

Israel

6th – 12th April 1987



Stefan Cherrug

ITINERARY

We were three birders from Sweden, Erik Hirschfeld (Malmö), Anders Lindén (Ängelholm) and Stefan Cherrug (Malmö) who made a birding tour in south Israel 6th-12th April 1987.

We left Copenhagen airport in the morning and landed at the Ovda airport outside Eilat at 3.00 pm. In Eilat Lars Berggren (Gothenburg) joined us during his last week in Israel. In Nizzana we were birding together with two Norwegian birders as well.

All transports were with a rented car, booked from Sweden and without any problem.

We stayed at the hotel Moriah, which has its balconies heading towards the sea. We were lucky to get a room high enough to have very good views over the Gulf of Eilat. We often spent the first few hours in the morning sea-watching, which was productive and gave us e.g. White-eyed Gull.

The weather was warm (about 30°C at noon) and sunny during our whole visit. It is advisable to bring caps with you for protection from the sun.

The journey back to Sweden was a little more dramatic. We left Ovda airport 3.20 pm. When approaching Denmark the pilot announced that one of the engines has to be turned off due to oil depression, so we had to make an emergency landing in Copenhagen. Everything though went well and we landed 3.20 pm.

In total we saw 173 species of birds of which 22 were new to me.

MISSED BIRDS

We had hoped to see Sinai Rosefinch, Cyprus Warbler, Brown Booby, Hume's Owl, Crowned Sandgrouse and perhaps Verraux's Eagle but we weren't successful in any.

For the two first species it was obviously too late in the season. The Sinai Rosefinches, we were told, had moved further into the breeding grounds in the Negev desert. Verraux's Eagle is notoriously difficult to see in spring, but should be regular Nov-Jan. Brown Booby is usually seen with a few individuals in the Gulf of Eilat, but we were unfortunate in finding any.

A few days just before our arrival Israel's first Grey Hypocolius had turned up in the date grove at Eilat. Also a Black Bushchat had been seen at the north fields, but despite a thorough search we were unable to relocate any of them. The same could be said about the Green-backed Heron that was present in the harbour close to the hotels the day before our arrival.

One of the best places to see Hume's Tawny Owl is the amphitheatre at Ein Gedi. The birds arrive after dusk to sit on lamp-posts. Some days prior to our visit a few owls had been observed, but we failed in finding them.

Due to wrong locality and road directions we also missed Crowned Sandgrouse at Nizzana, where they usually are easy to find in the mornings.

DIARY

Monday 6th April

Arrived at Eilat. Visited the north beach and the saltpans outside the town.

Tuesday 7th April

The ditch and saltpans, the north fields, the date grove, Ein Netafim, the north beach and the pumping station were the localities birded at.

Wednesday 8th April

We again visited the ditch, the saltpans, the north fields and the date grove. A desert area some 40 km north Eilat on the east side of the main road, Yotvata and the north beach were also visited.

Thursday 9th April

In the morning we were birding at the ditch, the saltpans and the north fields. We also made a tour in the Eilat city park. In the afternoon we drove north and visited En Hazeva and Ein Gedi.

Friday 10th April

In the morning we were birding at Yotvata and in the Timna valley, when EH stayed at Eilat. In the afternoon and evening we visited the north beach, the saltpans, Coral Beach, the middle fields and the ditch.

Saturday 11th April

The whole day was devoted to the Eilat area especially the ditch, the saltpans and the north beach. Two of us also tried for raptors in the hills west of Eilat, unfortunately without any great success.

Sunday 12th April

EH stayed at Eilat. The others plus two Norwegians visited Nizzana. After Nizzana we drove the Egyptian border-road back to Eilat. We left Israel in the afternoon and landed at Copenhagen airport 19th5. The landing was dramatic because one of the two motors had stopped.

LIST OF BIRDS

1. **COMMON SHELDUCK** Gravand *Tadorna tadorna*
Observations every day at Eilat with at the most 15 birds in the saltpans 9th.
2. **EURASIAN WIGEON** Bläsand *Anas penelope*
Five with Shovelers off the north beach 7th and 20, also with Shovelers, at same locality 8th. Only one left 9th, but then with Gargeneys.
3. **COMMON TEAL** Kricka *Anas crecca*
Singles seen among other dabbling ducks in Gulf of Eilat 7th, 8th and 9th.

