

A bird-watching trip to ISRAEL



March 27 - April 10

1989

Participants:

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Costs:

We flew with the Swedish travelling company Fritidsresor from Copenhagen at a cost of 4490 SEK including hotel in Eilat. We hired a Fiat Uno from AVIS at a cost of 2820 SEK for two weeks, including insurance. Gasoline was about 3,50 SEK per litre, and we drove 2493 kilometres.

Accommodations:

In Eilat we stayed at Moon Valley Hotel. During our trip around the country we stayed at youth hostels who gave adequate Accommodations at a reasonable cost.

Police and militaries:

We experienced no major problems, but a minor incident in Nizzana, due to military activities, caused us to leave the area in great haste.

We didn't notice any disturbance while passing through the occupied areas. Nevertheless, it is not recommended to visit these areas at night. We met two Swedish birders who did, and they had to be escorted by the police to a safer place.

Itinerary.

- March 27: Arrived at the airport, 50 km north of Eilat, in the afternoon. No car at the airport as agreed, so we had to take a cab down to the city. Spent late afternoon birding at North Beach. Brown Booby and a White-eyed Gull to start with.
- March 28: Birding around Eilat. Highlights: Dunn's Lark at P33, 1 male Cyprus Warbler east of the cisterns west of Eilat. Late afternoon evening at the North Beach and the salt-pans, where we just managed to see a Grey-headed Gull roosting, before it got too dark.
- March 29: Eilat: North Beach, Salt-pans, Palm Grove, Wadi Shelomo.
- March 30: Eilat: Salt-pans, "The Ditch", Northern Fields, Palm Grove (Indian Silverbill, Cinereous Bunting) and the Pump Station for Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse.
- March 31: Left Eilat early for Nizzana with a stop at P34 (Desert Warbler), to explore the Sandgrouse drinking-sites. Here we were introduced to the armed forces of Israel. They told us friendly to get lost. The water-holes were fenced with barbed wire, and the road was cut off. Before we left, we had good views of both Cream-coloured Courser and a displaying Houbara.
- April 1: Missed the Crowned Sandgrouse i Nizzana, mainly because we overslept and that the soldiers spotted us when we tried to sneak in from behind. This time they weren't friendly at all, so we drove on to Ma'agan Mikha'el, where we stayed at the Field School.
- April 2: Spent all day scrutinizing the fishponds of Ma'agan Mikha'el. We saw one male Baillon's Crake and 14 Citrine Wagtails amongst a variety of excellent birds. In the evening we drove to Rosh-Pinna, where we stayed 3 nights.
- April 3: Neve-Ativ - Mount Hermon - Hula. Made several roadside stops on the way to Mount Hermon, including one E of Neve-Ativ, perhaps known as the "buswreck-site", where we found a male White-throated Robin and various Sylvia-warblers.
- April 4: Hula - Nahal Ahmud.

- April 5: Early morning at Nahal Ahmud. Two Long-billed Pipits seen. Drove S towards Jerusalem for some sightseeing (and some Lesser Kestrels). Reached Ein Gedi in the evening. After supper we were lucky to catch a Hume's Tawny Owl in the torchlight at the amphi theatre. Stayed at the Youth Hostel.
- April 6: Birding in Wadi Ein Ze'elim S of Ein Gedi in the morning. Went for a swim in the Dead Sea. Headed south towards Eilat. A brief stop at Hazeva, looking for water-holes.
- April 7: Eilat all day.
- April 8: Early in the morning we drove to Hazeva hoping to find Crowned Sandgrouse. This time we did, 40 of them. On the way back we made several stops in suitable habitats for Arabian Warblers. We finally found one at P82 S of En Yahev.
- April 9: Eilat. P34 - P39.
- April 10: Birding in Eilat area in the morning. The 250:th species of the trip a Great Reed Warbler, was ringed at Northern Fields. Left in the afternoon for Copenhagen.



