

Bulgaria-Turkey-Syria-Jordan Trip Report (Jan-Feb 2009)

By Peter Alfrey

WEB LINKS FOR THIS TRIP:

<http://peteralfreybirdingnotebook.blogspot.com/>

<http://peteralfrey.blogspot.com/>

INTRODUCTION

This was a trip with my non-birder brother Paul so there was much in the way of compromise in terms of the time we spent birding and sites visited etc. The purpose of the trip was to generally explore the region from a traveler's perspective with birding where possible. Managed to see a good suite of the local specialties and there is plenty of scope for two other focused birding trips to this region- one that covers Eastern Turkey and another focused in Palestine/Israel- both areas which we couldn't have covered anyway because of season and visa problems. I would also like to visit the area again during migration season and of course to see the Bald Ibises- that means another trip to Syria in the spring.

ITINERARY

Bulgaria

Shipka Monastery

Turkey

Istanbul-Kulu Golu-Sultan Marshes-South of Adana

Syria

Sabkhat al-Jabbul- Halabbiyah- Mheimideh- Deir-ez Zor- Palmyra- Damascus

Jordan

Dead Sea- Dana

Syria

Ugarit

Turkey

Iskenderun

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WEBSITES

<http://www.palmyrasociety.org/>

OSME

<http://www.osme.org/index.html>

DAILY LOG**Shipka 6th -9th January**

Spent a couple of days round Shipka. Located in the foothills of the central Balkans. Pine and Beech dominant the escarpment and in the valley there is farmland and grassland. The Shipka monastery is an area of mixed park and wood.

Great Tits are abundant in this area and there is a high concentration of woodpeckers. Mainly Great Spotted but also several Syrian Woodpeckers were present, particularly in the village areas of scrub and dead wood. Black Woodpeckers showed very well around the Monastery.



Syrian Woodpecker

Woodland birds around the monastery included Crossbills, Siskin, Hawfinch, Coal Tit, Marsh Tit, Nuthatch, Goshawk, Treecreeper with the odd Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush. Plenty of Blackbirds.

The odd Buzzard in the lowland and one Great Grey Shrike, Merlin and Hen Harrier.

TURKEY

Istanbul 9th -11th January



A couple of days in Istanbul produced a few city birds. Laughing Doves were present around Kumkapi and there were several water birds in the fishing harbor. 1000s of Black-headed Gulls, 100s of Yellow-legged Gull, the odd Caspian looking thing, one Common Gull, 2 Sandwich Tern and surprisingly to me a flock of Coot on the sea.



Laughing Dove

A couple of Shags were on the rocks with groups of Great Cormorant. A Pygmy Cormorant flew over also.

What I thought at first to be a flock of sea duck actually turned out to be groups of Yelkouan Shearwater out on the Sea of Marmara.

Kulu Golu 13th January 2009

Drove from Istanbul to Ankara and then onto a small town called Kulu. Nearby there is typical steppe saline lake which holds good numbers of water birds.



Crested Lark

On the lake edge was a group of 10 or so Whooper Swan and several flocks of White-fronted Geese (up to 700 or so). There was also 4 Ruddy Shelduck within the geese flocks.

A couple of Long-legged Buzzard, one Kestrel, Hen Harrier and Little Owl were also present.



Little Owl

Large flocks of Calandra Lark were particularly impressive. I could see some Lesser Short-toed Larks within the flocks and also suspected Skylark. There must have been 1-2 thousand birds present around the lake and adjoining fields. Also several Crested Larks.



Lesser Short-toed Lark



Calandra Larks



Calandra Larks

Gerome 14th January

Spent the day walking around the famous landscapes and cave dwellings of Gerome. A few birds in this area including a small flock of presumed Red-fronted Serin, the odd Twite, Rock Sparrows, House and Tree Sparrows, Magpies, Rock Nuthatch, Sombre Tit, Great-spotted Woodpecker, Little Owl, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Long-legged Buzzard, Great Tit and interestingly a movement of Fieldfare including small groups totaling 250 plus birds moving south.



Cappadocia

Sultan Marshes 15th January

Spent today looking for water at Sultan Marshes. There were supposed to be half a million birds on these marshes but I didn't even see a Mallard. We drove through the reeds to try and get to some water but it was totally dry. A few reed birds included 20+ Penduline Tit, 4 Bearded Tit, 40+ Reed Bunting (looked heavy billed) and 1 Marsh Harrier.

