

# Kuwait Spring

12–20 April 2019

## Participants

Graham Barrett  
Mark Easterbrook  
Nick Edwards  
Ashley Field  
Jo and Colin Gould  
Mike Jeeves

**Leaders** Peter Lansdown and  
Pekka Fagal



**Hypocolius**

147 species were identified by the group. Kuwait has the potential to turn up some excellent birds and rarities. This, coupled with it being the easiest place in the world to connect with a number of sought-after species and many birds that interest the avid Western Palearctic lister, makes it a must visit and exciting country to go birding in. This trip was no exception and delivered the goods. With it being a relatively small country, getting around is easy due to the smaller daily distances to travel and the good infrastructure. Unlike many birding tours to larger countries, staying in one hotel for the duration of the tour was a relative luxury.

**Day 1** We flew from Heathrow to Kuwait City via Istanbul's Ata Turk airport with Turkish Airlines. The flights were generally on time and were uneventful. I have always been pleased with the service of Turkish Airlines and this was no exception. Some people initiated their Turkish lists with a Eurasian Blackbird, White Wagtail and House Sparrow in the airport. We arrived in Kuwait the following day.

**Day 2** After an overnight flight and clearing immigration in Kuwait City, we proceeded to meet Pekka Fagal, our local guide. It is worth mentioning that submitting an eVisa request prior to travelling saved me a great deal of time and messing about. Whilst driving to the hotel, Common Myna, House Sparrow, Laughing and Eurasian Collared-doves were seen – the list was up and running! We arrived at the Continental Hotel in Kuwait City at about 14:30 and, after quickly unpacking our optics, were soon in Al Saheel Park. A city park just 10 minutes' walk from the hotel, it proved to be an excellent location to see migrants and was visited every day. We started to walk around the park, immediately encountering Common Mynas, House Sparrows and White-eared Bulbuls. A while later, a small reed bed held a male Common Redstart, a Blackcap and a couple of Willow Warblers, while Pallid Swifts were overhead. A strange call and a movement in

the reeds alerted the team and, almost without hesitation, Basra Reed Warbler was called by Mark. Sure enough, with its strange call and unfamiliar song, white underparts, cold upperparts, bill length and striking head pattern, a much-wanted target bird was secured within hours of arrival, to everyone's relief. We continued to walk, finding Indian Silverbills – in fact, the park was the only location in which they were encountered. A few Lesser Whitethroats fed on cacti in the gravel and a bird flew up and perched. Close study of the bird and photographs revealed it was an (Eastern) Cinereous Bunting. Later, at a small ornamental pond, as we watched from the bridge, a Great Reed Warbler was obvious but not so the male Little Bittern, which was an excellent find by Graham. That evening we all opted for curry in the hotel and it was excellent. Sadly, there was no alcohol to celebrate our early success, but several glasses of water and a good night's sleep set us up for day three.

