

Eilat, Israel – March 24th - 31st 1999

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The trip

Our group (Lauri J. Hänninen, Matti J. Koivula and Markku J. Santamaa) was on birding tour in Israel in late March 1999. The trip was booked from Aurinkomatkat and cost about 3400 FIM per person. The price included flights, hotel (Carlton, at Coral Beach) and Kosher breakfasts. The last mentioned were exploited three times(!).

We rented a small car (Daihatsu Sirion) from Avis (about 1800 FIM per week). We traveled totally 1300 km by car. Gasoline was quite cheap, compared to the prices in Finland (95E approximately 4 FIM per litre). In contrast, food cost approximately as much as in Finland (i.e. a lot).

We spent most of the time in Eilat and nearby areas (within a 50-km diameter) and made a one-day trip to Nizzana in March 29th.

Most of the time the winds were northerly, but in 29th and 30th southerly. Temperatures were quite low in the mornings (appr. +12°C) and almost +30°C in the mid-day and early afternoon.

In conclusion, the trip was a success despite some occasional dip-outs. We saw or heard totally 174 species, many of them life ticks for more than one person (LH 24 lifers, MK 9 and MS 3; MS also achieved his 300th species seen in Israel – Houbara bustard).

The following list contains all the species observed, the "best" ones (some subjectivity naturally) marked with bold.

Symbols used

- **JB** = ("Jordanian border station") nearby areas of the Jordanian border station
- **K20, K33** = localities by the side of the road towards north from Eilat
- **NB** = North Beach (Eilat)
- **ponds** = the salt ponds in Eilat between North Beach and the pools of Ringing station
- **RS** = ringing station (incl. the station and northern and southern ponds next to it)
- **SB** = Sede Boquer
- **SP** = Sulamit park
- **WS** = Wadi Shelomo
- **WTS** = water treatment station (not the pumping station with Lichtenstein's SG's)

a = flock of birds

m = migrating bird(s)

3/3 = 3 males and 3 females observed

" = adult

' = non-adult bird

sp. = not identified in species level

+ = observed daily or almost so.

Species list		
Cormorant	<i>Pha car</i>	27 th NB 2
Cattle egret	<i>Bub ibi</i>	24 th NB 2 25 th WTS 17 30 th NB a4, ponds 2
Striated heron	<i>But str</i>	27 th NB 1 30 th NB 2
Western reef heron	<i>Egr gul</i>	27 th NB 1 (white)
Little egret	<i>Egr gar</i>	24 th NB 8 26 th NB 7 27 th NB 4 (+3 gar/gul), ponds 4, Shizzafon 1 29 th SB 3 30 th ponds 12, NB 18
Grey heron	<i>Ard cin</i>	24 th NB-ponds 18 25 th K20 15 26 th ponds 10 27 th NB 8 30 th NB-ponds 3
Purple heron	<i>Ard pur</i>	27 th Shizzafon 1 30 th ponds 2, NB a6 m
Black stork	<i>Cic nig</i>	28 th K20 1
Greater flamingo	<i>Pho rub</i>	25 th K20 102 28 th K20 » 100 30 th K20 » 70
Wigeon	<i>Ana pen</i>	28 th K20 3/3 30 th NB a30
Teal	<i>Ana cre</i>	29 th Nizzana 2/3 30 th RS 1/- and NB 1m
Garganey	<i>Ana que</i>	26 th NB a17m 27 th ponds a17m, NB -/1 28 th K20 3/1 30 th K20 2 and NB » 1200 (!)
Pintail	<i>Ana acu</i>	26 th Jordania 1/1 28 th K20 » 120 30 th NB a10
Shoveler	<i>Ana cly</i>	26 th Jordania » 30 30 th K20 a20, NB a30 (2a)
Tufted duck	<i>Ayt ful</i>	30 th NB » 30 (2a)
Black kite	<i>Mil mig</i>	best sum: 28 th Beer Ora (13.00-15.00) » 200m
Egyptian vulture	<i>Neo per</i>	28 th Beer Ora 3m 29 th SB 3+6
Short-toed eagle	<i>Cir gal</i>	26 th RS 1m 30 th Yotvata 1
Marsh harrier	<i>Cir aer</i>	25 th K20 -/1 26 th ponds 2m, Yotvata 1 30 th NB 2m
Pallid harrier	<i>Cir mac</i>	31 st WS 1/-"m