South of Adana 16th January

In contrast to the Sultan Marshes this delta complex was full of birds. 3 White-throated Kingfisher, 3 Pied Kingfisher, 1 Yellow-vented Bulbul, 10 Great Black-headed Gull, 20+ Slender-billed Gull, 100+ Armenian Gull, 1 Caspian Gull, Long-legged Buzzards, Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier and a couple of thousand Greater Flamingo.



The Adana Mosque



Great Black-headed and Armenian Gulls



Armenian Gulls- adult and first winter



Armenian Gulls



Long-legged Buzzard

SYRIA

20th January



Birding with the locals

Checked out the Sabkhat al-Jabbul. This is a huge and important wetland site, recognized by Ramsar Site Status in 1998. We met the local wildlife guard, Mr Yaseen Mujawer Abu Qalil who took us round. To meet this guy, just turn up to the site and after a short chaos.....he will appear.

Highlights included 7 Iraq Babblers, 20+ Moustached Warbler, 1 Graceful Prinia, 15 Dead Sea Sparrows, 10 Ferruginous Duck, 4 Citrine Wagtail, 20+ Water Pipit and impressive numbers of White-headed Duck (250+) and Marbled Duck (40+).



Iraq Babbler



Moustached Warbler

Greater Flamingo



21st January

Alleppo-Qala' at Ja'abar

On our way to Raqqa we checked out part of lake Al-Assad from the Mesopotamian style Citadel. Highlights were Pygmy Cormorants, lots of Black-necked Grebes, male Pallid Harrier and Finsch's Wheatear. Also several Chiffchaffs calling in the Pines and Eucalyptus- quite a melancholy single note call- perhaps Siberian Chiffchaffs in this part of the world?



Armenains Gull, Pygmy Cormorant and Coot

22nd January

Raqqa- Shnan

Went east today and had a look around the Euphrates near Raqqa. Highlights included Greater Spotted Eagle, Iraq Babblers, Pallid Harrier, dark phase Long-legged Buzzard, Hen Harrier and Great Black-headed Gull.

Lots of Chiffchaffs- calling a single plaintive note so presumably tristis, maybe lorenzii.



Adult Great Black-headed Gull

23rd January

Al-Mustah and Halabbiyah

Al-Mustah Salt fields



Al-Mustah Salt Fields- more salt than birds- this site appears to have declined since the 2004 surveys

This place was rather disappointing and probably due to the fact that the habitat had declined. The 2004 wetland surveys reported numerous wetland birds here including White-tailed and Spur-winged Plover. It was also noted as a possible site to check for Slender-billed Curlew as there were nearly 40 Curlews in this area. However when we arrived all I could find was 8 Lapwing and 35 Shelduck. There was a flock of Spanish Sparrow (30+), Finsch's Wheatear, two Great Spotted Eagle and Pallid Harrier in the area. Note worthy was the 200+ Pied Wagtails in these fields.

The Euphrates around Halabbiyah held quite a few interesting birds but none of the target species of this area. Most interesting were two Great Black-headed Gulls and 30+ Armenian Gull including a leucistic bird.

24th January

Mheimideh



Mheimideh

What an amazing place. This is a must! White-tailed Plovers, Spur-winged Plovers, Ferruginous Ducks, Marbled Teal, Greater Spotted Eagle, Pallid Harrier, 'orientalis' Curlew and stacks of other waterbirds including Ruff, Teal, Pintail, Marsh Harrier, Water Pipits, Redshank, Pied Kingfishers- and the viewing is superb.



White-tailed Plover



Pied Kingfisher

Deir ez-Zor

Had a look round the suspension bridge and the palm gardens of the Hotel al-Saeed. There were 10+ Iraq Babblers and 2 Graceful Prinia in the nearby restaurant area and in the palm garden were 6 White-eared Bulbul, many Siberian/Mountain Chiffchaff, 30+ Song Thrush, 4 Blackbird and a small mixed group of Spanish and House Sparrow.



Siberian Chiffchaff (think) Maybe Mountain Chiffchaff?



White-eared Bulbul

25th January

Palmyra

Spent the day with Adeeb al-Assad who took me to Talila Reserve and the birding areas around Palmyra. \$150 for lunch, car, driver and bird guide per day to mop up on the local specialties. I decided to do it over two days. Adeeb is a member of The Palmyra Society for the Protection of Environment and Wildlife. The website is <http://www.palmyrasociety.org/>

Highlights today included the Arabian Oryx and Gazelle at Talila, Finsch's Wheatear, Desert Wheatear, Pallid and Hen Harriers side by side, Desert Larks and the sight of thousands upon thousands of Skylarks feeding on fields which 50 years ago were the bed of a giant lake which has now dried up.