**Day 3** With Nick suffering from insomnia, he woke Mark at 05:00 with a coffee and by 05:30 they were in the Al Saheel Park. This set the trend for the week and the park was visited by varying numbers from the group for an early morning round throughout the week. We immediately headed to the reed bed and now there were two Basra Reed Warblers, allowing good views and chances for photography. A Eurasian Sparrowhawk darted overhead and a Ring-necked Parakeet called as it went. Many of the same birds were present from the previous day but a singing Eastern Olivaceous Warbler was new. As we returned to the hotel, a small stand of trees held a female Semicollared Flycatcher, which was a surprise. After an enjoyable and good breakfast we headed off to Pivot Fields in the Sulabia area at 07:30, arriving at about 08:15. As we drove to some pools, an Isabelline Shrike was seen by some as we proceeded. At the pools, numerous Spotted Crakes were calling and several were eventually seen well. As we scanned the waders, including Temminck's Stints, Ruffs, Little Ringed Plovers, Wood Sandpipers, Little Stints, Common Sandpipers and a single Turnstone and Curlew Sandpiper with the highlight being six Collared Pratincoles, a Great Spotted Eagle soared in the distance and a Common (Steppe) Buzzard landed in a nearby tree. Sadly, a pair of goons turned up with a falcon and said, "We are hunting." What followed was like a scene from Monty Python as the falcon was released and one of the "learned gentlemen" ran around in the water like a demented crane. Alas, with all serenity and peace broken, we moved on. As we drove the tracks, a ringtail Montagu's Harrier was seen. We arrived at our next location to be treated to a quartering ghostly and quite stunning male Pallid Harrier; in the trees, a male Semicollared Flycatcher performed well for all to see, accompanied by a Common Redstart – there were plenty of birds about. As we walked around another nearby pond, there were more redstarts and Nick found the first male White-throated Robin, which remained elusive but we needn't have worried as it was the first of many for the week. With another two Common (Steppe) Buzzards and a few Black Kites moving around, we began to drive around the many tracks. As we drove, we saw Western Yellow Wagtails of several races, a couple of Whinchats and what were becoming the normal, resident birds. We returned to the pools where "the hunters" had departed. Luckily enough we were put onto a Red-wattled Plover with three chicks and this scarce resident and WP tick was enjoyed by all. Nothing much had changed, although the only Little Egrets of the tour were seen and a Rüppell's Weaver landed on a reed top briefly, while below a female Little Bittern skulked. With many Western Yellow Wagtails and Red-throated Pipits passing overhead, it was time to depart for lunch and Jahra Farms. After lunch we arrived at Jahra Farms to find our quarry sitting in front of us – six adults and a juvenile Bank Myna. We continued to walk the area after our initial success and found our first White-throated Kingfisher and the only Grey Wagtail but little else, so we departed for the Doha area. On the mudflats underneath the new causeway, many waders had gathered, the majority of which were Lesser Sandpipers, with several hundred being present. Careful scanning produced the only Broad-billed Sandpiper of the week along with some commoner waders. In the surrounding scrub, a male Pied Wheatear and six Ortolan Buntings showed well. Perhaps a

strange highlight was the Arabian Red Fox running past us and showing its outsized ears. The final stop of the day was the Sulabikhat Bay area, in particular the areas known as the “Manchester Club,” in the hope of sighting the lingering Crab Plover that had not yet departed for its breeding grounds. As we scanned the area, four Greater Flamingos fed in the bay and there were good numbers of Slender-billed Gulls and Little Terns with a single Black-headed Gull and Lesser Crested Tern also being present. Many Eurasian Curlews and Whimbrels were feeding and single Caspian and Gull-billed Terns did a fly-by as a pair of White-winged Terns sat on the mud. Very large numbers of Eurasian Curlew and Terek Sandpipers were roosting and a single Bar-tailed Godwit fed actively. As we watched the waders gather to roost, we were becoming a little concerned. We decided to move closer and, as we trudged through the sticky mud, Graham shouted, “There’s a large, white bird over there.” There it was, the lone, lingering Crab Plover – a highlight for many. It must have been obscured or flown in as we moved forward; in any event it was scoped to death and enjoyed by all.

