

# K.O.R.C. RARITY REPORT

2014

## 1. KORC Rarity Adjudication

KORC meets quarterly each year to review and adjudicate submitted Rarity Forms for species that are considered Accidental, Vagrant, Rare and Scarce, as well as other specified species that have low and infrequent occurrence.

The completed Rarity Forms are reviewed, discussed and either accepted or not by the core KORC members who are all based in Kuwait. Consensus must be reached for a decision, but if a decision cannot be reached, then the external adjudicators are asked for their opinion for a final decision. Acceptance of any submitted record requires a majority vote by the committee.

The 2014 Committee is as follows:

***Mike Pope (MP)*** - Kuwait (Chairman, voting member)

***Abdulrahman Al-Sirhan (SIR)*** - Kuwait (Secretary, voting member)

***Markus Craig (MC)*** - Kuwait (voting member)

***Oscar Campbell (OC)*** – Abu Dhabi (External Adjudicator)

***Peter Kennerley (PK)*** - England (External Adjudicator)

Thanks and acknowledgement must be given to our enthusiastic band of birders in Kuwait who through their passion and photography continue to promote awareness of Kuwait's diverse bird life and the challenges that they face, especially on migration.

## 2. First Records for Kuwait (Category A and C)

Three (3) new Cat A species (1<sup>st</sup>) were recorded for Kuwait during 2014 with 2 of these species being recorded by our local birders and 1 by a visiting scientist on Kubbar Island.

One (1) new Cat E species was recorded, that of a Sand Partridge from Sabhan in August – but is not shown in the table below

All the 1<sup>st</sup> records are highlighted in the table below:

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIGHTING #	DATE	# Birds	LOCATION	OBSERVER(S)
Variable Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>	1	24-Mar-14	1	Liyah Reserve	R Al Hajji
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	1	10-Jun-14	1	Kubbar Island	S Zoogaris, A Vidalis
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	1	06-Nov-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Khorshed

### 3. First Record Images (with photographer credited)

<p><b>Variable Wheatear (R Al Hajji)</b></p> 	<p><b>Hooded Crow (S Zoogaris, A Vidalis)</b></p> 
<p><b>Hawfinch (M Khorshed)</b></p> 	<p><b>Sand Partridge (S Al Nouri) in Cat E</b></p> 

#### 4. Rarities recorded for Kuwait in Category A and C

Many other rarities were recorded during the year and these are reflected in the table below:

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIGHTING #	DATE	# Birds	LOCATION	OBSERVER(S)
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	9	02-Jan-14	1	Al Abra	A Al Sirhan, G Brown
Sociable Lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	7	18-Feb-14	2	Ritqa	Reported by Omar Al Shaheen
Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco (peregrinus) peregrinoides</i>	5	18-Mar-14	1	Sabhan	S Al Nouri
Streak-throated Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>	2	14-Apr-14	2	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Birdfinder Group
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	9	15-Apr-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Craig
Eastern Nightingale	<i>Luscinia (megarhynchos) golzii</i>	4	17-Apr-14	1	Mutla Farm	H Boresli
Eastern Nightingale	<i>Luscinia (megarhynchos) golzii</i>	5	17-Apr-14	1	Kabd	O Al Shaheen
Striolated Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	3	23-Apr-14	1	Mutla Farm	H Bourseli
Eastern Nightingale	<i>Luscinia (megarhynchos) golzii</i>	6	26-Apr-14	1	Abdaly Farms	A Al Sirhan
Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	3	28-Apr-14	4	Entertainment City	Salem
Eastern Nightingale	<i>Luscinia (megarhynchos) golzii</i>	7	29-Apr-14	1	Wafra Oil Field	H Al Shajji
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	2	24-May-14	1	Kuwait Bay	Omar, Humoud, Aziz
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	13	10-Jun-14	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	M Khorshid
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	8	15-Jun-14	2	Boubyan Island	P Fagel, K and N Al Nassrallah
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	2	06-Jul-14	2	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	K Al Ghanem
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	14	25-Jul-14	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	O Al Shaheen
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	3	07-Aug-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	R Al Hajji
Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>	7	19-Aug-14	2	Abuliyah KOC Reserve	H Al Shajji
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	3	25-Aug-14	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	R Al Hajji
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	7	02-Sep-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	K Al Ghanem
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	4	09-Sep-14	1	Al Abra	H Boresli
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	9	12-Sep-14	1	Gulf Road (TGIF Restaurant)	Abdulaziz Al Yousef
Rufous Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia o. meena</i>	12	09-Oct-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Omar Al Shaheen
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	3	17-Oct-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Hamza Askar
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	10	23-Oct-14	1	Al Abra	H Bourseli, M Khorshed
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	3	31-Oct-14	7	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen, H Al Shajji
Sociable Lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	8	06-Nov-14	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	Ammar Al-Juraiwi
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	3	06-Nov-14	1	Sulaibikhat Bay	Kane Brides, Robbie Hawkins and AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	12	10-Nov-14	1	Sabhan	S Al Nouri
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	2	11-Nov-14	2	Khiran	K Al Fahad
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2	29-Nov-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Khorshed
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	2	01-Dec-14	2	Al Abra	H Bourseli
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	4	02-Dec-14	1	Al Abra	M Khorshed
Humes Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	6	03-Dec-14	1	Al Abra	O Al Shaheen, H Al Shajji

