



TRIP REPORT: “CHAMPIONS OF THE FLYWAY”- A BIRD RACE FOR CONSERVATION IN SOUTHERN ISRAEL MARCH 2016

By Jason Boyce – Birding Ecotours



The Sde Boker area showing the incredible landscapes that are temporary homes and feeding grounds for many migrating birds!

OVERVIEW

By now the Champions of the Flyway (COTF) bird race is well known across birding circles worldwide and is fast becoming one of the most prestigious 24-hour bird races in the world. Majestic mountainous landscapes, the vast desert plains of the Negev, passionate and enthusiastic birders from across the globe, and a movement of birds like no other all culminate into a thing of beauty that is the Champions of the Flyway!

We, the South African/Birding Ecotours team, were to be the only southern hemisphere team to take part in this incredible bird race, for the second year running – a great honor! This year our team consisted of Jason Boyce, Trevor Hardaker, Dylan Vasapolli and Andy Walker. Trevor and Jason participated in the 2015 race and could offer some advice on how not to do things in 2016. The race, like many other birding races, involves scouting in the days prior to the race day and then a 24-hour race day, midnight to midnight. Teams will set out to record as many species as possible (birds can be recorded on call as well as on sight) during this 24-hour period. The Negev desert and everything south to Eilat is considered the ‘playing field’.

TRIP ITINERARY

March 26	Team arrival and scouting	Eilat, Israel
March 27	Scouting	Eilat, Israel
March 28	Scouting	Eilat, Israel
March 29	Race day	Eilat, Israel
March 30	Closing ceremony	Eilat, Israel

BUILDUP AND SCOUTING

Migration is an incredible natural phenomenon, and even after years and years of studying aspects of migration and witnessing bird migration over and over there will always be a sense of unpredictability about it! This is largely what brings about the excitement to birding in Israel – “Expect the unexpected”, as the catch phrase goes. Every year the teams make sure to arrive a little early so that they can begin preparations by visiting as many sites as they can within the playing field. Things can be very different from year to year – this was definitely evident to Trevor and Jason. We started off by checking out some of the sites in the North Negev, these included the famous Nitzana (best Macqueen’s Bustard site), Ezuz, Yeroham Lake, and Sde Boker. The northern region has some 30-35 species that you just can’t connect with in the south, and so it is recommended – by the Israeli “hotshots” – that doing both the north and the south on race day is a must!

Over the course of the next few days we visited almost every site that we knew about as well as a few new ones; the most noteworthy new site being the Se’ifim plains. These open plains situated to the north-west of Eilat in the mountains produced some excellent birds for us, including one of our most wanted, our logo species, Temminck’s Lark! Temminck’s Lark was hard to come by during the scouting days, and it was one of the species we ended up missing on race day.



The Birding Ecotours Bandits Logo, featuring a Bandit Temminck's Lark – Thanks again to Faansie Peacock for the design of the logo!

Some of the other species that we recorded during the scouting days included the likes of Brown Booby, White-eyed Gull, Sandwich Tern, and Baltic Gull (*L. f. fuscus*, nominate Lesser Black-backed Gull, which are all treated as separate species for the COTF) all at North Beach. It was also incredible to see “migration in action” even among passerines, such as a Yellow Wagtail coming in off the Red Sea while we were sea watching!



The Bandits doing some sea watching at North Beach with the city of Eilat in the background

Waders at K20 salt pans included Kentish Plover, Little and Common Ringed Plovers, Curlew and Marsh Sandpipers, Common Redshank, Little Stint, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Greenshank, and Ruff. Other interesting finds during scouting were Red-necked Phalarope, Red-throated Pipit, many different subspecies of Yellow Wagtail, and Wheatear species ranging from the migratory species, like Northern, Isabelline and Black-eared, to some of the resident species, such as Hooded, White-crowned, and Mourning. One of our team's best finds during the scouting period was that of a female Cyprus Wheatear – a lifer for most of the Bandits.



