



Hula Valley Birding Festival, 20 – 27 November 2011

Festival checklist

Compiled by Yoav Perlman

Key species, rarities and endangered species are highlighted.

1. Little Grebe
2. Black-necked Grebe
3. **Northern Gannet** - 2 at Ma'agan Michael, 23/11. Scarce winter visitor.
4. Great White Pelican
5. **Pygmy Cormorant**
6. Great Cormorant
7. **Little Bittern** – singles at Lahavot Habashan, 21/11 and Bet She'an Valley, 24/11. Scarce in winter.
8. Black-crowned Night Heron
9. Squacco Heron
10. Cattle Egret

11. Grey Heron
12. **Purple Heron** – singles at the Agamon park throughout the week.
13. Great Egret
14. Little Egret
15. Black Stork
16. White Stork
17. Eurasian Spoonbill
18. Glossy Ibis
19. **Greater Flamingo** – 73 birds at Atlit, 23/11.
20. **Greater White-fronted Goose** – 1 first-winter at the Agamon park, 21/11. Rare winter visitor.
21. **Ruddy Shelduck** – 1 at Lahavot Habashan, 21/11. Rare winter visitor.
22. Common Shelduck
23. Gadwall
24. Eurasian Wigeon
25. Mallard
26. Northern Shoveler
27. Northern Pintail
28. **Garganey** – 2 at Bet She'an Valley, 24/11. Rare winter visitor.
29. Common Teal
30. **Marbled Teal** – 1 at Gomme reservoir, 21/11. Globally Vulnerable, rare in winter.
31. Common Pochard
32. **Ferruginous Duck** – small numbers at Gomme reservoir and Hula Reserve. Globally Near-threatened.
33. Tufted Duck
34. **White-headed Duck** – up to 5 individuals at Gomme reservoir. Globally Threatened.
35. Eurasian Griffon
36. **White-tailed Eagle** – 2 adults of the reintroduction program observed throughout the week in various parts of the Valley.
37. Osprey

38. **Lesser Spotted Eagle** – 1 in the Agamon park during the whole week. Rare in winter.
39. **Greater Spotted Eagle**
40. **Eastern Imperial Eagle** – 1 in the Golan Heights, 24/11, and two at Te'enim rubbish dump, 26/11.
41. Golden Eagle
42. **Bonelli's Eagle** – pair in courtship at Gamla, Golan Heights, 23/11; 1 in Te'enim rubbish dump, 26/11.
43. Booted Eagle
44. **Black-winged Kite** – one of the Festival's highlights. A family of two adults and four juveniles represented the first breeding record in Israel. They performed wonderfully near the Ringing Station in the Agamon Park during the whole week.
45. Black Kite
46. Western Marsh Harrier – large numbers. 1 adult male of the dark morph in the Bet She'an Valley, 24/11.
47. Hen Harrier
48. **Pallid Harrier** – good numbers seen during the week. Globally Near-threatened.
49. Common Buzzard
50. Long-legged Buzzard
51. Eurasian Sparrowhawk
52. **Lesser Kestrel** – 1 seen on the Golan Heights, 23/11. Globally Vulnerable.
53. Common Kestrel
54. Merlin
55. Peregrine Falcon
56. **Saker** – adult and juvenile observed in the Agamon park during the whole week. Rare winter visitor.
57. Chukar
58. **Black Francolin**
59. Water Rail
60. Common Moorhen
61. Common Coot

62. Eurasian Crane
63. Black-winged Stilt
64. Pied Avocet
65. Northern Lapwing
66. Spur-winged Lapwing
67. Eurasian Golden Plover
68. Grey Plover
69. Common Ringed Plover
70. Kentish Plover
71. Jack Snipe
72. Common Snipe
73. Black-tailed Godwit
74. **Bar-tailed Godwit** – 1 at Ma'agan Michael, 23/11. Very rare in Israel.
75. Whimbrel
76. Eurasian Curlew
77. Spotted Redshank
78. Common Redshank
79. Marsh Sandpiper
80. Common Greenshank
81. Green Sandpiper
82. Wood Sandpiper
83. Common Sandpiper
84. Ruddy Turnstone
85. Little Stint
86. Temminck's Stint
87. Dunlin
88. Curlew Sandpiper
89. Ruff
90. Armenian Gull
91. Yellow-legged Gull
92. Caspian Gull
93. **Steppe Gull** – two in the Bet She'an Valley, 24/11. Uncommon winter visitor.