4. **NORTHERN PINTAIL** Stjärtand *Anas acuta*
Singles seen among Shovelers off the north beach 8th and 9th.
5. **GARGANEY** Årta *Anas querquedula*
Seen nearly every day roosting in the Gulf of Eilat. Highest numbers seen were about 200 in several flocks 10th and 11th.
6. **NORTHERN SHOVELER** Skedand *Anas clypeata*
Recorded as for Garganey with at the most 200 in the Gulf of Eilat 7th and 8th. Highest count was about 400 birds 8th.
7. **TUFTED DUCK** Vigg *Aythya fuligula*
One Gulf of Eilat 7th.
8. **CHUKAR** Berghöna *Alectoris chukar sinaica*
One Nizzana 12th, was the only one seen. The subspecies in Israel is *A. c. sinaica*.
9. **SAND PARTRIDGE** Ökenhöna *Ammoperdix heyi*
Two males and one female Ein Netafim 7th, one pair at the pumping station, Eilat the same date, three birds at crossroads Beer Sheva/Sedon 9th and six birds in Timna valley 10th.
10. **COMMON QUAIL** Vaktel *Coturnix coturnix*
Two flushed in the north fields 8th, one Yotvata 8th and 12th.
11. **CORY'S SHEARWATER** Gulnäbbad lira *Calonectris diomedea*
Two seen from the hotel at Eilat 11th and one off the north beach the same day.
12. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** Grålira *Puffinus griseus*
One over the Gulf of Eilat 10th and 11th, observed from the hotel.
13. **LITTLE BITTERN** Dvärgörödrom *Ixobrychus minutus*
One coming in from the sea at Eilat 11th.
14. **NIGHT HERON** Natthäger *Nycticorax nycticorax*
One at the date grove at Eilat 7th and in the same area 8th and finally 1s coming in from the sea at Coral Beach 10th.
15. **SQUACCO HERON** Rallhäger *Ardeola ralloides*
Seen in the Eilat area 6th, 8th and 10th with at the most birds 5 in the ditch 8th.
16. **CATTLE EGRET** Kohäger *Bubulcus ibis*
One in the saltpans adjacent to Eilat 7th was the only observation.
17. **LITTLE EGRET** Silkeshäger *Egretta garzetta*
Seen almost every day in small numbers, mainly in the Eilat area. The highest number was 27 in southernmost saltpan at Eilat 9th.
18. **GREY HERON** Gråhäger *Ardea cinerea*
Singles and up to 5 seen in the saltpans at Eilat most days.

19. **PURPLE HERON** Purpurhäger *Ardea purpurea*
Single birds seen in the salt pans at Eilat 7th, 9th and 10th.
20. **BLACK STORK** Svart stork *Ciconia nigra*
Two at Eilat 10th and 11th.
21. **WHITE STORK** Vit stork *Ciconia ciconia*
Small groups migrating north were seen 10th and 12th outside Eilat.
22. **GLOSSY IBIS** Bronsibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Five in salt pans at Eilat 7th and one at the same place 9th.
23. **BLACK KITE** Brun glada *Milvus migrans*
Birds on migration seen almost every day in Eilat area and in the Arava valley.
24. **EGYPTIAN VULTURE** Smutsgam *Neophron percnopterus*
One adult En Hazeva 9th, one Yotvata. 10th and one Nizzana 12th.
25. **LAPPET-FACED VULTURE** Örongam *Torgos tracheliotus negevensis*
Very good views obtained of one soaring Yotvata 10th. The birds in Israel belongs to the subspecies *T. t. negevensis*.
26. **MARSH HARRIER** Brun kärrhök *Circus aeruginosus*
One male north fields 7th and 8th.
27. **PALLID HARRIER** Stäpphök *Circus macrourus*
One adult female north fields 7th and 8th, one adult female Yotvata 10th, one 2nd year female and adult female north beach, Eilat 10th and one adult female Nizzana 12th.
28. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER** Ängshök *Circus pygargus*
One female north beach, Eilat 10th and one adult male Nizzana 12th.
PALLID/MONTAGU'S HARRIER Stäpphök/Ängshök *Circus macrourus/pygargus*
One 2nd year female north beach 10th.
29. **EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK** Sparvhök *Accipiter nisus*
Singles seen most days in the Eilat area, in Arava valley and at Nizzana. All birds seen were on migration.
30. **LEVANT SPARROWHAWK** Balkanhök *Accipiter brevipes*
One north fields 7th and 11th.
EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK/LEVANT SPARROWHAWK
Sparvhök/Balkanhök *Accipiter nisus/brevipes*
Several unidentified birds at Eilat, Timna valley and Ein Gedi.

