I have spent a week in the Brayka Bay resort in Marsa Alam, Egypt, a very nice resort where I have been before last year. There are a lot of green fields and nice gardens and also sheltered areas with trees where birds can feed and hide.

Besides spending a "normal" holiday (but always with my binoculars) my intention was to twitch the Lappet-faced Vulture in Bir Shalatin and the Crab Plover that I did not find in Hamata or in any expected site along the coast south of Marsa Alam.

I was not expecting to see migrating passerines but surprisingly a small amount of them were still on their route up north.

Best birding hours were, of course, early in the morning when everything was still quiet, while I spent the daytime hours for some sea-watching or walk outside the hotel to find more species as raptors or larks.

The temperature was between 30 to 36°C and visibility was always excellent.

The bird guides used were:

- Collins Bird guide (Lars Svensson)
- Birds of the Middle East (R.F. Porter, S. Christensen, P. Schiermacker-Hansen)

**List of species seen:**

**Brown Booby** - *Sula leucogaster*
One adult fishing just in front of Wadi El Gemal reserve on June 7th

**Striated Heron** - *Butorides striatus*
One adult in Wadi El Gemal mangroves, *ssp brevipes*, on 7th

**Squacco Heron** - *Ardeola ralloides*
Seen daily in Brayka Bay resort – adults and immatures max 2 per day + 1 adult in Wadi El Gemal

**Cattle Egret** - *Bubulcus ibis*
Seen daily at the resort – max 6 together
**Western Reef Heron** - *(Egretta gularis)*
White and dark phase seen in the lagoon of the resort – seen daily 1-2 birds

![Western Reef Heron - Wadi Lahami, June 2010 - © Massimiliano Dettori](image)

**White Stork** - *(Ciconia ciconia)*
One adult bird flying over the resort on June 8th

**Black Kite** - *(Milvus migrans)*
One immature bird seen on June 6th flying low just outside the resort.

**Egyptian Vulture** - *(Neophron percnopterus)*
One adult + 1 juvenile in Bir Shalatin on the 7th

**Lappet-faced Vulture*** - *(Torgos tracheliotus)*
Six birds seen in Bir Shalatin – 3 feeding on dead camel + 3 flying over

![Lappet-faced Vulture - Bir Shalatin, June 2010 - © Massimiliano Dettori](image)

**Steppe Eagle** - *(Aquila nipalensis)*
One subad. flying north above the resort on the 4th

**Osprey** - *(Pandion haliaetus)*
One bird seen daily at resort + 2 in Wadi Lahami and Wadi El Gemal.

**Sooty Falcon*** - *(Falco concolor)*
One very swift adult hunting doves just before dusk on the 4th at resort

**Lanner Falcon** - *(Falco biarmicus)*
Three specimen recorded.

![Juvenile Lanner Falcon - June 2010 - © Massimiliano Dettori](image)
Kentish Plover - *Charadrius alexandrinus*
One juvenile/female seen on the 7th in Wadi El Gemal

Greater Sand Plover - *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Five birds in Wadi El Gemal

Spur-winged Plover - *Hoplopterus spinosus*
Three couples in the resort – 1 very aggressive couple with 3 adorable pulli + 1 with eggs.

Spur-winged Plover ad. + pullus - Marsa Alam, June 2010 - © Massimiliano Dettori

Common Sandpiper - *Actitis hypoleucos*
One single bird outside the resort in Marsa Alam on the 9th

Sooty Gull - *Larus hemprichii*
Seen daily in small groups – bigger numbers close to Shams Alam trash dump.

White-eyed Gull - *Larus leucophthalmus*
Common – seen daily in small groups – about 100 birds seen around Shams Alam trash dump on the 7th.

White-eyed Gulls, Shams Alam outside the hotel, June 2010 - © Massimiliano Dettori

Caspian Tern - *Hydroprogne caspia*
Seen daily passing in front of the resort – up to 5 birds on the 4th

Sandvich Tern – *Sterna sandicensis*
One bird among Lesser Crested Terns on the 8th close by the resort.