**Day 4** Up and at ’em! On our 05:30 walk to Al Saheel Park for the early morning ritual, there had obviously been an influx of migrants and several Red-throated and Tree Pipits called overhead. A female White-throated Robin was seen well and at least nine Blackcaps fed in the open. Remarkably, so did a Basra Reed Warbler. An inspection of the now-famous reed bed revealed the presence of another two chasing each other and singing. As we walked back to the hotel, a single Common Whitethroat was noted and the now-common birds, including Great Reed Warblers, were also present. The group departed the hotel at 07:20 and proceeded to the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) University site. It is well known for wintering Hypocolius, and Pekka decided to visit on the off chance that some may still be there. As we pulled up and alighted, Pekka heard a bird calling; we soon found a fine pair feeding at a distance of about twenty metres. With cameras working overtime, it was a fantastic steal and a great bird to get in the bag this early on, as they are not always seen during the Spring – RESULT! Delighted, we departed for the longish drive north to Al Abraaq Oasis – an area of irrigated woodland and scrub in the middle of the desert and a migrant hot spot. As we arrived, the area was alive with birds and although Peter said he’d seen it busier on occasion, it was agreed that today was an above-average showing. Of the shrikes, Masked, Woodchat, Isabelline and Red-tailed were all seen well. The area was dripping with Common Redstarts and at least eleven White-throated Robins were seen. Chats were well represented with a single Bluethroat, Common Nightingale, and Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin being seen. An amazing flock of 19 Hypocolius caught the group’s attention and it was fantastic to see such a large number flying around the area with their striking wing pattern. As a Common (Steppe) Buzzard passed overhead, not all the group saw it, as the others were getting to grips with and scoping a strange chiffchaff, found by Peter, which proved to be a Mountain Chiffchaff. At least fifteen Ortolan Buntings rested in nearby trees and a single Black-crowned Night-heron was overhead. As we drove the area, a single Pale Rockfinch was seen well and posed for the camera and then later at a pond, as we were leaving, six were present in a bare tree. At least ten Squacco Herons flushed and a Common Sandpiper fed on the edge of the pond with a Red-throated Pipit and two Western Yellow Wagtails. We departed to a Cattle Egret sat atop a tree. Onward to Jahra Pools Reserve. Although no longer open due to refurbishment, which was a bit of a disaster, we eventually found a spot where we could stand on some earthworks and look over the top of the fence and reed bed. Not ideal but it would have to do. Sadly, this made our search for Grey-headed Swamphen nearly impossible, as was to be the case. Not to be thwarted, in a couple of hours the group turned up some great birds, the highlights being four White-tailed Lapwing, a single Spur-winged Lapwing and a lone Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, with several others being heard. Pied Avocets were present and a flock of about thirty-five Common Greenshanks was impressive. The first Black-winged Stilts were seen along with several Common Ringed Plovers, and when an Osprey and Greater

Spotted Eagle rose, in time-honoured tradition all the waders flushed, which alerted the group to the presence of a Green Sandpiper and four Ferruginous Ducks. With dusk arriving, at least eight Western Marsh-harriers came to roost along with three Glossy Ibises while twenty-seven White Storks stopped for a drink. Scanning the mass of hirundines, the only Red-rumped Swallow and Common Swift were seen. Finally, Clamorous Reed Warblers sang atop the reeds as did Graceful Prinias and White-throated and a single Pied Kingfisher patrolled the reed bed. At dinner, the waiters no longer bothered to offer us the European menu as we were all extremely happy to indulge in the British passion that is curry eating. The Indian food at the hotel continued to be outstanding!

**Day 5** The by-now-routine regular walk around Al Saheel Park revealed nothing new but at least three Basra Reed Warblers were present, and it now became a mission to record them on every day of the tour – which would be unprecedented. Heading off to Mutla’a ranch, we arrived to find that yet more of the habitat had been destroyed and not many trees remained. That said, it still managed to turn up some good birds that were not seen again. Walking the depleted wooded area that was said to be a shadow of its former self, it seems likely that it will not be long until the whole area disappears as a viable site. Nevertheless we continued, finding at least four Common Cuckoos and two Namaqua Doves, with the male that Ashley had originally spotted being very showy. Ashley found the first male Red-backed Shrike of the week and Graham the only Eurasian Wryneck. A Common Nightingale sang from a thicket and a male Hypocolius fled the area. With a male White-throated Robin, a pair of Rufous-tailed Scrub-robins and a female Semicollared Flycatcher being seen, the area still managed to attract some tired migrants. We journeyed to Abdaly Farms for another target species. Not long after we arrived, the calls of Afghan Babblers were heard and it was not long before we were viewing and photographing a family party of five, a few of which sat in the open panting. Another pair of Namaqua Doves was noted but little else, so we proceeded to a nearby water-bottling plant that was surrounded by trees. At the plant, we flushed a Eurasian Hoopoe, a species that had been a bit thin on the ground to date. At the rear of the plant on some dead scrub were two Woodchats and a Red-tailed (Turkestan) Shrike along with a male Semicollared Flycatcher and another Common Cuckoo; a scruffy-looking Little Owl was a surprise as it flushed from a nearby tree. Continuing the day, we travelled to KISR – Liyah and drove a lightly wooded area surrounding a small hill to the south followed by a desert area in the north. The southern area held many Pied and Northern Wheatears including one male showing strong characteristics of the Greenland form. A White-throated Robin, Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin and a Tawny Pipit kept the group interested. Good numbers of Woodchat and Isabelline Shrikes were present, with a Barred Warbler being seen briefly. Perhaps the bird of the area was the only Upcher’s Warbler of the week. In the northern half of the site, we quickly found a few Bar-tailed Larks, with at least one Desert Lark also being identified along with several Crested Larks. Ortolan Buntings were becoming numerous as were Northern Wheatears and, at a pond, six Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters flew by, calling and going about their migration.

