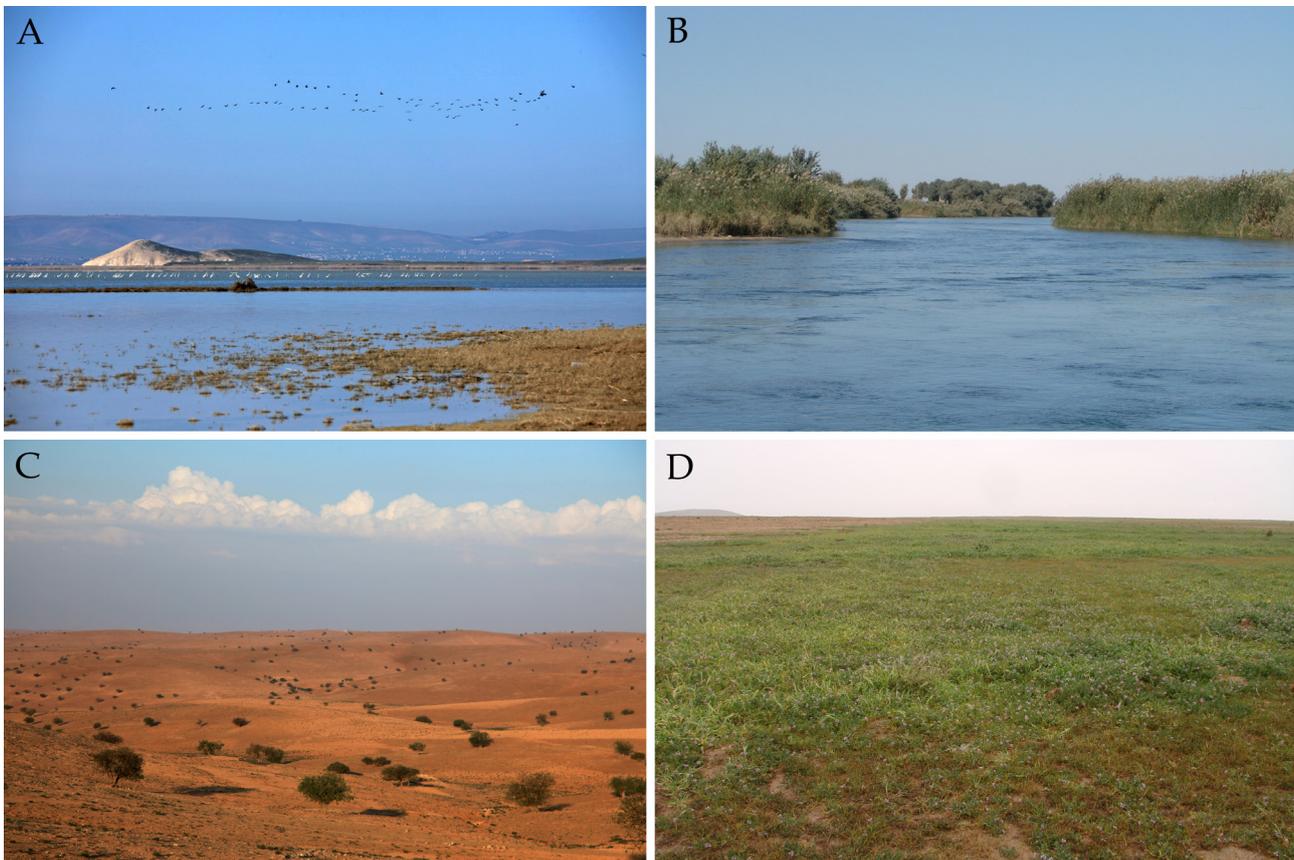
2 Jabal: Mountain

3 Nahr: River

4 Khabra (Khabrat): small pool in Al-Badia

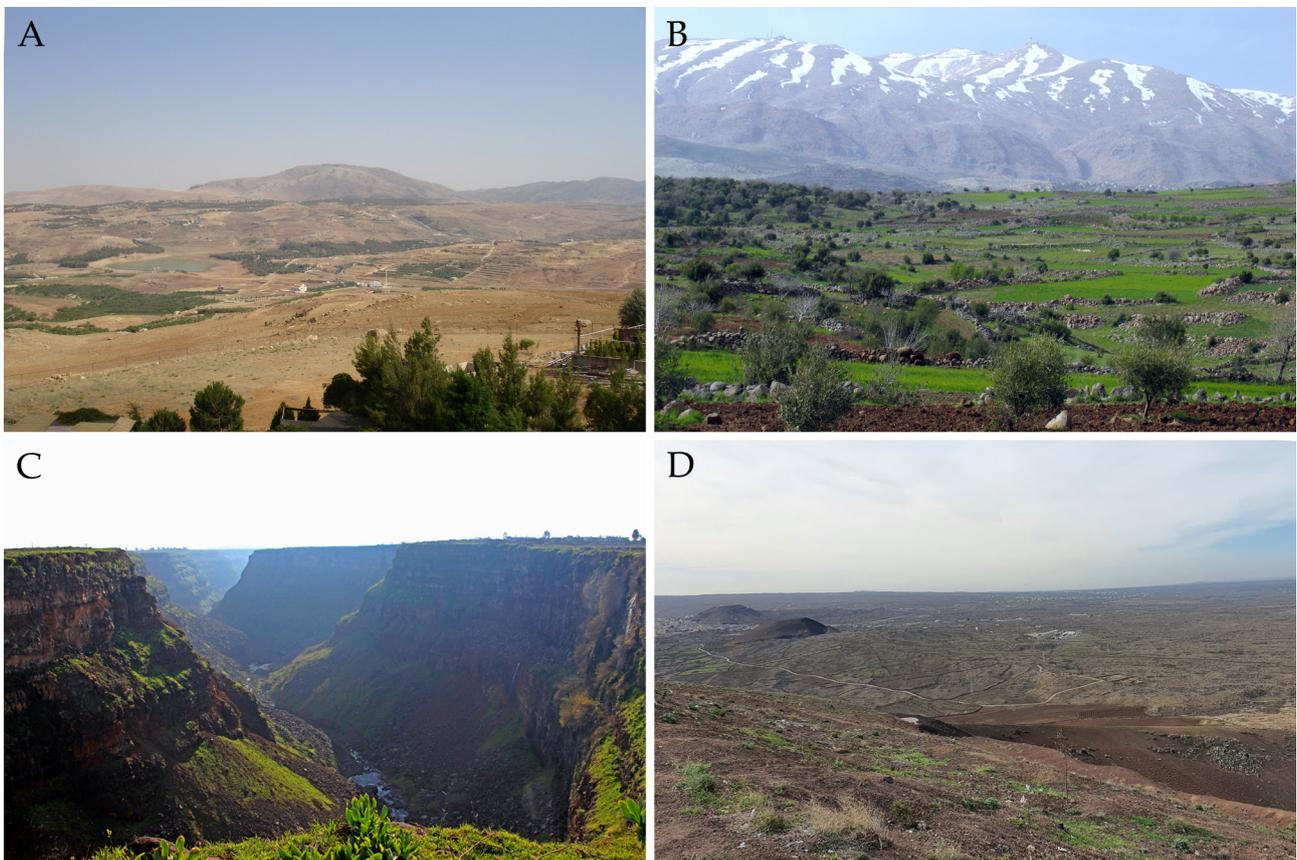


**Figure 2.** Views from northwest: (A) Um et-Tiur, coastal (© Issam Hajjar); (B) Slenfeh forest (© Mahmoud K. Ali); (C) Al-Kadmous forest (© Ahmad Aidek); (D) Darkoush, Orontes Basin (© Issam Hajjar).



**Figure 3.** Views from the north: (A) Sabkhat al-Jabboul (© Issam Hajjar); (B) Euphrates, west of Deir ez-Zor (© Ahmad Aidek); (C) Jabal Al-Bilas (© Issam Hajjar); (D) Al-Hjeifat steppe, Al-Jazira (© Ahmad Aidek).

- The Al-Jazira region (Syrian Mesopotamia) is located in the northeast, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and is characterized by steppes, hills, and extensive agricultural areas (Figure 3D). The region's highest point, Jabal Abd Al-Aziz, rises to 950 m. Rainfall in Al-Jazira decreases from approximately 400 millimeters in the north to 120 millimeters in the south. Two tributaries of the Euphrates River, Al-Khabur and Al-Balikh, originate in Türkiye and flow through this region.
- The high mountainous region in the southwest, the Anti-Lebanon Mountain Range (Figure 4A), rises to altitudes exceeding 1,000 m and extends for 175 km, forming the border with Lebanon. Rainfall in this region averages 600–700 mm. The highest peak, Mount Hermon “Jabal Al-Sheikh”, reaches 2,814 m (Figure 4B). The Barada River originates in the Anti-Lebanon Mountains, flowing through Damascus and into Utaibeh Lake.
- The Golan Heights lie south of Mount Hermon, and east and north of the Golan stretch Hauran plain. These are bordered in the south by the Yarmouk Valley, which also forms part of the border with Jordan. The valley's elevation is - 156 m (Figure 4C), and it contains Mzeirib Lake. East of the valley lie the Jabal al-Arab hills (Figure 4D), a volcanic field whose highest peak reaches 1,805 m.
- Al-Badia (Syrian Desert, Badiat ash-Sham) covers roughly one-third of Syria's total area, extending across the central, eastern, and southern regions of the country (Figure 5). Despite its arid and semi-arid conditions, with average rainfall ranging from 100–200 mm, Al-Badia serves as an important bird habitat due to its diverse terrain, which includes steppes, hills, mountains, and numerous seasonal ponds and khabras<sup>4</sup> during the rainy season. The Euphrates River (Figure 4B), along with its associated lakes and marshes—which separate Al-Jazira from Al-Badia—creates a unique environment rich in diverse bird habitats (Abdulsalam, 1990; CSBD 1998; Aidek, 2010).



**Figure 4.** Views from the southwest: (A) az-Zabadani, Anti-Lebanon (© Ahmad Aidek); (B) Golan Heights and Mt. Hermon (©Issam Hajjar); (C) Wadi ar-Ruqad, Yarmouk Valley (© Issam Hajjar); (D) Shahba, Jabal Al-Arab (© Wa'el Almatni).



**Figure 5.** Views from Al-Badia. (© Ahmad Aidak).

### Flora and Vegetation Zones

The floristic richness of Syria reflects not only the adaptive capacity of its plant species to a wide spectrum of climatic conditions but also their integral role in shaping the country's cultural heritage and economic resilience. Syria's pronounced environmental heterogeneity—driven by its diverse topography, altitudinal gradients, and varying precipitation regimes—has produced a complex mosaic of climatic and ecological zones. These factors have collectively structured the nation's botanical landscape, giving rise to distinct phytogeographical regions, each characterized by unique vegetation assemblages. According to Chikhali et al. (2025), Syria encompasses five principal botanical landscapes. The following section presents a detailed examination of these regions and their defining geographical and ecological features:

**(i) Marine Mediterranean Zone:** This zone is characterized by low diurnal and annual thermal variability and an absence of frost at

sea level. Precipitation averages around 800 mm annually on the coast and surpasses 1,000 mm in montane areas. The coastal plains and adjacent foothills sustain a rich assemblage of Mediterranean vegetation, including forests dominated by *Quercus* and *Pistacia* species, in addition to diverse annual grasses and chamaephytes. At elevations exceeding 1,400 m, coniferous forests are composed of *Cedrus libani*, *Juniperus* sp., and *Pinus* sp. predominate. *Cedrus libani* is primarily distributed along eastern slopes, whereas *Abies cilicica* occupies western aspects. This zone also supports a notable diversity of avifauna; more than eighty species breed here, including several taxa restricted in Syria to this region, such as the Eurasian nuthatch and the red crossbill. Coastal habitats additionally host Shearwaters, Gulls, and Terns.

**(ii) High Mountainous Zone:** The altitude of this zone exceeds 1,000 m. At altitudes approaching 2,000 m in the Anti-Lebanon range, severe climatic conditions give rise to vegetation characteristic of sub-alpine

and alpine belts. The flora is dominated by sparse tragacanthic shrubs, with prominent taxa including *Juniperus excelsa* and *Pyrus syriaca*. Despite the relatively low vegetation cover, the region serves as an important refuge for numerous specialized bird species, particularly migrants and high-altitude breeders such as the Alpine Chough, Alpine Accentor, Syrian Serin, and the Asian Crimson-winged Finch.

**(iii) Syrian Climate Zone:** This climatic zone occupies a relatively confined area situated between the Anti-Lebanon Mountains and the arid steppes. Annual precipitation typically ranges from 250 to 500 mm. Within regions such as Damascus, Houran, Aleppo, and Al-Jazira, the vegetation is dominated by dispersed xerophytic shrub formations—including *Anabasis*, *Salsola*, *Artemisia*, and *Haloxyton*—accompanied by tree species such as *Crataegus azarolus*. The zone encompasses a variety of distinct habitats, each supporting characteristic avifauna: Sabkhat al-Jabboul on the Aleppo Plateau; the Yarmouk Valley in the southwest, notable for the Long-billed Pipit; the southern basalt plateaus, distinguished by the Basalt Wheatear; and the northeastern Al-Jazira, where the Red-wattled Lapwing is a defining species.

**(iv) Dry Zone (Al-Badia):** Covering more than 55% of Syria, Al-Badia is defined by arid climatic conditions with annual rainfall below 200 mm, restricted primarily to winter months. Vegetation is composed of a rich diversity of ephemeral annuals and drought-tolerant perennials. While arboreal species are generally absent, localized stands of *Pistacia atlantica* occur in areas such as Jabal al-Bilaas. The region is crucial for many desert-adapted bird taxa, including Sandgrouse, Larks, and Wheatears. Several species not found elsewhere, such as Sociable Lapwing, Sand Partridge, Cream-colored Courser, and Eagle-owl.

**(v) Hygrophytic Vegetation:** Hygrophytic and riparian vegetation in Syria is often associated with volcanic and sandstone soils.

The Euphrates basin is considered the most important and largest of those environments. The Euphrates River, its banks, and its riparian forests are home to over 200 bird species. Many of these are found nowhere else in Syria, such as the Black Francolin, White-tailed Lapwing, Basra Reed Warbler, White-eared Bulbul, and Iraq Babbler.