Lesser Crested Tern - *Sterna bengalensis*
Common – seen daily in small flocks passing by or fishing – up to 30 birds on the 8th

Common Tern - *Sterna hirundo*
Seen 3 birds on the 4th and 2 on the 8th

White-cheeked Tern - *Sterna repressa*
4 adults fishing in mixed flock with Common and L. Crested Terns on the 4th

Spotted Sandgrouse - *Pterocles senegallus*
1 male along the road close to Berenice on 7th
**Rock Dove** - *(Columba livia)*
Seen daily outside the resort in small flocks

**Eurasian Collared Dove** - *(Streptopelia decaocto)*
Common in the resort

**Laughing Dove** - *(Streptopelia senegalensis)*
Very common in the resort and seen everywhere where trees were

**Namaqua Dove** - *(Oena capensis)*
One cute tiny female seen on the 10th at resort, very shy.

![Namaqua Dove](female_Namaqua_Dove_Marsa_Alam_June_2010_-_©_Massimiliano_Dettori)

**Pallid Swift** - *(Apus pallidus)*
2 birds flying over the resort on the 5th

**European Bee-eater** - *(Merops apiaster)*
Common – seen daily up to 50 birds on the 6th

![European Bee-eaters](European_Bee-Eaters_Wadi_El_Gemal_June_2010_-_©_Massimiliano_Dettori)

**Sand Martin** - *(Riparia riparia)*
Two birds seen, on 5th and 4 on the 10th, among Barn Swallow and Bee Eaters.

**Rock Martin** - *(Ptyonoprogne fuligula)*
A pair seen daily; nesting in abandoned building close to the resort.

**Barn Swallow** - *(Hirundo rustica)*
Seen daily, all females.

**Red-rumped Swallow** - *(Cecropis daurica)*
One bird seen on the 5th at resort and 1 on the 10th close to the airport.

**Common House Martin** - *(Delichon urbicum)*
Five birds seen on the 5th
**Tawny Pipit** - (*Anthus campestris*)
One in Wadi Lahami.

**Yellow Wagtail** - (*Motacilla flava*)
One female *ssp feldegg* at resort seen on the 9th and 10th

**Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** - (*Cercotrichas galactotes*)
One adult seen at resort on 5th and 6th

![Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin - Marsa Alam, June 2010 - © Massimiliano Dettori](image)

**Common Redstart** - (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)
One female on the 4th at resort and 2 males on the 8th at resort as well.

**White-crowned Wheatear** - (*Oenanthe leucopyga*)
A couple seen everyday feeding in the gardens and nesting outside the resort + 1 juvenile at resort.

![White-crowned Wheatear - Marsa Alam, June 2010 - © Massimiliano Dettori](image)

**Eurasian Reed Warbler** - (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)
Four birds seen on the 6th at resort.

**Marsh Warbler** - (*Acrocephalus palustris*)
Two birds on the 5th

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** - (*Hippolais pallida*)
Seen almost daily up to 3 birds at resort + 1 in Marsa Hemira with 2 Upcher’s Warbler.

**Upcher’s Warbler** - (*Hippolais languida*)
Two in Marsa Hemira mangroves with 1 Olivaceous Warbler – seen very well to appreciate the difference between the two species in size and color.

**Garden Warbler** - (*Sylvia borin*)
Seen daily at resort – up to 2 birds.

**Lesser Whitethroat** - (*Sylvia curruca*)
Only 2 on the 4th at resort.
**Common Whitethroat** - *(Sylvia communis)*
One on the 5th and 1 on the 8th at resort – both females/1st summer.

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** - *(Oriolus oriolus)*
One female/1st summer in Wadi Lahami mangroves.

**Masked Shrike** - *(Lanius nubicus)*
A couple seen daily at resort – no signs of nesting.

**Brown-necked Raven** - *(Corvus ruficollis)*
Very common – tens seen in Bir Shalatin.

**Yellow-throated Sparrow** - *(Petronia xanthocollis)*
The highlight of this trip as if accepted is the 1st record for this species in Egypt.
One singing male seen on the 5th, 6th and 9th at the resort or just outside it on Palm, Eucalyptus or Acacia tree.
Call very similar to House Sparrow. Very shy.

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