Female Cyprus Wheatear (Oenanthe cypriaca) (Photo Trevor Hardaker)

Race day!

Before we knew it race day was upon us – we were ready ... sort of. Just after midnight on Tuesday morning, the 29th of March, we set off to see how many species we could get. We fiddled around Eilat for a while, trying to pick up some water birds and gulls – we managed to scope White-eyed Gull in the ambient light of Eilat city as well as pick up species like Little Ringed Plover and Western Reef Heron! By the time it got light enough to really get going, we were hovering around 30 species. We decided this year to do things from South to North and therefore only get to some of the northern hot-spots by 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. The Se'ifim plains produced a few good birds for us in the morning, such as Cream-colored Courser, Bar-tailed, Greater, Lesser Short-toed, and Bimaculated Larks, Hen Harrier, and Common (Rufous-tailed) Rock Thrush. A quick stop here and there to pick up some soaring birds, and we were back down to bird the Eilat surrounds and the k20 salt pans.



Little Green Bee-eater (Merops orientalis) was a species that we managed to miss in last year's race; this year we were relieved to find a few at the outskirts of Eilat! (Photo Dylan Vasapolli)

Birding was good, and between the salt pans, the date plantations at K20, and some other waterbird spots we added most occurring shorebirds, including Curlew Sandpiper and Dunlin, Water Pipit, various waterfowl, Collared Flycatcher, Tree Pipit, our 4th Eurasian Wryneck of the Day (!), Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Gull-billed Tern, Western Osprey, and Ferruginous Duck. Jason was in charge of making sure that we ran according to schedule, and, for the most part, we were pretty good at sticking to that plan. “C’m on lads, keep it up!” – these were the chants as we begun the long drive into the Negev!

We eventually made our way to the northern parts of the Negev – Sde Boker was particularly kind to us and produced almost all of our targets, and then some. The lookout area at the tomb of David Ben-Gurion held Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Lanner Falcon, Tristram’s Starling, Alpine Swift – and Nubian Ibex distractions! The surrounds produced some European species: European Greenfinch, European Robin, Common Blackbird, and then also Common and Thrush Nightingales, Common and Pallid Swifts, Eurasian Stone Curlew, Chukar Partridge, and European Turtle Dove. We were hoping to get to 150 Species before getting to Yeroham Lake (Which would be our northernmost site). Southern Grey Shrike and Eurasian Hoopoe were our 148th and 149th species, respectively, and that about 200 meters before the entrance to the lake. Yeroham Lake was great, and even though we only added another 10 to 15 odd species here it was certainly one of the highlights for us! Syrian Woodpecker played ball, as too did Sedge and Great Reed Warblers. Highlights at the lake were Cetti’s Warbler, two Spotted Crakes, and a female Little Crake. Of course we didn’t leave before notching up a ‘LEO’ (not *Panthera leo*, but rather a Long-eared Owl) calling away in some of the larger trees at around 8:00 p.m. On the long drive back news had filtered through of a Jack Snipe at Neot Smadar Sewage Ponds, and so the diminutive wader became the last bird that we added to our list for the day. What an incredible day, needless to say, we slept well!

Who won?

The winning total this year (in the international race) was a seriously impressive 174 species, and the honors of the 2016 race go to the Arctic Redpolls from Finland, a huge congratulations to them! Second place managed 171 and third managed 164. The Bandits managed to squeeze out 163 species this year, and we were rather proud of that achievement. It placed us 4th overall in the international race (missing out on 3rd place and a podium finish by just one species!). It's a 'young' race, and teams are still in the process of figuring out the best way to tackle it. Trevor Hardaker put it this way: "Doing well in this competition is not just about knowing the birds – we have some reasonable experience with these, so that is not really a problem at all. It's not even about knowing the various birding sites – we have now gained valuable experience over last year and this year as to which sites produce which species, etc. It really comes down to strategy (as with any big day), and we are slowly, but surely, getting our strategy fine-tuned for this race. Even after this year's race, our team had some discussions about what we would change for the next one that could give us just a little bit more of an edge in the competition."