Arabian Oryx and Gazelle

27th January

Palmyra

Finished off the second part of the two day tour with Adeeb around Palmyra. Plenty of birds today including Hoopoe Lark, Temmink's Horned Lark, Brown-necked Raven (so I was told) and Golden Eagle.



Hoopoe Lark



Temminck's Horned Lark

Highly recommend joining a guide for this part of the trip:

<http://www.palmyrasociety.org/>

1st-6th February

JORDAN

Basically I got very ill over these days but still managed to get some birding in between hourly visits to the toilet, hospital visits and transportation.

About 150+ Black Kites around North Shana in the north-west of Jordan. Then we made our ways south. Along the Dead Sea there was White-crowned Black Wheatear, Fan-tailed Raven, Tristram's Grackle, Rock Martin and Scrub Warbler.

Dana was a superb area- Tristram's Serin, Orange- Tufted Sunbird, Scrub Warblers, Mourning Wheatear, Blackstart, Brown-necked Raven, Griffon Vultures, Desert Lark, Rock Martins and Chukar (aren't they Rock Partridge round here???) . In the evening a Scop's Owl was calling.



Rock Martin



Orange-tufted Sunbird



Blackstart



Griffon Vulture

8th February

All of a sudden the trip got cut short because of unforeseen circumstances so we had to return back to Bulgaria.

9th February

Ugarhit - Syria

8 Kittiwakes here were part of an influx into the Eastern Mediiterranean this year.



Kittiwake

11th February

Iskenderun- Turkey

Had a look at a pre-roost in the harbour- one Little Gull, one Kittiwake, Caspian and Yellow-legged Gull, Lesser-black backed Gull, Great Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Mediterranean Gull and Black-headed Gull.

APPENDIX

SYRIA OBSERVATIONS

20th January (6 hours)

Sabkhat al-Jabbul, Dyke and village area

Little Grebe	30+	
Great-crested Grebe	1	
Great Cormorant	1	
Bittern	4	
Little Bittern	1	
Little Egret	1	
Great White Egret	30+	
Grey Heron	8	
Greater Flamingo	1000+	
Shelduck	2000+	
Mallard	20+	
Gadwall	80+	
Pintail	20+	
Shoveler	200+	
Wigeon		10+
Marbled Duck	40+	
Teal	100+	
Pochard	700+	
Red-crested Pochard	60+	
Ferruginous Duck	10	
White-headed Duck	200+	
Marsh Harrier	20+	
Merlin	1	
Water Rail	2	

Purple Swamp-Hen	7
Coot	400+
Moorhen	10
Ringed Plover	1
Dunlin	30+
Little Stint	100+
Temminck's Stint	2
Common Sandpiper	1
Green Sandpiper	2
Redshank	10
Spotted Redshank	6
Marsh Sandpiper	3
Snipe	1
Slender-billed Gull	50+
Mediterranean Gull	1
Armenian Gull	2
Whiskered Tern	5
Laughing Dove	2
Common Kingfisher	1
Pied Kingfisher	20+
Water Pipit	15+
Meadow Pipit	2
Pied Wagtail	2
Citrine Wagtail	4
Wren	2
Robin	1
Black Redstart	2

Graceful Prinia	1
Moustached Warbler	20-30+
Cetti's Warbler	20+
Iraq Babbler	7
Starling	10-20, 000
Dead Sea Sparrow	15+
Reed Bunting	2
Corn Bunting	2

21.01.09 Lake Al- Assad- from Qala' at Ja'abar (1.5 hrs in evening)

Black-necked Grebe	60+
Great-crested Grebe	5
Great Cormorant	3
Pygmy Cormorant	5
Little Egret	1
Coot	600+
Pallid Harrier	1 male over road en route
Sparrowhawk	1
Buzzard	1 en route
Armenian Gull	10+
Black-headed Gull	15
Woodpigeon	1
Common Kingfisher	1
Black Redstart	2
Finsch's Wheatear	2
Blackbird	1
Chiffchaff	5+ Possibly 'siberian' or 'tristis'