- 1 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
10 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 2 **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*
1 Yam Kinneret S of Tiberias 5/4
- 3 **Black-necked Grebe** *P. nigricollis*
10 Yam Kinneret S of Tiberias 5/4
- 4 **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*
1 North Beach 7/4 and 9/4
Sooty/Cory's Shearwater
1 North Beach 7/4
- 5 **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*
1 2:nd year seen from North Beach 27-28/3, 7-10/4
- 6 **Cormorant**
Phalacrocorax carbo
1 North Beach 28/3, 1 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 Hula Reserve 4/4, 1 North Beach 7-8/4
P. c. lucidus
1 North Beach 27-28/3 and 7-8/4 resembling this race.
- 7 **White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
15 Hula Reserve 4/4
- 8 **Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
> 200 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 12 E Capernaum 3/4, 20 Hula Reserve 4/4, 1 North Beach 7/4, 2 Coral Beach 9/4
- 9 **Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*
1 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 the Salt-pans 7/4, 1 the Palm Grove 10/4
- 10 **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
1 the Salt-pans 29-30/3, 2 Ze'elim 1/4, 45 SW Ofaqim 1/4, 10 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 4 E Capernaum 3/4, 50 Hula Reserve 4/4, 2 Hazor ha-Gelilit 4/4, 1 Melon Fields 7/4
- 11 **Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis schistacea*
2 intermediate North Beach 27/3, 1 North Beach 28/3, 1 intermediate the Salt-pans 29/3, 2 North Beach 7/4, 1 North Beach 8/4, 1 the Salt-pans 9/4
- 12 **Little Egret** *E. garzetta*
> 150 + 1 dark morph Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4. The dark morph was dark grey-blue with black bill and legs with orange-yellow feet and white throat patch. 2 Yam Kinneret S of Tiberias 5/4
- 13 **Great White Egret** *E. alba*
1 - 2 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 14 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
Largest flock 20 the Salt-pans 28/3
- 15 **Purple Heron** *A. purpurea*
1 North Beach 27/3, 28 North Beach 28/3, 1 the Salt-pans 29/3, 1 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 2 North Beach 7/4, 18 North Beach 8/4, 19 North Beach 9/4, 2 the Salt-pans 10/4
- 16 **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*
2 P32 - 34 28/3, 3 P19 28/3, 7 the cisterns west of Eilat 30/3, 31 Pumping house 30/3, 15 P34 31/3, 1 2:nd year Hula Reserve 4/4
- 17 **White Stork** *C. ciconia*
Seen almost daily. Largest flocks: about 4500 P32 - 34 28/3, about 1900 Hula Reserve 4/4
- 18 **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
10 Hula Reserve 4/4
- 19 **Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*
8 North Beach 28/3, 1 the Salt-pans 29/3, 22 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 20 **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*
1 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 4 the Salt-pans 8/4
- 21 **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferreuginea*
2 S Tel-Aviv 1/4
- 22 **Shelduck** *T. tadorna*
31 the Salt-pans 29/3, 15 the Salt-pans 7/4, 9 the Salt-pans 10/4
- 23 **Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
Largest flock 135 North Beach 9/4
- 24 **Teal** *A. crecca*
Seen in smaller flocks, mainly at Eilat.

- 25 **Mallard A. platyrhynchos**
1 male Ashalim pond 1/4
- 26 **Pintail A. acuta**
Largest flock about 20 North Beach 9/4
- 27 **Garganey A. querquedula**
Largest flocks: about 125 North Beach 8/4, about 100 North Beach 27/3, 7/4, and 9/4
- 28 **Shoveler A. clypeata**
At most 100 Hula Reserve 4/4
- 29 **Marbled teal A. angustirostris**
3 Hula Reserve 4/4
- 30 **Pochard Aythya ferina**
2 males North Beach 7/4
- 31 **Tufted duck A. fuligula**
5 males North Beach 7/4
- 32 **Black Kite Milvus migrans**
Seen almost daily. At most 40 SE Ofaqim 1/4
- 33 **Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus**
2 P19 28/3, 1 the Palm Grove 30/3, 1 P34 31/3, 4 Ein Ze'elim 6/4, 1 Melon Fields 7/4, 1 SW Hazeva 8/4
- 34 **Griffon Vulture Gyps fulvus**
1 Hazor ha-Gelilit 4/4, 3 Nahal Ahmud 4/4, 6 Ein Ze'elim 6/4
- 35 **Lappet-faced Vulture Torgos tracheliotus**
1 P46 31/3