At the risk of being a little cliché, the real winners are undoubtedly the migrant birds! We received 13 Donations on race day itself, with a total of 188 donations during the course of the fund raising efforts. Our initial target set was to raise £3 000, and with your incredible generosity we managed to more than double that and raise £6 763.53 (roughly US\$ 9 600 and more than R142 000 for our South African friends!). Over US\$70 000 has now been raised in total this year – which is a COTF record! This money goes to the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOC), which now has a lot of work to do but some amazing backing to do it with. Congratulations, guys!!



Costas Papaconstantinou and Roula Trigou from the HOC with CEO of Birdlife International Patricia Zurita.

One of the differences between the COTF and many other bird races across the world is the sharing of information. Information is shared freely and relentlessly throughout the race day, and this of course brings a whole new dynamic to the race! The team that is the most helpful, shares the most information, creates the most awareness, and makes the most noise about COTF are crowned the Knights of the Flyway. This year's Knights went to the Way-off Coursers from the United States! The Way-off Coursers weren't done there when it comes to awards; they were also the team that managed to raise the most money of all teams and so were crowned the Guardians of the Flyway as well.



One of the main organizers Jonathan Meyrav with COTF participants - Congratulations on another excellent COTF, guys!

On behalf of the Bandits, Birding Ecotours, South Africa, and, of course, the Hellenic Ornithological Society an extremely huge THANK YOU to all who have contributed in any way to this cause! There is still a massive amount of work to be done, so let us not stop here – onward and upward, as they say!

To our sponsors: “While we may not have been crowned with the award for the most money raised, you are ALL Guardians of the Flyway in our eyes! Thank you, thank you, thank you!” – Trevor



The Birding Ecotours Bandits also represented South Africa during the race! We finished with a total of 163 species for the day – a total that we can be proud of!

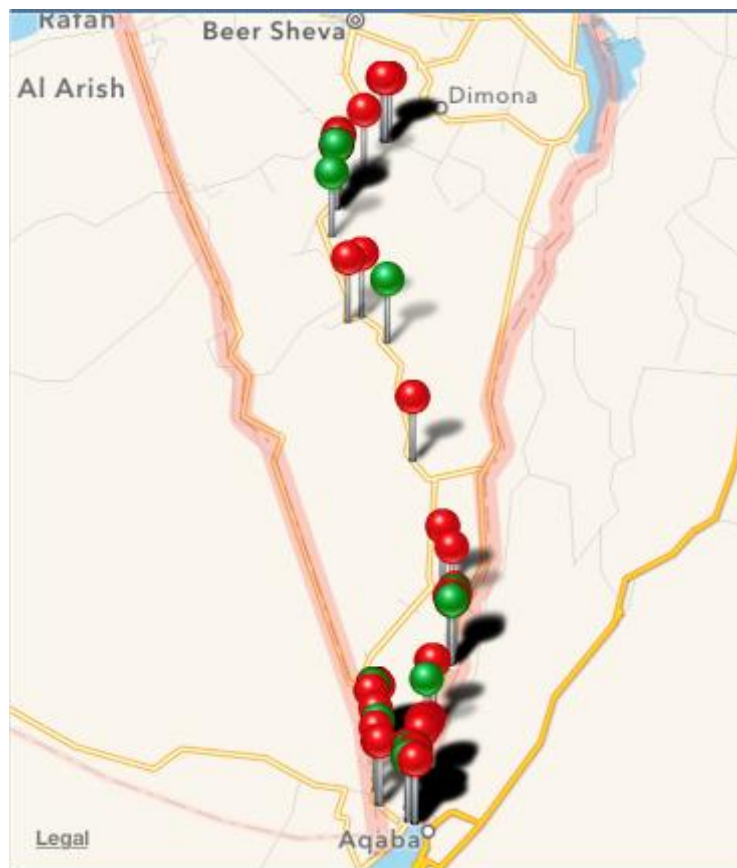
Left to right: Andy Walker (the honorary South African – he is from York, UK), Trevor Hardaker, Jason Boyce and Dylan Vasapolli



White Storks migrating over Eilat – may they fly safely, we all know what awaits many of them on their way north.