Magpie	3
Hooded Crow	20+
Rock Sparrow	10+
Corn Bunting	3

22nd Janaury

East of Raqqa- Shnan 4.5 hours in morning

Little Grebe	3
Great Cormorant	30+
Pygmy Cormorant	5
Little Egret	1
Grey Heron	1
Gadwall	8
Shelduck	4
Greater Spotted Eagle	2
Black Kite	15+
Marsh Harrier	5+
Hen Harrier	1
Pallid Harrier	1
Long –legged Buzzard	3 including dark phase
Common Buzzard	2
Sparrowhawk	1
Kestrel	4
Moorhen	2
Green Sandpiper	2
Greenshank	1
Snipe	4

Lapwing	10	
Great Black Headed Gull		1
Collared Dove	50+	
Common Kingfisher	1	
Pied Kingfisher	2	
Skylark	30+	
Crested Lark	20+	
Lark sp.		50+
Red-throated Pipit	1	
Meadow Pipit	10	
Water Pipit	2	
Pied Wagtail	2	
Robin	2	
Black Redstart	2	
Stonechat	2	
Chiffchaff	20+	
Graceful Prinia	3	
Cetti's Warbler	30+	
Iraq Babbler	10+	
Hooded Crow	50+	
Chaffinch	30+	
Corn Bunting	1	

Al-Mustah Salt Pans and Euphrates en route 23rd January (4 hours)

Little Grebe	10
Great Crested Grebe	2
Great Cormorant	50+

Pygmy Cormorant	5
Little Egret	1
Great White Egret	1
Grey Heron	4
Teal	15
Greater Spotted Eagle	2
Black Kite	3
Marsh Harrier	3
Pallid Harrier	1
Long-legged Buzzard	3
Merlin	2
Kestrel	15
Coot	1000+
Snipe	10
Lapwing	15
Green Sandpiper	1
Great Black Headed Gull	3
Armenian Gull	30+
Pied Kingfisher	4
Common Kingfisher	1
Skylark	100+
Water Pipit	2
Pied Wagtail	200+
Stonechat	4
Finsch's Wheatear	1
Blackbird	1
Iraq Babbler	1

Starling	200
Spanish Sparrow	30+

24th January**Mheimideh**

Little Grebe	12
Great White Egret	2
Little Egret	2
Grey Heron	8
Mallard	12
Pintail	14
Shoveler	5
Teal	60
Marbled Teal	4
Pochard	45
Ferruginous Duck	25
Tufted Duck	4
Marsh Harrier	4
Pallid Harrier	1
Black Kite	2
Great Spotted Eagle	2
Kestrel	1
Coot	40
Moorhen	10
Spur-winged Plover	6
White-tailed Plover	14
Redshank	2

Black-tailed Godwit	2
Curlew	1
Snipe	4
Ruff	12
Pied Kingfisher	6
Crested Lark	15
Water Pipit	25
Pied Wagtail	2
Robin	1
Black Redstart	4
Stonechat	2
Moustached Warbler	1

Dier ez-Zor

6 White-cheeked Bulbul

30+ Song Thrush

8 Spanish Sparrow

10 House Sparrow

4 Blackbird

10 Iraq Babbler

2 Graceful Prinia

30+ Siberian Chiffchaff

25th January

Palmyra (all day)

Hen Harrier 4+

Pallid Harrier 6+

Long-legged Buzzard	5
Sparrowhawk	2
Kestrel	4
Merlin	1
Common Crane	3
Lapwing	7
Collared Dove	100+
Skylark	20,000+
Crested Lark	30+
Lesser Short-Toed Lark	1 (presumed)
Desert Lark	4
Bar-Tailed Desert Lark	1 (probable)
Calandra Lark	15+
Meadow Pipit	4
Yellow Wagtail	1
Black Redstart	10+
Desert Wheatear	3
Finsch's Wheatear	3
Stonechat	6
Bearded Tit	1
House Sparrow	60+
Rock Sparrow	15
Linnet	20+
Corn Bunting	1

26th January

Palmyra (all day)

Great Cormorant	2
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Black Stork	1	
Mallard	15	
Gadwall	8	
Pintail	3	
Shoveler	30+	
Teal	15+	
Pochard	25+	
Golden Eagle	3-4	
Pallid Harrier	1	
Sparrowhawk	2	
Merlin	1	
Kestrel	4	
Coot	200+	
Common Crane		100+
Ringed Plover	1	
Kentish Plover	3	
Lapwing	1	
Green Sandpiper	1	
Redshank	2	
Snipe	3	
Black headed Gull	1	
Collared Dove	10+	
Laughing Dove	5+	
Skylark	50+	
Crested Lark	15+	
Temminck's Lark	6+	
Hoopoe Lark	1	