Sparrowhawk	<i>Acc nis</i>	24 th JB 1m 25 th WTS 1m 27 th Shizzafon 1 29 th Nizzana 1 (nis/bre)
Common buzzard	<i>But but</i>	good numbers of migrating buzzards throughout the period, the best sum: 28 th Beer Ora (13.00-15.00) » 10.000m
Long-legged buzzard	<i>But ruf</i>	24 th ponds 1m 28 th Beer Ora 2m
Lesser spotted eagle	<i>Aqu pom</i>	26 th RS 1m 28 th Beer Ora 3m
Steppe eagle	<i>Aqu nip</i>	25 th WS 1m 26 th RS 20m 28 th Beer Ora 8m
-	<i>Aqu sp.</i>	26 th RS 5m 27 th NB 1m 28 th Beer Ora 6m
Booted eagle	<i>Hie pen</i>	26 th RS 4m 29 th SB 1 30 th K20 1
Osprey	<i>Pan hal</i>	24 th JB 1m 28 th Mount Kapanen 1m 29 th Nizzana 1m 30 th NB 1
Kestrel	<i>Fal tin</i>	24 th ponds 1m (tin/nau) 25 th pumping station 1/-, K20 1/- 26 th ponds 1, Lotan 1 27 th Shizzafon 1 29 th Nizzana 5, 31 th WS-Eilat 3 (tin/nau)
Merlin	<i>Fal col</i>	29 th Nizzana 1/1
Barbary falcon	<i>Fal pel</i>	26 th ponds-RS 1" 31 st WS a2"
Lanner	<i>Fal bia</i>	26 th Lotan 1'
Chukar	<i>Ale chu</i>	26 th Lotan 1 29 th Nizzana 7
Sand partridge	<i>Amm hey</i>	25 th WS 1/- 28 th Amram's pillars 1/1
Quail	<i>Cot cot</i>	24 th ponds 1 25 th WS 1, K20 7, WTS 1 26 th Lotan 1 27 th ponds 5 30 th Yotvata 1
Little crane	<i>Por par</i>	25 th K20 1/-
Common crane	<i>Gru gru</i>	28 th K20 1'
Houbara bustard	<i>Chl und</i>	29 th Nizzana 2
Oystercatcher	<i>Hae ost</i>	26 th NB a2m
Black-winged stilt	<i>Him him</i>	best sums: 30 th K20 » 120, NB a50m

Cream-coloured courser	<i>Cur cur</i>	29 th Nizzana 2, Hameshar 2
Little ringed plover	<i>Cha dub</i>	+
Ringed plover	<i>Cha hia</i>	+
Kentish plover	<i>Cha ale</i>	best sum: 28 th K20 » 100
Greater sand plover	<i>Cha les</i>	25 th K20 3 27 th NB 1 28 th K20 6 30 th K20 3, NB 1
Spur-winged plover	<i>Hop spi</i>	+
Little stint	<i>Cal_uta</i>	best sum: 28 th K20 » 100
Temminck's stint	<i>Cal tem</i>	25 th K20 1 28 th K20 1
Curlew sandpiper	<i>Cal fer</i>	27 th RS 1 28 th K20 2 30 th K20 3
Dunlin	<i>Cal alp</i>	25 th RS 2 26 th RS 2 27 th RS-ponds 11 28 th K20 2 30 th ponds 2
Ruff	<i>Phi pug</i>	+
Curlew	<i>Num arq</i>	25 th K20 1 28 th K20 2
Black-tailed godwit	<i>Lim lim</i>	28 th K20 47 30 th K20 » 30
Spotted redshank	<i>Tri ery</i>	25 th K20 1, RS 1 28 th K20 3 30 th K20 1
Redshank	<i>Tri tot</i>	+
Greenshank	<i>Tri neb</i>	24 th NB 1 25 th K20 5, WTS 3 27 th Shizzafon 1 28 th K20 5 30 th K20 » 10
Green sandpiper	<i>Tri och</i>	25 th K20 6 26 th ponds 3 27 th ponds 4, Shizzafon 2 28 th K20 2 30 th RS 24, K20 5
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tri gla</i>	25 th K20 2 26 th RS 1 27 th RS 1 30 th K20 2
Marsh sandpiper	<i>Tri sta</i>	25 th K20 » 10, RS 3 26 th RS 2 27 th RS 2 30 th K20 2