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIGHTING #	DATE	# Birds	LOCATION	OBSERVER(S)
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	8	03-Dec-14	1	Al Abraq	M Murad
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	5	05-Dec-14	2	Al Abraq	K Alghanem
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	6	05-Dec-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Abdullatif Asiri
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	11	07-Dec-14	1	Um Niqqa Farm	K Al Fahad
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	8	08-Dec-14	1	Al Abraq	M Khorshed
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2	11-Dec-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Yousef Al-Failakawy and Faisal Al-Nomass

We continue to record some rare species that have had 15 Rarity Forms or more submitted, to better understand occurrence and distribution of these species.

These species are shown in the table below.

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIGHTING #	DATE	# Birds	LOCATION	OBSERVER(S)
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	20	12-Jan-14	1	Jal Al Zor	O Al Shaheen
Dead Sea Sparrow	<i>Passer moabiticus</i>	18	11-Mar-14	4	South of Khiran	H. Boursli
Dead Sea Sparrow	<i>Passer moabiticus</i>	19	13-Mar-14	1	South of Khiran	H. Boursli
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	21	17-Mar-14	1	Doha	H Al Shajji
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	22	23-Mar-14	1	Kabd	A Al Suraye
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	23	14-Apr-14	1	Al Mutia Farm	M Khorshed
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	21	15-Apr-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Khorshed
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	23	24-Apr-14	1	Wafra Oil Field	H Al Shajji
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	24	31-May-14	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	R Al Hajji
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	22	11-Jun-14	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	R Al Hajji
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	24	28-Jun-14	1	Jal Al Zor	Ahmad Ashour and Ahmad Jamal
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	19	11-Jul-14	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	M Pope, N Tovey
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	25	25-Aug-14	1	Liyah Reserve	O Al Shaheen
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	20	01-Sep-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	?
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	25	06-Sep-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	R Al Hajji
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	26	14-Sep-14	4	Khuwaisat	M Khorshed
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	23	26-Sep-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Omar Al Shaheen
Dead Sea Sparrow	<i>Passer moabiticus</i>	20	01-Nov-14	1	Al Abraq	H Bouresli
Dead Sea Sparrow	<i>Passer moabiticus</i>	21	10-Nov-14	12	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Craig
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	21	15-Nov-14	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	R Al Hajji

## 5. Not Proven Records

Species	Scientific Name	Date	Location	Not Proven Reason
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	02 Sep 14	Jahra East Outfall	Identity confirmed as Reed Warbler
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	24 Oct 14	Jahra Farm	Inconclusive ID features

## 6. Breeding Records

We were a little more diligent this year in recording breeding species, but it is still an area that could be improved upon.

Ferruginous Duck bred at JPR for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year which is really encouraging given the favourable conditions at this reserve which now has permanent water and a more industrial strength perimeter fence to keep undesirables out as much as possible.

