



Introduction

This was general wildlife day with a couple of targets Blandford's fox and sand gazelle the main mammal targets, sooty gull, bank and pied mynas the bird targets but we wanted to see some of the different habitats in the UAE.

We flew with Emirates from Colombo and this was a stop on the way home from our Sri Lanka trip..

Accommodation booked in advance with Booking.com we stayed in the old town area of Dubai.

Temperatures was mid to high 30s during the day and mid 20s during the night

The photos are hyperlinked to larger versions.

Diary

21st April 2018

I had arranged Jacky Judas (contacted through the UAE Birding website <http://www.uaebirding.com>) to take us out for the day looking for wildlife, we met at 6am and headed off to a local wetlands (yep they do have them). This wetlands a product waste water from a treatment works held plenty of waterbirds but our target was **bank myna** which nests here and there were plenty about and our first mammal a **red fox** dashing for cover as we left the car. Overhead **little green bee eaters** joined the **pallid swifts** hawking for insects, but Jacky picked out a **little swift** a rare bird in the UAE. **Graceful prinia, clamorous reed warbler, purple sunbird, streaked weaver** were all about the wetlands.

Next stop was the University where **superb starling** and **pied myna** were quickly seen feeding on the lush lawns. We headed into the desert stopping at a small café for a cold drink, as it was well over 30 degrees by now. We headed into a small cultivated area on the edge of the desert picking up **Indian roller, Turkmenistan shrike, Macqueen's bustard, black crowned sparrow lark** to name a few on the way. The second mammal of the trip was a **mountain gazelle** followed quickly by the third, some distant **Arabian oryx** and more **mountain gazelles**. Next stop was some local pools on the edge of the desert full of exotic naturalised wildfowl, **black swan, magpie goose, fulvous whistling duck** amongst them but also home to lots of waders, **spotted redshank, black winged stilt, red wattled lapwing, temminck's stint** to name a few. Some **woodpigeons** were apparently of note being very rare in UAE and we had 3 individuals here.



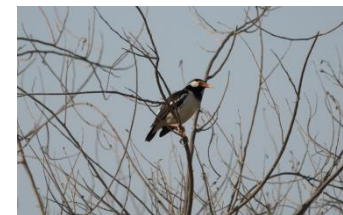
Pallid Swift



Bank Myna



Superb Starling



Pied Myna



Macqueens Bustard



But we were hoping for another mammal and they obliged, several sand gazelles were drinking from the pools and a large herd was a short distance away in the dunes all allowed for some photos before moving quickly off. Also of note were some grey francolins that were skulking in the shade waiting to drink. We stopped to pull a fellow motorist out of the sand near one of the pools, our large 4x4 making easy work of the job and we moved on.

We made a brief stop in the mountains for a quick look in a dry wadi, it was now fiercely hot so apart from some Arabian Babblers, eastern olivaceous warbler, feral camels and feral donkeys we saw little else here.

So we headed for the coast where plenty of seabirds were present, **Sooty gull, greater and lesser crested, sandwich, Saunder's, common, white cheeked terns, slender billed gulls** as well as **Socotra cormorants**, some **sanderling** and **western reef egrets**. Of interest was a large flock of **red necked phalaropes** on the sea which I was surprised to see but it is a regular wintering site for them. We could not find any kingfishers in the mangroves or any yellow throated sparrows in the bushes nearby.

Famished we stopped for food and cold drinks and a rest from the heat.

Suitably refreshed headed to Wadi Wurayah National park which is closed to the public but as Jacky is involved in the management of the park we had access. Lots of **Striolated buntings** were present as were some **European Bee eaters**, but we were here to see the Arabian tahrs in their release enclosures.

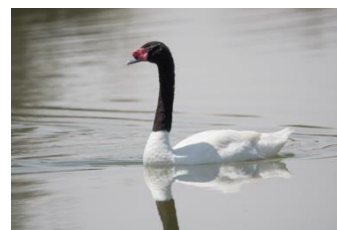
They are part of a reintroduction programme in the National park as the **Arabian tahr** is almost extinct in the UAE, a reintroduction programme is underway but as yet none have been released into the national park. Luckily we saw 4 tahrs in these enclosures. We headed to a canyon where we saw some **Oman garra** fish in the pools restricted to this mountain range, apparently able to move out of water when the pools dry up to move on to other pools. These pools always have some water fed from a small waterfall. These pools are also home to a nice selection of dragonflies including **black pennant**. The walk back to the car produced some **feral goats** and some **Indian silverbills** of note. .