Syria's geographical location — as part of the land bridge between Eurasia and Africa and the wide range of bioclimatic and zoogeographic habitats across its territory contribute to, rather than limit, its remarkable biodiversity. For example, the country is home to approximately 3375 species of plants (Chikhali et al. 2025), eight species of amphibians (Aidek et al. 2025b), nine species of turtles and tortoises (Aidek et al. 2024), 40 species of snakes (Aidek et al. 2023), and 110 species of wild mammals (Aidek et al. 2025c), with birds being no exception. Syria's environmental and topographical diversity — ranging from high mountains to low plains, forests to arid zones, seas, rivers, and lakes — as well as its location on a major migratory corridor in the eastern Mediterranean, has played a significant role in creating a wide variety of habitats, which in turn has attracted a rich diversity of bird species.

## Materials and Methods

Information about the seasonal occurrences and distribution of birds in Syria was collected from various sources to maximize coverage. Semi-quantitative assessments (e.g. rare – scarce – common) were also possible in many species. The following methods were used to collect data: Literature research: A Desktop review of available literature records and publications in several languages (Arabic, English, French, and German) has been conducted.

Citizen Science and online platforms: Regular monitoring of published online material (e.g., photographs, videos), combined with unpublished personal observations

provided by local hunters, wildlife activists, and naturalists via social media platforms (e.g., Facebook), has also been undertaken. Whenever observations appeared ambiguous or were suspected misidentifications, they were carefully reviewed to verify their plausibility, considering the exact location, poaching circumstances, and the number of killed or captured specimens.

**Fieldwork by authors:** Additional information was obtained during field trips carried out by the senior author since 1998, which covered most geographical areas in Syria, as well as from trips conducted by the co-authors in subsequent years. Unfortunately, these field visits were suspended in 2012 and, between 2018 and 2024, were restricted to secure areas visited by the senior author. It should be noted that no bird observations or surveys have been conducted in several areas of Syria, including the eastern and southeastern regions, the Mediterranean coast, and Mount Hermon. This is primarily due to security concerns and, secondarily, to a lack of financial resources. It should also be noted that most regions of Syria have not been surveyed during the winter and summer seasons. The only exception is the Palmyra area and its surroundings, which have been subject to seasonal surveys.

**Bird identification:** was conducted in accordance with the taxonomic standards and species descriptions presented in Svensson et al. (1999, 2022), Porter and Aspinall (2010), and Porter et al. (2024).

**English and scientific bird names:** the arrangement of species names, as well as the scientific and English nomenclature, follows the Global Avian Checklist (v2025), unless otherwise stated.

**Arabic Names of Birds:** Arabic bird names were adopted from the first edition of “*The Field Guide to the Birds of the Middle East*”, Arabic Edition (Porter et al., 2007). These names represent the standardized terminology employed in Arabic ornithological literature.

**IUCN Red List Category:** The conservation status of species in this survey follows the classifications established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and as listed on the IUCN Red List ([www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)).

**Subspecies:** Subspecies were recognized based on the AviList (2025), the IOC World Bird List, v14.2 (Gill et al., 2025), Porter et al. (2024), the OSME Region List of Bird Taxa, v10.1 (ORL, 2024), photos, and birdwatchers’ reports.

**Status and Distribution:** The status and distribution of each species were determined based on previous checklists of the birds of Syria (Baumgart et al., 1995; Murdoch and Betton, 2008), with numerous updates incorporated from newly acquired data. The distribution was further refined using information from recent publications, trip reports, and field surveys. The list of Al-Badia birds (Al-Badia refers to the arid and semi-arid interior of Syria) has also been included, as this region represents an important part of the country’s avifauna (Serra et al. 2005a, 2005b), along with a checklist of birds from the Deir ez-Zor area (Aidek, 2010). These references are cited at the end of each species account. As several references are frequently repeated, the following abbreviations have been used: **K** for Kumerloeve (1967-1969); **BKS** for Baumgart et al. (1995); **GS** for Serra et al. (2005a, 2005b); **MB** for Murdoch and Betton (2008); and **AA** for Aidek (2010). The abbreviation **NI** is used to indicate the addition of new information concerning occurrence, seasonal or breeding status, and distribution.

## Results

A total of 415 bird species, representing 25 orders and 74 families, have been recorded in Syria. Of these, 194 are confirmed breeders, 114 are resident, 82 are summer visitors, 132 are winter visitors, 210 are passage migrants, 14 formerly bred, 46 are considered vagrants, four are extinct, one is introduced,

and 13 have an uncertain or unclear status. According to (IUCN) of these classifications, 357 species are categorized as Least Concern (LC), 19 as Near Threatened (NT), 24 as Vulnerable (VU), 11 as Endangered (EN), four as Critically Endangered (CR), and one as Extinct (EX).

### Systematic List

#### Order: Struthioniformes

#### Family: Struthionidae (Ostriches)

#### Syrian Ostrich *Struthio camelus syriacus*

النعامة السورية

(IUCN Red List: EX)

**Status and Distribution:** Globally extinct. The Syrian Ostrich was previously widespread in the Syrian Badia and Al-Jazira to the Arabian Peninsula (Greenway, 1967). There is no certain information about the date of its extinction from Syria, but this subspecies was declared globally extinct around 1966 (Clements, 2000, 2007).

#### Order: Anseriformes

#### Family: Anatidae (Ducks, Swans, and Geese)

#### White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*

بط أبيض الرأس (أبو مروحة)

(IUCN Red List: EN)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding resident; winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from the marshes of Euphrates basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and other marshes in the north. Proven to breed at Jabboul and at Mheimideh in June 2003. 2406 individuals were counted at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in February 2010 (Eskelin and Timonen, 2010). (K; BKS; MB; AA; NI)

#### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

التّم الصامت

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and Distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in March 1994, and at lower Khabour Reservoir in April 2010 (Bailey and Manners In: Kirwan, 1994; Bowler, 2010). (BKS; MB; NI)

#### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

التّم الصافر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and Distribution:** Vagrant. One record, a flock of six birds at Sed<sup>5</sup> Wadi<sup>6</sup> Abiad from 18 December 2001 to mid February 2002 (GS; MB)

#### Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* الإوزة

حمراء الصدر

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and Distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in February 2010 (Eskelin and Timonen, 2010). (NI)

#### Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

الإوزة الرمادية (إوزة اربد)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. a. rubrirostris*

**Status and Distribution:** Winter visitor. Widespread in small numbers in wetlands and agricultural areas in the north. Their annual variation in numbers correlates with rainfall patterns. (K; BKS; MB; AA)

#### Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* الإوزة الغراء الصغيرة

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and Distribution:** Very rare winter visitor. Recorded from wetlands and

5 Sedd (Sed): Dam

6 Wadi: Valley and dry river beds

7 Buhayra (Buhayrat): Lake

agricultural areas in the north. Records include Buhayrat<sup>7</sup> Al-Basil with 8 individuals in February 2007; Sabkhat Al-Jabboul with 35 individuals in February 2007, and 72 individuals in February 2010. Numbers vary annually according to rainfall (Hofland and Keijl, 2008; Eskelin and Timonen, 2010). (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons***  
الإوزة الغراء الكبيرة  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. a. albifrons*

**Status and Distribution:** Winter visitor. Widespread in small numbers in wetlands and agricultural areas in the north. 6700 individuals were counted in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in February 2004. Numbers vary annually according to rainfall. (K; BKS; MB)

**Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca***  
الإوز المصري  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and Distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from Al-Balikh river near the Turkish border in 1911, and at Tabqah in 1980 (Weigold, 1912-1913; Kinzelbach, 1995). (K; BKS; NI).

**Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*** الشَّهْرَمَان  
الشائع  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and Distribution:** Winter visitor to waterbodies and wetlands, mostly in the northern part of the country and Homs lake; Passage migrant to other regions. It was Formerly breeding in Euphrates and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. 14.300 individuals counted at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in November 2007. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*** الشَّهْرَمَان  
الأحمر - بط أبو فرة  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor to waterbodies and wetlands, mostly in the northern part of the country and Homs lake; passage migrant to other regions. It was Formerly breeding in Euphrates and Khabour rivers. 25.000 individuals counted at Sabkhat ar-Rawda in February 2010 (Eskelin and Timonen, 2010). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula***  
البط ذهبي العين  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *B. c. clangula*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant; Recorded from Euphrates basin in February 1967, and February 1977 (Savage, 1968; Macfarlane, 1978). (BKS; MB)

**Smew *Mergellus albellus***  
بلقشنة بيضاء  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor. Recorded from Halabbiyah, Tishreen Lake, Buhayrat Al-Basil, and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. 90 individuals were counted at Buhayrat Al-Basil at Khabur on 20 February 2010 (Eskelin and Timonen, 2010). (MB; NI)

**Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator***  
بلقشنة حمراء الصدر  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant, two records. Recorded from the middle Euphrates basin in February 1977, and at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in February 2004. (BKS; MB)

**Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris***  
البط الرخامي (الشرشير المخطط)  
(IUCN Red List: NT) (Figure 6)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and Distribution:** Rare breeding summer visitor and resident at Mheimideh and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. Recorded from lakes and marshes of the Euphrates Basin and Sabkhat



**Figure 6.** Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* and Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. Se'lu marsh. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

Al-Jabboul. More than 300 individuals counted in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul at the end of March 2006. (K; BKS; MB; AA)

**Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina***

البط الملكي (الوئس – البط أحمر القنّة)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding resident at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; common winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded in Euphrates basin, Khabour basin, and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca***

البط الحمرأوي أبيض العين (الصدئي أبيض العين)  
(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce breeding resident and rare winter visitor in the Euphrates basin and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; rare passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Common Pochard *Aythya ferina***

البط الحمرأوي (البط أحمر الرأس)

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor in the northern part of the country; passage migrant; a few birds oversummers. 11,500 individuals counted at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in February 2010 (Eskelin and Timonen, 2010). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula***

بط أبو خصلة – الزرق الأسود

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded from suitable waterbodies in most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Garganey *Spatula querquedula***

الحذف الصيفي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread summer

visitor in the northern part of the country; passage migrant to wetlands throughout. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata***

البط مجرّف المنقار (الكيش)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding species in the north; common winter visitor; widespread passage migrant; few non-breeding birds oversummers. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Gadwall *Mareca strepera***

بط سمّاري  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. s. strepera*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor in waterbodies, especially in northern part of the country; passage migrant in waterbodies in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca Penelope***

بط الصوّاي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor to waterbodies; passage migrant. Recorded from most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

بط خضاري (الخضري)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. p. platyrhynchos*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding species; widespread winter visitor; passage migrant; a few birds oversummers. Confirmed to breed in the Euphrates marshes. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Northern Pintail *Anas acuta***

بط دبوسي الذيل – البلبول الشمالي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor especially in waterbodies in the north; passage migrant. 6000 individuals counted at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in November 2007. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca***

الحَدَف الشتوي - البط أخضر الجناح  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. c. crecca*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor especially in waterbodies in the north; passage migrant. 8000–10.000 individuals counted in Sabkhat ar-Rawda in February 2010 (Eskelin and Timonen, 2010). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Order: Galliformes**

**Family: Phasianidae (Partridges, Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)**

**Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus***

الدراج الأسود  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *F. f. francolinus*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident along the Euphrates basin and its tributaries. (K; BKS; MB; AA)

**See-see Partridge *Ammoperdix griseogularis***

حجل رمادي الرقبة (حجل سي سي)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in Euphrates valley and Al-Jazira, its range extending west to north-east of Aleppo, and south to Jabal Al-Bishri and Jabal Al-Bilaas. (K; BKS; MB; AA; NI)

**Sand Partridge *Ammoperdix heyi***

الحجل الرملي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. h. heyi*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident. Recorded from east of Sweida, its range extends northeast to the

Iraqi border and south to Jordanian border; in many sites in eastern Al-Badia in 2008-2011. Evans (1994) mentioned that it also occurs in Jabal Al-Bishri, Jabal Al-Bilaas and the desert east of Damascus, but recent evidence is lacking. (BKS; MB; NI)

**Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix***

السَّمَانُ الشَّائِعُ – الفَرِّي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. coturnix*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in low densities in the northeast of Al-Jazira, northwest Aleppo, and the north of the coastal region; widespread and common passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar***

الحجل الشائع – الشَّنَار

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. c. kurdestanica*, *A. c. sinaica*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident in most regions, mostly in the west part of the country. Subspecies *kurdestanica* occurs in Al-Jazira and the lower and middle Euphrates, and is replaced by *sinaica* in the west. (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Order: Podicipediformes**

**Family: Podicipidae (Grebes)**

**Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

الغطاس الصغير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. r. capensis*, *T. r. iraquensis*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident in marshes and lakes; winter visitor and passage migrant in most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus***

الغطاس الأقرن

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** *P. a. auritus*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded

from Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in February 1998, and in January 2010 (Wester, 1998; Balmer and Murdoch, 2010). (MB; NI)

**Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena***

الغطاس أحمر الرقبة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. g. grisegena*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. recorded from Homs lake in March 1962, and middle Euphrates in April 1993. (K; BKS; MB)

**Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

الغطاس المتوج الكبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. c. cristatus*

**Status and distribution:** Scarcely breeding resident in Euphrates basin and the marshes in the north; winter visitor and passage migrant to other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis***

غطاس أسود الرقبة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. n. nigricollis*

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor and passage migrant in lakes and Euphrates; a few birds overwinter in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Order: Otidiformes**

**Family: Otidae (Bustards)**

**Great Bustard *Otis tarda***

الحبارى الكبيرة

(IUCN Red List: EN)

**Subspecies:** *O. t. tarda*

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor in Al-Jazira. Previously a breeding species in the Al-Jazira and east of Aleppo until the 1950s (Aharoni, 1932; Goodbody, 1945; Hardy, 1946a). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Asian Houbara *Chlamydotis macqueenii***

الحبارى الآسيوية

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor to open grasslands in Al-Badia and Al-Jazira. Extinct breeding species. Its numbers appear to fluctuate annually according to the amount of rainfall, especially in Al-Jazira. Bred until the 1950s (Aharoni, 1931, 1932; Meinertzhagen, 1935; Brown, 1946; Benson, 1984). (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax***

الحيارى الصغيرة

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare irregular winter visitor; scarce passage migrant. Extinct breeding species. Recorded from Jazira, Al-Badia, Orontes basin, coastal region, and Golan (Aidek *et al.* 2025a). Previously bred between Aleppo and the Euphrates, and northeastern until the 1950s (Weigold, 1912, 1913; Goodbody, 1945; Misonne, 1956). (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Order: Phoenicopteriformes**

**Family: Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)**

**Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopus roseus***

النحام الكبير (البشروش الوردي)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident and winter visitor in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; winter visitor to other Sabkhats (flooded mudflats) according to water level, such as Sabkhat ar-Rawda, and Sabkhat Al-Moh. In dry periods, only present at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. Sabkhat Al-Jabboul held one of the largest flamingo populations in the Middle East, with a maximum count of 19,500 individuals on 22-24 Nov 2007. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Order: Cuculiformes**