31. **COMMON BUZZARD** Stäppvråk *Buteo buteo vulpinus*
Many migrating birds seen every day in Eilat area and in the Arava valley.
Most Common Buzzards migrating through Israel are of the subspecies *B. b. vulpinus*.
32. **LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD** Örnvråk *Buteo rufinus rufinus*
Only one positively identified: the date grove 7th. The subspecies is *B. r. rufinus*.
33. **STEPPE EAGLE** Stäppörn *Aquila nipalensis*
A few seen in the Eilat area 11th, and a few unidentified eagles were probably this species.
34. **GOLDEN EAGLE** Kungsörn *Aquila chrysaetos homeyeri*
One displaying in hilly area south Nizzana by the Egyptian border 12th. Less than 10 pairs are breeding in Israel and all belong to the subspecies *A. c. homeyeri*.
35. **BOOTED EAGLE** Dvärgörn *Hieraeetus pennatus*
One by the road 61 km north Eilat 9th was of the rufous morph.
36. **OSPREY** Fiskgjuse *Pandion haliaetus*
One Coral Beach 9th and one Eilat 12th.
37. **LESSER KESTREL** Rödfalk *Falco naumanni*
Eleven in one flock south Yotvata 10th.
38. **COMMON KESTREL** Tornfalk *Falco tinnunculus*
Seen most days in small numbers.
39. **EURASIAN HOBBY** Lärkfalk *Falco subbuteo*
The only observation was one at the north beach 8th.
40. **ELEONORA'S FALCON** Eleonorafalk *Falco eleonora*
One dark bird seen in desert between Nizzana and Eilat along the Egyptian border 12th.
41. **LANNER FALCON** Slagfalk *Falco biarmicus*
One outside Eilat 11th and one adult Nizzana 12th.
42. **WATER RAIL** Vattenrall *Rallus aquaticus*
One in the ditch 7th and 1sth.
43. **SPOTTED CRAKE** Småfläckig sumphöna *Porzana porzana*
One in the ditch 7th and 11th.
44. **COMMON MOORHEN** Rörhöna *Gallinula chloropus*
One in a small pond west Ashalim 12th.
45. **EURASIAN COOT** Sothöna *Fulica atra*
Seen every day in small numbers in the saltpans outside Eilat.