Species	Scientific Name	Date	Location	Comments
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	30-Jan-14	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Adult with chicks seen
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	21-Feb-14	Ritqa	
Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>	10-Mar-14	Not given	<a href="http://youtu.be/F1g822Yk2bU/">http://youtu.be/F1g822Yk2bU/</a>
Dead Sea Sparrow (18th)	<i>Passer moabiticus</i>	11-Mar-14	South of Khiran	Male built a nest in a House Sparrow colony, no female seen
Greater Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	23-Mar-14	Liyah Reserve	Adult with 4 chicks
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	01-Apr-14	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	01-Apr-14	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	09-Apr-14	Kabd	
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	13-Apr-14	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Adult male on nest (eggs)
Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	27-Apr-14	KGOC	Same pair from earlier with 2nd successive batch (4)
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>		Not given	
Hypocolius	<i>Hypocolius ampelinus</i>	30-Jun-14	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	2 pairs produced 3 chicks
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	09-Aug-14	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Adult on 4 eggs

## 7. Other Records of Interest

Other interesting observations in 2014 were for:

- 1 Sociable Plovers killed by shooters in Ritqa during February
- 37 Great Black-headed Gulls at Mina Al Zour
- Raptor passage, primarily of Steppe Eagles (250+) on 01 March 14 over Jahra area
- 600+ Pale Rock Finch in Sabhan during April

- A 2<sup>nd</sup> Raptor passage on 4<sup>th</sup> April that included 16 species; Osprey, Eurasian Griffon, Short-toed Eagle, Booted Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Imperial Eagle (6), Golden Eagle (10th), Eurasian Marsh Harrier, Pallid Harrier, Montagu Harrier, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Black Kite, Steppe Buzzard, Long-legged Buzzard, Common Kestrel, Lesser Kestrel and a Black Stork over Jahra area
- 9 Pharaoh Eagle Owl (2 adults, 1st years young and this year's new chicks) seen in one of the Oil Fields in early May
- 425+ Black-crowned Sparrow Lark at Abdulliyah Preserve in late-June
- 52 Greater Hoopoe Larks – counted for 1-day in Liyah, Wafra and Jahra
- Autumn raptor passage observed on 06 September (European Honey Buzzard), 13 September (European and 4 Crested Honey Buzzards, Steppe Buzzard, Egyptian Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Short-toed Eagle) and 26 September (Kestrel, Black Kite, Steppe Buzzard, European Honey Buzzard, European Sparrowhawk, Levant Sparrowhawk, Shikra, Bonelli's Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Pallid Harrier) in Khuwaisat area
- Another Raptor Passage on 02 October; 2 Griffon Vulture, 2 Short-toed Snake Eagle, 1540 Steppe Eagles, 2 Eastern Imperial Eagles – Liyah. 380 Steppe Eagles seen earlier in the morning at Liyah and 500 at Al Abraq – total for the day 2420 Steppe Eagles
- 35 Hypocolius at Green Island on 19 October
- 25 Greater White-fronted Goose in Jahra area on 01 November
- 10,000+ Great Cormorants in Sulaibikhat on 12 November
- A very good spell of rarities on the back of a cold front from 31 October – 08 December; Greater White-fronted Goose, Hawfinch, Sociable Lapwing, Lesser Flamingo, Common Chaffinch, Mistle Thrush, Eurasian Siskin, Richards Pipit, Blackbird, Brambling, Redwing, Dead Sea Sparrow, Purple Sunbird, Common Reed Bunting, Fieldfare, Greenfinch, Goldcrest, Hume's Leaf Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Ring Ouzel, Long-eared Owl, Oriental Skylark and Olive-backed Pipit



A few images of the other interesting species recorded 2014 are highlighted below:

**Common Reed Bunting (R Al Hajji)**



**Eastern Nightingale (H Al Shajji)**



**Greenfinch (M Khorshed)**



**Long-eared Owl (K Alghanem)**



**Purple Sunbird (F Al Khalaf)**



**Rock Bunting (M Khorshed)**





**Olive-backed Pipit (M Khorshed)**



**Sociable Lapwing (A Al-Juraiwi)**



**Sooty Shearwater (H Al Shajji)**



**Striolated Bunting (H Bourseli)**



**Thick-billed Lark (H Al Shajji)**



**Black Tern (O Al Shaheen)**