**Day 6** A bit of a busy day but the usual walk around the park was a necessity for some. All the same today but three Basra Reed Warblers maintained the 100% record for the week. Another (Eastern) Cinereous Bunting showed well as did a Great Reed Warbler. Prior to Green Park opening at 09:00 it was necessary to fill some time so Pekka decided to take us to Rumaithiya Park, and what an outstanding decision this proved to be. Proving that no matter how good a birder you are, good fortune is essential. Initially it was a fairly dull, mundane affair with Blackcaps, Willow Warblers and the common species being present. The lethargic period was broken when a large raptor alighted from a nearby tree. Everyone saw it well, noting the tail pattern and, as it landed again in the top of a tree, it was quickly identified as an Oriental Honey-

buzzard. It sat up for the cameras and then, flushing all in its path, departed across the city, never to be seen again – an outstanding WP tick and a lifer for some. After gaining entry to Green Island, the first Great Cormorant of the trip was seen and shortly afterwards Nick found what appeared to be the only pair of the target bird – Red-vented Bulbul. Job done, and with no Rüppell's Weavers having been seen in the area for some time as the trees they used to nest in had been cut, we departed. We continued to Fintas Park, where Pekka had also seen Rüppell's Weavers recently. After some searching and waiting, everybody secured views of two pairs of this ropery yet valid WP bird. We drove to the Fahaheel area in an attempt to do a bit of sea watching and find a Socotra Cormorant. As Pekka attempted to gain access to the tower above a shopping mall, we quickly learned that it was being renovated and that access was not possible. Instead, we stood on a ledge by a restaurant, which was not ideal and caused some initial problems with the security guards. As it was, we were allowed to stay and were soon watching many Lesser Crested Terns and, below them on a small tower in the sea, one of the target species – four White-cheeked Terns. Unfortunately, with lunch approaching and diners requiring a view from the restaurant other than a group of unkempt birders, we had to move on without our cormorant. We drove further south near to an oil refinery and, again, viewing was far from ideal and no Socotra Cormorants were seen. We did, however, see Pied and Northern Wheatears and firstly heard calling and then located a group of around thirty European Bee-eaters, which were our first of the week. At Abu Hasania, more Lesser Crested Terns, a pair of perched Gull-billed Terns and a Great Crested Tern completed the line-up – but no cormorant. We continued to Port Zour, Salmiya and put in another hour or so. There was a bit of movement, resulting in sightings of two Pomarine Skuas, three Great Crested Terns, a number of Lesser Crested Terns, a Common Kestrel, Common Sandpiper and a movement of Eurasian Swallows – but no cormorants!