**Family: Cuculidae (Cuckoos)**

**Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius***

وقواق مرقط كبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in the west; widespread passage migrant in low numbers. Benson (1984) mentioned that it is breeding in NW Syria, and it was confirmed in 2022 at several sites (e.g. Tell Al-Darah, Tell Hosh, Sa'sa', and Al-Bakkar) (Figure 7). (BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

الوقواق الشائع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C.c. canorus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in low density in the west; widespread passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Order: Pterocliiformes**

**Family: Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)**

**Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata***

القطا مسنن الذيل (العراقي)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P.a. caudacutus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in Al-Jazira and semi-arid areas of Al-Badia. A nomadic species whose numbers vary seasonally and annually according to the amount of rainfall. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus***

القطا المرقط (الكندي)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in Al-Jazira and semi-arid areas of Al-Badia in low numbers. Numbers appear to fluctuate annually according to rainfall. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis***

القطا أسود البطن (القطا الملكي)

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 8)

**Subspecies:** *S. o. orientalis*

**Status and distribution:** Regular winter visitor in Al-Jazira and Al-Badia; passage migrant over



**Figure 7.** Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*. (A) Talhoush, west of Homs. (Photo by Ussama Ahmad); (B) Sa'sa', southwest of Damascus (anonymous; via Ahmad Aidek)



**Figure 8.** Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*. Captured from Feidhat Ibn Muwya'in'e, Mar. 2024. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

coastal. Numbers tend to be higher in years with good rainfall. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Order: Columbiformes**

**Family: Columbidae (Doves and Pigeons)**

**Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis***

اليمام الضاحك

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding resident, especially in

urban and rural areas. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***

القمرى – الترغل

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** *S. t. turtur*. Probably *arenicola* also occurs.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in the northern coastal region and southwest regions in low numbers; widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

اليمام المطوق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident near human settlements; often seen in gardens and orchards. (BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus***

حمام الغابات (الدلم)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. p. palumbus***Status and distribution:** Breeding species; widespread winter visitor in low numbers. Breeding confirmed in the coastal, Euphrates valley, Palmyra, and Jabal Abd Al-Aziz (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Rock Dove *Columba livia***

الحمام الجبلي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. l. palaestinae***Status and distribution:** Widespread but uncommon breeding resident. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Stock Dove *Columba oenas***

اليمام البري

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. o. oenas***Status and distribution:** Winter visitor in small numbers, recorded in Al-Jazira and Al-Badia. (K; BKS; MB)**Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis***

اليمام طويل الذنب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *O. c. capensis***Status and distribution:** Uncertain status. Recorded near Palmyra in May 2003, northwest of Deir ez-Zor in April 2008, near

Daraa in April 2009, Tell Al-Darah west of Salamiyah in May 2022, and east of Tartous in the coastal region in March 2024. (GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Order:** **Gruiformes****Family:** **Gruidae (Cranes)****Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo***

الرّفُو

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from Al-Jazira in March 1965 and April 1981; lower Khabour Reservoir in April 2010; and a desert wetland between Raqaa and Hamah in April 2010 (Bottema, 1987; Bowler, 2010; Balmer and Murdoch, 2010). (BKS; MB; NI)**Common Crane *Grus grus***

الكركي الرمادي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor to Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, also in winter in flooded areas in Al-Badia; widespread passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Family:** **Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)****Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus***

مرعة الماء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *R. a. aquaticus***Status and distribution:** Winter visitor. Common in canals, marshes and ponds with dense vegetation and other suitable habitats in winter in most regions. (K; BKS; MB)**Corn Crake *Crex crex***

مرعة الغنيط (السلوى)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant. Found in fields, meadows, and other thick

vegetation in most regions. (K; BKS; MB)

### Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

المرعة الرقطاء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in low numbers. (BKS; GS; MB)

### Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

دجاجة الماء – الفرير الشائع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *G. c. chloropus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in Euphrates basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and Orontes basin; widespread winter visitor in most waterbodies. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

### Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

الغرة الأوراسية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *F. a. atra*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in low numbers; widespread and common winter visitor. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

### Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

الفرير الأرجواني (سحنون)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. p. seistanicus*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident in Euphrates valley, Orontes basin and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (K; BKS; MB; AA)

### Little Crake *Zapornia parva*

المرعة الصغيرة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor to middle and lower Euphrates basin; passage migrant to other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

### Baillon's Crake *Zapornia pusilla*

مرعة بابلون

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *Z. p. intermedia*.

**Status and distribution:** Status unclear. Spring records near Al-Qaryatein several times, and from Arak in 2010. (BKS; NI)

**Order:** Charadriiformes

**Family:** Burhinidae (Stone-curlews)

### Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

الكروان الجبلي (الصحراوي)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *B. o. saharae*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding summer visitor in Al-Badia; passage migrant in low numbers. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Family:** Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

### Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avocetta*

النكات

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; winter visitor; widespread passage migrant. Mostly recorded at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul and sites along the Euphrates. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

أبو المغازل

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Fairly common breeding summer visitor, scarce resident and passage migrant. Widespread in riverine wetlands, pools and marshes, breeding mainly along the Euphrates and at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Family:** Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

### Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

أكل المحار الأوراسي

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** *H. o. ostralegus*.

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage

migrant. Recorded from ar-Raqqa in on 24 March 1976; Latakia in November 1981, on 8 April; Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in September 1996, and May 2008. (BKS; MB; NI)

**Family: Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)**

**Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

زقزاق رمادي

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** *P. s. squatarola*

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from the Euphrates valley, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and Homs lake. (K; BKS; MB)

**European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria***

زقزاق ذهبي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor; a few non-breeding birds oversummer in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Eurasian Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus***

زقزاق أغبر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from Al-Badia in areas with Steppes and poor arable land cover. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

زقزاق مطوّق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. h. tundrae*.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce winter visitor; common passage migrant. Recorded from the Euphrates valley, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and Homs Lake. (K; BKS; SG; MB)

**Little Ringed Plover *Thinornis dubius***

زقزاق مطوق صغير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. d. curonicus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in Euphrates and its tributaries, and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; passage migrant in other areas. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus***

الزقزاق الشامي

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread but uncommon winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from wetlands in all regions of the country. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus***

زقزاق شوكي الجناح

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident at waterbodies in the north; summer visitor to Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, rare in Orontes basin. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus***

زقزاق أحمر اللغد

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *Vi. aigneri*

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding resident. Recorded from the Tigris, upper Al-Khabour basin and Buhayrat Al-Khatuniyeh, with a few records also from the Euphrates around Deir ez-Zor. One bird photographed in central Syria at Al-Kafat Dam, 14 km southeast of Hamah on 25-26 October 2024. (BKS; MB; NI)

**Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius***

الزقزاق الاجتماعي

(IUCN Red List: CR) (Figure 9)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant. The main stopover sites during migration are located in the north of Al-



**Figure 9.** Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*. ad-Dukhoul, Mar. 2024. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

Jazira, recorded also in many sites in Al-Badia. Maximum counts of spring flocks made migratory stopovers in northeastern Syria at Ar Ruweira on 8 March 2007, with more than 2000 individuals. Maximum counts of autumn flocks was 20 km SW of Mabrukah, on 26 October 2010, with more than 170 individuals (Hofland and Keijl, 2008; Aidek, 2012). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

#### **White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus***

زقزاق أبيض الذيل

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 10)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident in low numbers in the Euphrates basin and its tributaries; breeding summer visitor at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (BKS; MB; AA)

#### **Caspian Plover *Anarhynchus asiaticus***

زقزاق قزويني

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from north and south Palmyra in March 2001, and at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in May 2009. (GS; MB)

#### **Tibetan Sand Plover *Anarhynchus***

##### ***atrifrons***

زقزاق الرمل التيبتي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Status and distribution:** Status unknown. One old record: two males killed near Al-Qaryatein in May 1904 (Sclater 1906). Recorded in Syria as Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*. (K; BKS; MB)

#### **Greater Sand Plover *Anarhynchus***

##### ***leschenaultii***

زقزاق الرمل الكبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. l. columbinus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Recorded mainly



**Figure 10.** White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*. Mheimideh, Sep. 2012. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

near shallow saline lakes and wetlands in the arid interior. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Kentish Plover** *Anarhynchus alexandrinus*

زقراق اسكندري

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. a. alexandrinus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in low numbers; widespread summer visitor in the marshes and Sabkhats; passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Anarhynchus pecuarius*

زقراق كيتليتز

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record from a pond near Palmyra in July-September 2001. (GS, MB)

**Family: Rostratulidae (Painted-snipes)**

**Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

الشنقب الملون الكبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded on 14 April 2024 at a seasonal pond c 50 km south-west of Palmyra (Aidek, 2024). (NI)

**Family: Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)**

**Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

كروان الماء الصغير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *N. p. islandicus*

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant. Recorded from Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in March 2006, May 2006, August 2008, and February 2009. One record at the coast, a bird photographed by Humam Ghanim on 4 November 2025 at Latakia beach (Figure 11). (MB; NI)

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

كروان الماء الأوراسي



**Figure 11.** Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. Latakia beach, 4 Nov, 2025 (Photo by Humam Ghanim)

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** *N. a. arquata* , winter visitors probably *suschkini*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from wetlands along the Euphrates, Homs lake, and Sabkhats. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

قويقة مخططة الذيل

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** *L. l. lapponica*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; passage migrant. Recorded from Euphrates basin. (K; BKS; MB)

**Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

بقويقة سوداء الذيل

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** *L. l. limosa*

**Status and distribution:** Scarce winter visitor; common passage migrant. Recorded from Euphrates basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, Homs lake and Sed Wadi Abied. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus***

الشنقب الصغير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor. Recorded from the Euphrates, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, Sabkhat Al-Moh, Al-Ghab, and the coastal region. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola***

ديك الغاب – دجاجة الأرض

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor. Recorded from northeast of Al-Jazira, around Aleppo, the coastal region, and Sahl

Al-Ghab. (K; BKS; MB; NI)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Great Snipe *Gallinago media***

الشنقب الكبير

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant /rare passage migrant. Recorded from Al-Badia around Palmyra in spring 1935 and spring 1948-1950. Last record from Sed Wadi Abiad in April 2004 (Richardson, 2004). (K; BKS; MB)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce passage migrant. Recorded from northwest of Al-Jazira, Mheimideh, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, Palmyra area, and the coast. (K; BKS; MB)

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

الطيئوى الشائع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce winter visitor; common passage migrant; a few birds oversummer in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. Recorded from most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago***

الشنقب الشائع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *G. g. gallinago*

**Status and distribution:** Common winter visitor; common passage migrant. Recorded from waterbodies and wetlands in most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus***

طيئوى حمراء الرقبة - فلروب أحمر الرقبة

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 12)

**Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus***

طيئوى مغبر

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce passage



**Figure 12.** Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*. Sedd Al-Kafat, Sep. 2024. (Photo by Humam Ghanim)

migrant. Recorded from Euphrates basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and rarely from other waterbodies. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***

طيوطى أخضر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor; widespread passage migrant. Recorded around most waterbodies and wetlands. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***

طيوطى المستنقعات

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor; widespread passage migrant. Recorded around most waterbodies and wetlands. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

طيوطى الغابات – طيوطى الغيض

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Common passage migrant; a few birds oversummer. Recorded around most waterbodies and wetlands. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Common Redshank *Tringa totanus***

طيوطى أحمر الساق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from most wetlands. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus***

طيوطى أحمر الساق أرقط

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded around most waterbodies and wetlands. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

طيوطى أخضر الساق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor and passage migrant, widespread but usually in low numbers in most waterbodies. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

قنبرة الماء

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** *A. i. interpres*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant /very rare passage migrant; winter visitor. Recorded from Sabkhat Al-Jabboul on 20 August 2008, 15 September 2008, and 17 January 2009 (Hamidan and El-Moghrabi, 2010). One record at Al-Furat Lake on 18 August 2025. (NI)

**Red Knot *Calidris canutus***

طيوطى حمراء

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record at Mheimideh on 19 August 2007. (MB)

**Ruff *Calidris pugnax***

حجولة (حجولة)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Common winter visitor; common passage migrant; A few oversummer at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. Recorded from Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and Sabkhats in Al-Badia.. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus***

طيّطوى عريض المنقار  
(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** *C. f. falcinellus*

**Status and distribution:** Scarce passage migrant. Recorded from Sed Wadi Abiad in September 2004, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in May 2009 (Müller, 2004; Hamidan and El-Moghrabi, 2010); five individuals at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul in September 2010. (MB; NI)

**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***

طيّطوى مقوسة المنقار  
(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon passage migrant. Recorded from suitable wetlands in most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii***

درّيجة (طيّطوى) تمنك  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor; scarce passage migrant. Recorded from suitable wetlands in most regions. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Sanderling *Calidris alba***

الطيّطوى البيضاء (طيّطوى الرمل)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. a. alba*

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant. Recorded from Homs lake, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, salt fields near Euphrates valley, Sed Wadi Abiad, and the coast at Tartous and Sanobar. (K; BKS; MB)

**Dunlin *Calidris alpina***

درّيجة  
(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** *C. a. centralis*.

**Status and distribution:** Common winter visitor; common passage migrant; a few birds overwinter in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

درّيجة صغيرة (الطيّطوى الصغيرة)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor; common passage migrant; Recorded at wetlands in most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Family: Dromadidae (Crab-plover)**

**Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola***

الحنكور  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Status unknown. One old record, 5 birds collected from Nahr Al-Kabir Al-Janoubi in 1885 (K; NI).