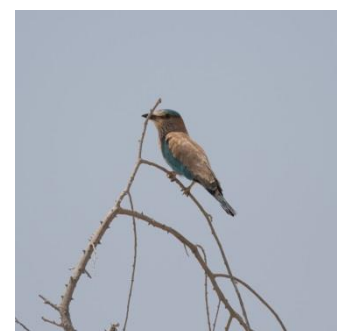
Black Crowned Sparrow lark



Spotted Redshank



Black Necked Swan



Indian Roller



Grey Francolin



Sooty Gull

We stopped for a brief rest and a cold drink as the sun set and then headed out for some night driving in a mountainous area around the Omain enclave in the north of the UAE. This area turned out to be quite productive with 3 **red foxes** spotted, but the highlight was our target a brilliant **Blandford's fox**, we saw a few bats which all turned out to be **Kuhl's pipistrelle's**.

After some caffeinated drinks we met up with some researchers looking for owls on our way back, they had a **Desert eagle owl** calling from a small hill but we could not see it despite a good look.

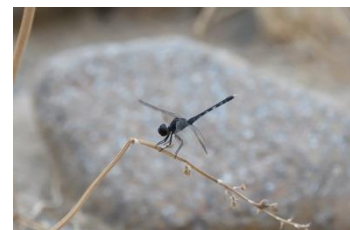
We headed back to Dubai and even 30km out we could see the Burj Khalifa which we would visit later on and we arrived back at our hotel at 2am after a very good day out in Dubai and the rest of the UAE.

22nd April 2018

Of note two **five-striped palm squirrels** were seen during our tourist day.



European Bee eater



Black Pennant



Arabian Tahr

Checklists

Mammals 10



Sand Gazelle

Sand Gazelle	Arabian Oryx	Red Fox
Mountain Gazelle	Blandford's Fox	Feral goat
Feral Donkey	Feral Camel	Kuhl's Pipistrelle
Five striped palm squirrel	Arabian Tahr*	

* Captive (reintroduction programme)

Selected Others

Black pennant	Oman Garra	Sinai Hooktail
Gulley Darter	Bloody Scarlet	Carmine Darter



Birds - 93

Pallid Swift	Little Swift	Little Green Bee-eater
European Bee-eater	Great Cormorant	Red Wattled Lapwing
Arabian babbler	Bank Myna	Black Tailed Godwit
Black Crowned Sparrow Lark	Northern Wheatear	Black Winged Stilt
Brown Necked Raven	Cattle Egret	Clamorous Reed Warbler
Collared Dove	Common Myna	Feral Pigeon
Redshank	Desert Lark	Eastern olivaceous warbler
Egyptian Goose	Graceful prinia	Greater Crested Tern
Great White Egret	Grey Francolin	Common Sandpiper
Macqueens Bustard	Striolated Bunting	House Crow
Indian Roller	Kentish Plover	Laughing Dove
Lesser Crested Tern	Little Egret	Little Ringed Plover
Little Stint	Marsh Sandpiper	Turtle Dove
Pharaoh Eagle Owl (h)	Purple Sunbird	Purple heron
Grey Heron	Saunder's tern	Slender Billed Gull
Socotra Cormorant	Sooty Gull	Spotted Redshank
Streaked Weaver	Temminck's Stint	Western Reef Heron
White Cheeked Tern	Wood Sandpiper	Ruff
	Mallard	Southern grey Shrike
Turkistan Shrike	Pintailed Sandgrouse	Little grebe
Pied Myna	Bank Myna	Crested Lark
Common Snipe	Grey Heron	Black Crowned Night Heron
Moorhen	Great White Egret	Blue Cheeked Bee eater
Barn Swallow	Hoopoe	Black Headed Gull
Sanderling	Whimbrel	Common Tern
Indian Silverbill	Red necked Phalarope	Sanderling
White Cheeked Bulbul	Woodpigeon	Greenshank
Greylag Goose	Sandwich tern	Canada Goose
Magpie Goose	Black Swan	Black Necked Swan
Superb Starling	Fulvous Whistling Duck	European Turtle Dove
Rose Ringed Parakeet	Striated Heron	Andean Goose



The image shows the logo for Flickr, consisting of the word "flickr" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters "f", "l", "i", "c", "k", and "r" are blue, while the letter "r" is pink.