

OMAN TRIP---- 26 January to 13 February 1998.
(General notes and species localities)

27/01 Ras As Sawadi (23° 45.36'N; 57° 44.47'E- WGS84)

Low coastal sand-dunes, *Salvadora persica* thicket with scattered trees.

Birds:

Indian house crows	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Grey francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
Arabian babbler	<i>Turdoides squamiceps</i>
Yellow-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>

In flight at twilight *Pipistrellus*-type bats.

28/01 Dibaab (23° 04.18'N; 59° 03.70'E- WGS84)

Open pebble beach, narrow coastal plain with low scrub cover with backdrop rocky, broken foothills; *Acacia tortilis* clumps- area heavily overgrazed & browsed.

Birds:

Little green heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
Sooty gulls	<i>Larus hemprichii</i>
Arabian partridge	<i>Alectoris melanocephala</i>
Arabian babbler	<i>Turdoides squamiceps</i>
Lichtenstein's sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>
Graceful warbler	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Palm dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Yellow-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>

Reptiles:

Pristurus carteri (voucher photographs)
Pristurus rupestris
Coluber rhodorachis (littoral zone at low tide hunting small fish)

Near Fans (22° 55.03'N; 59° 12.95'N) towards Bimnah (Wadi Ras Ash Shajari)

Mammals:

Male & female Arabian gazelle *Gazella gazella* (tracks also at several points along coastal plain)

Birds:

Egyptian vultures (x6) *Neophron percnopterus*

Reptiles:

Pristurus carteri
Pristurus rupestris

29/01 Nr Tiwi (22° 52.70'N; 59° 13.70'E- WGS84)

Mammals:

Arabian gazelle *Gazella gazella* (numerous tracks and dung pellet
middens
on narrow coastal step)

Birds:

Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Brown-necked raven *Corvus ruficollis*
Palm dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Arabian partridge *Alectoris melanocephala*
Sand partridge *Ammoperdix heyi*
Isabelline wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Reptiles:

Green turtles
Pristurus rupestris

29/01 Tiwi village area

Mammals:

Leopard *Panthera pardus* (dropping about 2km into wadi)

Birds:

Egyptian vulture (6) *Neophron percnopterus* (at rubbish dump)
Indian roller *Coracias behghalensis*
Grey heron *Ardea cinerea*
Little egret *Egretta garzetta*
Coot (2) *Fulica atra*
Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Yellow-vented bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*

South-west of Sur (22° 18.92"N; 59° 17.65'E- WGS84)

Low hill country and plains; lightly wooded & shrubbed wadis.

Birds:

Egyptian vultures (5) *Neophron percnopterus*
Griffon vulture (2) *Gyps fulvus*
(As group circling low and within 100 metres but then rising and moving to the east)

30/01 Edge of Wahiba (21° 47.09'N; 58° 19.33'E- WGS84)

Birds:

Hoopoe lark *Alaemon alaudipes*

Reptiles:

“Sandfish” *Scincus mitranus*
Stenodactylus arabica (dead & partly eaten by ants but webbing between front toes distinctive.)

Side-winding tracks, probably *Cerastes gasperetti*

Low, eroded rock ridge surrounded by broad plains wadi at 21° 46.36'N; 58° 19.91'E.

Mammals:

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (tracks)

Cape hare *Lepus capensis* (tracks)

Lesser jerboa *Jaculus jaculus* (tracks)

Birds:

Eagle owl *Bubo bubo* (amongst some pellet contents examined were remains of *Lepus capensis*.)

Black-crowned finch-lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*

Desert lark *Ammomanes deserti*

Desert wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

Salt flats & associated shrubs, low salt/sandstone cliffs at 20° 38.64'N; 58° 13.20'E.

Mammals:

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (tracks)

Cape hare *Lepus capensis* (tracks)

Reptiles:

Pristurus minimus (voucher photographs; common)

Near Flim at 20° 38.08'N; 58° 11.25'E; edge of extensive sabkha flats.

Mammals:

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (tracks)

Birds:

Brown-necked raven *Corvus ruficollis*

Fish:

Aphanius dispar (small numbers in seepage pools from under low salt cliff)

31/01 Ras Abaana (20° 27.05'N; 58° 02.86'E- WGS84)

Low rocky sea cliff, extensive coastal sand flats and low dune-hummocks.

Mammals:

Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (tracks)
Cape hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i> (tracks)
House rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>
Lesser jerboa	<i>Jaculus jaculus</i> (tracks)

Birds:

Sooty gulls	<i>Larus hemprichii</i>
“Armenian” gulls	
Lesser black-backed gulls	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Yellow-legged gulls	<i>Larus “heuglini”</i>
Western reef heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
Cattle egret (x1)	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Little green heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>

Reptiles:

Acanthodactylus cf. *schmidti*
Messalina cf. *adramitana*
Pristurus carteri (voucher photographs)
Pristurus minimus (voucher photographs)
Phrynocephalus arabicus (voucher photographs)

Oasis- pools in water course; fairly high salinity; rock steps; date palms, *Salvadora* & tall grass thicket.