**Family: Glareolidae (Coursers and Pratincoles)**

**Cream-colored Courser *Cursorius cursor***

الكروان العسلي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. cursor*, *C. c. bogolubovi*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding summer visitor in Al-Badia; scarce passage migrant elsewhere. Subspecies *bogolubovi* in northern Syria near Turkish border, and *cursor* in other areas. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni***

أبو اليسر أسود الجناح  
(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant. Recorded from Mheimideh on 13 April 2005, 2 October 2006, and in April 2006. Recorded also from lower Khabour Reservoir in April 2010, and at Sabkhat al-Jabboul, in April 2010 (Bowler, 2010; Kehoe, 2010). (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***

أبو اليسر المطوّق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *G. p. pratincola*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in agricultural and semi-arid areas close to water. Small colony at Mheimideh. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Family: Stercorariidae (Skuas)**

**Parasitic Jaeger (Arctic Skua) *Stercorarius parasiticus*** الكركر القطبي (IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Status unclear. One record: a bird ringed as a nestling (Ring Number: EH27806), on 30 Jun 1977 at Daal, Foula, Shetland, UK, was caught on 10 Jan 1978 offshore west of Tartous. (NI)

**Family: Laridae (Skimmers, Noddies, Terns, and Gulls)**

**Little Tern *Sternula albifrons***

الخرشنة الصغيرة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. a. albifrons*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. Breeding confirmed at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, Euphrates, and the coast. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia***

الخرشنة القزوينية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding summer visitor and common passage migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. Confirmed breeding only at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, on 19 May 2009 (Hamidan and El-Moghrabi, 2010). (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Sandwich Tern**

*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

خرشنة سانديويتش

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding summer visitor and rare passage migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. Confirmed breeding only at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, where ten nests were found on 20 May 2009 (Hamidan and El-Moghrabi, 2010). (MB; NI)

**Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica***

الخرشنة النورسية (الأويق)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *G. n. nilotica*.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. Breeding confirmed at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrid***

الخرشنة الملتحية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. h. hybrida*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident; breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. Breeding confirmed at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul and Mheimideh. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***

الخرشنة بيضاء الجناح

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare summer visitor and common passage migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Black Tern *Chlidonias niger***

الخرشنة السوداء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. n. niger*

**Status and distribution:** Common passage

migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo***

الخرشنة الشائعة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. h. hirundo*

**Status and distribution:** Rare resident in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; uncommon breeding summer visitor; common passage migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. Breeding confirmed at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, Euphrates, and the coast. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus***

النورس الصغير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded from inland waterbodies and the coast. (K; BKS; MB)

**Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla***

نورس كيتويك أسود الساق

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Very rare winter visitor and/or extremely rare passage migrant. Recorded from the middle and lower Euphrates, the coast at Tartous and Latakia, and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (BKS; MB; NI)

**Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei***

نورس مستدق المنقار

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident; summer visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from most suitable waterbodies. Confirmed to breed in the Euphrates valley and at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus***

النورس أسود الرأس الشائع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding species; common winter visitor; widespread passage migrant. Breeding confirmed at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul on 19 May 2009 (Hamidan and El-Moghrabi, 2010). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaeus***

النورس أسود الرأس الكبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce winter visitor; passage migrant in low numbers. Recorded from inland waterbodies and the coast. (BKS; MB)

**Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii***

نورس أدونيس

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded at Hamidiyeh beach, south of Tartous, on 23 April 2017 (Aidek, 2024). (NI)

**Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus***

نورس البحر المتوسط

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor and passage migrant in low numbers. Recorded from inland waterbodies and the coast. (K; BKS; MB)

**Common Gull *Larus canus***

النورس الشائع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. c. heinei*

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor and passage migrant in low numbers. Recorded from inland waterbodies and the coast. (K; BKS; MB)

**Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans***

النورس القزويني

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. (BKS; GS; MB)**Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis***

النورس أصفر الساق

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 13)

**Subspecies:** *L. m. michahellis***Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident at coast; winter visitor and passage migrant to inland waterbodies. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus***

النورس الأرمني

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. (BKS; GS; MB)**Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus***

النورس أسود الظهر الكبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record, Latakia, April 1978 (Wittenberg, 1979). (BKS; MB)**Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

النورس أسود الظهر الصغير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. f. fuscus*, *L. f. heuglini***Status and distribution:** Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies. *L. f. fuscus* recorded from the coast and inland waterbodies.**Figure 13.** Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*. Baniyas coast, Aug. 2019. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

*heuglini* recorded from Euphrates on 25 April 2006 and in April 2010 (Dubois, 2006; Kehoe, 2010). (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Order: Procellariiformes**

**Family: Procellariidae (Petrels, Shearwaters, and Diving Petrels)**

**Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea***

جَلَم اسكوبولي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant. Recorded in September 2007 at Um et-Tiur; at Latakia beach in April 2010; eight individuals on 8 August 2019 near Baniyas (Figure 14). (MB; NI)

**Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan***

جَلَم البحر الأبيض المتوسط

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant. One record. 8 birds off the coast at latakia, 4 April 2006. (MB)

**Order: Ciconiiformes**

**Family: Ciconiidae (Storks)**

**Black Stork *Ciconia nigra***

القلق الأسود

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread but uncommon passage migrant, mostly to the west. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**White Stork *Ciconia ciconia***

القلق الأبيض

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. ciconia*

**Status and distribution:** Common passage migrant. It formerly nested on the roofs of tall buildings in Damascus until the beginning of the 1900s; breeding also in the north along the Turkish border (Schrader, 1892; Goodbody, 1945; Brown, 1946; Misonne,

1956; Bottema, 1987). The last breeding record was from 1983 at Tell Abiad. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Order: Suliformes**

**Family: Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)**

**Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus***

الأطيش الشمالي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** An irregular winter wanderer along the Mediterranean coast. Recorded at Syrian coast in October 1938 (Niethammer, 1938), and south Latakia on 8 April 1998. (K; MB; NI)

**Family: Anhingidae (Anhinga and Darters)**

**African Darter *Anhinga rufa***

الزُّفَّة الإفريقية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. r. chantrei*

**Status and distribution:** Extinct. Formerly a rare visitor to the north coast from a colony at Lake Al-Omq, Alexandretta Province, Türkiye, that was drained in the 1960s. It also bred in the Yarmouk region on the Syrian-Jordanian border in the early 20th century. The nearest current breeding site is the marshes in southernmost Iraq (Salim *et al.* 2012). (K; NI)

**Family: Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)**

**Pygmy Cormorant *Microcarbo pygmaeus***

الغاق (غراب البحر) القزمي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor. Recorded from Euphrates basin, scarce in the coast. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**European Shag *Gulosus aristotelis***

الغاق (غراب البحر) الأوربي

(IUCN Red List: LC)



**Figure 14.** Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*. Baniyas coast, Aug. 2019. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

**Subspecies:** *G. a. desmarestii*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. recorded from Wadi Qandil, north of Latakia on 5 Sep 2007. (MB)

**Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

الغاق (غراب البحر) الكبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. c. sinensis*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from a wide range of freshwater and the coast. (Figure 15). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Order:** Pelecaniformes

**Family:** Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

**Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita***

(Formerly Hermit Ibis, Red-Cheeked Ibis *Comatibis eremita*, *Comatibis comata*)

أبو منجل الأصلع الشمالي (النوق)

(IUCN Red List: EN)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Very scary passage migrant. Formerly breeding summer visitor, the species is now considered extinct in the wild. The last wild colony of the Northern Bald Ibis in the world, located near Palmyra in Syria, became extinct in 2015. (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

Historically, Bald Ibis colonies were widespread in Syria, particularly along the Euphrates River and in Al-Badia. The species was first recorded on the Euphrates near Zenobia (Halabiyyeh) in 1574 (Rauwolff, 1582). Further colonies were documented at Massen, near ar-Raqqa, in 1870 (Nostiz, 1873); at Jebar (Jihar), northeast of Al-Qaryatein, in 1904 and 1905 (Sclater, 1906); and at five additional sites around Al-Qaryatein and Palmyra. A colony near Palmyra, recorded in 1910, was the largest known in Al-Badia and was estimated to contain approximately 1000 breeding birds



**Figure 15.** Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Hawejjt Ayyash, west of Deir ez-Zor, Nov. 2007. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

(Aharoni, 1911, 1928, 1929, 1932, 1943). In 1911, Weigold observed a group of twenty birds on an island in the Euphrates River near Bombudj (Manbij) (Weigold, 1912). Moore and Boswell (1956) later recorded a breeding colony on a cliff approximately 30 miles inland, west of Abu Kamal. Another colony at es-Salihyyeh, located 11 km west of Abu Kamal, was active between 1924 and 1933 and was confirmed by photographs published on the Jacques Chirac Museum website ([www.quaibrantly.fr](http://www.quaibrantly.fr)). Additionally, the tour undertaken by Helfer contained valuable notes regarding Bald Ibis colonies along the Euphrates basin; however, these records were lost during a storm in the es-Salihyyeh area (Helfer, 1878).

For many years, the Northern Bald Ibis was believed to be extinct in Syria. However, a colony of seven birds was discovered northwest of Palmyra in 2002 (Serra *et al.* 2003) (Figure 16-17). The number of birds continued to decline until the last individual was observed in Palmyra in February 2015.

Thus, the last wild colony of the Northern Bald Ibis became extinct (Böhm *et al.* 2021). Any future observations of Bald Ibises in the region will likely originate from the semi-captive Birecik colony in Türkiye, whose individuals have been released to migrate.

The extinction of the Bald Ibis colony in Syria was likely due to the wild population being extremely small and demographically unviable prior to its disappearance. This factor was apparently not fully considered in the conservation plan aimed at preserving the species in Syria. The chicks should have been maintained in a semi-wild state (as in the Birecik colony in Türkiye) rather than being allowed to migrate with the adults, as high chick mortality during migration - largely due to hunting and other threats along the route - was a major contributor to the colony's extinction.



**Figure 16.** Last colony of Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*. Northwest of Palmyra, Apr. 2009. (Photo by Lars Peterson)



**Figure 17.** Al-Qattar, Northwest of Palmyra. The cliff hold Syria's last colony of Northern Bald Ibis. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

**Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus***

أبو منجل اللامع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Rare summer visitor to the Euphrates marshes; widespread passage migrant to rivers, marshes, and the coast. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia***

أبو ملعقة الأوراسي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. l. leucorodia***Status and distribution:** Rare resident; breeding summer visitor at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from wetlands in Euphrates and Al-Khabour basin. Breeding confirmed at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, with 80 pairs estimated on 19 May 2010 (Hamidan and El-Moghrabi, 2010). (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)**Family: Pelecanidae (Pelicans)****Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus***

البعج الأبيض الكبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Fairly widespread passage migrant; summer visitor in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; scarce winter visitor in Sabkhat Al-Jabboul and Buhayrat Al-Basil. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus***

البعج الأشعث (بعج دلماشيا)

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant, mostly to the wes. (K; BKS; MB)**Family: Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)****Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris***

الواق الأوراسي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *B. s. stellaris***Status and distribution:** Winter visitor; passage migrant in small numbers. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Little Bittern *Botaurus minutus***

الواق الصغير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *I. m. minutus***Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Widespread in most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

بلشون أبيض صغير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *E. g. garzetta***Status and distribution:** Breeding resident and winter visitor in Euphrates basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and Homs lake; passage migrant. Widespread along the coast, waterbodies and wetlands in most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax***

بلشون الليل أسود التاج

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *N. n. nycticorax***Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor in Euphrates basin; widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides***

واق أبيض صغير - بلشون مُدَّهَب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor; rare winter visitor; passage migrant. Widespread in all regions. Breeding confirmed at Ba'ath Lak. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)**Great Egret *Ardea alba***

بلشون أبيض كبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. a. alba*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon resident and winter visitor in Euphrates basin and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; passage migrant. Breeding confirmed at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. Recorded from waterbodies and wetlands in most region. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Western Cattle Egret** *Ardea ibis*

بلشون الماشية – أبو قردان  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor; common passage migrant; rare resident in Euphrates basin and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. Recorded from most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

بلشون أرجواني  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. p. purpurea*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor; common passage migrant. Breeding confirmed at Ba'ath Lake. Widespread in inland waterbodies, rare on the coast. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*

البلشون العملاق  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from the Euphrates basin (Aharoni, 1931; Kinzelbach, 1986b). (K; BKS; MB)

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

بلشون رمادي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. c. cinerea*

**Status and distribution:** Resident in low numbers at Sabkhat Al-Jabboul and Euphrates; common winter visitor; passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Order:** Caprimulgiformes

**Family:** Caprimulgidae (Nightjars)

**European Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

السبد الأوربي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding summer visitor to the north near the Turkish border; widespread and common passage migrant (Goodbody, 1945; Misonne, 1956; Benson, 1984). (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Egyptian Nightjar** *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

السبد المصري  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. a. aegyptius*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One old record from near Al-Qaryatein in May 1904. Recent record, two individuals observed at Feidhat Ibn Muwyin'e in June 2012, east Al-Badia, southeast of Deir ez-Zor. (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Order:** Apodiformes

**Family:** Apodidae (Swifts)

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*

سمامة الصرود (الشواقق)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. m. tuneti*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding summer visitor in most regions; passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

السمامة الصغيرة  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A.a. galilejensis*

**Status and Distribution:** Scarce breeding summer visitor in the west, and in the Euphrates valley; widespread passage migrant in all regions in small numbers. This species is usually resident but there are no winter records. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Common Swift *Apus apus***

السمامة الشائعة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A.a. apus***Status and Distribution:** Widespread breeding summer visitor in all regions except Al-Badia and arid areas; widespread passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus***

السمامة الباهتة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. p. pallidus***Status and Distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Breeding confirmed in Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia, and Tartous. (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)**Order: Strigiformes****Family: Tytonidae (Barn Owls)****Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

بومة المخازن – البومة البيضاء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. a. erlangeri***Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding resident in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Family: Strigidae (Owls)****Little Owl *Athene noctua***

البومة الصغيرة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. n. indigena* , *A. n. lilith* , *A. n. bactriana***Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding resident in all regions. Subspecies *bactriana* is most common, *lilith* recorded in Al-Badia and west part of the country, *indigena* recorded near Halabiyya (Middle Euphrates) in 15 April 2010 (Al-Sheikhly and Aidek, 2023). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)**Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops***

بومة الأشجار الأوراسية

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 18)

**Subspecies:** *O. s. cycladum***Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Breeding confirmed in the coastal region. Recorded from all regions (Al-Sheikhly and Aidek, 2023). (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)**Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei***

بومة الأشجار الشاحبة

(IUCN Red List: EN “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** *O. b. exiguus*, *O. b. obsoletus***Status and distribution:** Rare breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Present in all regions except Al-Badia and dry areas. Breeding recorded from Aleppo only. Subspecies *exiguus* occur southern Syria and *obsoletus* in the north (Al-Sheikhly and Aidek, 2023). (K; BKS; MB; NI)**Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***

البومة قصيرة الأذنين

(IUCN Red List: NT “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** *A. f. flammeus***Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor. Recorded from Palmyra area (Al-Sheikhly and Aidek, 2023). (BKS; GS; MB)**Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***

البومة طويلة الأذنين

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. o. otus***Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding species and winter visitor in the coastal region (Figure 19) and copses woods along the middle Euphrates; common winter visitor and passage migrant in all regions (Al-Sheikhly and Aidek, 2023). (BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI) (Figure 19).**Pharaoh Eagle-Owl (Desert Eagle Owl) *Bubo ascalaphus***

البومة الفرعونية

(IUCN Red List: LC)



**Figure 18.** Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*. Talila Reserve, Apr. 2009. (Photo by Lars Peterson)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding resident. Recorded from Talila Reserve, with one recent record in Salamiyah (Al-Sheikhly and Aidek, 2023). (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI).