- 36 **Short-toed Eagle Circaetus gallicus**
1 P32 - 34 28/3, 1 the Salt-pans 29/3, 1 Northern Fields 30/3, 1 S Ze'elim 1/4, 2 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 3 Mount Hermon 3/4, 1 Hula Reserve 4/4, 1 Hazor ha-Gelilit 4/4, 3 Nahal Ahmud 4/4, 1 Ein Ze'elim 6/4, 1 SW Hazeva 8/4, 1 P39 9/4
- 37 **Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus**
Seen 8 of the 15 days.
- 38 **Hen Harrier C. cyaneus**
1 female P34 31/3, 2 males + 1 female Ashalim pond 31/3, 1 male El Rom 3/4, 1 male + 1 female Hula Reserve 4/4
- 39 **Pallid Harrier C. macrourus**
1 male Northern Fields 30/3, 1 male + 1 female 2:nd year Nizzana 1/4, 1 female Melon Fields 8/4, 1 male P32 - 34 9/4
- 40 **Montagu's Harrier C. pygargus**
1 male P39 9/4
Pallid/Montagu's Harrier
1 male + 3 females Ashalim pond, 1 female Hazeva 8/4
- 41 **Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus**
1 the Salt-pans 29/3, 1 female E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 1 Mount Hermon 3/4, 2 Hula Reserve 4/4, 3 Nahal Ahmud 4/4, 1 Nahal Ahmud 5/4, 1 Melon Fields 7/4, 1 Hazeva 8/4
- 42 **Buzzard Buteo buteo**
Seen almost every day in numbers up to about 1000 at Ein Ze'elim 6/4.
- 43 **Long-legged Buzzard Buteo rufinus**
2 Mount Hermon 3/4, 1 Nahal Ahmud 4/4
- 44 **Lesser Spotted Eagle Aquila pomarina**
2 the cisterns west of Eilat 30/3, 49 Hula Reserve 4/4, 11 Hazor ha-Gelilit 4/4, 11 Nahal Ahmud 4/4, 10 Nahal Ahmud 5/4, 122 Ein Ze'elim 6/4, 1 SW Hazeva 8/4
- 45 **Spotted Eagle A. clanga**
1 2:nd year Hula Reserve 4/4



- 46 **Tawny Eagle** *A. rapax*
1 P19 28/3, 3 Northern Fields 30/3, 6 the cisterns west of Eilat 30/3, 16 Ein Ze'elim 6/4, 10 Melon Fields 7/4, 4 SW Hazeva 8/4, 1 the cisterns west of Eilat 9/4
- 47 **Imperial Eagle** *A. heliaca*
1 2:nd year Hula Reserve 4/4, 1 2:nd year Melon Fields 7/4
- 48 **Golden Eagle** *A. chrysaetos*
1 Mount Hermon 3/4
Aquila sp. 2 the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, 3 east of the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, 2 P34 31/3, 2 Ze'elim 1/4, 7 Ein Ze'elim 6/4
- 49 **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*
2 intermediate the Salt-pans 29/3, 1 pale Northern Fields 30/3, 1 dark the cisterns west of Eilat 30/3, 1 dark Pump Station 30/3, 1 intermediate P50 31/3, 1 dark Hula Reserve 4/4, 1 dark P39 9/4, 1 pale the cisterns west of Eilat 9/4, 1 pale the pool at Moon Valley Hotel 9/4
- 50 **Bonelli's Eagle** *H. fasciatus*
2 ad Nahal Ahmud 4/4
- 51 **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*
1 North Beach 28/3, 2 Hula Reserve 4/4, 1 Ein Ze'elim 6/4
- 52 **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*
3 pairs Jerusalem 5/4
- 53 **Kestrel** *F. tinnunculus*
At most > 15 Beer Sheva - Nizzana 31/3, about 10 Nahal Ahmud 4/4
- 54 **Lanner** *F. biarmicus*
1 ad Northern Fields 30/3
- 55 **Barbary Falcon** *F. pelegrinoides*
1 ad the Salt-pans 29/3
Barbary/Peregrine Falcon
1 Ein Gedi 5/4
- 56 **Chukar** *Alectoris chukar*
Seen almost daily in the western and northern part of Israel.
- 57 **Sand Partridge** *Ammoperdix heyi*
Fairly common in desert areas.
- 58 **Black Frankolin** *Francolinus francolinus*
3 E Capernaum 3/4, 1 Gesher 5/4
- 59 **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*
Seen almost daily. At most 5 10 km W Ashalim 1/4
- 60 **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*
1 the Ditch 29/3, 1 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 61 **Little Crane** *Porzana parva*
1 female the Ditch 30/3, 4 males 5 females Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 female the Ditch 7/4
- 62 **Baillon's Crane** *P. pusilla*
1 male Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 63 **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
At most about 100 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, common Hula Reserve 4/4
- 64 **Coot** *Fulica atra*
1 the Salt-pans 30/3, 10 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 the Salt-pans 7/4
- 65 **Crane** *Grus grus*
1 Nizzana 1/4
- 66 **Houbara** *Chlamydotis undulata*
1 P115 Beer Sheva - Nizzana 31/3, 1 Nizzana 1/4
- 67 **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
21 the Salt-pans 29/3, 18 the Salt-pans 7/4, 51 the Salt-pans 9/4