**Day 7** The walk around the park this morning produced nothing new, but at least three Basra Reed Warblers were still present and noisily active. We departed after breakfast once more and arrived at KISR – Kabt. Kabt is an area of extensive experimental cultivated areas and desert scrub. Almost immediately we started to see birds and one of the first was the only Spotted Flycatcher of the week. At least four Rufous-tailed Rock-thrushes, including a female, were looking resplendent and a number of Turkestan and a Red-backed Shrike were noted as we passed in the search for Black-crowned Sparrow-lark. A good-looking and easily identifiable male Lesser Kestrel was perched on wires and a Common Kestrel quickly followed. As we continued, we added a Woodchat Shrike, Imperial Eagle, Pallid Harrier, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, more Pied and Northern Wheatears, European Bee-eaters and a single Namaqua Dove. Most impressive were 150+ Ortolan Buntings sitting on wires. It appeared that due to heavier rain in the winter and additional growth in the vegetation, it was no longer suitable habitat for sparrow-larks and, unfortunately, they appeared to have moved on, so none were seen. We decided to give Jahra Pools Reserve another whirl and, as we got out of the vehicle, a Great Egret was seen over the reeds with a Grey Heron. As we scanned the area from the earth mounds, the Great Spotted Eagle was still present as were the Pied Avocets. Two White-tailed Lapwings were seen and a Caspian Tern cruised over the reeds. As three or four Squacco Herons stalked the reed bed, at least eleven Spotted Crakes and a Little Crake were seen. A male Little Bittern flew in and perched precariously on top of a reed for all to see, while a Green Sandpiper flew to the pools. A Grey-headed Swamphen was heard, but unfortunately did not come to the front edge of the reeds and remained a heard-only record. We finished the day at Souk Sharq, attempting to find a Socotra Cormorant, which, again, was unsuccessful. However, several Great Cormorants, a Sandwich Tern and a few Great Crested Terns were recorded, with Lesser Crested Terns being in the majority.

**Day 8** Al Saheel Park produced a Turkestan Shrike this morning along with several commoner migrant species and, of course, three Basra Reed Warblers. The group headed to Al Abraaq once more in the hope of seeing some more migrants. As we approached across the desert, a few raptors were seen and whilst the Black (Black-eared) Kite caused a few ID headaches initially, the adult Egyptian Vulture was somewhat easier. It had been a couple of days since our last visit, but what a difference. Hardly any birds were present: a Masked Shrike, Ortolan Bunting, a mixed flock of bee-eaters and two Lesser Kestrels being the highlights. Several hundred Vagrant Emperors were quite a sight, however. After another unsuccessful visit to Al Fahaheel Marina to sea watch, the group returned to the hotel early and decided to split. Half went to Souk Sharq to sea watch and the others to the local park to look for migrants. There had obviously been an influx as the first birds seen that had not been present in the morning were a male Pied Wheatear and at least four Whinchats. At least four (Eastern) Cinereous Buntings were present and a male Red-backed Shrike sat up for the camera. Several other common migrants, with the Basra Reed Warblers showing well, concluded the day. The sea-watching group secured views of Great Crested Terns and, proving perseverance is king, recorded two Socotra Cormorants amongst a few Great Cormorants, bringing the quest to an end.

**Day 9** The final morning and a walk around the park before a shave at the local barbers and the short trip to the airport. The group spent about two hours in the park and once more it proved productive. As we watched a number of Blackcaps feeding on the grass, there was not only one, but two Basra Reed Warblers feeding on the grass in the open. Several Tree Pipits fed in the open and two Ortolan Buntings rested on rocks around the ornamental pond that also held two Great Reed Warblers. Walking to “the reed bed”, three Ring-necked Parakeets were noisy as they passed over us. At the reed bed there were three Basra Reed Warblers, a nearby Common Whitethroat, several Lessers, a few Indian Silverbills and a Common Redstart but no sign of yesterday’s Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. An (Eastern) Cinereous Bunting was seen and a Spotted Crake was flushed, but we could not locate the Corn Crake identified by a group of Danish birders. As this was the only site at which Basra Reed Warbler was seen during the week, albeit in good numbers and showing extremely well, it obviously became a must-go-to site for visiting birders during the week. The site has huge potential to turn up all sorts of surprises I would think. The last bird of the tour was a Common Myna as we reached the airport. A boring yet easy flight saw us get to Heathrow at 22:25. I hope all group members got home safely and I thank them for their company and contributions during the week.