#### **Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo***

البومة النسارية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *B.b. interpositus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident. Found in humid and semi-arid areas devoid of dense trees (Al-Sheikhly and Aidek, 2023). (BKS; GS; MB).

#### **Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis***

بومة السمك البنينية

(IUCN Red List: EN “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** *K. z. semenowi*

**Status and distribution:** Status uncertain.



**Figure 19** Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* (chick). Al-Haffah, west of Latakia, May 2022. (Photo by Basel Barakat)

Recorded from Golan Heights, last adult birds were observed in April and September 1976 (Hovel, 1987; Paz, 1987). Photos of a dead adult obtained from Al-Malkiyeh “northeastern Syria” in February 2017. (BKS; NI)

#### **Tawny Owl *Strix aluco***

البومة السمراء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. a sylvatica*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident. Recorded from the coastal region, Euphrates, and around Palmyra. Breeding confirmed in the coastal region. (Al-Sheikhly and Aidek, 2023). (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Order:** Accipitriformes

**Family:** Pandionidae (Ospreys)

#### **Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

عقاب السمك – العقاب النساري

(IUCN Red List: EN “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** *P. h. haliaetus*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon passage migrant, mainly through the Euphrates valley and along the Mediterranean coast. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Family: Accipitridae (Kites, Old World Vultures, Eagles, and Hawks)**

**Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*

الرخمة المصرية

(IUCN Red List: VU “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** *N. p. percnopterus*

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding summer visitor to cliffs in Al-Badia; common passage migrant. Historically, it bred widely in the Euphrates valley, the coastal mountains, Al-Badia mountains, Idleb, Mt. Hermon, and Anti-Lebanon Mountains. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

الحدأة سوداء الجناح

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *E. c. vociferus*

**Status and distribution:** widespread winter visitor. Recorded throughout Syria, from lower Euphrates, Sahl Al-Ghab, coast, and southwest regions. (Aidek and Jbr, 2023). (NI)

**Bearded Vulture** *Gypaetus barbatus*

العقاب الملتحي

(IUCN Red List: EN “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** *G. b. barbatus*.

**Status and distribution:** Extinct. The scanty old data before the 1900s are more likely to indicate Lammergeier wandering over Mt. Hermon and Anti-Lebanon Mountains, but it appears now to be extinct in these areas. The last record was a juvenile, recorded in Nov 2016-Jan 2017 in Golan heights (ORL 2024). (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

حوّام النحل – صقر العسل

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare summer visitor to the north of the coastal region; common and widespread passage migrant in all regions. (BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

حوّام النحل المتوج

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian record is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One adult male observed west of Safita in the coastal region on 11 November 2019, the bird flies and perches on top of an oak tree several times (possibly injured). It is taxonomy by dark gorget across the lower throat, dark red eyes, wingtip showing six fingers, and undertail with broad black terminal and basal bands. This is the first record of this species in Syria. (NI)

**Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus*

النسر الأسود الأوراسي

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce passage migrant. Formerly bred in the north near Turkish border, and a regular winter visitor until the 1950s in Al-Badia and Al-Jazira. More than ten birds were killed in autumn 2022 (Figure 20). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos*

نسر الأنون

(IUCN Red List: EN)

**Subspecies:** *T. t. negevensis*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Three records. Two birds killed near Palmyra in the period 1920-1942 and mummified in the Palmyra Museum. One shot in 1968 near Jabal Sis east of Damascus. One southeast of Palmyra in 2002. (BKS; GS; MB)



**Figure 20.** Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*. Hunted north of ar-Raqqa, 11 Nov. 2022, (anonymous hunter; via Ahmad Aidek)

### **Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus***

نسر غريفون

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *G. f. fulvus*

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding resident; widespread passage migrant in low numbers.

Breeding colonies were previously

widespread, between Bloudan and Halboun, the Al-Badia near Al-Qaryatein and Palmyra, around Deir ez-Zor and Al-Hasakah, but these colonies are now extinct. Two colonies may have survived until 2013: at Dawara 15 km northeast of Palmyra, and in the Yarmuk valley. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus***

عقاب الحيات قصير الأصابع  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. g. gallicus*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor to the coastal region; widespread and common passage migrant elsewhere. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga***

العقاب الأرقط (الأسفع) الكبير  
(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce winter visitor in Al-Jazira, the Euphrates valley, and Al-Badia; passage migrant in low numbers in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina***

العقاب الأرقط (الأسفع) الصغير  
(IUCN Red List: NT “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in low numbers in all regions with a significant passage along the Anti-lebanon mountains. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus***

العقاب المسرولة (المسيرة)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon passage migrant through most regions. Formerly bred in Syria (Benson, 1984). (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis***

عقاب البادية  
(IUCN Red List: EN)

**Subspecies:** *A. n. orientalis*

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant and rare winter visitor in open areas. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca***

العقاب الامبراطوري – ملك العقبان  
(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant and rare winter visitor to open areas; extinct breeding species. It previously bred in Al-Qamishli and west of ar-Raqqa records. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos***

العقاب الذهبي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. c. homeyeri*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident. Widespread on rocky cliffs of Al-Jazira, Euphrates Basin, Al-Badia, Mt. Hermon and Anti-Lebanon mountains. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata***

عقاب بونلي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. f. fasciata*

**Status and distribution:** Status unclear. Extinct breeding species. It formerly bred in Al-Badia and the coastal mountains, round Palmyra and Al-Qaryatein, near Tell Tamer, the last documented breeding record near Slenfeh in the coastal mountains in 1978. (Aharoni, 1931; Goodbody, 1945, 1946; Pyman, 1978; Benson, 1984). (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Levant Sparrowhawk *Tachyspiza brevipes***

الباشق الشامى - صقر العصفير الشامى  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common passage migrant. Recorded from all regions, mainly in the west. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus***

الباشق الأوراسى - صقر العصفير  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. n. nisus*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor; widespread and common passage

migrant in all regions. Breeding not confirmed. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

### Eurasian Goshawk *Astur gentilis*

الباز - صقر الإوز

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. g. gentilis*

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor and passage migrant in low numbers. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

المرزة الشاحبة

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor; widespread passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

مرزة الدجاج

(IUCN Red List: VU “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor; widespread passage migrant in suitable open habitats in most regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

مرزة مونتاجو

(IUCN Red List: VU “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common passage migrant to open areas. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

### Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

مرزة المستنقعات

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. a. aeruginosus*

**Status and distribution:** Common and widespread winter visitor; passage migrant; a few birds overwinter. Previously bred widely along the Euphrates and its tributaries, east of Latakia, and Lake Homs. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

الحدأة الحمراء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. m. milvus*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded near Aleppo in November 1942, between Damascus-Homs in December 1959, near the coast in autumn 1965, over Yabroud on 23 September 2011 (Benson, 1984; Aidek, 2024). (K; NI)

### Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

الحدأة السوداء

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 21)

**Subspecies:** *M. m. migrans* , *M. m. lineatus*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Formerly bred in the Euphrates valley, where the last records of 25 nests east of ar-Raqqa in 1962. Subspecies *migrans* widespread, while a few records of *lineatus* (Black-eared Kite) from Euphrates basin and Al-Badia. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

### White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

عقاب البحر أبيض الذيل

(IUCN Red List: EN “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** *H. a. albicilla*

**Status and distribution:** Status unclear, probably extinct. Extinct breeding species. Historically a common breeder in the north of the Euphrates basin and the Orontes basin, but it disappeared completely in the 1960s. The last known sighting was in 1991 near Al-Malkiyeh on the Tigris River. (K; BKS; MB; NI)

### Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

الصقر الحوام (الحوام الشائع)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *B. b. buteo* , *B. b. vulpinus*

**Status and distribution:** *B. b. buteo* is a winter visitor in the northern coastal. *B. b. vulpinus* is a common and widespread



**Figure 21.** Black Kite *Milvus migrans*. South of Deai ez-Zor, Feb. 2024. (Photo by Ahmad Aidak)

passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus***

الحوَّام طویل الساق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *B. r. rufinus*

**Status and distribution:** Scarce breeding resident in Euphrates valley and Anti-Lebanon mountains; Widespread and common passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Order:** Bucerotiformes

**Family:** Upupidae (Hoopoes)

**Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops***

الهدهد

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *U. e. epops*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Order:** Coraciiformes

**Family:** Coraciidae (Rollers)

**Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis***

الشقراق الهندي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. b. benghalensis*

**Status and distribution:** Presumed vagrant. One record. Two birds were observed near Abu Kamal (close to Iraqi border) on 3 March 2012. The birds observed near the bank of the river, one bird stands on the Euphrates Poplar tree, the other stands on the ground close to it. Identified according to the lightly white-streaked neck, throat and breast vinous-cinnamon and cap dark turquoise-green; mantle earth-brown. This

species breeds in Iraq not far from the Syrian border. This is the first record of this species in Syria. (NI)

### European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

الشقراق الأوربي (الغراب الزيتوني)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies. Probably the two subspecies *garrulous* and *semenowi* occur in Syria.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Breeding confirmed in Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin, and southwest region. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Family: Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

#### Arabian Green Bee-eater *Merops cyanophrys*

الوروار الأخضر العربي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. c. cyanophrys*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record from east of Al-Badia, 80 km southeast of Palmyra, in 5 May 2023. An article was sent to the Ornithological Society of the Middle East (OSME) as a first record of this species in Syria (Figure 22). (NI)

#### European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

الوروار الأوربي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in Al-Jazira and Euphrates basin; widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

#### Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

الوروار أزرق الخد  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. p. persicus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in Al-Jazira and Euphrates basin; fairly

common and widespread passage migrant in other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

### Family: Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

#### Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

صياد السمك الشائع (الرفراف الشائع)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. a. ispada*

**Status and distribution:** Fairly common and widespread winter visitor to all regions near waterbodies. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

#### Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

صياد السمك الأبقع (الرفراف الأبقع)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. r. syriacus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident; widespread winter visitor. Recorded from all regions near water. Resident in Euphrates, Al-Khabour valleys, and Sabkhat al-Jabboul. Breeding confirmed in Euphrates basin. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

#### White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

صياد السمك أبيض الصدر  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *H. s. smyrnensis*

**Status and distribution:** Resident with dispersive movements. Widespread in low numbers in all regions near freshwater bodies. Breeding not confirmed (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Order: Piciformes

#### Family: Picidae (Woodpeckers)

#### Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

اللواء الأوراسي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *J. t. torquilla*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)



**Figure 22.** Arabian Green Bee-eater *Merops cyanophrys*, and European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*. (Photo by Nasser Al-Jum'ah)

**Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocoptes medius***

نقار الخشب مرقط الوسط

(IUCN Red List: LC)

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**Subspecies:** *D. m. anatoliae*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in mature deciduous woodland in the west. Local and scarce. (MB)

**Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus***

نقار الخشب السوري

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 23)

**Subspecies:** *D. s. syriacus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident. Recorded from Aleppo, coastal regions, Ghota, and southwestern Syria. Often common. Formerly found in Euphrates and Orontes basins but now extinct there. (K; BKS; MB)

**Order:** Falconiformes

**Family:** Falconidae (Falcons)

**Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni***

العُوسق الصغير (العُوسيق)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in most regions; widespread passage migrant. Large breeding colonies near Palmyra and in Euphrates valley (Figure 24). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

العوسق الشائع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *F. t. tinnunculus*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident in all regions; widespread passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus***

الصقر أحمر القدم (اللزريق)

(IUCN Red List: VU “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant in low numbers. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Merlin *Falco columbarius***

البيزير

(IUCN Red List: VU “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor; passage migrant especially. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eleonora’s Falcon *Falco eleonora***

صقر إلبونورا

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant to the coastal region, very rare elsewhere. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor***

صقر الغروب – الصقر الفاحم

(IUCN Red List: CR “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded

from Doma in June 1967, Palmyra and 25 km south of Homs in 1979 (Kinzelbach, 1995). The most recent record of the species was photographed by Firas Baddour near Latakia on 13 May 2022. (Figure 25), a hunter offered a bird for sale, and later released. (BKS; MB; NI)

**Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

التشويهيين الأوراسي – بيدق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *F. S. subbuteo*

**Status and distribution:** Scarce breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from all regions in low numbers, breeding confirmed in the north of the coastal region. (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus***

الشَّاهِين

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies. More than one subspecies has been observed in Syria.

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor and passage migrant. Subspecies *pelegrinoides* very rare; previously reported throughout the year in the mountains around Damascus and Anti-Lebanon Mountains, but not recently. Has bred in Syria, around Tell Tamer, between Hasakah and Deir ez-Zor, and near Kasab on the north coast (Goodbody, 1945; Brown, 1946; Williams, 1946). (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus***

الصقر الوُكْرِي

(IUCN Red List: NT “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** *F. b. feldeggii*, *F. b. tanypterus*

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant. Extinct breeding species. Previously bred in Anti-Lebanon Mountains (near Al-Nabk) and east of Palmyra, but no recent evidence. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug***

الصقر الحر

(IUCN Red List: CR “Mediterranean”)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Very scarce winter



**Figure 23.** Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*. Wadi Barada, NW of Damascus, Mar. 2018. (Photo by Khaled Abbas)



**Figure 24.** Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*. Cliff nesting colony in Al-Qsupi, Apr. 2010. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)



**Figure 25.** Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*. Near Latakia, May 2022. (Photo by Firas Baddour)

visitor; Rare passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Order: Psittaciformes**

**Family: Psittaculidae (Old World Parrots)**

**Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri***

درّة هندية مطوّقة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Introduced species.