46. **MACQUEEN'S BUSTARD** Kragtrapp *Chlamydotis macqueenii*
Five crossing the road outside military camp at Nizzana at dawn 12th.
47. **EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER** Strandskata *Haematopus ostralegus*
Twelve at the north beach 12th. The species is a rare vagrant in Israel.
48. **BLACK-WINGED STILT** Stytlöpare *Himantopus himantopus*
Small numbers seen in the salt pans at Eilat nearly every day.
49. **STONE-CURLEW** Tjockfot *Burhinus oedicephalus*
One flushed at dusk in the north fields 12th.
50. **COLLARED PRATINCOLE** Rödvingad vadarsvala *Glareola pratincola*
Three at the ditch and salt pans 11th.
51. **CREAM-COLOURED COURSER** Ökenlöpare *Cursorius cursor*
One at Nizzana 12th.
52. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** Mindre strandpipare *Charadrius dubius*
Up to about five in the salt pans every day.
53. **KENTISH PLOVER** Svartbent strandpipare *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Seen daily in the salt pans with most 17 birds 11th.
54. **GREATER SANDPLOVER** Ökenpipare *Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus*
Two, probably of the western subspecies *C. l. columbinus*, at the north beach 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th.
55. **GREY PLOVER** Kustpipare *Pluvialis squatarola*
A few were seen in the Eilat area most of the days.
56. **SPUR-WINGED PLOVER** Sporrvipa *Vanellus spinosus*
At the most three birds seen in the middle fields and at the salt pans 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th and also four at Nizzana 12th.
57. **WHITE-TAILED LAPWING** Sumpvipa *Vanellus leucurus*
One in the ditch at Eilat in the evening 8th. The species is rare in Israel, but seen regularly in migration periods.
58. **LITTLE STINT** Småsnäppa *Calidris minuta*
The most common wader, seen mainly in the salt pans at Eilat. Highest count was 34 birds there 11th.
59. **TEMMINCK'S STINT** Mosnäppa *Calidris temminckii*
About five in the salt pans at Eilat 6th, 7th and 8th.
60. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** Spovsnäppa *Calidris ferruginea*
The only observation was of one in winter plumage at the Eilat salt pans 9th and 11th.
61. **DUNLIN** Kärrsnäppa *Calidris alpina*
Maximum of only three birds at the most in the salt pans most of the days.

62. **RUFF** Brushane *Philomachus pugnax*
Small numbers present in the saltpans.
63. **COMMON SNIPE** Enkelbeckasin *Gallinago gallinago*
A few seen in Eilat area 7th, 8th and 11th.
64. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** Rödspov *Limosa limosa*
15 at the ditch/saltpans 11th.
65. **EURASIAN CURLEW** Storspov *Numenius arquata*
One observation Eilat 8th. The species is said to be rare in Israel.
66. **COMMON REDSHANK** Rödbena *Tringa totanus*
Present in small numbers in Eilat saltpans most days.
67. **MARSH SANDPIPER** Dammsnäppa *Tringa stagnatilis*
Observations made in the saltpan closest to the north beach at Eilat with 2 birds 9th, 10th and 1 11th.
68. **COMMON GREENSHANK** Gluttsnäppa *Tringa nebularia*
Not more than 10 birds seen in the saltpans most days and two birds at Nizzana 12th.
69. **GREEN SANDPIPER** Skogssnäppa *Tringa ochropus*
Single birds in Eilat area nearly every day.
70. **WOOD SANDPIPER** Grönbena *Tringa glareola*
A little more common in comparison to Green Sandpiper and seen in the same localities.
71. **COMMON SANDPIPER** Drillsnäppa *Actitis hypoleucos*
Singles seen almost every day mainly in Eilat area.
72. **PARASITIC SKUA** Kustlabb *Stercorarius parasiticus*
We saw birds coming in from the sea in the morning from the hotel. They were all flying north towards the Arava valley. The observations were of one adult dark phase 8th, one 10th, three adults 11th and one 12th.
73. **LONG-TAILED SKUA** Fjällabb *Stercorarius longicaudus*
One seen in the morning of 9th from the hotel. The species should be very rare in Israel.
74. **WHITE-EYED GULL** Vitögd mås *Larus leucophthalmus*
A single bird seen resting on the water in Gulf of Eilat 9th and 12th. This gull is said to be rare in Israel.
75. **PALLA'S GULL** Svarthuvad trut *Larus ichthyæetus*
A bird in its second year was seen soaring over the saltpans at Eilat 7th and 9th.
76. **BLACK-HEADED GULL** Skrattmås *Larus ridibundus*
Common in Eilat area.