Grey plover	<i>Plu squ</i>	27 th RS 2 28 th K20 2 30 th ponds 3
Red-necked phalarope	<i>Pha lob</i>	30 th K20 a2
Collared pratincole	<i>Gla pra</i>	26 th RS 1 28 th K20 3 30 th ponds 2 (pra/nor)
Great black-headed gull	<i>Lar ich</i>	24 th NB 1' 26 th NB 1', ponds 1' 27 th NB 1' 30 th NB 6
Black-headed gull	<i>Lar rid</i>	+
Slender-billed gull	<i>Lar gen</i>	+ (e.g. 25 th K20 128
White-eyed gull	<i>Lar leu</i>	NB almost daily 10-20
Lesser black-backed g.	<i>Lar fus</i>	+
Yellow-legged gull	<i>Lar cac</i>	+ (NB daily 2-» 30 individuals, incl. cac/heu)
Siberian gull	<i>Lar heu</i>	26 th NB 3" 27 th NB 1" 30 th NB 6"1'
Arctic skua	<i>Ste_cus</i>	30 th NB 1m
Pomarine skua	<i>Ste pom</i>	30 th NB a4m
Caspian tern	<i>Ste cas</i>	24 th NB 1 26 th NB 1 27 th NB 1 30 th NB 3
Sandwich tern	<i>Ste san</i>	26 th NB 1 27 th NB 3 30 th NB 2
Gull-billed tern	<i>Gel nil</i>	24 th NB 1 26 th ponds 2 (+1' sp.) 27 th NB 1 28 th K20 6" 30 th NB 2
Common tern	<i>Ste hir</i>	24 th NB 3 26 th NB 1 (+4 sp.) 30 th NB 3 (+4 sp.)
Lichtenstein's sandgr.	<i>Pte lic</i>	26 th pumping station 24
Spotted sandgrouse	<i>Pte sen</i>	29 th Nizzana » 40, Hameshar 30
Black-bellied sandgr.	<i>Pte ori</i>	29 th Nizzana » 50
Rock dove	<i>Col liv</i>	+
Collared dove	<i>Str dec</i>	+
Laughing dove	<i>Str sen</i>	+
Turtle dove	<i>Str tur</i>	29 th Nizzana 1
Namaqua dove	<i>Oen cap</i>	25 th K20 1/1
Great spotted cuckoo	<i>Cla gla</i>	29 th Nizzana 1
Ring-necked parakeet	<i>Psi kra</i>	30 th SP 1

Common swift	<i>Apu apu</i>	+ (e.g. 26 th Yotvata » 150)
Pallid swift	<i>Apu pal</i>	+)e.g. 26 th Yotvata » 150)
Alpine swift	<i>Apu mel</i>	24 th JB 3m 26 th Yotvata 3 27 th RS a21m, Shizzafon 1 29 th Nizzana 8, SB 6
Kingfisher	<i>Alc att</i>	30 th NB 1 31 st SP 1
Pied kingfisher	<i>Cer rud</i>	24 th NB 1 26 th ponds 1 30 th NB 1
Little green bee-eater	<i>Mer ori</i>	almost daily 2-3 (8) individuals
Bee-eater	<i>Mer api</i>	28 th K20 39 30 th K20 » 15
Roller	<i>Cor gar</i>	29 th Nizzana 1
Hoopoe	<i>Upu epo</i>	24 th JB 1 25 th Wadi Nahal 1, K20 1 26 th Lotan 2, Yotvata 3 27 th Shizzafon 2 29 th Nizzana 4 30 th SP 1
Wryneck	<i>Jyn tor</i>	26 th SP 1, Yotvata 1 27 th RS 1 30 th SP 2, Yotvata 2 31 st SP 1
Desert lark	<i>Amm des</i>	27 th Zomet Qetura 2, WS 3 28 th Mount Yoash 2 31 st WS 1
Bar-tailed desert lark	<i>Amm cin</i>	28 th K33 2 29 th Nizzana 2, Hameshar 1
Hoopoe lark	<i>Ala ala</i>	28 th K33 4
Bimaculated lark	<i>Mel bim</i>	29 th Hameshar 1
Short-toed lark	<i>Cal bra</i>	25 th K20 1 26 th Lotan 88, Yotvata 40 28 th K33 a3 (bra/ruf) 29 th Nizzana 2, Hameshar » 80
Lesser short-toed lark	<i>Cal_ens</i>	29 th Nizzana a3, Hameshar 6 (2a)
Oriental skylark	<i>Ala gul</i>	26 th Yotvata a2
Crested lark	<i>Gal cri</i>	+
Temminck's horned lark	<i>Ere bil</i>	27 th road nr10 1
Sand martin	<i>Rip rip</i>	+
Rock martin	<i>Pty ful</i>	+
Swallow	<i>Hir rus</i>	+
Red-rumped swallow	<i>Hir dau</i>	+
House martin	<i>Del urb</i>	+
Tawny pipit	<i>Ant cam</i>	25 th pumping station 1