It was a successful tour despite a few minor administrative issues and being occasionally “navigationally challenged”. Although, as a result, some birding time was lost, it did not overly detract from being able to connect with most of the sought-after species. A combination of a bit of luck, which you always need, coupled with Pekka’s good site knowledge ensured that when migratory species were present, we got to see them. Kuwait is not an overtly pretty or scenic country, but it holds some excellent sites that present migratory species with a resting and feeding place, making for exciting and unpredictable birding.

**Mark Easterbrook**

## Consolidated Species List

Common names are used except where subspecies are highlighted. (Red – Not seen by the whole group)

Great Cormorant	Fahaheel Marina and Souk Sharq
Socotra Cormorant	2 recorded from Souk Sharq on the 19th
Little Bittern	1 at Al Saheel Park, 1 at Pivot Fields and 1 at Jahra Pools
Black-crowned Night-heron	Several seen at Pivot Fields, Al Abraq and Jahra Pools
Squacco Heron	Many seen in suitable habitat
Cattle Egret	A few seen but not numerous
Western Reef Egret	Seen in all coastal areas without difficulty
Little Egret	Six seen at Pivot Fields
Great Egret	1 seen at Jahra Pools on the 18th
Grey Heron	Numerous at wetlands
Purple Heron	1 seen at Al Saheel Park
White Stork	A flock of 27 seen at Jahra Pools on the 15th
Glossy Ibis	3 seen on the same day as the White Storks at Jahra Pools
Greater Flamingo	4 seen from “Manchester Club” on 14th and 2 from KISR University when looking for Hypocolius
Ferruginous Duck	4 at Jahra Pools on 15th
Oriental Honey Buzzard	A cracking find at Rumaithiya Park on the 17th
Black Kite ( <i>migrans</i> )	Several seen during the week in various locations
Black Kite ( <i>lineatus</i> )	1 on the 19th over the desert approaching Al Abraq
Egyptian Vulture	1 adult as above
Western Marsh-harrier	Pivot Fields and Jahra Pools
Pallid Harrier	Pivot Fields and KISR Kabt
Montague’s Harrier	Pivot Fields
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Widespread in singles
Common (Steppe) Buzzard	3 at Pivot Fields on the 14th
Greater Spotted Eagle	1 at Pivot Fields, Jahra Pools and KISR Kabt
Booted Eagle	1 dark phase out to sea at Green Island on the 17th
Steppe Eagle	1 at Al Abraq
Imperial Eagle	1 at KISR Kabt
Osprey	Only at Jahra Pools on the 15th
Lesser Kestrel	2 at KISR Kabt and 2 at Al Abraq on the 19th