77. **SLENDER-BILLED GULL** Långnäbbad mås *Larus genei*
Present with about 10 adults and a few second year birds at the north beach at Eilat on every visit there.
78. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** Silltrut *Larus fuscus*
The most common gull. Seen mainly in Eilat area often soaring above the town. A second year bird was seen at the salt pans 8th and 11th.
79. **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** Medelhavstrut *Larus michahellis*
Singles seen at Eilat 12th and 13th.
- UNIDENTIFIED GULL** Obestämd trut *Larus sp.*
A big very dark gull was seen at dusk in the south salt pans at Eilat 7th. Possibly it was a Pallas's Gull soaked with oil.
80. **CASPIAN TERN** Skräntärna *Sterna caspia*
Singles seen at Eilat 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th. The species is rare in Israel.
81. **SANDWICH TERN** Kentsk tärna *Sterna sandvicensis*
Small parties and singles seen along the shores of Eilat most of the days.
82. **COMMON TERN** Fisktärna *Sterna hirundo*
Observed in the same places and numbers as for Sandwich Tern.
83. **LITTLE TERN** Småtärna *Sternula albifrons*
Five seen from the hotel at Eilat 9th.
84. **LICHTENSTEIN'S SANDGROUSE** Strimmig flyghöna *Pterocles lichtensteinii*
We gathered on a cliff outcrop at the pumping station outside Eilat 6 pm on 7th waiting for this rare sandgrouse coming to drink. At dusk (6.19 pm) the first birds arrived uttering typical "ka-kake". Around 6.30 pm 21 birds had arrived. After drinking for about 20-30 minutes they all left. The species can only be seen in the Eilat area in Israel.
85. **SPOTTED SANDGROUSE** Ökenflyghöna *Pterocles senegallus*
An observation of 13 birds was made 40 km north Eilat 8th and of 38 individuals at Nizzana 12th.
86. **BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE** Svartbukig flyghöna *Pterocles orientalis*
Near Nizzana 15 birds were seen at water-hole at dawn 12th.
87. **PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE** Vitbukig flyghöna *Pterocles alchata*
About 80 birds were seen visiting ponds at Nizzana 12th.
88. **ROCK DOVE** Klippduva *Columba livia*
Common in hilly surroundings of Eilat and further north in the Arava valley.
89. **COLLARED DOVE** Turkduva *Streptopelia decaocto*
Common in Eilat, but seen nowhere else.
90. **TURTLE DOVE** Turturduva *Streptopelia turtur*
Common in Eilat area.

91. **LAUGHING DOVE** Palmduva *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Common in Eilat, especially often heard calling in the date groves; also common at Yotvata. Single seen at Coral Beach and a couple were seen copulating at Ein Gedi 9th.
92. **NAMAQUA DOVE** Långstjärtsduva *Oena capensis*
Up to three birds seen close to the Jordan border in the middle fields at Eilat 7th. Two birds seen in the same area 10th and 11th.
93. **ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET** Halsbandsparakit *Psittacula krameri*
A party of five birds were seen and heard coming in from Jordan and heading west. They were uttering a squeaky "kje-kje-kje...".
94. **COMMON SWIFT** Tornseglare *Apus apus*
A few seen daily at Eilat, but not common.
95. **PALLID SWIFT** Blek tornseglare *Apus pallidus*
Two at the north fields 7th and one in the same place 8th, 9th and 11th.
96. **ALPINE SWIFT** Alpseglare *Apus melba*
The only observation was one seen from the bus between Ovda airport and Eilat 6th.
97. **WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER** Smyrnakungsfiskare *Halcyon smyrnensis*
One was sitting on a mound near the ditch at Eilat 7th. This was the only observation. The species can be rather tricky to see in the south after March, but is rather common in the north.
98. **GREEN BEE-EATER** Grön dvärgbiätare *Merops orientalis cyanophrys*
Two at the date grove 7th, two at the pumping station, Eilat the same date, one Yotvata 8th, and one at the middle fields at Eilat 9th and 10th.
99. **BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER** Grön biätare *Merops persicus*
Two at the southernmost saltpan 10th. This bee-eater is a scarce migrant in Israel.
100. **EUROPEAN BEE-EATER** Biätare *Merops apiaster*
Parties on migration seen most days. At the most 25 over the salt pans 11th.
101. **EURASIAN HOOPOE** Härfågel *Upupa epops*
Singles seen and heard daily in Eilat area, also one at Yotvata 8th and two at Nizzana 12th.
102. **EURASIAN WRYNECK** Göktyta *Jynx torquilla*
Few seen in Eilat 7th, 8th, 9th and 12th.
103. **DESERT LARK** Stenökenlärka *Ammomanes deserti isabellinus*
One at the pumping station, Eilat 7th, a few by the road south-west Dead Sea 9th, two Timna valley 1sth. Observations also made in Eilat area 11th and at Nizzana area 12th.