Full Species list and map for Race day (29 March 2016)

Map of species added on route



Ducks, Geese and Swans (Anatidae)

Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Eilat, HaDarom

Pheasants and allies (Phasianidae)

Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Sand Partridge	<i>Ammoperdix heyi</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
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Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)

Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
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Storks (Ciconiidae)

Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Eilat, HaDarom

Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)

Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
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Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom

Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)

Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
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Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)

Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
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Ospreys (Pandionidae)

Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
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Kites, Hawks and Eagles (Accipitridae)

Egyptian Vulture - EN	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Steppe Eagle - EN	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom

Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Rails, Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)		
Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)		
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Plovers (Charadriidae)		
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)		
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	Neot Smadar, HaDarom
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Neot Smadar, HaDarom
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Couriers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)		
Cream-colored Courier	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)		
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
White-eyed Gull	<i>Ichthyophaga leucophthalmus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Eilat, HaDarom

Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)

Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
European Turtle Dove - VU	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom

Barn Owls (Tytonidae)

Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
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Owls (Strigidae)

Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom

Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)

Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
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Swifts (Apodidae)

Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom

Bee-eaters (Meropidae)

Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Eilat, HaDarom

Hoopoes (Upupidae)

Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
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Woodpeckers (Picidae)

Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom

Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)

Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom

Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)

Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
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Shrikes (Laniidae)

Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom

Crows, Jays (Corvidae)

House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom

Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	Neot Smadar, HaDarom
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Mitzpe Ramon, HaDarom
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)		
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)		
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Larks (Alaudidae)		
Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Bimaculated Lark	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)		
White-spectacled Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Pale Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Cettia Bush Warblers and allies (Cettiidae)		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Streaked Scrub Warbler (Scotocercidae)		
Streaked Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Leaf Warblers and allies (Phylloscopidae)		
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Reed Warblers and allies (Acrocephalidae)		
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Cisticolas and allies (Cisticolidae)		
Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Laughingthrushes (Leiothrichidae)		
Arabian Babbler	<i>Turdoides squamiceps</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	Eilat, HaDarom

Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	Neot Smadar, HaDarom
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)		
Tristram's Starling	<i>Onychognathus tristramii</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Thrushes (Turdidae)		
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)		
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Semicollared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	Neot Smadar, HaDarom
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Blackstart	<i>Oenanthe melanura</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)		
Palestine Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris osea</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Waxbills, Munias and allies (Estrildidae)		
Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)		
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Neot Smadar, HaDarom
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Eilat, HaDarom
Finches (Fringillidae)		
Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>	Se'ifim Plain, HaDarom
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Sde Boker, HaDarom
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	Mitzpe Ramon, HaDarom
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Yeroham Lake, HaDarom
Buntings, New World Sparrows and allies (Emberizidae)		
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Yotvata, HaDarom
Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	Neot Smadar, HaDarom

Species: 163

IOC World Bird List 6.1 (January 2016)

Donations from our supporters;



Dear Trevor, This is from the Cape Bird Club - just to say we are proud of your effort and achievements.

Donation by *The Cape Bird Club* on 08/04/16

R 500,00



Well Done!

Donation by *York Ornithological Club members* on 06/04/16

£50.00



Great cause.

Donation by *Anonymous* on 02/04/16

£20.00

+ £5.00 Gift Aid



Keep the good work going!

Donation by *Anonymous* on 01/04/16

R 250,00



Thanks for caring for the birds. Go the SA team.

Donation by *Geoff & Shelagh Matthews* on 31/03/16

R 300,00



Good luck guys!

Donation by *Robbie Engela* on 30/03/16

R 350,00



Well done, Birding Ecotours Bandits!