Common Kestrel	1 over the sea at Port Zour and 2 at KISR Kabt
Spotted Crake	Numerous at Pivot Fields and Jahra Pools with one in Al Saheel Park on 19th
Little Crake	1 at Jahra Pools on both visits
Eurasian Moorhen	2 at Pivot Fields
<b>Grey-headed Swamphen</b>	<b>1 heard only at Jahra Pools</b>
Black-winged Stilt	Several at roadside pools but mainly at Jahra Pools
Pied Avocet	Only at Jahra Pools
Crab Plover	Luckily 1 remained at roost at “Manchester Club” on the 14th
Collared Pratincole	6 at Pivot Fields on the 13th
Little-ringed Plover	Numerous at Pivot Fields
Ringed Plover	Several at Jahra Pools and “Manchester Club” mud flats
Kentish Plover	Many at Doha Spit and Causeway mud flats
Lesser Sandplover	The most numerous wader at “Manchester Club” and Doha Spit mud flats
Grey Plover	Numerous at mud flats and coastal sites
Red-wattled Lapwing	4 – 1 Adult and 3 chicks at Pivot Fields on the 14th
White-tailed Lapwing	4 at Jahra Pools on the 15th and 2 on the 19th
Spur-winged Lapwing	1 at Jahra Pools on the 15th – was a “Write-in” for the list
Sanderling	Common at Doha Spit mud flats
Little Stint	Common at Pivot Fields
Temminck’s Stint	At least 7 present at Pivot Fields
Curlew Sandpiper	1 at Pivot Fields and hundreds at “Manchester Club” mud flats
Dunlin	Several at Doha Spit
<b>Broad-billed Sandpiper</b>	<b>1 at Doha Spit on the 14th</b>
Ruff	Many at Pivot Fields before being flushed by “hunters”
Common Snipe	2 at Pivot Fields and 1 at Jahra Pools
Bar-tailed Godwit	1 at “Manchester Club” on the 14th
Whimbrel	Common at “Manchester Club”
Eurasian Curlew	Numerous on mud flats
Common Redshank	Not that numerous at Doha Spit
Marsh Sandpiper	1 at Jahra Pools on the 15th
Common Greenshank	A flock of c. 35 at Jahra Pools on the 15th
Green Sandpiper	1 on 2 occasions at Jahra Pools
Wood Sandpiper	Numerous at Pivot Fields and several seen at other pools

Terek Sandpiper	Hundreds roosting at “Manchester Club”
Common Sandpiper	Widespread and fairly common in suitable habitat
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at Pivot Fields and numerous at “Manchester Club”
Pomarine Skua	2 at Port Zour on the 17th
Black-headed Gull	Not as numerous as Slender-billed but seen at the same locations
Slender-billed Gull	The most common gull seen at all coastal locations
Caspian Gull	1 at “Manchester Club”, 1 at Jahra Pools on 2 occasions
Little Tern	Many but most numerous at “Manchester Club”
Gull-billed Tern	2 at Abu Hasania and 1 at “Manchester Club”
Caspian Tern	Singletons at Jahra Pools and “Manchester Club”
White-winged Tern	2 on the mud at “Manchester Club”
Sandwich Tern	1 on 2 occasions at Souk Sharq
Great Crested Tern	Several seen well but not numerous at coastal sites
Lesser Crested Tern	The most common tern at coastal sites
Feral/Rock Dove	Widespread and numerous
Eurasian Collared-dove	Widespread and numerous
Laughing Dove	Widespread and numerous
Namaqua Dove	2 at Mutla’a Ranch, 2 at Al Abady and 1 at KISR Kabt
Ring-necked Parakeet	2s and 3s calling over Al Saheel Park on several occasions
Common Cuckoo	At least 5 at Mutla’a Ranch and 1 at the Al Abady water-bottling plant
Little Owl	1 at Al Abady water-bottling plant
Common Swift	1 at Jahra Pools
Pallid Swift	Common over Kuwait City
White-throated Kingfisher	Several seen at Jahra Pools, Jahra Farms and Al Abraq
Pied Kingfisher	1 female at Jahra Pools
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	A few at Jahra Pools, 7 at KISR L and at least 2 in a mixed flock at Al Abraq
European Bee-eater	Flocks seen at Port Zour, Al Abraq and KISR Kabt
Eurasian Hoopoe	Surprisingly scarce with singles seen in a few locations
Eurasian Wryneck	1 at Mutla’a Ranch