**Status and distribution:** Introduced. Rare resident. Recorded from Deir ez-Zor, Sabkhat al-Jabboul, Ghota, and Al-Quneitra. Population probably descended from escaped birds, no evidence yet of breeding in wild. (BKS; MB)

**Order: Passeriformes**

**Family: Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)**

**Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus***

الصّفير الذهبي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Common and

widespread passage migrant in all regions. Breeding not confirmed. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Family: Laniidae (Shrikes)**

**Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor***

الصّرد الرمادي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

Multiple subspecies of this species have been identified; the subspecies recorded in Syria are detailed below:

**Great Grey Shrike *L. e. homeyeri***

الصّرد الرمادي الكبير

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded around Palmyra (Hofland and Saveyn, 2005; Holm, 2011). (BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Saharan Grey Shrike *L. e. elegans***

الصّرد الرمادي الصحراوي

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor. Recorded from south of Jabal Al-Bishri, 80 km southwest of Deir ez-Zor (Aidek, 2010),

(Figure 26) (AA; NI)

**Arabian Grey Shrike *L. e. aucheri***

الصرد الرمادي العربي

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding species in Anti-Lebanon Mountains; winter visitor to southern Syria; scarce passage migrant. (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Steppe Grey Shrike *L. e. pallidirostris***

صرد السهول الرمادي

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant. Recorded from Talilah in February 2004, and Muhasan on 21 September 2009 (Hofland and Saveyn, 2005; Aidek, 2010) (Figure 27). (MB; AA; NI)

**Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus***

الصرد المقتع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor in the west; common and widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor***

الصرد الرمادي الصغير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread but uncommon passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator***

الصرد محمر الفنة

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** *L.s. niloticus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in the west; widespread and common passage migrant in all regions. (BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus***

الصرد الداورياني (أحمر الذنب)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. i. isabellinus*, *L.i. arenarius*

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from Euphrates basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and Sed Wadi Abied. (BKS; GS; MB; NI)



**Figure 26.** Saharan Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor elegans*. Jabal Al-Bishri, Apr. 2008. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)



**Figure 27.** Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris*. Muhasan, Sep. 2009. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

**Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio***

الصرد أحمر الظهر  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in the west; widespread and common passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides***

الصرد أحمر الذيل (التركستاني)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded from Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin, and Homs lake. (MB; NI)

**Family: Corvidae (Crows, Jays)**

**Alpine Chough *Pyrrhonorax graculus***

غراب (زاغ) أصفر المنقار  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. g. digitatus*

**Status and distribution:** Rare resident in Anti-Lebanon Mountains. (K; BKS; MB)

**Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax***

غراب (زاغ) أحمر المنقار  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. p. docilis*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident. Now confined to the cliffs north of Palmyra. Extinct from Al-Qaryatein. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius***

القييق الأوراسي – الزرّياب  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *G. g. atricapillus*

**Status and distribution:** Common breeding resident in the west, but rare in the east. No records from Al-Badia. (K; BKS; MB)

**Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica***

العقعق الأوراسي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. p. pica*

**Status and distribution:** Very common and widespread breeding resident along Euphrates basin, Al-Jazira, and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. It has now spread to the east of the Orontes basin at Salamiyah. (K; BKS; MB; AA; NI)

**Northern Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

كشّار البندق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *N. c. caryocatactes*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record near Kasab, north of the coastal, in late summer 2006 (Ottelin, 2008). (MB)

**Western Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*

غراب الزرع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. m. sommerringii*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding species; widespread winter visitor. Recorded from Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin, extending west to Aleppo. Breeding confirmed in middle Euphrates basin. Formerly a winter visitor to the Damascus region, with large numbers roosting in Damascus city in November 1982-1983. (K; BKS; MB; AA; NI)

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

غراب القبيظ (الغداف)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. f. frugilegus*

**Status and distribution:** Common breeding and winter visitor in Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin, extending west to Aleppo; common winter visitor in Damascus and its surroundings. (K; BKS; MB)

**Brown-necked Raven** *Corvus ruficollis*

الغراب بني العنق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident in the cliffs of Al-Badia and Anti-Lebanon mountains. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Fan-tailed Raven** *Corvus rhipidurus*

الغراب مروحي الذنب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. r. stanleyi*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from the south in 1966; Near Palmyra in August 1975 (Benson, 1984; Kinzelbach, 1995). (NI)

**Northern Raven** *Corvus corax*

الغراب الأسود

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. laurencei*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in the cliffs and high mountains in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

غراب الجيف (الغراب الأبقع)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. pallescens*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and often abundant breeding resident in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

### Family: Remizidae (Penduline Tits)

**Eurasian Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*

قرقف بندولين (قرقف معلق العش)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *R. p. menzbieri*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident in suitable habitat of common reed. Recorded along Euphrates, Al-Jazira, Orontes, coastal region, Barada river, and Mzeirib lake. (K; BKS; MB)

### Family: Paridae (Tits)

**Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

القرقف الأزرق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. caeruleus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in the coastal mountains. Often common in its limited range. (K; BKS; MB)

**Great Tit *Parus major***

القرقف الكبير

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. m. terraesanctae***Status and distribution:** Widespread and often common breeding resident in the west of Syria; a few populations in the northeast of Al-Jazira and upper Euphrates basin, but it is not broven breeder there. (K; BKS; MB)**Coal Tit *Periparus ater***

القرقف الفحمي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. a. ater***Status and distribution:** Common breeding resident. Confined to the coastal mountains and Anti-Lebanon Mountains. (K; BKS; MB)**Sombre Tit *Poecile lugubris***

القرقف الحزين

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. l. anatoliae***Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident. Recorded from the coastal region, Aleppo, and west of Damascus. (K; BKS; MB)**Family: Panuridae (Reedling)****Bearded Reedling (Bearded Tit) *Panurus biarmicus***

القرقف الملتحي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. b. kosswigi***Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident. Recorded from Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin, Orontos basin, and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (K; BKS; MB)**Family: Alaudidae (Larks)****Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes***

القَبْرَة الهددية

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 28)

**Subspecies:** *A. a. alaudipes***Status and distribution:** Widespread but uncommon breeding resident in Al-Jazira and Al-Badia. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Thick-billed Lark *Ramphocoris clotbey***

قَبْرَة سميقة المنقار

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. recorded from Al-Badia around Palmyra in March-May, 2000-2003; Dickinson and Christidis (2014) mentioned it in south of the country. (GS; MB; NI)**Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura***

قَبْرَة موشومة الذنب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. a. arenicolor***Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in the steppes and semi-aride areas. This is a typical desert species preferring flat sandy and hamad areas. (BKS; GS; MB)**Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti***

قَبْرَة الصحراء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. d. isabellina* , *A. d. annae***Status and distribution:** Widespread and often common breeding resident in steppes and semi-arid areas. Subspecies *annae* occurs in the basalt of southern Syria with ssp. *isabellina* in other areas. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Woodlark *Lullula arborea***

قَبْرَة الغاب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. a. pallida***Status and distribution:** Scarce breeding resident in the west; winter visitor in other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis***

قَبْرَة السماء

(IUCN Red List: LC)



**Figure 28.** Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*. Al-Hjeifat, Oct. 2012. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies but probably *A. a. armenica* and *A. a. cantarella* occur in Syria.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common winter visitor to interior lowlands; widespread passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Crested Lark *Galerida cristata***

القَبْرَة المَتَوَجَّة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *G. c. zion*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding resident in all areas, except for highlands over 1200 meters. Regarding de Juana (2022), the subspecies *zion* common in Syria, further investigation is required. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Temminck's Lark *Eremophila bilopha***

قَبْرَة تَمْنَك

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 29)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident in Al-Badia, west and south Euphrates, except the very dry areas devoid of vegetation; breeding summer visitor in Anti-Lebanon Mountains. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris***

القَبْرَة القَرْنَاء القَوْقَازِيَّة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *E. a. bicornis*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident and altitudinal migrant. Summer visitor to the higher elevations of Mt. Hermon and Anti-Lebanon Mountains above 1800 meters, descending to meadows at lower altitudes in winter. (K; BKS; MB)

**Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla***

القَبْرَة الكَبِيرَة قَصِيرَة الأَصَابِع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. b. hermonensis*, *C. b. woltersi*  
**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding summer visitor in Al-Jazira and Al-Badia. Subspecies *hermonensis* is widespread, with ssp. *woltersi* occur in the northeast. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata***

القَبْرَة الشرقية الصغيرة  
 (IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.  
**Status and distribution:** Common breeding summer visitor to higher elevations of Jabal Abd Al-Aziz, Mt. Hermon, Anti-Lebanon Mountains, and Jabal Al-Arab; winter visitor in southern Syria; passage migrant in the interior. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra***

القَبْرَة الشرقية الكبيرة  
 (IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. c. gaza*, *M. c. hebraica*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident and summer visitor more humid areas of Al-Jazira and Al-Badia, with a limited distribution in the Orontes basin and the coastal region. *gaza* occurs in eastern Syria and *hebraica* in the northwest. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Arabian Lark *Eremalauda eremodites***  
 (split from Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunnii*)

القَبْرَة العربية  
 (IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.  
**Status and distribution:** Irruptive visitor. Recorded from Talila reserve, Sed Wadi Abiad near Palmyra, Baghdad–Damascus road. (GS; MB)

**Mediterranean Short-toed Lark *Alaudala rufescens***

قَبْرَة البحر الأبيض المتوسط قصيرة الأصابع  
 (IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. r. minor*



**Figure 29.** Temminck's Lark *Eremophila bilopha*. Jabal Al-Bishri, Oct. 2014. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in most regions. No records from the coast or higher altitudes. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Family: Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)**

**Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis***

الهازجة الرشيقية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. g. palaestinae*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident around Damascus and southwest region. (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Delicate Prinia *Prinia lepida***

الهازجة الرقيقة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. l. akyildizi*, *P. l. lepida*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident in all regions, no records from the southwest. Subspecies *lepida* occurs in the eastern part of the country, and *akyildizi* in the northern and the coastal regions. (BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis***

هازجة مروحية الذنب - هازجة زنتك

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. j. juncidis*, *C. j. neuroticus*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident in suitable habitat in all regions. Subspecies *neuroticus* occurs in southern country. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Family: Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers and Allies)**

**Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina***

الهازجة الليمونية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from Tell Tamer on 29 May 1945, Palmyra oases on 29 August 2001, a temporary desert pool on the Damascus-Palmyra road on 1 April 2006 (Goodbody, 1945; Dubois, 2006). (GS; MB)

**Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida***

هازجة الشجر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Breeding confirmed in Anti-Lebanon Mountains. Recorded from middle Euphrates, coast and Palmyra area on migration. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum***

هازجة أشجار الزيتون

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; scarce passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Breeding confirmed along the coast. (K; BKS; MB)

**Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata***

الهازجة المنتعلة (ذات الحذاء)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record, Damascus garden, in early April 2006 (MB)

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida***

الهازجة الزيتونية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *I. p. elaeica*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Common in suitable habitat in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***

هازجة البردي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant. Recorded from Euphrates basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, south of coastal, around Palmyra and Daraa. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon***

الهازجة الملتحية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. m. mimicus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident; passage migrant. Recorded from Euphrates basin, Al-Jazira, Orontes basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, around Palmyra, Ghotia and Daraa. (BKS; MB)

**Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola***

هازجة الأرز

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record at Sed Wadi Abiad near Palmyra on 25 May 2008 (Kullberg, 2008). (MB)

**Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum***

هازجة قصب بلايث

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record at Homs lake on 2 August 1978 (Kinzelbach, 1986b). (BKS; MB)

**Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris***

هازجة المستنقعات

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant in suitable habitat. Recorded widely on migration. (K; BKS; MB)

**Common Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus***

هازجة القصب الأوراسية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. s. fuscus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Recorded widely on migration. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis***

هازجة قصب البصرة

(IUCN Red List: EN)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Status unclear. Recorded from Halabiyyeh on 24 April 2006 (Yésou *et al.* 2007); at Muhasan marsh on 3 May 2012. Breeding not confirmed. (MB; NI)

**Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus***

هازجة القصب الكبيرة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. a. arundinaceus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from suitable habitat in all regions. Breeding confirmed along Euphrates and its tributaries, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and Utaibeh marsh. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus***

هازجة القصب الصاخبة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. s. levantinus*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident. Recorded from Euphrates basin, Orontes basin, Ghotia, and Daraa. (BKS; MB)

**Family: [Locustellidae \(Grasshopper Warblers, Grassbirds, and Allies\)](#)**

**River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis***

هازجة الأنهار

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant. Recorded from Euphrates, around Palmyra, and southwest region. (K; BKS; MB)

**Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides***

هازجة سافي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. l. fusca*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; Widespread passage migrant. Recorded from most regions. Breeding confirmed in upper and middle Euphrates valley, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and the coastal region. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Common Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia***

هازجة الجنادب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. n. obscurior*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. recorded from Nahr Al-Sen near Latakia, on 6 March 1979 (Kinzelbach, 1995). (BKS; MB)

**Family: Hirundinidae (Swallows, Martins)**

**Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

خُطَّاف الشواطئ

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *R. r. shelleyi*.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in Euphrates valley and its tributaries; a few over winter; passage migrant in other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris***

خُطَّاف الشواهِق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident above 1500 m in Anti-Lebanon Mountains and Mt. Hermon. Outside the breeding season moves to lower altitudes. Recorded from Euphrates basin, coastal region, and Al-Badia. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

سنونو المخازن

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *H. r. transitiva* (Levant Barn Swallow)

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding summer visitor; passage

migrant in all regions. No confirmed breeding records from Al-Badia. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Western House Martin *Delichon urbicum***

خُطَّاف الضواحي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *D. u. meridionale*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; widespread passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Limited breeding distribution, in the coastal regions, Damascus, and anti-Lebanon Mountains. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**European Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis rufula***

سنونو أحمر العجز

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; widespread passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Summer records include the coastal region, Euphrates valley, and northwest of Damascus, with limited breeding distribution confirmed in north of the coastal region. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Family: Aegithalidae (Tit-warblers, Bushtits, and Long-tailed Tit)**

**Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus***

قرقف طويل الذيل

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. c. tephronotus*, *A. c. passekii*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident. Recorded from Euphrates basin, northwest Aleppo, north the coastal region, and Anti-Lebanon mountains. Subspecies *tephronotus* breeds in the coastal region, *passekii* recorded in Euphrates basin. (BKS; MB)

**Family: Cettiidae (Bush Warblers and Allies)**

**Streaked Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta***

نمنمة الشجر المخططة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. i. inquieta*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident with limited distribution. Recorded from Anti-Lebanon Mountains, Mt. Hermon, Jabal Al-Arab and around Palmyra. Rare at lower Euphrates. (BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti***

هازجة سيني

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. orientalis*

**Status and distribution:** Common breeding resident in all regions where there is dense vegetation near waterbodies. (K; BKS; MB)

**Family: Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)**

**Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix***

نقشارة الغاب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant in low numbers in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis***

نقشارة بونلي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in north coastal region and Mt. Hermon; passage migrant to the west, rarely recorded in Euphrates basin. (K; BKS; MB)

**Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus***

نقشارة الصفصاف

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 30)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita***

النقشارة الشائعة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:**, *P. c. collybita* , *P. c. tristis*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; winter visitor; widespread passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Breeding confirmed along the coast and west and northwest of Damascus. *collybita* is the subspecies breeding in Syria. Subspecies *tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff) recorded once at Dura Europus near Euphrates on 28 February 2007 (Hofland and Keijl, 2008). (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

**Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides***

هازجة خضراء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record at Palmyra oasis on 25 September 2002 (Le Croisette and Wheeler, 2002). (GS; MB)

**Family: Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)**

**White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos***

البلبل أصفر العجز (ذو النظارة البيضاء)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding resident in the west. Few records from Deir ez-Zor, most likely birds that escaped from cages. (K; BKS; MB; AA)

**White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis***

البلبل أبيض الأذنين (أبيض الخدين) – البلبل العراقي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. l. mesopotamia*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident along Euphrates and Al-Khbour basin. The first sightings from Deir ez-Zor were in the early 1980s, as it began spreading up the Euphrates valley from Iraq. (BKS; MB; AA; NI)



Figure 30. Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* ach-Chola, May 2014. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

**Family: Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and Allies)**

**Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin***

هازجة الحدائق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. b. woodwardi*.

