

Checklist of the birds of the Socotra Archipelago

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Prepared for BirdLife International, Environment Protection Authority, Friends of Socotra, Ornithological Society of the Middle East, Socotra Governance and Biodiversity Programme and all those interested in the wildlife of these wonderful islands.

Please send records to: RFPorter@talktalk.net or qamhem@yahoo.com for inclusion in the BirdLife SocotraBirds data base.

The taxonomic order, English names and scientific names are those adopted by the Ornithological Society of the Middle East www.osme.org and *Birds of the Middle East*

Key:

Vagrant: a species recorded 5 times or less.

Species in **BLUE CAPITALS** have internationally important populations on Socotra
Text in red gives BirdLife International/IUCN Red list status

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Passage migrant

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei*

Status uncertain; vagrant or occasional breeding visitor.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Vagrant

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

Vagrant

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Rare winter visitor

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Vagrant

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Garganey *Anas querquedula*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
Vagrant

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
Vagrant **Globally Near Threatened**

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Vagrant

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*
Recorded offshore; status uncertain

PERSIAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus persicus*
Breeding visitor; offshore throughout year.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*
Recorded offshore; status uncertain

JOUANIN'S PETREL *Bulweria fallax*
ENDEMIC Breeding visitor; present offshore throughout the year.
Globally Near Threatened

Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
Summer visitor to offshore waters

White-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta grallaria*
Recorded offshore; but true status uncertain

Black-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta tropica*
Recorded offshore; but true status uncertain

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Vagrant; may have bred

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*
Winter visitor

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon aethereus*
Breeds; offshore throughout the year

Western White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
Vagrant

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
Vagrant

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Vagrant

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*
Vagrant

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*
Rare visitor; may breed.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*
Status uncertain; probably an uncommon resident breeder

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*
Winter visitor and possibly present throughout the year.

Malagasy Pond Heron *Ardeola idae*
Vagrant **Globally Endangered**

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Winter visitor & passage migrant; may breed.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*
Vagrant

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Western Great Egret *Ardea alba*
Uncommon winter visitor

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*
Vagrant

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*
Vagrant

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Vagrant

MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra*
Breeds; offshore throughout the year

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*

Breeds; offshore throughout the year

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus*

Vagrant

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Vagrant

SOCOTRA CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*

Resident and winter visitor. **Globally Vulnerable**

African Darter *Anhinga rufa*

Vagrant

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Resident breeder

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

Vagrant

(See also NOTE below)

EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus*

Resident breeder. **Globally Endangered**

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Vagrant

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Vagrant **Globally Near Threatened**

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

Vagrant

SOCOTRA BUZZARD *Buteo socotraensis* .

ENDEMIC Resident breeder

Globally Vulnerable

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

Vagrant or rare passage migrant

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Vagrant

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Resident breeder

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Vagrant

Macqueen's (Houbara) Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii*

Vagrant. **Globally Vulnerable.**

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*
Vagrant

Corncrake *Crex crex*
Vagrant

Little Crane *Porzana parva*
Vagrant

Baillon's Crane *Porzana pusilla*
Vagrant

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*
Vagrant

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*
Vagrant

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Uncommon visitor; has bred at least once.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
Vagrant

Common Crane *Grus grus*
Vagrant

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*
Vagrant

Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola*
Vagrant

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Resident and probably winter visitor & passage migrant

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
Vagrant

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Resident breeder & winter visitor

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius atrifrons*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*
Vagrant

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
Vagrant

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*
Vagrant

Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Vagrant. **Globally Near Threatened**

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
Vagrant

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Vagrant

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
Vagrant

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Vagrant

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Uncommon winter visitor & passage migrant

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Vagrant

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Uncommon winter visitor & passage migrant

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

Vagrant

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Passage migrant in offshore waters

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

Resident breeder

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Vagrant

BROWN NODDY *Anous stolidus*

Breeding summer visitor; present offshore throughout year

Lesser Noddy *Anous tenuirostris*

Vagrant

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

Vagrant

Common Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

Vagrant

White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus*

Rare visitor. **Globally Near Threatened**

SOOTY GULL *Larus hemprichii*

Resident & winter visitor

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Rare winter visitor

Baltic Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*

Uncommon winter visitor

Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Steppe Gull *Larus barabensis*

Uncommon winter visitor

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Rare winter visitor & passage migrant.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Rare winter visitor & passage migrant

