

# K.O.R.C. RARITY REPORT

2016

## 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 are 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 2016 KORC Committee:

*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 group 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)

No new species were recorded during 2016 and this marks the first time since 2003 that a new species has not been recorded in Kuwait which is quite a remarkable considering that period spans 13-years.

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

Although no firsts were recorded during 2016, there was a healthy number of good records of other vagrants.

2<sup>nd</sup> record; Red-crested Pochard, Hawfinch

3<sup>rd</sup> record; Red-footed Falcon, Calandra Lark

4<sup>th</sup> record; Taiga Flycatcher

5<sup>th</sup> record; Red Knot, Greater White-fronted Goose

The list of all rarities recorded during 2016 is reflected in the table below:

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIGHTING #	DATE	# Birds	LOCATION	OBSERVER(S)
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	11	23-Jan-16	2	Khiran (south of Khor)	M Pope
<b>Long-eared Owl</b>	<b><i>Asio otus</i></b>	<b>7</b>	<b>01-Mar-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Al-Abraq</b>	<b>O Al Shaheen</b>
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	13	12-Mar-16	4	Sea City, Road 278 (north of Khor)	M Pope
<b>Hooded Wheatear</b>	<b><i>Oenanthe monacha</i></b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11-Mar-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Al-Abraq</b>	<b>M Craig</b>
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	13	12-Mar-16	5	Sea City, Road 278 (north of Khor)	M Pope
<b>Red Knot</b>	<b><i>Caldris canutus</i></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18-Apr-16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)</b>	<b>M Craig + German friends</b>
<b>Red Knot</b>	<b><i>Caldris canutus</i></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>04-May-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)</b>	<b>N Tovey</b>
<b>Arctic Tern</b>	<b><i>Sterna pardisaea</i></b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30-Jul-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)</b>	<b>N Tovey, M Pope</b>
<b>Red-crested Pochard</b>	<b><i>Netta rufina</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13-Sep-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)</b>	<b>N Tovey</b>
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	11	18-Sep-16	7	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	O Al Shaheen
<b>Red-footed Falcon</b>	<b><i>Falco vespertinus</i></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10-Oct-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Al Abraq</b>	<b>R Al Hajji</b>
<b>Taiga Flycatcher</b>	<b><i>Ficedula albicilla</i></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14-Oct-15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Mutla'a Ranch</b>	<b>M Craig</b>
<b>Common Crane</b>	<b><i>Grus grus</i></b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16-Oct-15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)</b>	<b>M Craig</b>
<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>	<b><i>Anser albifrons</i></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29-Oct-16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Jahra East Outfall (JEO)</b>	<b>Rashed Group</b>
Eversmann's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>	12	15-Nov-16	1	Mutla'a Ranch	A Al Sirhan
<b>Masked Wagtail</b>	<b><i>Motacilla a. personata</i></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>01-Nov-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Wafra Farm</b>	<b>H Al Shajji</b>
<b>Hawfinch</b>	<b><i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16-Nov-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Al Abraq</b>	<b>H Rask, B Rasmussen</b>
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	10	17-Nov-16	2	Jahra Farm	H Dufourmey
Eversmann's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>	13	19-Nov-16	1	Al-Shallal's Farm (Sabriya)	H Dufourmey
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	10	14-Nov-16	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	A Al Sirhan
Hooded Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monacha</i>	10	17-Nov-16	1	Jal Al Zor	D Mauras + Visitors
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	8	18-Nov-16	1	Al Zour Port Village	Henrik Rask
Hume's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe albonigra</i>	8	25-Nov-16	1	SAANR	Dhari al-ajeel
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	9	28-Nov-16	1	Al Abraq	O Al Shaheen
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	9	06-Dec-16	1	Al Abraq	Abdulaziz Al Yousef
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	10	05-Dec-16	1	SAANR	O Al Shaheen
<b>Calandra Lark</b>	<b><i>Melanocorypha calandra</i></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10-Dec-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Liyah Reserve</b>	<b>R Al Hajji</b>
Eurasian Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	12	19-Dec-16	1	Pivot Fields	K Al Ghanem

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

Many of these species are now regarded as annual visitors to Kuwait and are shown in the table below.

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIGHTING #	DATE	# Birds	LOCATION	OBSERVER(S)
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	16	04-Mar-16	2	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	K Al Ghanem
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	16	24-Jul-16	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	O Al Shaheen
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	16	30-Jul-16	1	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	N Tovey, M Pope
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	27	10-Oct-16	1	Pivot Fields	O Al Shaheen
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	17	16-Oct-15	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Craig
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus (rubescens) japonicus</i>	19	15-Nov-16	1	Al Abraç	R Al Haji
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	18	27-Nov-16	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	K Al Ghanem
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	16	08-Dec-16	1	Al Shaheed Park	Martin Schuck
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	17	13-Dec-16	1	Mutla'a Ranch	O Al Shaheen
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	28	16-Dec-16	1	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	M Olikara
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	29	22-Dec-16	1	Abdaly Farms?	Oda al-Bathali

