

# K.O.R.C. RARITY REPORT

2015

## 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 KORC committee 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 2015 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)

***Neil Tovey (NT)*** – Kuwait (voting member)

***Humoud Al-Shayji (HS)*** – Kuwait (voting member)

***Oscar Campbell (OC)*** – Abu Dhabi (External Adjudicator and voting member)

***Peter Kennerley (PK)*** - England (External Adjudicator and voting member)

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)

Six (6) new Cat A species (1<sup>st</sup>) were recorded for Kuwait during 2015 with all of these species being recorded by our local birders. One record (Striped Crake) is still pending KORC adjudication, since this record was only submitted in February 2016, as it was originally mis-identified by all who gave an opinion on its identification.

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

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIGHTING #	DATE	# Birds	LOCATION	OBSERVER(S)
Striped Crake	<i>Aenigmatolimnas marginalis</i>	1	01-Jan-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	A Al Jeraiwi
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	2	11-Feb-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Craig
Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	1	01-Apr-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
Plain Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus neglectus</i>	1	15-Apr-15	1	Mutla'a Ranch	M Craig
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	1	31-Jul-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Pope, N Tovey
Black Drongo	<i>Dicurus macrocercus</i>	1	19-Nov-15	1	Near Salmly	Sheikh Sabah Al Sabah, O Al Shaheen

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





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

Many other rarities were recorded during 2015 and these are reflected in the table below:

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIGHTING #	DATE	# Birds	LOCATION	OBSERVER(S)
Pale Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne (fuligula) fuligula</i>	9	14-Jan-15	1	Mutla Ridge	O Al Shaheen
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	4	26-Jan-15	2	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	H Bourseli
Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>	4	23-Jan-15	1	Al-Abraq	H Bourseli
Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>	4	24-Jan-15	1	Al-Abraq	M Craig
Pale Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne (fuligula) fuligula</i>	9	25-Jan-15	2	Jal Al Zor	A Jamal, A Ashour
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	12	30-Jan-15	1	Green Island	N Tovey
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	13	03-Feb-15	1	Al-Abraq	M Craig
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	14	05-Feb-15	1	Al Liyah	A Al Jeraiwi, O Al Shaheen
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	2	07-Feb-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Craig
Masked Wagtail	<i>Motacilla a. personata</i>	5	15-Feb-15	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	N Tovey
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	4	21-Feb-15	1	Khiran Marina	M Pope
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	11	21-Feb-15	8	Khiran (south of Khor)	A Al Jeraiwi
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	8	28-Feb-15	1	Entertainment City	A Al Sirhan
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	14	03-Mar-15	2	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	13	07-Mar-15	2	Sea City, Road 278 (north of Khor)	M Pope
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	6	01-Apr-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Craig
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	13	13-Apr-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	N Tovey, M Craig
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	9	16-Apr-15		Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	M Craig
Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	6	24-Apr-15	1	Mutla'a Ranch	M Craig
Black Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas podobe</i>	3	24-Apr-15	1	Al Dhahar Area	M Shah
Black Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas podobe</i>	4	09-May-15	1	Kuwait Zoo	F Al Nomas
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	3	23-May-15	1	Mina Al Zour	M Pope