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- 68 **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
2 the Salt-pans 28-29/3
- 69 **Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*
1 Northern Fields 30/3, 2 Ashalim pond 31/3, 18 Nizzana 1/4
- 70 **Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor*
5 P115 Beer Sheva - Nizzana 31/3, 3 P32 - 34 9/4
- 71 **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*
5 the Salt-pans 29/3, 1 Northern Fields 30/3, 1 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 12 Hula Reserve 4/4, 1 Hazeva 8/4, 7 the Salt-pans 10/4, 4 Northern Fields 10/4
- 72 **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
Seen at Eilat and Ma'agan Mikha'el.
- 73 **Ringed Plover** *C. hiaticula*
Seen at Eilat and Ma'agan Mikha'el.
- 74 **Kentish Plover** *C. alexandrinus*
Largest flocks: 55 the Salt-pans 29/3, 40 the Salt-pans 7/4
- 75 **Greater Sand Plover** *C. leschenaultii*
2 North Beach 28/3, 2 the Salt-pans 29/3, 4 the Salt-pans 7/4, 1 North Beach 7/4, 5 North Beach 8/4, 5 the Salt-pans 9/4, 2 North Beach 9/4, 3 the Salt-pans 9/4
- 76 **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
5 the Salt-pans 29/3, 1 the Salt-pans 9/4
- 77 **Spur-winged Plover** *Hoplopterus spinosus*
Seen 8 of the 15 days. More than 50 at Ma'agan Mikha'el.
- 78 **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*
3 Hula Reserve 4/4
- 79 **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*
1 North Beach 9/4
- 80 **Little Stint** *C. minuta*
Largest flocks: about 150 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 25 the Salt-pans 29/3, 20 the Salt-pans 30/3
- 81 **Temminck's Stint** *C. temminckii*
7 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 82 **Dunlin** *C. alpina*
Seen at Eilat and Ma'agan Mikha'el.
- 83 **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*
1 the Salt-pans 28/3, 2 the Salt-pans 9/4
- 84 **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
Common in Eilat area, 1 leucistic the Salt-pans 10/4
- 85 **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
Seen 6 of 15 days in Eilat area.
- 86 **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*
1 the Salt-pans 29/3
- 87 **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
1 the Salt-pans 29-30/3, 1 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 the Salt-pans 7/4
- 88 **Redshank** *T. totanus*
Seen at Eilat and Ma'agan Mikha'el.
- 89 **Marsh Sandpiper** *T. stagnatilis*
1 the Salt-pans 29/3, 7 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 the Salt-pans 7/4, 32 the Salt-pans 9/4, about 20 the Salt-pans 10/4
- 90 **Greenshank** *T. nebularia*
5 the Salt-pans 29/3, 6 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 91 **Green Sandpiper** *T. ochropus*
1 Nizzana 31/3, 1 Nizzana 1/4, 4 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, singles Eilat 7-10/4
- 92 **Wood Sandpiper** *T. glareola*
Seen at Eilat and Ma'agan Mikha'el.
- 93 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
Seen at Eilat and Ma'agan Mikha'el.
- 94 **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
1 the Salt-pans 7/4
- 95 **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*
2 ad North Beach 27/3
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- 96 **White-eyed Gull** *Larus leucophthalmus*
1 2nd year bird was seen from the North Beach 27-28/3
- 97 **Great Black-headed Gull** *L. ichthyaeus*
2 2nd year birds the Salt-pans 28/3, 2 2nd + 1 3rd year birds the Salt-pans 29/3, 1 2nd year bird North Beach 7/4, 2 2nd year birds the Salt-pans 9/4, 1 2nd year bird North Beach 9/4
- 98 **Little Gull** *L. minutus*
1 2nd year bird North Beach 27-28/3, 1 2nd year bird the Salt-pans 29-30/3
- 99 **Black-headed Gull** *L. ridibundus*
Seen 11 of the 15 days.
- 100 **Grey-headed Gull** *L. cirrocephalus*
1 ad the Salt-pans 28-29/3
- 101 **Slender-billed Gull** *L. genei*
5 North Beach 27/3, 2 North Beach 28/3, 23 the Salt-pans 29/3, 2 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 3 the Salt-pans 7/4, 3 North Beach 7/4, 1 North Beach 8/4, 26 the Salt-pans 9/4, 2 North Beach 9/4
- 102 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *L. fuscus fuscus*
Seen daily at Eilat.
- 103 **Armenian Gull** *L. a. armenicus*
about 25 adults and a few hundred juveniles Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 104 **Yellow-footed Herring Gull**
L. a. michahellis/cachinnans
2 ad North Beach 27/3, 1 ad Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, many hundred young birds at Ma'agan Mikha'el.
L. a. heuglini
1 adult the Salt-pans 29/3
- 105 **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*
1 the Salt-pans 29/3, 5 North Beach 7/4
- 106 **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*
1 North Beach 28/3, 1 North Beach 7/4, 4 North Beach 8/4, 2 the Salt-pans 9/4, 1 North Beach 9/4
- 107 **Sandwich Tern** *S. sandvicensis*
15 North Beach 27/3, 2 North Beach 29/3, 5 North Beach 7/4, about 5 North Beach 8/4, 4 North Beach 9/4
- 108 **Common Tern** *S. hirundo*
2 North Beach 28/3, 8 North Beach 8-9/4
- 109 **Little Tern** *S. albifrons*
1 the Salt-pans 29/3
- 110 **White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*
8 the Salt-pans 8/4, 18 the Salt-pans 9/4, 1 the Salt-pans 9/4
- 111 **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse** *Pterocles lichtensteinii*
about 40 Pump Station 30/3, about 30 Pump Station 7/4
- 112 **Crowned Sandgrouse** *P. coronatus*
about 40 Hazeva 7/4
- 113 **Spotted Sandgrouse** *P. senegallus*
40 Nizzana 1/4, > 150 Hazeva 8/4
- 114 **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** *P. orientalis*
heard P32 - 34 28/3 and 9/4
- 115 **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** *P. alchata*
15 Nizzana 1/4
- 116 **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
Common.
- 117 **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Common.
- 118 **Turtle Dove** *S. turtur*
Common Ofaqim - Tel-Aviv 1/4, 1 Hula Reserve 4/4, 2 Yam Kinneret S of Tiberias 5/4, 1 P32 - 34 9/4
- 119 **Palm Dove** *S. senegalensis*
Common.