#### 4. Not Proven Records

Species	Scientific Name	Date	Location	Not Proven Reason
Eastern Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis (carduelis) caniceps</i>	23-Feb-16	Kabd Reserve	It is a sedentary species. It is sold in Friday market and is considered an escape
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	25-Feb-16	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Withdrawn by Observer – Squacco Heron
Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	15-Apr-16	Port Zour	No report submitted
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna pardisaea</i>	28-Jul-16	Jahra Pools Reserve (JPR)	Not enough evidence in the report to accept
Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	11-Oct-16	Al Abraç	Correct ID; Red-breasted Flycatcher
Rufous Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia o. meena</i>	17-Nov-16	Mutla'a Ranch	No description and single photograph is inconclusive
Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>	11-Nov-16	Jahra East Outfall (JEO)	Probably a falconers bird

## 5. Breeding Records

Again, 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 (a IUCN NT Species) has continued to breed at JPR which is really encouraging given the favourable conditions at this reserve with respect to both permanent water and habitat.

Although the phenomally fast-growing Phragmites Reeds may not be good for birders; it is certainly attracting many species of bird to breed in spring and summer, but it still needs to be managed, to ensure that the pools and waterways are not lost to the reeds.

Species	Scientific Name	Date	Location	Comments
Greater Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	Feb 2016	Liyah Reserve	
Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>	Feb 2016	Liyah Reserve	
Black-crowned Finch Lark	<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>	Feb 2016	Kabd	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Feb 2016	Kabd	
Greater Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	Feb 2016	Kabd	
Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	Feb 2016	Al Shigayah Border Zone 2	
Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	Feb 2016	Wafra Oil Field	4 Chicks
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Feb 2016	Al Arabi Area	
Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	Mar 2016	Sabhan	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Mar 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Mar 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Mar 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>	Mar 2016	Sabah Al Ahmed Sea City	
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	Mar 2016	Sabah Al Ahmed Sea City	
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Apr 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio p. poliocephalus</i>	Apr 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Apr 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Apr 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	31 ducklings
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	May 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	May 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	May 2016	Ritqa	1 adult, 1 chick

Species	Scientific Name	Date	Location	Comments
Crab-plover Grey Heron Western Reef Heron Eurasian Spoonbill Slender-billed Gull Gull-billed Tern	<i>Dromas ardeola</i> <i>Ardea cinerea</i> <i>Egretta gularis schistacea</i> <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i> <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	May 2016	Boubyan Island	
Bridled Tern White-cheeked Tern Lesser Crested Tern Greater Crested Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i> <i>Sterna repressa</i> <i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i> <i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Jun 2016	Kubbar Island	
Crab-plover Grey Heron Western Reef Heron Eurasian Spoonbill Slender-billed Gull Gull-billed Tern	<i>Dromas ardeola</i> <i>Ardea cinerea</i> <i>Egretta gularis schistacea</i> <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i> <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Jun 2016	Boubyan Island	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Jun 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	2 <sup>nd</sup> breeding record for Kuwait
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Jun 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	Jun 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Jun 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Jun 2016	Jahra Pools Reserve	
Afghan Babbler	<i>Turdoides c. huttoni</i>	Jun 2016	Abdaly Farm	

## 6. Other Records of Interest

In September, Kuwait Coastguard apprehended Iranian boat with 100 Houbara Bustard and 16 Peregrine Falcon (Houbara were released in KOC fields, Falcons were treated at Scientific Center before being released)

Other interesting records and observations during 2016 include:

- **January** – Dunn’s and Temminck’s Lark – near Al Abraaq, Common Gulls, Tufted Duck – JPR, 100+ Pin-tailed Sandgrouse – Al Liyah, 5 Finsch’s Wheatear, Merlin - Wafra
- **February** - 500+ Cattle Egret – Pivot Fields, 2 Cinereous Vulture – Kabd, Levant Sparrowhawk, 100+ Pin-tailed Sandgrouse – Al Abraaq, Raptor passage; Steppe, Eastern Imperial Eagle and Booted Eagle – JPR
- **March** - Long-eared Owl, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse – Al Abraaq, 100+ Bimaculated Larks – Kabd and Al Abraaq, Red-wattled Lapwing, White-tailed Lapwing, Spur-winged Lapwing – JPR, Alpine Swift – Shuwaikh Park, Great Spotted Cuckoo – Liyah, Kurdistan Wheatear – Khiran, Woodpigeon – Abdaly Farm, Cinereous Bunting – JPR, Passage migration; Alpine Swift, White + Black Stork, Booted, Steppe, Greater Spotted Eagle, Egyptian Vulture – JPR