Donation by *Anonymous* on 30/03/16

R 500,00



Fantastic that you are involved in this! Hope you had lots of fun too :-)

Donation by *Cheryl Faull* on 30/03/16

R 150,00



Good luck!

Donation by *Pieter Venter* on 30/03/16

R 2 000,00



For the birds!

Donation by *Nick Hudson* on 29/03/16

R 1 000,00



Donation by *Bob Reed* on 29/03/16



Donation by *Stanford Bird Club, Western Cape* on 29/03/16

R 1 000,00



Hope this helps Trevor, great cause - good luck! regards Joe and Meryl-Lynne

Donation by *Joe & Meryl-Lynne Harwood* on 29/03/16

R 350,00



Good Luck!

Donation by *Sally Stretch* on 29/03/16

R 250,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 29/03/16

£10.00

+ £2.50 Gift Aid



Keep up the good work

Donation by *Terry Kane* on 29/03/16



Good luck at the event, a great cause!

Donation by *Wesley Hattingh* on 29/03/16

R 100,00



All the very best

Donation by *Stanford de Jong* on 29/03/16

R 200,00



From the Batis Birding Team in Namibia

Donation by *Dayne Braine* on 29/03/16

R 1 000,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 29/03/16

R 200,00



Donation by *Howard Rayner* on 29/03/16

R 1 700,00



THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORT

Donation by *MAX KAISER* on 29/03/16

R 350,00



Good luck Trevor, Jason, Dylan and Andy

Donation by *Mark Anderson* on 28/03/16

R 200,00



Good luck guys, from BirdLife South Africa.

Donation by *BirdLife South Africa* on 28/03/16

R 1 000,00



Donation by *Debbie Lewarne* on 28/03/16

\$20.00



Donation by *Pamela Isdell* on 28/03/16

\$500.00



stand up, for the champions, for the champions, stand up

Donation by *michael and horst raum* on 28/03/16

R 600,00



Hope this will help

Donation by *Rob Harvey* on 28/03/16

R 500,00



Make every effort to save our birds & God Bless you for being good custodians.

Donation by *Greta & Luc Pegram* on 28/03/16

R 850,00



Donation by *Avery Bartels* on 28/03/16

\$30.00



Great Job everyone!

Donation by *Chris parr* on 28/03/16

R 350,00



Good luck gents! Have an epic race and show them what SA Birders are capable of!

Donation by *Melissa W* on 28/03/16

R 200,00



Wishing you all the success in your worthwhile work.

Donation by *Uli Schackermann* on 28/03/16

R 175,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 28/03/16

R 100,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 28/03/16

R 100,00



leave our birds alone Greeks!

Donation by *Norman* on 28/03/16

R 350,00



Good luck to you in STOPPING those senseless killings of our birds!!!

Donation by *Louis Wolfaardt* on 28/03/16

R 500,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 28/03/16

R 300,00



I really hope we can be the top nation therefore I'm donating a second time.

Donation by *Gerhardus Malherbe* on 28/03/16

R 50,00



Good luck

Donation by *Leon Bruggemann* on 28/03/16

R 200,00



Thank you Trevor and Team! Awesome work

Donation by *salome* on 28/03/16

R 175,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 28/03/16



Thank you for making a difference to the conservation of migrants on an International scale. GO BANDITS!

Donation by *Faansie Peacock* on 28/03/16

R 500,00



Best of luck, and thanks for your efforts to save the birds of the flyway!

Donation by *Phil and Mimi* on 28/03/16

\$50.00



All strength to the South African team - you're our Guardians of the Flyway!!

Donation by *Jürg & Sharon Richner* on 28/03/16



Hi, here's to Guardians of the Flyway!

Donation by *Marie-Louise Cardwell for Avian Leisure* on 28/03/16

R 1 000,00



Keep up the good work guys !!