Barn Swallow	4+	
Water Pipit	2	
Meadow Pipit	1	
Pied Wagtail	1	
Black Redstart	2	
Isabelline Wheatear	1	
Desert Wheatear	4+	
Finsch's Wheatear	2	
Blackbird	1	
Chiffchaff	10+	
Willow Warbler		1
Cetti's Warbler	2	
Chough	30+	
Brown-necked Raven	2	
Starling	6	
House Sparrow	60+	
Linnet	30+	
Corn Bunting	1	

10th February

Ugarhit (2 hours)

Kittiwake	8
Slender-billed Gull	1
Black-headed Gull	20+
Great Cormorant	6
Kingfisher	1

TRIP LIST

Bulgaria: SH-Shipka

TURKEY: IS-Istanbul, AD-Adana, KU-Kulu Golu, CA-Cappadoccia, ANK- Ankara, IK- Iskenderun

SYRIA: LA- Lake Assad, SAJ- Sabkhat-al Jabbul, RA- Raqqa, MEH- Mheimedeh, MA- Mari, PAL- Palmyra, UG- Ugarhit

JORDAN- DS- Dead Sea NS- North Shana DAN-Dana

Species	Bulgaria	Turkey	Syria	Jordan
Great Crested Grebe		IS	LA	
Black-necked Grebe			LA	
Little Grebe			SAJ,RA,	
Yelkouan Shearwater		IS		
Great Cormorant		IS, AD	SAJ,RA,PAL, UG	
Shag		IS		
Pygmy Cormorant		IS	LA	
Little Egret		AD	SAJ,RA	
Great White Egret		AD	SAJ, MEH	
Grey Heron		Many	Many	
Bittern			SAJ	
Little Bittern			SAJ	
Black Stork			PAL	
Greater Flamingo		AD	SAJ	
Whooper Swan		KU		
White-fronted Goose		KU, AD		
Ruddy Shelduck		KU		
Shelduck			SAJ,RA	
Mallard		KU, AD	SAJ, PAL	
Teal		AD	SAJ, RA, PAL	
Gadwall			SAJ,RA, PAL	
Pintail			SAJ, PAL	
Shoveler			SAJ, PAL	
Wigeon			SAJ	
Marbled Duck			SAJ, MEH	
Pochard			SAJ, MEH, PAL	
Red-Crested Pochard			SAJ	
Ferruginous Duck			SAJ, MEH	
Tufted Duck			MEH	
White-headed Duck			SAJ	
Griffon Vulture				DAN
Golden Eagle			PAL (6)	
Great Spotted Eagle			RA, MEH	

Black Kite		AD	RA, MEH, MA	
Marsh Harrier		SU, AD	SAJ,RA, MEH	
Pallid Harrier			LA,RA, MEH, PAL	
Hen Harrier	SH	KU, AD	RA, PAL	
Long-legged Buzzard		KU, SU, AD	RA, PAL, MEH	
Common Buzzard	Many	Many	RA	
Steppe Buzzard				DS
Sparrowhawk	SH	CA, AD	RA, PAL	
Goshawk	SH			
Kestrel	Many	Many	Many	
Merlin	SH		SAJ, PAL	
Chukar (Rock Partridge?)				DAN
Common Crane			PAL,	
Coot		AD	Many	
Moorhen			SAJ,RA, MEH	
Purple Swamp-Hen			SAJ	
Water Rail			SAJ,RA	
Avocet		AD		
Lapwing		AD	MA, PAL	
Spur-wingd Plover			MEH	
White-tailed Plover			MEH	
Ringed Plover			SAJ, PAL	
Kentish Plover			PAL	
Dunlin		AD	SAJ	
Little Stint			SAJ	
Temminck's Stint			SAJ	
Green Sandpiper			SAJ, RA, PAL	
Common Sandpiper		AD	SAJ	
Redshank		AD	SAJ, PAL	
Greenshank			RA	
Spotted Redshank		AD	SAJ	
Marsh Sandpiper		AD	SAJ	
Black-tailed Godwit		AD	MEH	
Curlew			MEH	
Snipe		KU, AD	SAJ,RA, MEH, PAL	
Ruff			MEH.	
Black-headed Gull		Many	Many	
Mediterranean Gull		IK,	SAJ	
Slender-billed Gull		AD, IK	SAJ, UG	
Common Gull		KU, AD, IK	UG	
Armenian Gull		AD	Many	
Caspian Gull		IS, AD, IK		
Yellow-legged Gull		IS		
Lesser Black-backed Gull		IK		
Great Black-headed Gull		AD, IK	RA,	
Little Gull		IK		
Kittiwake		IK	UG	