94. Baltic Gull
95. Heuglin's gull
96. **Pallas's Gull** – four in the Bet She'an Valley, 24/11.
97. Black-headed Gull
98. Slender-billed Gull
99. **Mediterranean Gull** - four at Ma'agan Michael, 23/11. Scarce winter visitor.
100. Sandwich Tern
101. Whiskered Tern
102. Rock Pigeon
103. Stock Dove
104. Woodpigeon
105. European Turtle-dove
106. Eurasian Collared-dove
107. Laughing Dove
108. **Namaqua Dove** – 1 at the Agamon Park, 25/11. Rare in northern Israel.
109. Barn Owl
110. Tawny Owl
111. Little Owl
112. White-throated Kingfisher
113. Common Kingfisher
114. Pied kingfisher
115. Eurasian Hoopoe
116. Rose-ringed Parakeet
117. Syrian Woodpecker
118. Calandra Lark
119. Crested Lark
120. Wood Lark
121. Eurasian Skylark
122. **Oriental Skylark** – 1 in the Bet She'an Valley, 24/11. Very rare in Israel.
123. **Horned Lark** – 40 seen on Mt. Hermon, 22/11. Ssp. *penicillata*.
124. Eurasian Crag Martin

125. Barn Swallow
126. Red-rumped Swallow
127. White Wagtail
128. Citrine Wagtail
129. Yellow Wagtail
130. Grey Wagtail
131. **Richard's Pipit** – up to four in the Agamon park during the week.
Rare in Israel.
132. **Long-billed Pipit** – a pair seen well near Susita, above Lake Kinneret, 24/11.
133. Meadow Pipit
134. Red-throated Pipit
135. Water Pipit
136. **Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit** – 1 at Ma'agan Michael, 23/11. Very rare in Israel.
137. Winter Wren
138. Spectacled Bulbul
139. **Alpine Accentor** – 1 seen above Kiryat Shmona, 25/11. Very rare in Israel.
140. European Robin
141. Bluethroat
142. Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin
143. Black Redstart
144. Whinchat
145. Common Stonechat
146. **Siberian Stonechat** – good numbers in the Hula and Bet She'an Valleys, of both *variegatus* and *maurus* forms.
147. Northern Wheatear
148. **Finsch's Wheatear** – good numbers seen on Mt. Hermon, Golan Heights and at Susita.
149. Blue Rock-thrush
150. Eurasian Blackbird
151. Fieldfare
152. Redwing

153. Song Thrush
154. Mistle Thrush
155. Blackcap
156. Common Whitethroat
157. Sardinian Warbler
158. Zitting Cisticola
159. Graceful Prinia
160. Cetti's Warbler
161. Savi's Warbler
162. **Moustached Warbler** – good numbers seen both in the Agamon park and Hula Reserve.
163. Sedge warbler
164. Eurasian Reed-warbler
165. Marsh Warbler
166. Great Reed-warbler
167. **Clamorous Reed-warbler**
168. Willow Warbler
169. Chiffchaff
170. **Sombre Tit** – several seen on Mt. Hermon, 22/11.
171. Great tit
172. Eurasian Penduline-tit
173. **Western Rock-nuthatch** – several seen on Mt. Hermon, 22/11.
174. Red-backed Shrike
175. Southern Grey Shrike
176. Palestine Sunbird
177. Eurasian Jay
178. **Chough sp.** – 2 seen on Mt. Hermon, 22/11. Both chough species are very rare in Israel.
179. Eurasian Jackdaw
180. Rook
181. Hooded Crow
182. Common Raven
183. Common Starling
184. Common Myna

185. House Sparrow
186. Spanish Sparrow
187. **Dead Sea Sparrow** – good numbers in the Bet She'an Valley, 24/11.
188. Rock Sparrow
189. Indian Silverbill
190. Eurasian Chaffinch
191. Brambling
192. European Serin
193. European Greenfinch
194. Eurasian Siskin
195. European Goldfinch
196. Eurasian Linnet
197. **Crimson-winged Finch** – four seen briefly on Mt. Hermon, 22/11.
198. **Desert Finch** - good numbers in the Bet She'an Valley, 24/11.
199. **Common Rosefinch** – 1 in the Bet She'an Valley, 24/11. Rare in Israel.
200. Hawfinch
201. Yellowhammer
202. **Rock Bunting** – good numbers seen on Mt. Hermon, 22/11.
203. Corn Bunting
204. Reed Bunting