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

SAUNDERS'S TERN *Sternula saundersi*

Breeding summer visitor

BRIDLED TERN *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Breeding summer visitor

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*

Passage migrant

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Vagrant

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Winter visitor & passage migrant

White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa*

Passage migrant

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Uncommon passage migrant

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Rare passage migrant

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Vagrant

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii*
Resident breeder

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* forma *domestica*
Resident; introduced

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*
Resident breeder

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*
Vagrant

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*
Resident breeder

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*
Resident breeder

Pied Cuckoo *Oxylophus jacobinus*
Vagrant

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus*
Vagrant

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
Uncommon passage migrant

SOCOTRA SCOPS OWL *Otus socotranus*
ENDEMIC Resident breeder. **(Taxonomy under review).**

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*
Vagrant

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
Vagrant

Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*
Vagrant.

Nubian Nightjar *Caprimulgus nubicus*
Resident breeder

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*
Vagrant

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*
Vagrant

FORBES-WATSON'S SWIFT *Apus berliozi*
Breeding visitor; present most of year

Little Swift *Apus affinis*
Vagrant

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*
Vagrant

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*
Vagrant

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*
Passage migrant. **Globally Near Threatened**

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
Vagrant

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*
Passage migrant

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
Vagrant

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Vagrant

Daurian/Turkestan Shrike *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
Vagrant or rare passage migrant

SOUTHERN GREY SHRIKE *Lanius meridionalis*
Resident breeder

Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius (meridionalis) pallidirostris*
Vagrant

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*
Vagrant

House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Arrived on boat in 1996; bred, then eradicated 2009

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*
Vagrant

Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*
Resident breeder

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Rare passage migrant

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*
Resident breeder

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Rare passage migrant

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Passage migrant

Pale Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*
Resident breeder

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*
Vagrant

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Vagrant

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Vagrant

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Vagrant

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Vagrant

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Vagrant

SOCOTRA CISTICOLA *Cisticola haesitatus*
ENDEMIC Resident breeder. **Globally Near Threatened**

SOCOTRA WARBLER *Cisticola incanus*
ENDEMIC Resident breeder

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*
Rare winter visitor & passage migrant

Desert Whitethroat *Sylvia minula*
Vagrant

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*
Vagrant

Ménétriés's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*
Vagrant

Abyssinian White-eye *Zosterops abyssinicus*
Resident breeder

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
Vagrant

Somali Starling *Onychognathus blythii*
Resident breeder

SOCOTRA STARLING *Onychognathus frater*
ENDEMIC Resident breeder

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*
Vagrant

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Vagrant

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Vagrant

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*
Vagrant

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Vagrant

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*
Vagrant

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
Rare winter visitor

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
Vagrant

SOCOTRA SUNBIRD *Chalcomitra balfouri*
ENDEMIC Resident breeder

SOCOTRA SPARROW *Passer insularis*
ENDEMIC Resident breeder

ABD AL-KURI SPARROW *Passer hemileucus*
ENDEMIC Resident breeder. **Globally Vulnerable**

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava spp*
Passage migrant

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) feldegg*
Vagrant

Yellow-headed Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) lutea*
Status uncertain; probably rare passage migrant or vagrant

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Vagrant

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
Uncommon winter visitor & passage migrant

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
Winter visitor & passage migrant

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
Rare passage migrant

LONG-BILLED PIPIT *Anthus similis*
Resident breeder

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
Vagrant

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*
Vagrant

SOCOTRA GOLDEN-WINGED GROSBEAK

Rhynchostruthus socotranus
ENDEMIC Resident breeder

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*
Vagrant

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*
Resident breeder

SOCOTRA BUNTING *Emberiza socotrana*
ENDEMIC Resident breeder. **Globally Near Threatened**

NOTE

Black Kite In addition to Yellow-billed Kites which have been specifically identified, black kites (probably *Milvus migrans*) have also been recorded as vagrants.

Brown/South Polar Skua
Stercorarius antarcticus/maccormicki
(species not determined)
Vagrant

UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS
(Reports where no details or descriptions have been provided; they are listed here for completeness)

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*
African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*
Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*
Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae*
Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*
Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*
Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*
Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*
Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*
Hume's Tawny Owl *Strix butleri*
Common Swift *Apus apus*
Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*
Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*
Little Rock Thrush *Monticola rufocinerea*