Sandwich Tern		IS, AD, IK		
Caspian Tern		AD		
Whiskered Tern			SAJ	
Rock Dove	Many	Many	Many	Many
Woodpigeon	SH		LA, MA	
Collared Dove	Many	Many	Many	
Laughing Dove		IS, AD	Many	
Little Owl		KU, CA	Many	
Scops Owl				DAN
Kingfisher		AD	SAJ,RA,UG	
White-throated Kingfisher		AD		
Pied Kingfisher		AD	SAJ,RA, MEH	NS
Common Swift				DS
Black Woodpecker	SH			
Great Spotted Woodpecker	SH	CA		
Syrian Woodpecker	SH			NS
Ring-necked Parakeet		IK, IS		
Skylark		AD	Many	
Crested Lark	Many	Many	Many	
Lesser Short-toed Lark		KU	PAL	
Calandra Lark		KU	PAL	
Desert Lark			PAL	DAN
Bar-Tailed Desert Lark			PAL	
Temminck's Lark			PAL	
Hoopoe Lark			PAL	
Barn Swallow			PAL	
Rock Martin				Many
Water Pipit		AD	SAJ, RA, MEH, PAL	
Red-throated Pipit			RA	
Meadow Pipit		AD	Many	
Pied Wagtail		AD	Many	
Citrine Wagtail			SAJ	
Yellow Wagtail			PAL	
Wren	SH		SAJ	
Yellow-vented Bulbul		AD		Many
White-cheeked Bulbul			PAL	
Robin			Many	
Isabelline Wheatear			PAL	
Desert Wheatear			PAL	
Finsch's Wheatear			MA	
Mourning Wheatear				DAN
White-crowned Black Wheatear				DS
Blackstart				DAN
Black Redstart		AD	Many	Many
Stonechat		AD	Many	
Song Thrush	SH		PAL	DAN
Redwing		IS		
Blue Rock Thrush				DAN
Mistle Thrush	SH			

Fieldfare		CAP		
Blackbird	SH		LA, PAL	
Sardinian Warbler		AD		
Graceful Prinia			Many	
Scrub Warbler				DAN
Moustached Warbler			SAJ, MEH	
Cetti's Warbler		AD	SAJ, PAL	
Chiffchaff		AD		
Siberian/Mountain Chiffchaff			Many	
Willow Warbler			PAL	
Goldcrest	SH			
Orange-tufted Sunbird				DAN
Great Tit	SH	IS, CAP		NS
Blue Tit	SH			
Coal Tit	SH			
Marsh Tit	SH			
Sombre Tit		CAP		
Long-tailed Tit	SH			
Bearded Tit		KU	PAL	
Penduline Tit		KU		
Common Nuthatch	SH			
Western Rock Nuthatch		CAP		
Treecreeper	SH			
Great-grey Shrike	SH			
Iraq Babbler			SAJ, RA, PAL	
Magpie	SH	Many	Many	
Jay	SH			
Jackdaw	SH	Many		
Rook	Many	Many	PAL	
Chough			PAL	
Hooded Crow	Many	Many	Many	
Raven	SH			
Brown-necked Raven			PAL	
Fan-tailed raven				DS
Tristram's Grackle				DS
Starling		Few	Stacks	
House Sparrow	Many	Many	Many	
Spanish Sparrow			PAL	
Tree Sparrow	Many	Many		
Dead Sea Sparrow			SAJ	
Rock Sparrow		AD, CAP	PAL	
Chaffinch	SH	ANK	RA	
Twite		CAP		
Linnet			PAL	
Goldfinch	Many	Many		
Greenfinch	Few	Few		
Siskin	SH			
Serin		AD		
Tristram's Serin				DAN
Red- fronted Serin		CAP		
Bullfinch	SH			

Hawfinch	SH			
Desert Finch			PAL	
Common Crossbill	SH			
Reed Bunting		KU	SAJ	
Yellowhammer	Many			
Corn Bunting	Many	Few	SAJ, RA, PAL	

Bold= personal WP ticks. 187 species (missed several target species in Jordan due to unforeseen circumstances). No Bald Ibises until late February so best to visit Syria in spring- for all the specialties and migration.

WEBSITES

<http://www.palmyrasociety.org/>

<http://www.osme.org/index.html>

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<http://www.osme.org/osmetrip/tripreps.html>