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIGHTING #	DATE	# Birds	LOCATION	OBSERVER(S)
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	11	23-May-15	3	Khiran (south of Khor)	M Pope
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	3	25-May-15	2	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	14	25-May-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna pardisaea</i>	6	13-Jun-15	2	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	4	01-Jul-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>	12	21-Aug-15	1	Mutla'a Ranch	M Pope, M Craig
Variable Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>	2	25-Apr-15	1	Kabd Reserve	M Craig
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	10	12-Sep-15	2	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	K Al Nasrallah
Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>	5	20-Sep-15	1	Al Abraç	H Al Shayji, A Alyousef
Rufous Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia o. meena</i>	13	30-Sep-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Khorshed
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	5	03-Oct-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	15	04-Oct-15	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	Ammar Al-Juraiwi
Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>	13	07-Oct-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen, A Al Juraiwi
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	15	15-Oct-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Craig
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	10	25-Oct-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	N Tovey
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	7	28-Oct-15	1	Abu Hasaniya	O Al Shaheen, H Al Shajji
Rufous Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia o. meena</i>	14	02-Nov-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Ahmed Salem
Humes Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	6	05-Nov-15	1	Al Abraç	A Al Sirhan
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	15	09-Nov-15	2	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	3	13-Nov-15	1	Falaika Island	M Al Moshwah, A Al Khamees
Humes Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	7	17-Nov-15	1	Mutla'a Ranch	P Fagel
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	4	19-Nov-15	2	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	K Haataja, H Palojarvi
Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	3	20-Nov-15	1	Al Abraç	K Haataja, P Fagel
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	9	21-Nov-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Oda al-Bathali
** Arabian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius aucheri</i>	4	22-Nov-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	
Eversmann's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>	11	05-Dec-15	1	Road 278, Khiran	M Pope
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	13	12-Dec-15	4	Sea City, Road 278 (north of Khor)	M Pope
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	15	22-Dec-15	1	Al Abraç	H Bourseli
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	4	25-Dec-15	1	Sulaibikhat Bay	R Al Hajji

\*\* Arabian Grey Shrike is still under review, as there is not consensus within KORC on the identity of this species

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 Reserve	A Al Suraye
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	23	14-Apr-14	1	Mutla'a Ranch	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
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus (rubescens) japonicus</i>	17	14-Jan-15	1	Al-Abraq	O Al Shaheen
Dead Sea Sparrow	<i>Passer moabiticus</i>	22	17-Mar-15	4	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	26	25-Mar-15	1	Kabd Reserve	M Khorshed
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	22	07-Jul-15	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	R Al Hajji
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	23	27-Jul-15	2	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	R Al Hajji
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	24	01-Aug-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Pope
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	25	08-Oct-15	1	Jahra Farm	M Khorshed
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	26	09-Oct-15	1	Pivot Fields	M Pope
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus (rubescens) japonicus</i>	18	19-Nov-15	1	Jahra Farm	N Tovey

## 5. Not Proven Records

Species	Scientific Name	Date	Location	Not Proven Reason
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	12-Apr-15	Ras Al Salmiya	Record retracted by Observer
Saunders's Tern	<i>Sternula a. saundersi</i>	24-Apr-15	Sabah Al Ahmad Sea City	Probable Little Tern
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	12-Jul-15	Wafra Oil Field	Possibly an escape
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	21-Aug-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Flight pics showed it was White-winged
Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	31-Oct-15	Al Abraq	Confirmed as Willow Warbler
Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	16-Dec-15	Al Abraq	Confirmed as Red-breasted Flycatcher

## 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 have continued to breed at JPR which is really encouraging given the favourable conditions at this reserve with respect to both water and habitat. In fact the increasing growth of Phragmites Reeds may not be good for birders, it is certainly attracting many species of bird to breed in spring and summer.

Species	Scientific Name	Date	Location	Comments
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	02-Jan-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Adult with young fledglings
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	12-Mar-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Adult with 10 ducklings
Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio p. poliocephalus</i>	13-Mar-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Adults with young fledglings
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	15-Mar-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Adults with young fledglings
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	17-Mar-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	2nd Adult with 2 ducklings
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	19-Mar-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Nest and on 24/03 a 2nd nest with one egg
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	23-Mar-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	24-Mar-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	A single recently fledged young bird
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	29-Apr-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Next batch of young
Lillith Owl	<i>Athene n. lilith</i>	03-May-15	Jal Al Zour	Adult feeding 2 young
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	30-May-15	Road 278 Trench, Khiran	1 Adult with chick
Afghan Babbler	<i>Turdoides c. huttoni</i>	13-Jun-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Juv bird with no tail
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	15-Jun-15	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	1 juv bird seen
Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>	17-Jun-15	Zaid Reserve	Adult feeding young in a colony of 10 birds seen

## 7. Other Records of Interest

A ringed Indian Reed Warbler photographed in JPR on 09 September 15. It was subsequently established that this bird was ringed by Jem Babbington in KSA on 29 May 15

Other interesting observations in 2015 included:



- **January** - 10 Jack Snipe - Jahra Pools, Brown-necked Raven - Sulaibikhat Bay
- **February** - 12 Common Gull - Jahra East Outfall, Short-eared Owl - Al Abraaq, Little Swift, Bonelli's Eagle and 11 Great-crested Grebe - Jahra Pools, Raptor passage; 300 Steppe Eagle, 1 Griffon Vulture, 75 Red-rumped Swallow - Jahra Pools
- **March** - Kurdish Wheatear, 2 Cinereous Vulture - Jal Al Zour, Alpine Swift - Kabd, 68 Bimaculated Lark - Salmi, Eurasian Stone Curlew, 5 Great Black-headed Gull, Red-tailed Wheatear - Sea City, large 300+ mixed raptor passage (Steppe Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Bonelli's, Steppe Buzzard, Black-eared Kite) migration, including Griffon and Egyptian Vulture and White and Black Stork and possible Golden Eagle/Black Vulture over Jahra Pools Reserve, Grasshopper Warbler - Al Abraaq, HDC of 790 Pied Wheatears from various localities in Kuwait and HDC 11 Booted Eagle in Jahra and Abraaq
- **April** - HDC 132 Squacco Heron from JEO, JPR and Abraaq, 4 Arctic Skua's, 2 Semi-collared Flycatchers - Green Island, Arctic and Pomarine Skua, Sooty Shearwater, Eurasian Hobby, Eurasian Crag Martin (5) - Ras Al Salmiya, Pacific Golden Plover - Jahra Pools, Indian Silverbill - Shaheel Park, 11 Arctic Skua - Off-shore from Salmiya
- **May** - Crested Honey Buzzard - JPR, Sykes Warbler - Mutla Farm, Rosy Starling - JPR, European Honey Buzzard - Al Abraaq
- **June** - 200 Greater Sand Plover - JEO, Steppe and Long-legged Buzzard, Great White Pelican, 72 Little Tern - JPR, 15 Cream-coloured Courser - JPR, White Stork and Spotted Redshank - JPR
- **July** - Arctic, Pomarine and Long-tailed Skua (4th) - JPR, HDC 49 Common Tern - JPR, 20 Arctic Skua - JPR, Black-headed Bunting, Rosy Starling, Spotted Fly, Red-backed Shrike, Ruff, Little Stint, Green Sand, Hoopoe, Upcher's Warbler - Al Abraaq
- **August** - Golden Oriole, Grasshopper Warbler, Garden Warbler, Sparrowhawk, Semi-collared Fly - Mutla'a Ranch, HDC 418 Garganey - JPR, Trumpeter Finch - Wafra Oil Field,
- **September** - Egyptian Vulture - Khuwaisat, HDC 97 Squacco Heron - JPR, Egyptian Vulture, Western Marsh Harrier, Black Kite, Steppe Buzzard (250) - JPR, Barn Owl - Pivot Fields, Levant's Sparrowhawk - Al Abraaq, 22 Short-toed Snake Eagle - Liyah/Al Ritqa
- **October** - Common Tern, Citrine Wagtail, Hume's Whitethroat - Sea City, Black-winged Kite, Pied Kingfisher, Dead Sea Sparrow - JPR, Great Bittern - JPR, Raptor Passage - Griffon Vulture (7), Imperial Eagle (10), 10th Golden Eagle (1), Steppe Eagle (60), Greater Spotted Eagle (4), Marsh Harrier (6), Long-legged Buzzard (1), Steppe Buzzard (1), Eurasian Sparrowhawk (1), Lesser Kestrel (1) - JPR, Red-tailed, Eastern Mourning, Pied, Desert Wheatear - Mutla'a Ridge
- **November** - River Warbler, Griffon Vulture - Al Abraaq, White Pelican - JPR, 12 Eurasian Griffon, 4 Eastern Imperial Eagle, 10 Steppe Eagle, 16 Greater Spotted Eagle, Stone Curlew, 1 Cinereous Vulture, Merlin - Sulabiaya, Salmi and Liyah, Eurasian Penduline Tit, Siskin and Hen Harrier - JPR, 2 Black Vulture, Reed Bunting - JPR, Wood Lark - Al Abraaq, Brambling - JPR
- **December** - Woodcock and Booted Eagle - JPR