Donation by *Len & Gill Yates* on 28/03/16

R 250,00



Thank you for being involved

Donation by *John Fincham* on 28/03/16



Good luck and trust all goes well with your trip.

Donation by *Walt Latham* on 28/03/16



Small but a sincere contribution!

Donation by *Paz* on 27/03/16

£10.00

+ £2.50 Gift Aid



Best of luck to you!

Donation by *Wendy Miller* on 23/03/16

\$30.00



Very happy to donate to this worthwhile cause. Good luck to the Birding Ecotours Bandits and enjoy the race. Linda Vasapolli and friends

Donation by *Linda Vasapolli* on 22/03/16

R 2 000,00



Good luck to you and your team Dylan. Small contribution to show my support.

Donation by *Ken McKenna* on 21/03/16

\$30.00



All the best Andy and the rest of the "Birding Ecotours Bandits"... Great work & a worthy cause!!

Donation by *Arcus* on 21/03/16

£25.00



Donation by *Cheepers! Africa* on 18/03/16

\$50.00



Via Birding Ecotours

Donation by *Jan Burtt* on 18/03/16

R 500,00



To the Birding Ecotours Bandits, Trevor, Jason, Andy and Dylan: All the birding luck in the world and thank you for your good work on behalf of our frequent flyers.

Donation by *Martha Ann Myers* on 18/03/16

\$500.00



Very happy to support such a great event

Donation by *Janice Wallace* on 18/03/16

£100.00

+ £25.00 Gift Aid



For Dylan and Andy. Thanks for two great birding trips. Good luck to the whole team.

Donation by *Bob Davis* on 18/03/16

\$50.00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 17/03/16



Christine Read

Donation by *Anonymous* on 05/03/16

R 350,00



Donation from Thea Heyns-Galanakis, Wouter de Vos, Jennifer Kurton, Kevin Patmore, Rael Loon, Ray Dumbleton, Sam de Beer, Lesley and Alex Rae, Alan Collett and Walker Bay Bird Fair.

Donation by *Anonymous* on 05/03/16

R 6 300,00



Donation by *L Potgieter* on 04/03/16

R 500,00



delighted to be part of this - i challenge all madikwe, sabi sand and cape town lodges/hotels as well as tour operators & agents to make a donation. well done all involved!

Donation by *jaci's lodges,granddaddy&cheetah plains* on 04/03/16

R 2 000,00



Well done guys!

Donation by *Toby Jermyn - Pangolin Photo Safaris* on 04/03/16

R 500,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 03/03/16



Good luck!

Donation by *Pieter la Grange* on 03/03/16

R 300,00



As they say on Strictly Come Dancing - Give it some wellie! Good luck - and don't forget to have some fun too.

Donation by *Anonymous* on 03/03/16

£30.00



Good luck to the South African team - show the rest of the world that we are a force to be reckoned with!

Donation by *South Architects* on 03/03/16

R 5 000,00



Royal Malewane. Thank you very much for caring and doing something to protect the birds so that all in SA will be able to enjoy them in future

Donation by *Royal Malewane (Pty) Ltd Att: Juan Pinto* on 03/03/16

R 5 000,00



Good luck and enjoy. Hope you have fantastic sightings.

Donation by *Lisa Plit* on 02/03/16

R 500,00



Good luck - we need to start turning these activities around !

Donation by *Nicolette and Ticky Forbes* on 02/03/16

R 300,00



Dear Trevor, Jason, Dylan and Andy - I hope my small contribution will help make your dreams come true.

Donation by *Leonie Fouché* on 02/03/16

R 2 000,00



All the best from BirdLife KZN-Midlands!

Donation by *Anonymous* on 02/03/16

R 1 000,00



Thank you guys for all you do for us, the birders, and also the birds. Good luck, you make us proud.

Donation by *The Harrismith Weavers* on 02/03/16

R 200,00



Good luck

Donation by *Kaye and Faz* on 02/03/16

R 250,00



Good luck!