		27 th Shizzafon 1 30 th K20 1
Tree pipit	<i>Ant tri</i>	24 th JB 2, RS 2 26 th SP 15 30 th SP 4, Yotvata 1 31 st SP 3
Red-throated pipit	<i>Ant cer</i>	24 th JB 2 26 th Lotan 3 27 th RS 1 30 th RS 3, K20 2, NB 1
Water pipit	<i>Ant spi</i>	+
Yellow wagtail	<i>Mot fla</i>	+
Pied wagtail	<i>Mot alb</i>	+
Citrine wagtail	<i>Mot cit</i>	25 th K20 1/- 26 th — 30 th RS -/1 28 th K20 2 30 th K20 1
Yellow-vented bulbul	<i>Pyc xan</i>	+
Bluethroat	<i>Lus sve</i>	+
Nightingale	<i>Lus meg</i>	26 th SP 3 27 th Shizzafon (meg/lus) 30 th SP 1
Rufous bush robin	<i>Cer gal</i>	26 th SP 2 30 th SP 1
Redstart	<i>Pho pho</i>	+
Black redstart	<i>Pho och</i>	28 th K20 -/1 30 th K20 -/1 31 st Ovda -/1
Blackstart	<i>Cer mel</i>	+
Isabellinen wheatear	<i>Oen isa</i>	+
Northern wheatear	<i>Oen oen</i>	+
Black-eared wheatear	<i>Oen his</i>	+
Desert wheatear	<i>Oen des</i>	28 th K33 1/1 29 th Nizzana 1/1, Hameshar 4/1
Hooded wheatear	<i>Oen mon</i>	28 th K20 1/- (1-y) (appr. 500 m to Amram's p's)
White-crowned black wh.	<i>Oen_yga</i>	+
Mourning wheatear	<i>Oen lug</i>	27 th Biq'at Sharim 1, road nr10 1
Bushchat	<i>Sax tor</i>	26 th Yotvata 1/-
Rock thrush	<i>Mon sax</i>	27 th Shizzafon 1/-
Blue rock thrush	<i>Mon sol</i>	26 th Lotan 2 27 th Shizzafon 1
Song thrush	<i>Tur phi</i>	26 th Yotvata 1
Grey hypocolius	<i>Hyp amp</i>	25 th K20 1
Graceful warbler	<i>Pri gra</i>	+