Mammal:

Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (tracks)
Lesser jerboa	<i>Jaculus jaculus</i> (tracks)

Trails/tracks of numerous rodents in association with thickets - species not known, warrants trapping.

Bird:

Grey heron (I dead)	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Palm dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>

Amphibian:

Dhofar toad (?) *Bufo dhufarensis* (?) (Although no specimen seen, distinctive toad tracks everywhere & this most likely species.)

Fish:

Aphanius dispar

19° 53.97'N; 57° 40.99'E

Mammal:
Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (tracks)

Birds:
Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*
Desert lark *Ammomanes deserti*

Ras Sidral

Mammals:
Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (tracks)

Birds:
Western reef heron *Egretta gularis*
Grey heron *Ardea cinerea*
Lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*
Great black-headed gull *Larus ichthyaetus*
Black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus*
Slender-billed gull *Larus genei*
Sooty gull *Larus hemprichii*
Curlew *Numenius arquata*
Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Reptiles:
Pristurus carteri (voucher photographs)
Pristurus minimus (voucher photographs)
Pristurus cf. *ornithocephalus* (?)
Messalina sp.

An Nafun (19° 49.69'N; 57° 44.74'E WGS84)

Mammals:
Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (tracks)

Birds:
Lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*
Herring gull-types *Larus argentatus*
Grey heron *Ardea cinerea*
Western reef heron *Egretta gularis*

Reptiles:
Pristurus carteri (voucher photographs)

02/02 19° 51.67'N; 57° 40.28'E

Mammals:
Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (dead on road)

19° 22.81'N; 57° 34.89'E

Mammals:

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (dead on road)
Arabian gazelle *Gazella gazella* (horns of male under bush)

Reptiles:

Pristurus minimus
Messalina cf. *adramitana* (voucher photographs)
Messalina sp. (Distinct striping; voucher photos)
Sand snake *Psammophis schokeri* (hunting *Messalina*'s)

Khor Dhirif (Al Jawarah) 18° 56.26'N; 57° 20.60'E

Mammals:

Arabian gazelle *Gazella gazella* (tracks & droppings)
Striped hyaena *Hyaena hyaena*
Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (freshly dead specimen-poisoned?;
numerous tracks, incl. on beach)
Honey badger *Mellivora capensis* (clear tracks)
White-tailed mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda* (tracks)
Caracal *Felis caracal*

Birds:

Curlew *Numenius arquata*
Greater flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*
Grey heron *Ardea cinerea*
Western reef heron *Egretta gularis*
Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
Black-bellied sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Sooty gull *Larus hemprichii*
Lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*
Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Reptiles:

Pristurus rupestris (voucher photographs)
Pseudotrapelus sinaitus (voucher photographs)

18° 48.86'N; 56° 51.53'E

Mammals:

Arabian gazelle *Gazella gazella* (1 male;2 females)

18° 47.72'N; 56° 50.49'E - Grassy coastal plain, north of Kahil

Mammals:

Arabian gazelle *Gazella gazella* (1 male)

Reptiles:

Desert monitor *Varanus griseus* (two seen)

18° 29.48'N; 56° 37.76'E. Coastal plain, overlooking reef.

Mammals:

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Birds:

Western reef heron *Egretta gularis*

Great white heron *Egretta alba*

Grey heron *Ardea cinerea*

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Crab plover *Dromas ardeola*

Crested lark *Galerida cristata*

Reptiles:

Stenodactylus sp. (voucher photographs)

03/02 Escarpment about 100m a.s.l. 18° 09.05'N; 56° 25.59'E

Mammals:

Arabian gazelle *Gazella gazella* (numerous tracks)

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (tracks)

Reptiles:

Pristurus cf. *ornithocephalus* (voucher photos)

Messalina sp.

Wadi Hadyul 17° 51.54'N; 54° 45.31'E & 17° 47.12'N; 54° 48.52'E

Wide wadi system, gravel, surrounding plateaux; trees, bushes & shrubs along wadi edges.

Mammals:

Arabian gazelle *Gazella gazella* (1 male; 2 females seen; tracks throughout)

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (tracks)

Porcupine *Hystrix indica* (tracks, droppings- wadi edge & overhang)

Cape hare *Lepus capensis* (tracks)

Birds:

Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

Little owl (x2) *Athene noctua*

Palm dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Brown-necked raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>
White-crowned black wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>

Reptiles:

Pristurus rupestris

17° 08.86'N; 54° 31.96'E; hill country with sparse woodland; open & heavily grazed grassland.