104. **GREATER HOOPOE LARK** Härfågellärka *Alaemon alaudipes*
An extraordinary sight was one coming in from the sea over the Gulf of Eilat 10th.
105. **GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK** Korttålaräka *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Present everywhere in small numbers in most arid regions. Observations made all days. Highest count was 15 in the north fields 11th.
106. **CRESTED LARK** Tofslärka *Galerida cristata*
Appeared in the same areas and numbers as for the species above.
107. **SAND MARTIN** Backsvala *Riparia riparia*
Common, especially around Eilat.
108. **ROCK MARTIN** Afrikansk klippsvala *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*
Seen almost every day in small numbers in cliffy landscape around Eilat and in the Arava valley.
109. **BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*
Common in most places.
110. **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** Rostgumpsväla *Hirundo daurica*
The most common swallow, at least in the beginning of our trip.
111. **HOUSE MARTIN** Hussvala *Delichon urbicum*
Common.
112. **RICHARD'S PIPIT** Större piplärka *Anthus richardi*
One at the north Beach 6th. The species is scarce, but regularly observed during migration.
113. **TREE PIPIT** Trädpiplärka *Anthus trivialis*
Many seen in Eilat area.
114. **RED-THROATED PIPIT** Rödstrupig piplärka *Anthus cervinus*
Common in Eilat area.
115. **WATER PIPIT** Vattenpiplärka *Anthus spinoletta*
One seen in the ditch at Eilat 11th.
116. **YELLOW WAGTAIL** Gulärä *Motacilla flava*
Common in the north fields. Mainly *M. f. feldegg* and *M. f. flava* seen, but also one black-headed bird with white eyestripe resembling the "*superciliaris*"-form.
117. **WHITE WAGTAIL** Sädesärä *Motacilla alba*
Seen every day, mostly around Eilat, but also in Timna valley 10th.
- YELLOW x CITRINE WAGTAIL** Gulärä x citronärä *Motacilla flava x citreola*
One male seen in the north fields 8th.

118. **COMMON BULBUL** Trädgårdsbulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*
Common everywhere close to human settlements.
119. **RUFOUS-TAILED SCRUB ROBIN** Trädnäktergal *Cercothricas galactotes galactotes*
One in the north fields 7th, one Yotvata 8th and 10th and one at Eilat 12th. The nominate subspecies breeds in Israel, but *C. g. syriacus* is also said to pass the country in the migration periods.
120. **THRUSH NIGHTINGALE** Näktergal *Luscinia luscinia*
One in the ditch 8th, 10th and 12th.
121. **COMMON NIGHTINGALE** Sydnäktergal *Luscinia megarhynchos*
More common in comparison to Thrush Nightingale. Observations made at Eilat, Yotvata and at the pumping station. This species has an earlier migration period compared to Thrush Nightingale.
122. **BLUETHROAT** Blåhake *Luscinia svecica*
Two in the ditch 7th, 11th and 12th.
123. **COMMON REDSTART** Rödstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Singles seen in the north fields and Yotvata 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th. One bird at Yotvata 8th showed characters of the subspecies *P. p. samamisisicus*.
124. **BLACKSTART** Svartstart *Cercomela melanura*
One male Ein Netafim 7th, one singing a shrill wheatear-like warble Yotvata 8th, 3 Coral Beach 9th, 3 Ein Gedi 9th and a pair Timna valley 10th.
125. **WHINCHAT** Buskskvätta *Saxicola rubetra*
A single male seen at the ringing place at the north fields 7th, 8th and 10th.
126. **ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** Isabellastenskvätta *Oenanthe isabellina*
One at the pumping station, Eilat and the north fields 7th.
127. **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** Stenskvätta *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Common and seen on every day of our visit.
128. **BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca*
Five at the north fields 7th, 2 females at the same place 8th, one black-throated male Eilat city park 9th and also one more observation in the Eilat area 10th.
129. **DESERT WHEATEAR** Ökenstenskvätta *Oenanthe deserti*
One pair Nizzana and one male along the Egyptian border 12th. The males were extraordinarily light-coloured especially on the back and with almost white underparts.
130. **MOURNING WHEATEAR** Sorgstenskvätta *Oenanthe lugens lugens*
Along the Egyptian border between Nizzana and Eilat we saw 17 birds. They all showed the typical white primary fringes of the nominate subspecies *O. l. lugens*.