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant. Recorded from Jabal Abd Al-Aziz, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, around Palmyra and southwest region. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla***

أبو قلنسوة (عصفور التين)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. a. atricapilla*.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in all regions, mostly in the west; a few overwinter. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria***

هازجة موشحة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. n. nisoria*

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant. Recorded from coastal, Anti-Lebanon Mountains and around Palmyra. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca***

الهازجة بيضاء الزور الصغيرة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. curruca*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in the coastal region and southwest regions; widespread passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eastern Orphean Warbler *Curruca crassirostris***

الهازجة الموسيقية (هازجة أورفيوس)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. crassirostris*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in the west; passage migrant in other regions. (K; BKS; MB)

**Asian Desert Warbler *Curruca nana***

هازجة الصحاري

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Status unclear. Recorded from northeast Syria at Tell Tamer, May-November 1945; at Talila Reserve, Jan-April 2001-2003. (GS; MB)**Ménétriés's Warbler *Curruca mystacea***

الهازجة المُنشدة (هازجة منتريس)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. m. rubescens***Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Recorded widely in scrubby area, along Euphrates valley, Palmyra oasis but not along the coast. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis***

الهازجة بيضاء الزور الشائعة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. icterops***Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; Common passage migrant. Recorded from most regions. Breeding confirmed in the coastal region, around Damascus, and Anti-Lebanon mountains. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Spectacled Warbler *Curruca conspicillata***

الهازجة ذات النظارة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C.c. conspicillata***Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding summer visitor in suitable habitat in all regions; some individuals overwinter in Euphrates valley. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Rüppell's Warbler *Curruca ruppeli***

هازجة روبل

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 31)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer

visitor in the coastal region, and Orontos Basin; passage migrant to other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala***

هازجة سردينيا

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. m. momus***Status and distribution:** Breeding resident; Passage migrant. Recorded from most regions. Breeding confirmed in the coastal region, Anti-Lebanon Mountains, and southwest region. (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)**Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Curruca cantillans***

هازجة الصرود

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.**Status and distribution:** Vagrant/scarcely passage migrant. One record in Seydnaya, north of Damascus on 5 Apr 1998 (Baumgart, 1998). (MB)**Family: *Leiothrichidae* (Laughingthrushes and Allies)****Iraq Babbler *Argya altirostris***

ثرثارة العراق

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 32)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident in Euphrates basin, Al-Khabour basin, and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (MB; AA).**Family: *Hypocoliidae* (Hypocolius)****Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus***

الخنق - سويداء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Status unclear. The first Syrian record was of a bird in Deir ez-Zor in May 2023, with 7 birds seen in the area in the next 5 days (Aidek, 2023) (NI).



**Figure 31.** Rüppell's Warbler *Curruca ruppeli*. Tartous, Apr. 2023. (Photo by Zo Al-Faqar Ibrahim)

**Family: Regulidae (Kinglets)**

**Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***

ذهبي التاج

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *R. r. buturlini*

**Status and distribution:** Scarce winter visitor. Recorded in upper Euphrates, Qal'at Samaan, coastal region, and Mt. Hermon. (K; BKS; MB)

**Common Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla***

ناري التاج

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *R. i. ignicapilla*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from Euphrates basin, one bird in Al-Thawra reserve in Al-Furat Lake (formerly Assad

Lake) on 14 February 2004; two individual in Deir ez-Zor on 3 January 2006; near Deir ez-Zor on 13 February 2025. (MB; NI)

**Family: Tichodromidae (Wallcreeper)**

**Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria***

متسلق الجدران

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. m. muraria*

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor. Recorded from the coastal region, Anti-Lebanon mountains, and Jabal Al-Arab. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Family: Sittidae (Nuthatches)**

**Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer***

قنص البندق الصخري

(IUCN Red List: LC)



Figure 32. Iraq Babbler *Argya altirostris*. Mheimideh, Jan. 2011. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

**Subspecies:** *S. n. syriaca*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in west of the country. (K; BKS; MB)

**Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

قنص البندق الأوراسي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. e. levantina*

**Status and distribution:** Scarce breeding resident in deciduous woodlands in the coastal mountains. (K; BKS; MB)

**Family: Certhiidae (Trecreepers)**

**Short-toed Trecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla*

متسلق الشجر قصير الأصابع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. b. harterti*

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record near Qal'at Salah ad-Din in the coastal region on 1 April 1994. (BKS; MB)

**Family: Troglodytidae (Wrens)**

**Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

لنمنمة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. t. Cypriotes*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident. Recorded along Euphrates, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and the west of the country. (K; BKS; MB)

**Family: Sturnidae (Rhabdornis, Starlings, and Mynas)**

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

الزرزور الشائع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. v. tauricus*, *S. v. purpurascens*, *S. v. oppenheimeri*

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding resident; common winter visitor; widespread passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Breeding in the north near Turkish border. Subspecies *tauricus* and *purpurascens* wintering in Syria, while *oppenheimeri*

breeding. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)

### Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*

الزرزور الوردي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

المينا الشائع (ماينا)  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. t. tristis*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident. The current distribution encompasses the urban and rural areas of western and southwestern Syria. Not yet observed along the Euphrates basin and eastern Syria (Aidek and Khoury, 2024). (NI)

## Family: Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

### Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

سمنة دبقة  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. v. viscivorus*.

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor mainly to the coastal region and Anti-Lebanon mountains, rare in the other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

سمنة مغردة  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. p. philomelos*

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor to suitable habitat in all regions; passage migrant in low numbers. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

سمنة حمراء الجنب  
(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** *T. i. iliacus*

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor in suitable habitat in all regions. (K; BKS; MB)

### Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

الشحور  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. m. syriacus*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident in west of the country; common winter visitor to all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

### Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

سمنة الحقول  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce winter visitor. Recorded from the north of Al-Jazira, middle Euphrates bas, coastal, Palmyra, Anti-Lebanon mountains, and Jabal Al-Arab. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

الدرّج المطوق  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *T. t. amicum*

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor. Recorded from Ghota, Sweida, and Palmyra. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

## Family: Muscicapidae (Chats, Old World Flycatchers, and Allies)

### Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

أبو حناء الأحرار أحمر الذنب  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. g. galactotes*, *C. g. syriaca*, *C. g. familiaris*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding summer visitor to suitable habitat in most regions; passage migrant in low numbers. Subspecies *galactotes* breeds in the southwest, *syriaca* in the northwest, and *familiaris* in the north. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

خاطف الذباب الأرقط

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. s. neumanni*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Breeding confirmed in the coastal region, northwest Aleppo, and less in southwest region. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**European Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

أبو الحناء الأوربي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *E. r. hyrcanus*

**Status and distribution:** Very rare breeding resident in the coastal region; widespread winter visitor in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis***

أبو الحناء أبيض الزور

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor in the coastal region and Anti-Lebanon mountains; widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia***

العندليب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos***

الهزار الشائع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. m. megarhynchos*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in Euphrates basin and the coastal region; widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica***

هزاز أزرق الزور أحمر البقع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. s. svecica*, *L. s. cyanecul*, *L. s. volgae*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor; passage migrant in low numbers. Recorded from all regions. Subspecies *svecica* recorded in the middle Euphrates basin, *volgae* recorded from the lower Euphrates basin, and *cyanecula* recorded from middle and lower Euphrates basin, Yarmuk valley, and around Palmyra. (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva***

خاطف الذباب أحمر الصدر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant. Recorded from Euphrates and Al-Khabour basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, Al-Badia and Anti-Lebanon mountains. (GS; MB)

**Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata***

خاطف الذباب شبه المطوق

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 33)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Passage migrant in low numbers in all regions. (K; BKS; MB)

**Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis***

خاطف الذباب المطوق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in low numbers in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca***

خاطف الذباب الأبقع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not

assigned to any subspecies

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in low numbers in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus***

أبو الحناء أحمر الخصر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record from Tell Tamr, north-east Syria in May 1945 (Goodbody, 1945). (K; BKS)

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

الحميراء السوداء (المسودة)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. o. gibraltariensis*, *P. o. semirufus*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident; winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Breeding confirmed in low numbers in the coastal region and Anti-Lebanon mountains. Subspecies *semirufus* is breeding in Syria. (BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

الحميراء الشائعة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. p. phoenicurus*, *P. p. samamisticus*

**Status and distribution:** Scarce breeding species; widespread and common passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Subspecies *samamisticus* is breeding in woods in the north of the coastal region. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis***

سمنة الصخور الشائعة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Breeding confirmed in low

numbers in Mt. Hermon and Anti-Lebanon mountains. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius***

سمنة الصخور الزرقاء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. s. longirostris*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in small numbers; winter visitor; widespread passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Breeding confirmed in the north of the coastal region, Jabal Al-Arab, Anti-Lebanon Mountains, and Mt. Hermon. Wintering in Anti-Lebanon and west Damascus. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

لقليعي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus***

القلعي السيبيري

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. m. maurus*, *S. m. variegatus*, *S. m. hemprichii* (Caspian)

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from the north and Al-Badia. Subspecies *maurus* recorded from Euphrates basin, Al-Khabour basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul and around Palmyra, *variegatus* (Byzantine Stonechat) recorded from Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin, Homs lake, and Talila Reserve; *hemprichii* recorded from ar-Rawda steppe (Figure 34). (MB; AA; NI)

**European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola***

(split from *S. torquatus*)

القلعي المطوق

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *S. r. rubicola*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor and passage migrant in all regions.



**Figure 33.** Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*. Al-Bayadah, west of Hamah, Mar. 2023. (Photo by Hasan Diab)

(K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Hooded Wheatear *Oenanthe monacha***

أبلق أو قلنسوة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Five records, from Al-Badia at ar-Rasafah on 11 March 1980, and Palmyra on 11 November 1982 (Kinzelbach, 1995); at Talila reserve on 29 April, and 23 September 2001, at Sed Wadi Abiad on 17 October 2001. (GS; MB; NI)

**Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti***

أبلق البادية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *O. d. deserti*

**Status and distribution:** Scarce breeding resident; passage migrant in low numbers. Recorded from Al-Jazira, Al-Badia, southwest regions. Breeding confirmed in Al-Badia around Palmyra, Anti-Lebanon Mountains, around Damascus, and southwest regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka***

الأبلق الأبقع

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in all regions, no records from the coast. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca***

أبلق أسود الأذن

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor; widespread passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Breeding confirmed in the west highlands and Jabal Abd Al-Aziz. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)



**Figure 34.** Caspian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus hemprichii*. ar-Rawda steppe, Mar. 2010. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

**Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca***

الأبلىق القبرصي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common passage migrant in all regions. (BKS; GS; MB)

**Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

الأبلىق الشمالي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *O. o. libanotica*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in Anti-Lebanon Mountains and Mt. Hermon; widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina***

أبلىق أشهب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident;

breeding summer visitor; widespread passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. Resident in Jabal Abd Aziz, Anti-Lebanon Mountains, Mt. Hermon, and Jabal Al-Arab. Breeding summer visitor in the humed steppes in Al-Badia; widespread passage migrant. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Red-rumped Wheatear *Oenanthe moesta***

أبلىق أحمر العجز

(IUCN Red List: LC). Eastern populations (Arabian Peninsula – Levant) are considered regionally threatened (EN, D1).

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding resident. Older reports state that the Red-rumped Wheatear is a widespread breeding species in near Al-Qaryatein and Palmyra. The most recent observations suggestive of breeding are of males singing at Al-Basiri (75 km SE of Palmyra) in 1998 (Baumgart 1998). Recently recorded in Daraa and Sweida in March-April without evidence of breeding. (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Blackstart *Oenanthe melanura***

قلبي أسود الذيل

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *O. m. melanura***Status and distribution:** Breeding resident. Recorded from Yarmuk valley and its branches in Daraa, Sweida, and gardens in Damascus, without evidence of breeding. (BKS; MB; NI)**Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii***

أبلق فينش

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *O. f. finschii***Status and distribution:** Breeding resident; widespread winter visitor. Breeding confirmed in the west and Jabal Abd Al-Aziz. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens***

الأبلق الحزين

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *O. l. lugens***Status and distribution:** Breeding resident; passage migrant. Recorded from Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin and Ghota. Breeding in Al-Badia around Palmyra and Jabal Al-Arab. (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)**Basalt Wheatear *Oenanthe warriae***

الأبلق البازلتي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in the black basalt desert in the far south, very rarely in central Syria, one record near Bald Ibis colony in April 2006 (Kullberg, 2006; Martinez *et al.* 2016). (NI)**Kurdish Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopyrmyna***

الأبلق الكردي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant. Recorded from Al-Jazira, Al-Badia mountains, Anti-Lebanon Mountains. (BKS; GS; MB)**White-crowned Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga***

أبلق أبيض التاج

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *O. l. leucopyga*, *O. l. ernesti***Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in the black basalt desert of the far south, vagrant around Palmyra. Subspecies *leucopyga* recorded in November 2001 at limestone cliff 20 km north of Talila Reserve, in March 2004 at Talila Reserve; *ernesti* recorded in February 2009 east of Jebel Al-Arab (Martinez *et al.*, 2016). (GS; MB; NI)**Family: Nectariniidae (Sunbirds)****Palestine Sunbird *Cinnyris osea***

التمير (طائر الشمس) الفلسطيني

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. o. osea***Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in the coastal and the orchards of the southwestern regions. (BKS; MB)**Family: Prunellidae (Accentors)****Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris***

عصفور الصنوبر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor in Anti-Lebanon mountains and Mt. Hermon. (BKS; MB)**Radde's Accentor *Prunella ocularis***

عصفور رادي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. o. ocularis***Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor

to higher altitudes. Recorded from Jabal Abd Al-Aziz, coastal mountains, Ghot, Anti-Lebanon mountains, and Mt. Hermon. (BKS; MB)

**Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

عصفور الشوك القوقازي  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. m. obscura*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor in low numbers to all regions except arid areas. (K; BKS; MB)

**Family: Passeridae (Snowfinches and Old World Sparrows)**

**Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia***

عصفور الصخر  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. p. puteicola*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread but uncommon breeding resident in suitable habitat in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Pale Rockfinch *Carospiza brachydactyla***

حسون الصخر الشاحب  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor; passage migrant. Breeding confirmed in Jabal Abd Al-Aziz, Jabal Al-Bilas, Anti-Lebanon Mountains, and Jabal Al-Arab. No records from the coastal region (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Yellow-throated Sparrow *Gymnoris xanthocollis***

العصفور أصفر الرقبة  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *G. x. transfuga*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor. Recorded from Deir ez-Zor in 2003, Sed Wadi Abiad, Salamiyah, and the coast near Tartous. Breeding confirmed in Deir ez-Zor. (MB; NI)

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***

عصفور الشجر  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies.