- 120 **Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
1 Hazeva 6/4, 1 pair Melon Fields 7/4, 1 pair the Palm Grove 8/4, 1 pair Northern Fields 10/4, 1 female north of the Palm Grove 10/4
- 121 **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*
1 mount Hermon 3/4
- 122 **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*
2 Hula Reserve 3/4
- 123 **Scops Owl** *Otus scops*
1 E Capernaum 3/4, 3 Hula Reserve 3/4
- 124 **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*
1 Nizzana 1/4, 1 Beer Sheva - Telalim 1/4
- 125 **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*
1 Hula Reserve 3/4, 1 Rosh-Pinna Youth Hostel 4/4
- 126 **Hume's Tawny Owl** *S. butleri*
1 seen at the amphi theatre at Ein Gedi at about 10 meters in torch-light 5/4
- 127 **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*
2 Hula Reserve 3/4, 1 Hula Reserve 4/4
- 128 **Swift** *Apus apus*
Largest flock > 200 the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3
- 129 **Pallid Swift** *A. pallidus*
5 P19 28/3, 4 end of Wadi Shelomo 29/3, 2 Northern Fields 30/3
- 130 **Alpine Swift** *A. melba*
40 end of Wadi Shelomo 29/3, 65 the cisterns west of Eilat 30/3, 20 Mount Hermon 3/4, 20 Nahal Ahmud 4/4
- 131 **Little Swift** *A. affinis*
150 Nahal Ahmud 4-5/4
- 132 **White-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*
1 Eilat Marina 29/3, 1 Nizzana 1/4, 3-4 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 E Capernaum 3/4, 1 Rosh-Pinna 4/4, 10 Hula Reserve, 3 Nahal Ahmud 4/4, 3 Yam Kinneret S of Tiberias 5/4, 1 Melon Fields 8-9/4
- 133 **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
1 Eilat Marina 29/3, 3-4 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 North Beach 8/4, 1 Coral Beach 9/4
- 134 **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
Common Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 E Capernaum 3/4, 4 Yam Kinneret S of Tiberias 5/4
- 135 **Little Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*
2 Melon Fields 29/3, 1 end of Wadi Shelomo 29/3, 4 Northern Fields 30/3, 1 Melon Fields 7/4, 4 Hazeva 8/4, 1 SW Hazeva 8/4, 3 the Salt-pans 8/4, 2 Northern Fields 10/4
- 136 **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *M. superciliosus*
8 Melon Fields 30/3, 11 P115 Beer Sheva - Nizzana 31/3
- 137 **Bee-eater** *M. apiaster*
Largest flocks: 50 P19 28/3, 20 Melon Fields 30/3, 21 Pump Station 30/3
- 138 **Roller** *Coracias garrulus*
2 Gesher - Jericho 5/4, 1 P127 8/4, 2 P32 - 34 9/4
- 139 **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
Singles almost daily
- 140 **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
3 the Palm Grove 30/3, 1 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 1 Melon Fields 7/4, 1 the Palm Grove 10/4
- 141 **Syrian Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos syriacus*
1 Newe-Ativ 3/4, 1 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 2 Hula Reserve 4/4, 1 Nahal Ahmud 4-5/4
- 142 **Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda dunni*
4 P32 - 34 28/3, 2 P32 - 34 9/4
- 143 **Bar-tailed Desert Lark** *Ammomanes cincturus*
10 P32 - 34 28/3, 3 P34 31/3, 3 P32 - 34 9/4
- 144 **Desert Lark** *A. deserti*
2 P32 - 34 28/3, 1 P28 28/3, 2 P19 28/3, 2 Wadi Shelomo 29/3, 2 P128 Mizpe Ramon - Telalim, 6 Ein Ze'elim 6/4, 2 Hazeva 6/4, about 5 Hazeva 8/4, 2 P32 - 34 9/4, 2 the cisterns west of Eilat 9/4
- 145 **Hoopoe Lark** *Alaemon alaudipes*
12 P32 - 34 28/3, 2 P34 31/3, 7 P32 - 34 9/4
- 146 **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*
Common El Rom 3/4