- **April** - Arctic Skua – Kuwait Towers, Great Bittern , 65 Spotted Fly, 8 European Cuckoo, Icterine Warbler, all 3 Lapwings (White-tailed, Red-wattled, Spurwing), Pacific Golden Plover – JPR
- **May** - Black-tailed Godwit – JPR, Arctic Skua's, Common, Lesser Crested and Bridled Tern – Scientific Center, White-crowned Wheatear, Desert Lark – Ritqa, Booted and Short-toed Eagle – JPR
- **June** – 13 Pharaoh Eagle Owl – Wafra Oil Field (new HDC), Eurasian Hobby, Golden Oriole, Hypocolius – JPR
- **July** - 49 Bridled Tern, 2 Arctic Skua – JEO, Western Barn Owl – Pivot Fields, Arctic Skua, Bridled Tern, Yellow Wag, Whimbrel, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater – JEO, Western Barn Owl – Mutla'a Farm, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Lesser Sand Plover, Collared Pratincole, Common Kingfisher, Red-spotted Bluethroat, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, Black-headed Wagtail – JPR
- **August** - Little Crake, Spotted Redshank, Grey Wagtail, Temminck's Stint, Great Reed Warbler, Northern Shoveller, Common Snipe, Spotted Fly, 7 Black Kites – JPR, Lillith Owl – Mutla'a Ridge, Sedge Warbler – Mutla'a Ranch, Corn + Black-headed Bunting, Rosy Starling, White-throated Robin, Red-spotted Bluethroat, Yellow Wagtails – Al Abraaq
- **September** - 74 (HDC) Isabelline Wheatear, 6 Montague Harrier, Black Kite – JPR, Grasshopper Warbler – Liyah, 68 Great White Pelican (last HDC was 100 in April 1922!), Corncrake, Osprey, Black Stork, Egyptian Nightjar, Afghan Babbler - JPR, Green Warbler, Rosefinch, Richards Pipit – Mutla'a Ranch, Grasshopper Warbler – Liyah, Big Raptor Migration all through September at various locations – Egyptian Vulture, Eurasian Vulture, Honey Buzzard, Crested Honey Buzzard, Steppe Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Booted Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Short-toed Snake eagle, Sparrowhawk, Levant Sparrowhawk, Black/Black-eared Kite, Steppe Buzzard, Booted Eagle. Shikra – Al Abraaq, 100+ White Storks – JPR
- **October** - Green Warbler, European Nightjar, Eurasian Scops Owl, Eurasian Hobby, 2 Richards Pipit, Wood Warbler, Skylark, Imperial Eagle, Woodcock – Al Abraaq, Steppe Buzzard (20), Booted Eagle (7), Eurasian Sparrowhawk (4), Western Marsh Harrier (2), Pallid Harrier (2), Steppe Eagle (1), Black Kite (9), European Honey Buzzard (6), Northern Goshawk (1 – Khuwaisat, Egyptian Vulture (3), Black-necked Grebe, Common Black-headed Gull, Spur-winged Plover, 9th Common Crane, Baillon's Crake, Northern Lapwing, 4 Alpine Swift, 3 Greater White-fronted Goose – JPR, MacQueens Bustard, Red-tailed Wheatear – Liyah, Yellow-browed Warbler – Al Shallal Farm
- **November** - 3 Black-throated Thrush, Eurasian Griffon, 6 Griffon Vulture, Great Crested Grebe – JPR, Huge raptor migration (9am – 4pm); 15 Griffon Vulture (HDC), 1 Black Vulture, 465 Steppe Eagle, 18 Imperial Eagle (HDC?), 1 Northern Goshawk, 1 Crested Honey Buzzard, 10 Long-legged Buzzard, 1 Peregrine Vulture, 3 Eurasian Sparrowhawk, 4 Short-toed Snake Eagle, 1 Common Kestrel, 3 Black-eared Kite, 5 Black Vulture (HDC), 1 Eurasian Griffon, 9 Greater Spotted Eagle, 76 Steppe Eagle, 7 Imperial Eagle, 4 Marsh Harrier, 3 Sparrowhawk, 1 Black-eared Kite, 2 Long-legged Buzzard, 1 Kestrel, Fieldfare, Indian Roller – JPR, Mistle Thrush, 2 Fieldfare, Siskin – Abraaq, 2 Black Vultures – Ritqa, 4 Bimaculated Lark, Black-crowned Sparrow Lark –

Sabriya, 2 Black Vultures – JPR, Kabd, Redwing, Brambling, 1 Black Vulture – Mitribah (NW Kuwait), 100's Northern Lapwing – Pivot Fields, Chaffinch – Green Island, 8 Temminck's Lark – Al Salmi

- **December** - 60+ Black-eared Kites – Magwa Oil Field, Hundreds of Black-eared Kites and European Starlings, Ruddy Shelduck, Jack Snipe, Merlin, 19 Black-throated Thrush, Spur-winged Lapwing, Black-winged Kite, Bittern – JPR, Indian Roller, Buff-bellied Pipit – Pivot Fields, 25 Red-wattled Lapwing – Abdaly Farm, Big flocks of Great Cormorant flying south along the coast – Kuwait Towers, Oriental Skylark – United Poultry Pivot Fields