Bar-tailed Lark	At least 3 at KISR – Liyah
Desert Lark	Only at KISR – Liyah
Crested Lark	The most common lark in sparsely vegetated habitat
Sand Martin	Good numbers seen at Pivot Fields
Eurasian Swallow	Widespread and numerous
Red-rumped Swallow	1 at Jahra Pools with the above
Tawny Pipit	1 at KISR L and 1 flyover at Al Abraq
Tree Pipit	Many flyovers but common in Al Saheel Park
Red-throated Pipit	Several flyovers and seen well at Al Abraq and Jahra Pools
Western Yellow Wagtail ( <i>flava</i> )	Pivot Fields – all surprisingly not very numerous
Western Yellow Wagtail ( <i>bema</i> )	Pivot Fields
Western Yellow Wagtail ( <i>feldegg</i> )	Pivot Fields
Grey Wagtail	1 only at Jahra Farms
White Wagtail	1s seen at various sites
White-eared Bulbul	Ubiquitous
Red-vented Bulbul	A pair at Green Island
Hypocolius	A pair at KISR University on 15th, a flock of 19 at Al Abraq on 14th and a single male at Mutla’a Ranch on the 16th
Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin	1s and 2s at Al Abraq, Al Saheel Park, Mutla’a Ranch and KISR – Liyah
<b>Common Nightingale</b>	<b>1 at Al Abraq on the 14th</b>
Bluethroat	1 at Al Abraq on the 14th
White-throated Robin	Good numbers seen in singles but at least 11 at Al Abraq on the 14th
Common Redstart	Very numerous and in every tree and bush at Al Abraq on the 14th
Whinchat	Present in small numbers and widespread with a maximum of 4 in Saheel Park on the 19th
Northern Wheatear	Common and widespread – 1 male showing characters of “Greenland” Wheatear was at KISR – Liyah
Pied Wheatear	Widespread males and females in almost any location
Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush	5 – 4 males at KISR Kabt only
Graceful Prinia	1s and 2s at Pivot Fields, Al Jahra Pools and Abdaly Farms
European Reed Warbler	1 heard singing at Pivot Fields
Basra Reed Warbler	Only in Al Saheel Park – seen every day with a maximum of 5

Great Reed Warbler	Singles seen in various locations but common in Al Saheel Park on all days
Clamorous Reed Warbler	Several singing at Jahra Pools
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Fairly common in suitable habitat
Lesser Whitethroat	Very common in suitable habitat
Common Whitethroat	Not very common; 1s at Al Saheel Park and Mutla'a Ranch
Blackcap	Common in all locations
Barred Warbler	2 in Al Saheel Park and 1 at KISR – Liyah
Willow Warbler	The most numerous warbler everywhere
<b>Mountain Chiffchaff</b>	<b>1 identified as this species at Al Abraq</b>
Common Chiffchaff	Not as numerous as Willow Warbler but in the same locations
Spotted Flycatcher	1 at KISR Kabt
Semicollared Flycatcher	Single male and females at Al Saheel Park, Pivot Fields, Al Abady bottling plant and Mutla'a Ranch
Afghan Babbler	A family party of 5 at Abdaly Farms
Isabelline Shrike	Widespread and seen in suitable habitat
Red-tailed Shrike	Not as numerous as above but in the same habitats
Red-backed Shrike	3 males seen in Mutla'a Ranch, Al Abraq, KISR and Al Saheel Park
Woodchat Shrike	Fairly common and widespread in suitable habitat
Masked Shrike	Single males at Al Abraq on two occasions
<b>House Crow</b>	<b>1 in Kuwait City seen from the car</b>
Common Myna	Widespread and common
Bank Myna	A family party at Jahra Farms
House Sparrow	Ubiquitous
Pale Rockfinch	6 at Al Abraq on 15th
Indian Silverbill	Only in Al Saheel Park with a maximum of 20
(Eastern) Cinereous Bunting	Only in Al Saheel Park with a maximum of 4
Ortolan Bunting	Widespread in good numbers
Rüppell's Weaver	2 pairs at Fintass Park
<b>Dragonflies</b>	
Red-veined Darter	
Red-veined Dropwing	
Violet Dropwing	
Broad Scarlet	

Vagrant Emperor	
Lesser Emperor	
<b>Butterflies</b>	
Painted Lady	
Plain Tiger	
UI Blue	
<b>Others</b>	
Arabian Spiny Lizard	
Arabian Red Fox	