- 147 **Bimaculated Lark** *M. bimaculata*
2 P39 9/4
- 148 **Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*
1 the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, about 20 Northern Fields 30/3, 5 P34 31/3, 2 P50 31/3, common Nizzana 1/4, 1 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 2 Hazeva 8/4, 7 P32 - 34 9/4, 1 P39 9/4
- 149 **Lesser Short-toed Lark** *C. rufescens*
Common Nizzana 1/4, 2 P32 - 34 9/4
- 150 **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*
Common.
- 151 **Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*
1 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 152 **Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*
3 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 153 **Temminck's Horned Lark** *E. bilopha*
1 P32 - 34 9/4
- 154 **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*
Seen almost every day.
- 155 **Pale Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*
2 in the arrival hall at Uvda airport 27/3, 4 the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, 1 Wadi Shelomo 29/3, 1 Northern Fields 30/3, 1 Metzoke Dragot 5/4, 2 Ein Gedi 6/4, 1 Ein Ze'elim 6/4, 3 Hazeva 8/4, 1 Northern Fields 10/4
- 156 **Crag Martin** *P. rupestris*
2 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 157 **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
Common.
- 158 **Red-rumped Swallow** *H. daurica*
Largest flocks: about 175 the Salt-pans 29/3, 40 the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3
- 159 **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*
Common.
- 160 **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*
1 Northern Fields 30/3, common Nizzana 1/4, 16 10 km W Ashalim 1/4, 1 Mount Hermon at 1900 meters! 3/4, 4 P32 - 34 9/4
- 161 **Long-billed Pipit** *A. similis*
2 Nahal Ahmud 5/4
- 162 **Tree Pipit** *A. trivialis*
Seen all but 3 days.
- 163 **Meadow Pipit** *A. pratensis*
Seen 3 days.
- 164 **Red-throated Pipit** *A. cervinus*
Seen 8 of the 15 days. At most about 40 P39 9/4, about 10 Northern Fields 10/4
- 165 **Water Pipit** *A. spinoletta*
2 the Salt-pans 29-30/3, about 10 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 the Salt-pans 7/4, 1 the Palm Grove 10/4
- 166 **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
The following races were seen : flava, thunbergi, feldegg and beema. Also one aflavistic flava.
- 167 **Citrine Wagtail** *M. citreola*
7 males + 7 females Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 168 **White Wagtail** *M. alba*
Common.
- 169 **Yellow-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*
Common.
- 170 **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*
2 Newe-Ativ 3/4, 2 Nahal Ahmud 4/4
- 171 **Rufous Bush Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes*
2 Yotvata 8/4
- 172 **Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*
1 ringed Northern Fields 30/3, 1 P50 31/3, 1 wadi at P82 8/4
- 173 **Bluethroat** *L. svecica*
4 the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, 1 the Palm Grove 30/3, 1 P34 31/3, 2 Melon Fields 7/4, 2 Melon Fields 7/4, 1 the Palm Grove 10/4