Donation by *Mike Clacey* on 01/03/16

R 1 000,00



Good luck guys. Keep the SA flag flying

Donation by *Pat Nurse* on 01/03/16

R 100,00



Good luck! Good to you guys...

Donation by *Ily Rasmussen* on 01/03/16

R 175,00



Thank you for helping our birds make it back to Southern Africa.

Donation by *Blane Venter* on 01/03/16

R 100,00



Good Luck. I hope millions of birds are saved

Donation by *Margie Roux* on 01/03/16

R 200,00



good luck. Trustmany birds will be saved.

Donation by *Joan Saggars* on 01/03/16

R 150,00



Good luck, guys.

Donation by *Lester Niss* on 01/03/16

R 100,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 01/03/16

R 500,00



Happy flying!

Donation by *Charles Hardy* on 01/03/16

R 175,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 01/03/16

R 175,00



Good luck and enjoy.

Donation by *Anonymous* on 01/03/16

R 200,00



Good luck guys! Show them what we are made of!

Donation by *Geoff Goetsch* on 01/03/16

R 350,00



Good luck Trevor and the Bandits!

Donation by *Barbara Palmer* on 01/03/16

R 200,00



Thanks for supporting this important work through your participation. Proud of the SA team, wishing you all the best!

Donation by *Lance and Hanneline* on 01/03/16

R 200,00



Well done for helping to save our migrants

Donation by *Yvonne Pennington* on 01/03/16

R 250,00



Good luck guys. Have a great trip.

Donation by *Anonymous* on 01/03/16



Donation by *Philip* on 01/03/16

R 200,00



Good luck to Trevor and Companions

Donation by *Gabby* on 01/03/16

R 200,00



Donation by *Arnold Wotherspoon* on 01/03/16

R 200,00



Donation by *Damian Blignaut* on 01/03/16

R 100,00



Donation by *Shawu* on 01/03/16

R 50,00



Good luck guys

Donation by *Peter Rosewarne* on 01/03/16

R 350,00



Donation by *E Nielsen* on 01/03/16

R 350,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 01/03/16



All the best and good luck!

Donation by *Warren Kemm* on 27/02/16

R 500,00



Good luck guys

Donation by *Andre Marx* on 25/02/16

R 350,00



Enjoy your trip and look forward to your reports

Donation by *Antony and Ros Humphris* on 25/02/16

R 350,00



Have fun

Donation by *Corne and Christa* on 24/02/16

R 350,00



Donation by *Simon Peile* on 24/02/16

R 1 000,00



Good Luck Trevor and Co.

Donation by *John Bowman* on 23/02/16

£10.00



Sterkte Trevor en span!! Bring our birds home!

Donation by *Stefan van der Walt* on 23/02/16

R 500,00



Good luck team, a great cause and we all want the birds to keep returning.

Donation by *Simon Fogarty* on 23/02/16

£30.00



I keenly await news of your fabulous trip. Good luck all

Donation by *Gisela Ortner* on 23/02/16

R 350,00



A very worthy cause! I gave to the Israeli Factor, too.

Donation by *Mary Costello* on 19/02/16

\$30.00



Best of luck!

Donation by *Dave Winter* on 18/02/16

R 350,00



Good luck to the South African team! :)

Donation by *Owen & Sue Oertli* on 18/02/16

£15.00



From Moreby-Ginn-van Wijk-Plimsoll-Rust-van Eerden-Swart-Harris-Stenvert-Sharland-Fincham-Bosman-Skinner-Harwood-Kelly-Martin-van Zyl-Pringle-McFarlane-Weiersbye-Hoard-Hvidsten-Barnes-Edmond.

Donation by *Anonymous* on 18/02/16

R 10 900,00



Thank you for taking on this worthy cause.

Donation by *Foden Saunders* on 18/02/16

R 350,00



Good luck guys, great cause, keep raising consciousness

Donation by *Alan* on 17/02/16

R 500,00



Good luck! Very worthwhile.