131. **HOODED WHEATEAR** Munkstenskvättan *Oenanthe monacha*
One male at Coral Beach 9th and one male at refinery along the Tel Aviv-road between Yotvata and Ein Gedi 9th.
132. **WHITE-CROWNED WHEATEAR** Vitkronad stenskvätta *Oenanthe leucopyga*
Four birds at in Ein Netafim 7th, three singing at the pumping station outside Eilat the same date, two Coral Beach 9th and one Timna valley 10th.
133. **RUFIOUS-TAILED ROCK TRUSH** Stentrast *Monticola saxatilis*
One female in sand desert 40 km north Eilat 8th.
134. **COMMON BLACKBIRD** Koltrast *Turdus merula*
One singing male Ein Gedi 9th.
135. **GRACEFUL PRINIA** Streckad prinia *Prinia gracilis palestinae*
Heard in most places. Highest number was 9 in the ditch at Eilat 7th.
136. **SCRUB WARBLER** Snårsångare *Scotocerca inquieta*
One Ein Netafim 7th, one Yotvata 8th and one singing "ti-ti-trre-trre" Timna valley 10th.
137. **SEDGE WARBLER** Sävsångare *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
A few seen in the ditch most days.
138. **EUROPEAN REED WARBLER** Rörsångare *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Common in the reeds fringing the ditch and salt pans at Eilat.
139. **OLIVACEOUS WARBLER** Eksångare *Hippolais pallida*
Common bird in most areas.
140. **SARDINIAN WARBLER** Sammetshätta *Sylvia melanocephala*
Observations of a few individuals made at Eilat 8th and 9th.
141. **RÜPPEL'S WARBLER** Svarthakad sångare *Sylvia rueppelli*
One female close to the ringing station at the north fields 8th and a pair deep in the Timna valley 10th. The species is a scarce migrant in Israel.
142. **ARABIAN WARBLER** Arabisk sångare *Sylvia leucomelaena*
One seen at Yotvata 10th but not when we visited the locality 8th.
143. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** Ärtsångare *Sylvia curruca*
Very common in most areas visited.
144. **COMMON WHITETHROAT** Törnsångare *Sylvia communis*
One in the ditch at Eilat 7th and 10th. About 10 in the north fields 12th.
145. **GARDEN WARBLER** Trädgårdssångare *Sylvia borin*
One at Eilat 13th.
146. **BLACKCAP** Svarthätta *Sylvia atricapilla*
Few seen every day in most places visited.

147. **EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER** Balkansångare *Phylloscopus orientalis*
Common in the reed fringes at the Eilat salt pans, in the date grove and at Yotvata.
148. **WOOD WARBLER** Grönsångare *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
The only observations were of one at the north fields and in the date grove 7th.
149. **CHIFFCHAFF** Gransångare *Phylloscopos collybita*
Common at Eilat and most other places.
150. **SEMICOLLARED FLYCATCHER** Balkanflugsnappare *Ficedula semitorquata*
One male in Eilat city park 9th.
151. **ARABIAN BABBLER** Arabskriktrast *Turdoides squamiceps*
One close to the salt pans at Eilat 8th, 9th and 11th, 6 at Yotvata 8th and 10th and one at Ein Gedi 9th and 11th.
152. **PENDULINE TIT** Pungmes *Remiz pendulinus*
One in the ditch at Eilat 7th.
153. **PALESTINE SUNBIRD** Palestinasolfågel *Nectarina osea*
Two males and one female Yotvata 8th and one male singing a wren-like warble at Ein Gedi 9th, one Timna valley 10th and one Eilat 11th.
154. **GOLDEN ORIOLE** Sommargylling *Oriolus oriolus*
One at Eilat 11th, was our only observation.
155. **SOUTHERN GREY SHRIKE** Ökenvarfågel *Lanius meridionalis*
Two in the north fields 8th and 10th and four in Nizzana area 12th.
156. **WOODCHAT SHRIKE** Rödhuvad törnskata *Lanius senator*
Two in the north fields 7th and 8th, one flying with a pipit in its claws at the date grove 7th!
157. **MASKED SHRIKE** Masktörnskata *Lanius nubicus*
Seen at the north beach, in the date grove, at En Hazeva and in a few other places. This was the most common shrike.
158. **HOUSE CROW** Huskråka *Corvus splendens zugmayeri*
Two seen at the Jordan border close to the date grove 8th. The species is introduced to the West Palearctic from India. Its first appearance in Israel was in 1976. The subspecies concerned is *C. s. zugmayeri*.
159. **HOODED CROW** Kråka *Corvus corone sardonius*
One at Nizzana 12th was the only one seen. The birds in Israel belongs to the subspecies *C. c. sardonius*.
160. **BROWN-NECKED RAVEN** Ökenkorp *Corvus ruficollis*
Pretty common in arid areas around Eilat, in the Arava valley and at Nizzana.