- 174 **White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis*
1 male E Newe-Ativ 3/4
- 175 **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*
1 female E Newe-Ativ 3/4
P. o. semirufus
5 males + 2 females Mount Hermon 3/4
- 176 **Redstart** *P. phoenicurus*
2 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 2 Melon Fields 7/4, 1 SW Hazeva 8/4, 2 wadi at P82 8/4, several the Palm Grove 8/4
P. p. samamisticus
1 male the Palm Grove 30/3
- 177 **Blackstart** *Cercomela melanura*
Fairly common in wadis.
- 178 **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*
2 wadi at P82 8/4, 1 Northern Fields 10/4
- 179 **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*
2 Northern Fields 30/3, 7 P60 Quetura - Telalim 31/3, 1 P87 Quetura - Telalim 31/3, 1 10 km W Ashalim 1/4, 1 Yotvata 8/4, 2 P32 - 34 9/4, 1 P39 9/4, 3 Northern Fields 10/4
- 180 **Wheatear** *Oe. oenanthe*
Common.
- 181 **Pied Wheatear** *Oe. pleschanka*
1 male SW Hazeva 8/4
- 182 **Black-eared Wheatear** *Oe. hispanica*
1 female Northern Fields 30/3, 2 males Nizzana 1/4, 1 male SW Ofaqim 1/4, common E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 4 Mount Hermon 3/4, 1 male El Rom 3/4, 2 Melon Fields 7/4, 2 Northern Fields 10/4
- 183 **Desert Wheatear** *Oe. deserti*
2 P32 - 34 28/3
- 184 **Mourning Wheatear** *Oe. lugens*
1 P55 Quetura - Telalim 31/3, 1 P73 Quetura - Telalim 31/3, 2 P87 Quetura - Telalim 31/3, 3 P114 - 128 Mizpe Ramon - Telalim 31/3, 1 P115 Beer Sheva - Nizzana 31/3, 12 Jericho - Jerusalem 5/4, 1 P103 8/4
- 185 **Hooded Wheatear** *Oe. monacha*
1 male P87 Quetura - Telalim 31/3
- 186 **White-crowned Black Wheatear** *Oe. leucopyga*
1 Uvda - Eilat 27/3, 3 the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, 1 Coral beach 29/3, 3 Wadi Shelomo 29/3, 4 end of Wadi Shelomo 29/3, 1 Pump Station 30/3, 1 Mezpe-Shalim 5/4, 4 Pump Station 7/4, 1 P105 8/4, 3 the cisterns west of Eilat 9/4
- 187 **Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*
1 male Mount Hermon 3/4
- 188 **Blue Rock Thrush** *M. solitarius*
4 Nahal Ahmud 4-5/4,
- 189 **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
Fairly common in north.
- 190 **Song Thrush** *T. philomelos*
1 Mount Hermon 3/4, 1 Nahal Ahmud 4/4, 1 Melon Fields 7/4, 1 Northern Fields 10/4
- 191 **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*
Fairly common in suitable habitat.
- 192 **Graceful Warbler** *Prinia gracilis*
Seen almost every day.
- 193 **Scrub Warbler** *Scotocerca inquieta*
1 P50 31/3, 2 P60 Quetura - Telalim 31/3, 1 SW Hazeva 8/4, 2 wadi at P82 8/4
- 194 **Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*
1 singing Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4
- 195 **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Rather common migrant.
- 196 **Reed Warbler** *A. scirpaceus*
Common Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, a few elsewhere.
- 197 **Clamorous Reed Warbler** *A. stentoreus*
2 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4 (singing and nest-building), 1 Hula Reserve 4/4, 2 Nature Reserve Zukim S of Qumran 5/4

- 198 **Great Reed Warbler** *A. arundinaceus*
1 ringed at Northern Fields 10/4
- 199 **Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*
5 Nahal Ahmud 4-5/4, 1 Ein Ze'elim 6/4, 1 ringed at Northern Fields 10/4
- 200 **Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*
1 male 10 km W Ashalim 1/4
- 201 **Sardinian Warbler** *S. melanocephala*
Rather common.
- 202 **Cyprus Warbler** *S. melanothorax*
1 male east of the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, 1 female Ein Ze'elim 6/4, 1 female Yotvata 8/4
- 203 **Rüppell's Warbler** *S. rueppelli*
1 female east of the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, 2 males + 1 female E Newe-Ativ 3/4
- 204 **Desert Warbler** *S. nana*
1 P34 31/3
- 205 **Arabian Warbler** *S. leucomelaena*
1 wadi at P82 8/4
- 206 **Orphean Warbler** *S. hortensis*
1 male E Newe-Ativ 3/4
- 207 **Lesser Whitethroat** *S. curruca*
Common.
- 208 **Whitethroat** *S. communis*
Fairly common.
- 209 **Blackcap** *S. atricapilla*
Common.
- 210 **Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*
1 east of the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, 3 P34 31/3, 2 P123 Beer Sheva - Nizzana 31/3, about 5 wadi at P82 8/4, about 5 the Palm Grove 8/4, 3 P32 - 34 9/4, 1 P39 9/4
- 211 **Chiffchaff** *P. collybita*
Seen 6 of the 15 days. Common in the Eilat area.
- 212 **Willow Warbler** *P. trochilus*
3 Hula Reserve 4/4
- 213 **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*
1 Melon Fields 7/4, 1 SW Hazeva 8/4
- 214 **Semi-collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula semitorquata*
2 males the Palm Grove 30/3, 1 male Melon Fields 7/4, 3-4 males Melon Fields 7/4, 2 males Yotvata 8/4, 1 male P82 8/4, 1 male the Palm Grove 8/4, 1 male the Palm Grove 10/4
- 215 **Pied Flycatcher** *F. hypoleuca*
3 Melon Fields 7/4
- 216 **Arabian Babbler** *Turdoides squamiceps*
5 P28 28/3, 10 the Palm Grove 29/3, 3 the Palm Grove 30/3, 3 Pump Station 30/3, 4 Pump Station 7/4, 2 SW Hazeva 8/4, 8 P82 8/4, 2 Yotvata 8/4
- 217 **Sombre Tit** *Parus lugubris*
1 Newe-Ativ 3/4, 1 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 1 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 218 **Great Tit** *P. major*
1 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 2 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 2 Mount Hermon 3/4, 5 Nahal Ahmud 4/4
- 219 **Rock Nuthatch** *Sitta neumayer*
2 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 5 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 220 **Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*
about 10 Ma'agan Mikha'el 2/4, 1 the Salt-pans 7/4
- 221 **Palestine Sunbird** *Nectarina osea*
Wide-spread all over Israel.
- 222 **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*
1 male wadi at P82 8/4, 1 female P32 - 34 9/4, 1 male Northern Fields 10/4