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor. Recorded from Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin, and Damascus. (BKS; MB; NI)

**Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus***

عصفور البحر الميت  
(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 35)

**Subspecies:** *P. m. moabiticus* (Includes *mesopotamicus*)

**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding species in Euphrates valley, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, Al-Jazira and southwest of the country around Daraa. Some of the population appear resident but most individuals are short-distance migrants, so the winter range is more restricted. (BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis***

العصفور الاسباني  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. h. transcaspicus*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident; rare winter visitor along Euphrates; widespread passage migrants. Breeding confirmed in Al-Jazira and Al-Badia around Palmyra. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

العصفور الدوري  
(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *P. d. biblicus* , *P. d. indicus*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread and common breeding resident in all regions. Subspecies *biblicus* is mostly spread in Syria, but many individuals of *indicus* have been recorded east of Al-Badia and lower Euphrates. (BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Family: Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)****Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

ذعرة رمادية

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. c. cinerea***Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident in the north of the coastal region; widespread winter visitor; passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

الذعرة الصفراء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. f. lutea* , *M. f. flava* , *M. f. beema*, *M. f. cinereocapilla* , *M. f. feldegg*, *M. f. thunbergi* , *M. f. melanogrisea***Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in Al-Jazira and Euphrates basin, passage migrant to other regions. A wide range of subspecies have been recorded (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA; NI)**Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola citreola***

ذعرة صفراء الرأس

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. c. citreola* (includes *werae*)**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident in Euphrates basin and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul; passage migrant to all regions. (BKS; GS; MB; AA)**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

الذعرة البيضاء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *M. a. alba***Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident along the coast; winter visitor in Euphrates basin and coastal region; widespread and common passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris***

جشنة الصحراء (جشنة صفراء مسمرة)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor in the west and Jabal Abd Al-Aziz and Anti-Lebanon mountains; widespread passage migrant in other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis***

جشنة طويلة المنقار

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. s. captus***Status and distribution:** Common breeding resident in low numbers, only known from the southwest around the Yarmuk valley. (K; BKS; MB)**Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi***

جشنة ريتشارد

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record from as-Sukhnah, 13 April 1993. (BKS; MB)**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

جشنة الشجر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. t. trivialis***Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus***

جشنة حمراء الزور

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Uncommon widespread winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Siberian Pipit *Anthus japonicus***

جشنة برتقالية البطن

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record at Jazrat Meilaj (middle Euphrates) on 18 February 2004. (MB)



**Figure 35.** Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus*. Hawejjt at-Tebni, Euphrates, May 2008. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

### Meadow Pipit

#### *Anthus pratensis*

جشنة الغاب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor; passage migrant. Recorded from all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

### Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

جشنة الماء

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *A. s. coutellii*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread winter visitor. Recorded from all regions, no records from the coastal regions. (K; BKS; MB)

### Family: **Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)**

#### **Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

شرشور جبلي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Scarce winter visitor to Anti-Lebanon mountains, Mt. Hermon and Jabal Al-Arab; rarely recorded from the the interior and Euphrates valley. (BKS; GS; MB)

#### **Eurasian Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

عصفور ظالم (الصفنج)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *F. c. syriaca*

**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident at high altitudes in the west; widespread winter visitor in all regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

#### **Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

شرشور الكرز (بلبل زيتوني)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor. Recorded from Anti-Lebanon mountains, Ghotu, Jabal Al-Arab, and Palmyra. (K; BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus***

الحسون الوردي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. e. kubanensis***Status and distribution:** Status uncertain. Recorded from near Palmyra in May 2006-2007; at Mheimideh on 21 March 2011; at Slenfeh in the coastal mountains, one bird on 23 May 2021, and three birds on 22 May 2023. (MB; NI)**Asian Crimson-winged Finch *Rhodopechys sanguineus***

حسون قرمزي الجناح

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *R. R. sanguineus*.**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding resident in Anti-Lebanon mountains and Mt. Hermon; rare winter visitor in northeast of Al-Jazira. (K; BKS; MB)**Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus***

الزَمِير الوردي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *B. g. crassirostris***Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident. Recorded from all regions, no records from the coastal region. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta***

الحسون الصحراوي

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 36)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Widespread breeding resident in Al-Badia and Al-Jazira. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)**European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris***

الحسون الأخضر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. chlorotica***Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in the west; rare winter visitor in Euphrates and Sabkhat Al-Jabboul. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Twite *Linaria flavirostris***

حسون أصفر المنقار

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. f. brevirostris***Status and distribution:** Status unclear. One record, a flock of 17 birds recorded south of Sabkhat A-Jabboul on 20 February 2007 (Hofland and Keijl, 2008). (NI)**Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina***

الحسون التفاحي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. c. bella***Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident in the west; winter visitor to other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)**Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

القرزبيل الأحمر (مُصلَّب المنقار الأحمر)

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *L. c. guillemardi***Status and distribution:** Status uncertain. Recorded from Abu Qubays, two birds in September 2010, and three birds in September 2022 (Balmer and Murdoch, 2011; Aidek, 2024). (NI)**European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis***

الحسون الذهبي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *C. c. niediecki***Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident in the west; rare winter visitor in Al-Jazira, upper and middle Euphrates basin. Previously a common breeding species in the Jabal Arab (Meinertzhagen, 1935), and widespread in the Euphrates basin until the 1970s, but it now rare in these areas. (K; BKS; MB; NI)**European Serin *Serinus serinus***

النعار الأوربي

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.**Status and distribution:** Breeding resident in the west; winter visitor to Al-Jazira and Euphrates basin; rare in Al-Badia. (K; BKS; GS; MB)



**Figure 36.** Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta*. Shwihan, Jan. 2010. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)

**Red-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus***

النعار أحمر الجبهة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Rare winter visitor to anti- Lebanon and the coastal mountain; vagrant near Euphrates. (BKS; MB)

**Syrian Serin *Serinus syriacus***

النعار السوري

(IUCN Red List: VU) (Figure 37)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Breeding summer visitor. The species is most frequently encountered on sparsely wooded hillsides above 1,000 m in the Anti-Lebanon Mountains (e.g., Bloudan, Halbon, Huraira, and Seydnaya) and on Mount Hermon. To date, it has not been recorded from the coastal region. (BKS; GS; MB; NI)

**Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus***

حسون الشوك

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor. Recorded from Euphrates basin, oases of Al-Badia, Al-Ghab, and the coastal region. (K; BKS; MB)

**Family: Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)**

**Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus***

درسة القصب

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *E. s. caspia*

**Status and distribution:** Winter visitor. Recorded from Al-Jazira, Euphrates basin, Sabkhat Al-Jabboul, and Homs lake. (K; BKS; MB)

**Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola***

درسة صفراء الصدر

(IUCN Red List: CR)

**Subspecies:** The Syrian population is not assigned to any subspecies

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Two records, two birds at Tell Tamer on 20 November 1945 (Goodbody, 1945); one bird at Sed Arak, 30 km

northeast of Palmyra on 2 January 2002. (GS; MB)

**Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica***

درسة الريف

(IUCN Red List: VU)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. One record in Jabal Al-Arab in October 1974 (Macfarlane, 1978). (BKS; MB)

**Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala***

درسة سوداء الرأس

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding summer visitor in Euphrates basin, Sabkhat A-Jabboul, and the west; passage migrant in low numbers to other regions. (K; BKS; GS; MB)

**Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps***

درسة حمراء الرأس

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Vagrant. Recorded from Sed Wadi Abied in summer 2002, and c15 km west of Palmyra in summer 2003. (GS; MB)

**Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*** درسة القمح

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *E. c. buturlini*

**Status and distribution:** Widespread but uncommon breeding resident; winter visitor. Recorded from all regions. Breeding confirmed in the west. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia***

درسة الصخور

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *E. c. cia*

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon breeding resident in the coastal mountains, Anti-

Lebanon Mountains, and Mt. Hermon; rare winter visitor in northwest of Al-Jazira and middle Euphrates basin. (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani***

درسة رمادية الرقبة

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *E. b. cerrutii*

**Status and distribution:** Rare breeding summer visitor. Recorded from Bloudan on 16 April 1993; at Barqash (Anti-Lebanon) on 15 May 1999, a pair gathering nest material. (Baumgart and Stephan, 1994; Kirwan, 1999); (BKS; MB; NI)

**Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea***

درسة رمادية

(IUCN Red List: NT)

**Subspecies:** *E. c. semenowi*

**Status and distribution:** Rare passage migrant. Recorded from east of Palmyra, Jabal Al-Arab, and Jabal Abd Al-Aziz. The most recent record was from Jabal Abd Al-Aziz in April 2010, close to breeding areas in SE Türkiye and N Iraq (Bowler, 2010). (K; BKS; MB; NI)

**Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana***

درسة الشعير (درسة اورتلان)

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 38)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic

**Status and distribution:** Widespread passage migrant in all regions; Overlooked summer visitor in the north of the coastal region and in Anti-Lebanon mountains but no breeding records. (K; BKS; GS; MB; AA)

**Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia***

درسة مزرققة الرأس

(IUCN Red List: LC) (Figure 39)

**Subspecies:** Monotypic.

**Status and distribution:** Common breeding summer visitor in the northeast of Al-Jazira, north of the coastal region, and Yarmuk valley; passage migrant in the west. (K; BKS; MB)

**Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos***



**Figure 37.** Syrian Serin *Serinus syriacus*. Halbon, Anti-Lebanon, Apr. 2025. (Photo by RSCN)

درسة الصنوبر

(IUCN Red List: LC)

**Subspecies:** *E. l. leucocephalus*

**Status and distribution:** Status uncertain. Recorded from Bloudan, anti-Lebanon Mountains, on 4 March 2007, and in February 2008 (Hofland and Keijl, 2008). (MB)

**Subspecies:** *E. c. erythrogegens*.

**Status and distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor in low numbers. Recorded from middle Euphrates, north of the coastal region, Anti-Lebanon mountains, Mt. Hermon, and Jabal Al-Arab. (K; BKS; MB)

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

درسة صفراء

(IUCN Red List: LC)



**Figure 38.** Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*. Jabal Al-Bishri, Apr. 2009. (Photo by Ahmad Aidek)



**Figure 39.** Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*. Yarmuk Valley, Apr. 2009. (Photo by Lars Peterson)

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**Appendix 2. Geographical coordinates of the sites mentioned in the manuscript**

Site	N	E
Abu Kamal	34.4541	40.9198
ach-Chola	35.1897	39.8390
ad-Dukhoul	35.0561	39.9018
Al-Bakkar	32.8853	35.9321
Al-Ba'th lake	35.8790	38.7449
Al-Bayadah	35.0404	36.3465
Al-Furat Lake	35.8277	38.4558
Al-Haffah	35.5975	36.0394
Al-Hjeifat	35.5700	40.2525
Al-Khatuniyeh lake	36.4091	41.2300
Al-Malkiyeh	37.1764	42.1399
Al-Qaryatein	34.2285	37.2406
Al-Qsupi	35.7264	39.7260
Arak	34.6693	38.6153
ar-Rawda steppe	35.1845	41.0330
Banias	35.1922	35.9626
Bloudan	33.7255	36.1292
Buhayrat Al-Basil	36.2769	40.8145
es-Salihiyyeh	34.7762	40.6719
Feidhat Ibn Muwyin'e	34.6784	40.5082
Halabbiyah	35.6738	39.8271
Halbon	33.6639	36.2539
Homs lake	34.6295	36.5438
Huraira	33.6689	36.1208
Jabal Abd Al-Aziz	36.4060	40.3254
Jabal Al-Bilas	34.8963	37.5998
Jabal Al-Bishri	35.3335	39.3362
Jarablus	36.8197	38.0257
Jazrat Meilaj	35.7409	39.7423
Lake Tishreen	36.4252	38.2246
Lake Utaibeh	33.5252	36.6416
Maadan Jadid	35.7604	39.6002
Mabrukah	36.6543	39.7705
Mheimideh	35.4351	40.1026
Muhasan	35.2159	40.3495
Ras Al-Ayn	36.8455	40.0761
Sabkhat Al-Jabboul	36.0299	37.6529
Sabkhat Al-Moh	34.4881	38.4268
Sabkhat ar-Rawda	35.2978	41.0875
Salamiyah	35.0126	37.0554
Sanobar	35.4688	35.8775
Sa'sa'	33.2824	36.0240
Sed Wadi Abiad	34.6658	38.2248
Sedd Al-Kafat	35.0524	36.9040
Se'lu	35.1479	40.4089
Seydnaya	33.6964	36.3728
Shwihan	35.9516	39.8670

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Slenfeh	35.5994	36.1803
Tabqah	35.8442	38.5509
Talila Reserve	34.5261	38.5275
Tell Abiad	36.6940	38.9536
Tell Al-Darah	35.0319	36.9408
Tell Hosh	34.8397	36.0908
Tell Tamer	36.6537	40.3815
Wadi Barada	33.5689	36.1984
Wadi Qandil	35.7226	35.8360
Yabroud	33.9715	36.6676

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## **The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature**

Is a national organization devoted to the conservation of Jordan's wildlife. It was founded in 1966 under the patronage of His Majesty the late King Hussein and has been given responsibility by the government to establish and manage protected areas and enforce environmental laws. As such, it is one of the few non-governmental organizations in the Middle East to be granted such a public service mandate.