161. **COMMON RAVEN** Korp *Corvus corax*
One positively identified at Ein Gedi 9th.
162. **FAN-TAILED RAVEN** Kortstjärtad korp *Corvus rhipidurus*
Not seen at all in the south but common in hilly surroundings at Ein Gedi 9th.
163. **TRISTRAM'S STARLING** Sinaiglansstare *Onycognathus tristramii*
Two near the north fields 7th, four at Ein Netafim 7th and 16 birds at Yotvata 8th.
164. **HOUSE SPARROW** Gråsparv *Passer domesticus*
Common in all places visited close to human settlements.
165. **SPANISH SPARROW** Spansk sparv *Passer hispaniolensis*
Not quite as common as House Sparrow, but seen in most places visited.
166. **DEAD SEA SPARROW** Tamarisksparv *Passer moabiticus*
Common in the north fields and the date grove at Eilat but difficult to obtain good views of.
167. **YELLOW-CROWNED BISHOP** Napoleonvävare *Euplectes afer*
One elusive male in hotel garden at Eilat 12th. The bird was photographed by EH.
So far we know this species has never before occurred in Israel, but of course, the origin can be disputable. Its normal range is Senegal and Gambia east to southern Chad and Burkina Faso and south to Gabon and Congo. According to Howard and Moore, "A complete checklist of the Birds of the World", it should be common but local in these countries.
168. **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH** Steglits *Carduelis carduelis*
Three at the north fields 7th, three in the city park of Eilat 9th and 12th.
169. **DESERT FINCH** Ökenfink *Rhodospiza obsoleta*
Three at the north fields 8th and 11th.
170. **TRUMPETER FINCH** Ökentrumptare *Bucanetes githagineus*
One singing plus four birds at building by the Egyptian border south Nizzana 12th.
171. **ORTOLAN BUNTING** Ortolansparv *Emberiza hortulana*
Seen at Eilat, especially in the middle and north fields.
172. **CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING** Rostsparv *Emberiza caesia*
A few seen in the north and middle fields 7th, 10th, 11th and 12th and two at Nizzana 12th.
173. **CORN BUNTING** Kornsparv *Emberiza calandra*
A few observations at Eilat 7th and 8th.

LIST OF MAMMALS

1. **Rock Hyrax** Kapklippdass *Procavia capensis*
2 Ein Netafim 7th.
2. **Cape Hare** Kaphare *Lepus capensis*
1 En Hazeva 9th.
3. **Alpine Ibex** Stenbock *Capra ibex*
Several were seen on mountain tops against the sky Ein Gedi 9th. At least one big male.
4. **Dorcas Gazelle** Dorkagasell *Gazella dorcas*
About 5 just near the road Youtvata 10th.
5. **Dromedary Camel** Dromedar *Camelus dromedarius*
Four out in dessert near the road along the Egyptian border Nizzana-Eilat.
6. **Fennec Fox** Fennek *Vulpes zerda*
One at the camping Ein Gedi 9th.

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