- 223 **Great Grey Shrike** *L. excubitor*
Singles seen 7 of the days.
- 224 **Woodshat Shrike** *L. senator*
Total of 17 seen. Of these 10 at Mount Hermon.
- 225 **Masked Shrike** *L. nubicus*
1 the Salt-pans 29/3, 1 Middle Fields 29/3, 2 the Palm Grove 30/3, 1 P50 31/3, 1 Nizzana 1/4, 1 Ze'elim 1/4, 2 Ein Ze'elim 6/4, 2 Melon Fields 7/4, 1 En Yahev 8/4, 2 wadi at P82 8/4
- 226 **House Crow** *Corvus splendens*
3 North Beach 29/3, 2 North Beach 7-8/4, 3 North Beach 9/4
- 227 **Hooded Crow** *C. corone*
Fairly common in north.
- 228 **Brown-necked Raven** *C. ruficollis*
Common in the desert i the southern part.
- 229 **Raven** *C. corax*
2 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 230 **Fan-tailed Raven** *C. rhipidurus*
5 south Qumran 5/4, 11 Ein Ze'elim 6/4
- 231 **Tristram's Grackle** *Onychognathus tristramii*
4 the cisterns west of Eilat 28/3, 20 P46 31/3, 2 Jerusalem - Qumran 5/4, 2 Metzoke Dragot 5/4, 5 Ein Gedi 6/4, about 45 Ein Ze'elim 6/4
- 232 **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus biblicus*
Common.
- 233 **Spanish Sparrow** *P. hispaniolensis*
Common.
- 234 **Dead Sea Sparrow** *P. moabiticus*
2 males the Palm Grove 8-9/4
- 235 **Rock sparrow** *Petronia petronia*
2 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 35 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 236 **Indian Silverbill** *Euodice malabarica*
1 pair the Palm Grove 30/3
- 237 **Serin** *Serinus serinus*
1 Newe-Ativ 3/4
- 238 **Syrian Serin** *S. syriacus*
about 10 Newe-Ativ 3/4, about 10 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, about 10 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 239 **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*
Fairly common in the north.
- 240 **Goldfinch** *C. carduelis*
Fairly common in the north.
- 241 **Linnet** *C. cannabina*
1 P123 Beer Sheva - Nizzana 31/3, common E Newe-Ativ 3/4
- 242 **Crimson-winged Finch** *Rhodopechys sanguinea*
3 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 243 **Desert finch** *Rhodospiza obsoleta*
14 P34 31/3, 2 10 km W Ashalim 1/4, 8 Hazeva 8/4
- 244 **Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus*
6 P87 Quetura - Telalim 31/3
- 245 **Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia*
4 Mount Hermon 3/4
- 246 **House Bunting** *E. striolata striolata*
4 the cisterns west of Eilat 9/4
- 247 **Cinereous Bunting** *E. cineracea cineracea*
1 male the Palm Grove 30/3
- 248 **Ortolan Bunting** *E. hortulana*
Largest numbers: about 20 Northern Fields 30/3, about 15 P39 9/4
- 249 **Cretzschmar's Bunting** *E. caesia*
2 the Salt-pans 29/3, 3 10 km W Ashalim 1/4, 2 Newe-Ativ 3/4, 5 E Newe-Ativ 3/4, 3 Mount Hermon 3/4, 1 P39 9/4
- 250 **Corn bunting** *Miliaria calandra*
3 Ashalim pond 31/3, 1 Nizzana 1/4, common el Rom 3/4