

Bird observations Marsa Alam Red Sea coast 1-8 November 2010

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This was a trip with our families to the all-inclusive Grand Resta resort, just north of Port Ghalib. Birding was mainly done in the mornings around the hotel, but we also hired a car (from Europcar at Marsa Alam airport, automatic Kia for Euro 200 a week) and went to Port Ghalib and Abu Dhabab beach. Driving was easy but an international drivers' license is required as the police were more interested in seeing it than an EU license.

In Port Ghalib we found the area around the football field, tree nursery and Horse Academy most rewarding. Easily seen and accessed from the main road. Drive through the main gate to Port Ghalib and the football field is to the right on a hill. From there one can walk to the tree nursery and Horse Academy. A golf course is apparently being planned for Port Ghalib which could make it interesting birdwise in the future.

Snorkling was great and we saw a pod of dolphins one morning at the hotel. Green Turtles were easy to see at Aby Dhabab beach, grazing on sea grass in the middle of the bay at 3-5 m depth (where we also saw our only Guitarfish of the trip).

For more information contact Erik at d@hirschfeld.se or via Facebook.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

One pair on a lawn in Port Ghalib 2.11.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

1 Port Ghalib tree nursery 5.11.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

1 Grand Resta 1 and 2.11, a small flock flying north 2.11.

White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

1 adult Grand Resta 3.11, 4 ad 3 first year towards south Grand Resta 6.11.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

1 Grand Resta 2.11, 2 Abu Dabab beach 3.11.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

1 on the road to Abu Dabab 4.11, 1 Grand Resta 6.11.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

1 in the morning 6.11 and 4 towards SSE Grand Resta at dusk 6.11.

Great White Egret *Casmerodius albus*

1 Grand Resta 1.11.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

1 on the road to Abu Dabab 4.11.

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*

1 Port Ghalib marina 4.11, singles more or less daily Grand Resta and along the road to Abu Dabab.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

1 adult Grand Resta 1.11, 2 adult 3 first year Grand Resta 6.11.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Up to 3 daily Grand Resta, singles elsewhere.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

1 Grand Resta 1.11.

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

1 Grand Resta daily, 1 Port Ghalib football field 4.11.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

5 towards south Port Ghalib football field 5.11.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

2-3 Grand Resta 1-7.11.

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

1 Port Ghalib football field 4.11

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

1 Grand Resta 7.11.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

10 Port Ghalib marina 4.11, 8 Port Ghalib marina 5.11.

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

2 Port Ghalib marina 2.11, 11 Port Ghalib marina 4-5.11.

White-eyed/Sooty Gull *Larus sp.*

2 Grand Resta 6.11.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

1 Grand Resta 3.11.

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*

1 Grand Resta 1.11, 2 Grand Resta 6.11.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

10-20 Port Ghalib tree nursery and Horse Academy 2.11 and 4.11.

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

At least 2, possibly 4, Port Ghalib Horse Academy 4.11.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

1 female Port Ghalib tree nursery 2.11, 2 first-year Grand Resta 2.11, adult male and 2 first-year Grand Resta 3.11, two adult males and two first-year Grand Resta 7.11.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammea*

1 Grand Resta 7.11 (PU).

Common Swift *Apus apus*
1 Grand Resta 5.11 (PU).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
1 Grand Resta more or less daily.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
1 Grand Resta 4.11 (PI).

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*
A flock overflying 5.11.

Bimaculated Lark *Calandra melanocorypha*
1 Grand Resta 1.11.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
3 Grand Resta 1.11, 3 Grand Resta 3.11.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
1 Grand Resta 6-7.11.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
3 Grand Resta 1.11, 3 Port Ghalib football field 2.11, 2 Port Ghalib football field 4.11, 1 Grand Resta 7.11.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
2 Grand Resta 1.11, 1 Grand Resta 6.11.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
Common, recorded daily.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus noveseelandiae*
1 Port Ghalib football field 2, 4 and 5.11,.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
2 Port Ghalib football field 4.11, 1 Port Ghalib tree nursery 5.11, 1 Port Ghalib football field 5.11.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
1 Grand Resta 1-3.11, 1 Grand Resta 7.11.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*
50 Grand Resta 1.11, 50 Port Ghalib football field 2, 4 and 5.11, 75 Grand Resta 3.11 decreasing to c 40 7.11.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*
1 Grand Resta 1.11, 2 Port Ghalib football field 4.11, 1 Port Ghalib 4.11, 2 Port Ghalib football field 5.11, 1 Grand Resta 6 and 7.11.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
1 Port Ghalib tree nursery 2.11.

Common Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Common in most places, up to 30 at Grand Resta all week.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
5 Grand Resta 1.11, 10 Port Ghalib tree nursery 2.11, 2 Port Ghalib tree nursery 5.11, 2 Grand Resta 7.11.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
1 Grand Resta 3.11.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*
1 *maurus* Grand Resta 1.11, 2 *maurus* and 1 *rubicola/hibernans* Port Ghalib tree nursery 2.11, 3 *maurus* Grand Resta 3.11, singles Grand Resta 4.11, 2 Port Ghalib tree nursery 5.11, 1 Port Ghalib football field 5.11, 5 Grand Resta 6.11, 3 Grand Resta 7.11, including one *armenicus/variegatus*.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Male Grand Resta 1.11, 1 male Port Ghalib football field 2.11, 1 Grand Resta 3.11.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*
1 male Port Ghalib football field 2.11, 2 males 1 female Port Ghalib football field 4.11, 1 female Port Ghalib marina 4.11.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*
1 Grand Resta 1.11, 1 Grand Resta 3.11, 3 Port Ghalib football field 4.11, 1 Grand Resta 5.11.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
1 Grand Resta 6-7.11.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
1 Port Ghalib tree nursery 5.11, 1 male 2 female-type Grand Resta 7.11.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*
3 Grand Resta 1.11, 10 Port Ghalib tree nursery 2.11, 2 Grand Resta 3.11, 3 Port Ghalib 4.11.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*
Daily Grand Resta, 4 Port Ghalib tree nursery 2.11, 3 Port Ghalib football field 2.11, 4 Port Ghalib football field 4.11, 5 Port Ghalib 5.11, 2 Port Ghalib tree nursery 5.11, 2 Port Ghalib football field 5.11

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
C. 75 Grand Resta 1.11 decreasing daily to around 25 7.11, 25 Port Ghalib tree nursery 2.11, 10 Port Ghalib football field 2.11, 30 Grand Resta 3.11, 10 Port Ghalib tree nursery 5.11.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
1 first-year Grand Resta 1.11, 1 first-year Port Ghalib tree nursery 2.11.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
1 Port Ghalib tree nursery 1 and 2.11.

Indian House Crow *Corvus splendens*
1 Port Ghalib tree nursery 2.11, 5 Grand Resta 2.11, 1 Port Ghalib football field 4.11,

Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*

2 Grand Resta 1.11, singles on the way to Abu Dabab.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Recorded daily.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Recorded daily at Grand Resta. 25 Grand Resta 1.11, 30 Port Ghalib football field 4.11, 75 Grand Resta 7.11.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

1 Grand Resta 1.11, 1 Port Ghalib football field 4.11, 2 Grand Resta 6.11, 5 Grand Resta 7.11.