(Cattle)

Birds:

Fan-tailed raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>
Tristram's grackle	<i>Onychognathus tristramii</i>

Khor Rawri 17° 02.70'N; 54° 25.77'E

Mammals:

Striped hyaena	<i>Hyaena hyaena</i> (tracks-photos)
Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (tracks)
White-tailed mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i> (tracks)
Genet	<i>Genetta (felina) genetta</i> (tracks)
Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i> (tracks & droppings)

Birds:

Greater flamingo (c.40)	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
Squacco heron (x3)	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Western reef heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Ferruginous duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Marsh sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Curlew sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Isabelline shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>
Blackstart	<i>Cercomela melanura</i>
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>

Citrine wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Yellow-vented bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*

Reptiles:

Pseudotrapelus sinaitus (voucher photographs)
Pristurus carteri (voucher photographs)
Pristurus cf. *rupestris*

Wadi Darbaat 17° 05'N; 54° 27'E

Numerous large fig & other trees; *Commiphora*'s on steep surrounding slopes/

Birds:

Little green bee-eater *Merops orientalis*
Palm dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Yellow-vented bulbuls *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*
Blackstart *Cercomela melanura*
Paradise flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*
Rueppell's weaver *Ploceus galbula*
Bruce's green pigeon *Treron waalia*
Fan-tailed raven *Corvus rhipidurus*
White-breasted white-eye *Zosterops abyssinica*

6-8/02. Rakhyut In deeply-walled, well wooded wadi- *Commiphora* dominated.

Mammals:

Rock hyrax *Procavia capensis* (common)
Striped hyaena *Hyaena hyaena* (tracks)
Wolf *Canis lupus* (heard calling at night)
Genet *Genetta (felina) genetta* (tracks)
Porcupine *Hystrix indica* (tracks & droppings)
Egyptian spiny mouse *Acomys cahirinus* (voucher photographs)
Golden spiny mouse *Acomys russatus* (voucher photographs)
Nile grass rat *Arvicanthis niloticus* (voucher photographs)
Note: this is the first record of this rodent for Oman.
Egyptian slit-faced bat *Nycteris thebaica* (clear views at feeding perches)

Birds:

Fan-tailed raven *Corvus rhipidurus*
Tristram's grackle *Onychognathus tristramii*
Yellow-vented bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*
Cinnamon-breasted rock bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*
Paradise flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*
South Arabian wheatear *Oenanthe lugentoides*
Rufous bush-robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*
African rock martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*
Rock kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Senegal scops owl *Otus senegalensis*

Palm dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Bruce's green pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>
Blackstart	<i>Cercomela melanura</i>
Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Black-headed bush-shrike	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Arabian partridge	<i>Alectoris melanocephala</i>
White-breasted white-eye	<i>Zosterops abyssinica</i>
Shining sunbird	<i>Nectarinia habessinica</i>

Reptiles:

Arabian chamaeleon	<i>Chamaeleo arabica</i> (dried out carcass-photo)
	<i>Agama adramitana</i> (voucher photograph)
	<i>Pseudotrapelus sinaitus</i> (voucher photograph)
	<i>Mabuya tessellata</i> (voucher photograph)
	<i>Pristurus rupestris</i>

10/02 Near Qmafaa 17° 59.43'N; 53° 09.80'E

Mammals:

Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (tracks)
Cape hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i> (tracks)
Lesser jerboa	<i>Jaculus jaculus</i> (tracks)

Dawka irrigation scheme 18° 40.64'N; 54° 03.58'E

Birds:

Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Hoopoe lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>
Kentish plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Brown-necked raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>
Black-crowned finch-lark	<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>
Desert wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>

11/02 20° 34.25'N; 56° 00.23'E

Open gravel flats; with road working earth mounds

Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
------------	----------------------

(Birds seen and 16 pellets sampled)

Ramlat bin Anaws 20° 45.73'N; 56° 23.64'E

Sand dunes, adjacent gravel/sand flats/inter-dune valleys.

Mammals:

Cape hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i> (tracks)
Rueppell's fox	V <i>ulpes rueppelli</i> (tracks)
Arabian gazelle	<i>Gazella gazella</i> (tracks)

Numerous tracks of unidentified gerbils and jirds.

Birds:

Brown-necked raven

Corvus ruficollis

Spotted sandgrouse

Pterocles senegallus

Desert wheatear

Oenanthe deserti

Reptiles:

Phrynocephalus arabica (voucher photographs)

Scincus mitranus

12/02

Hanar ad Durn

22° 38.70'N; 56° 54.14'E

Birds:

Lichtenstein's sandgrouse

Pterocles lichtensteinii

Purple sunbird

Nectarinia asiatica

Little owl

Athene noctua

Palm dove

Streptopelia senegalensis