Scrub warbler	<i>Sco inq</i>	25 th WS 3 27 th Shizzafon 1 31 st WS 1
Savi's warbler	<i>Loc lus</i>	25 th K20 1 26 th RS 1
Sedge warbler	<i>Acr sch</i>	25 th K20 » 5 26 th SP 1 27 th RS 1 30 th SP 2 31 st SP 1
Reed warbler	<i>Acr sci</i>	25 th K20 3
Olivaceous warbler	<i>Hip pal</i>	25 th Wadi Nahal 1 (sp.) 26 th SP 4, ponds 1 30 th SP 3, K20 1, Yotvata 1 31 st SP 3
Rueppell's warbler	<i>Syl rue</i>	25 th WS 10, pumping station 5, Wadi Nahal 5 26 th Lotan 1/- 27 th WS 1/- 28 th WS 1/-, K20 -/1 30 th RS -/1
Orphean warbler	<i>Syl hor</i>	25 th WS 5 26 th RS 2 27 th WS 2 29 th Nizzana 2 30 th Yotvata 1 31 st WS 2
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Syl cur</i>	+
Whitethroat	<i>Syl com</i>	+
Blackcap	<i>Syl atr</i>	+
Menétrie's warbler	<i>Syl mys</i>	26 th Lotan 1/-
Arabian warbler	<i>Syl leu</i>	25 th WS 1
Subalpine warbler	<i>Syl can</i>	25 th Wadi Nahal 1/- 31 st WS 1/-
Spectacled warbler	<i>Syl con</i>	27 th Shizzafon 1/-
Eastern bonelli's w.	<i>Phy ori</i>	24 th JB 2 25 th WS 1, Wadi Nahal 7 26 th ponds 1 27 th Mizpe Yam Wadi 1 29 th Nizzana 4
Chiffchaff	<i>Phy col</i>	+
Willow warbler	<i>Phy_lus</i>	30 th SP 1
Semi-collared flyc.	<i>Fic sem</i>	25 th RS 1/-
Arabian babbler	<i>Tur squ</i>	24 th RS 1 25 th RS 1 26 th RS 1 27 th RS 2, Shizzafon » 15 29 th Nizzana 1

		30 th RS 1, Yotvata 3
Palestine sunbird	<i>Nec ose</i>	25 th WS 1/- 26 th hotel Carlton 1/-, SP 2 27 th hotel Carlton 1/-, Shizzafon 8, WS 3/1 28 th WS 1, Mount Kapanen 1 29 th Nizzana 5 30 th SP 2, Yotvata 1 31 st SP 2, WS 1
Great grey shrike	<i>Lan exc</i>	29 th Nizzana 3
Red-backed shrike	<i>Lan col</i>	26 th SP 1/- 30 th SP 1/-
Isabelline shrike	<i>Lan isa</i>	24 th — 27 th RS 1
Woodchat shrike	<i>Lan sen</i>	25 th K20 1, WTS 2 26 th totally 5 (several places) 27 th Shizzafon 1, ponds 1 28 th K33 1, K20 2 29 th Nizzana 1
Masked shrike	<i>Lan nub</i>	25 th K20 1 26 th RS 1, SP 1, Lotan 1, Yotvata 1 27 th RS 1 28 th Beer Ora 1, K20 1 30 th RS 1, Yotvata 1, K20 1 31 st WS 1, SP 1
House crow	<i>Cor spl</i>	+ (only in Eilat)
Hooded crow	<i>Cor_nix</i>	29 th Nizzana » 10
Brown-necked raven	<i>Cor ruf</i>	+
Tristram´s crackle	<i>Ony tri</i>	25 th Wadi Nahal 2 26 th Yotvata 2, Wadi Nahal 1 28 th Eilat 1 30 th Yotvata » 50 (!)
House sparrow	<i>Pas dom</i>	+
Spanish sparrow	<i>Pas his</i>	+
Dead sea sparrow	<i>Pas moa</i>	25 th WTS » 60 26 th SP -/1
Goldfinch	<i>Car car</i>	29 th SB 1
Greenfinch	<i>Car chl</i>	29 th Telalim 1, SB 1
Tristram´s serin	<i>Ser syr</i>	27 th Shizzafon at least 5
Trumpeter finch	<i>Buc git</i>	25 th WS » 40, WTS 8, JB 2 27 th Shizzafon 8, road nr10 » 10 28 th K33 » 15 29 th Hameshar 7 30 th RS 1 31 st WS » 40
Cretzchmar´s bunting	<i>Emb cae</i>	26 th Lotan 5 27 th RS 2, Shizzafon 2 30 th Sulamit 3, Yotvata 2
Ortolan bunting	<i>Emb hor</i>	26 th Lotan 2

	27 th Shizzafon 3 28 th K20 1 (+1 hor/cae) 29 th Nizzana 1
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