Donation by *Gisela Madden* on 17/02/16

R 500,00



Donation by *Pete* on 17/02/16

R 175,00



good luck

Donation by *oswald dittrich* on 16/02/16

R 250,00



Good luck guys, make us proud! From all at Lawson's.

Donation by *Leon Marais* on 16/02/16

R 1 500,00



Keep making a difference!! Thank you

Donation by *Manuela Krog* on 16/02/16

R 350,00



GREAT CAUSE ,GOOD LUCK ANDREW

Donation by *Anonymous* on 16/02/16

R 1 000,00



Donation by *Tony Walsh* on 15/02/16

R 250,00



Donation by *Stephan Viljoen* on 15/02/16

R 350,00



GO DO IT FOR THE BIRDS

Donation by *DENNIS* on 15/02/16

R 1 800,00



Donation by *Dyer Island Conservation Trust* on 15/02/16

R 1 000,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 15/02/16



Have a safe flight!

Donation by *Hugh Hawarden* on 15/02/16

R 175,00



Good luck with this worthwhile cause.

Donation by *Bernard and Antje Madden* on 14/02/16

R 500,00



Donation by *Les Schoof* on 15/02/16

R 250,00



Donation by *Gail Strong* on 15/02/16

R 850,00



Donation by *Amanda Collins* on 15/02/16

R 100,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 14/02/16

R 350,00



Donation by *duncan butchart* on 15/02/16

R 200,00



Good luck to Trevor and the team

Donation by *Cheryl Leslie* on 14/02/16

R 500,00



best of luck with your fund raising

Donation by *sue goodman* on 14/02/16

£100.00



Good luck to Trevor and his team

Donation by *Joy Fish and Johan Schlebusch* on 14/02/16

R 500,00



Good luck and lots of fun for a good cause!

Donation by *Altus Lombard* on 14/02/16

R 350,00



Donation by *J Glendinning* on 14/02/16

R 500,00



Thank you for making a difference

Donation by *Averil* on 15/02/16

R 250,00



Donation by *Carel Robinson* on 15/02/16

R 350,00



Donation by *Warren & Carol Ingram* on 14/02/16

R 500,00



Keep up the good work

Donation by *Magda Kets* on 14/02/16

R 850,00



Good luck Trevor and the SA team

Donation by *Nadine* on 14/02/16

R 175,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 14/02/16

R 100,00



Good birding Trevor and Team SA

Donation by *Bruce Staples* on 14/02/16

R 500,00



Donation by *Jacques van Wyk* on 14/02/16

R 1 000,00



Go bandits!

Donation by *Bill Heck* on 12/02/16



Wishing Trevor and the SA Team all the best in this worthy cause! Hope you have amazing sightings and find lots of lifers.

Donation by *Lesley* on 11/02/16

R 250,00



Good luck to Trevor and the South Africans

Donation by *Glenda* on 10/02/16

R 250,00



Donation by *Pamela Isdell* on 10/02/16

\$1,000.00



Good work you people are doing!!

Donation by *JvD* on 09/02/16

R 250,00



What a fantastic trip. Have an absolute ball. And good luck - do it for South Africa.!

Donation by *Jill Mortimer* on 08/02/16

R 100,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 08/02/16

R 250,00



Enjoy

Donation by *Elsie* on 08/02/16

R 400,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 07/02/16



All the best to the Bandits

Donation by *Adam Lethbridge* on 07/02/16

R 250,00



Donation by *A & R* on 07/02/16



Good hunting!

Donation by *Barry & Margie* on 07/02/16



Donation by *Simone* on 07/02/16



Good luck!

Donation by *Anonymous* on 06/02/16

R 1 000,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 05/02/16

R 350,00



Good luck. Make South Africa proud!

Donation by *Joyce* on 04/02/16

R 150,00



Good luck SA!

Donation by *Mags* on 04/02/16

£50.00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 04/02/16

R 350,00



Good luck, boet!

Donation by *Rich Lindie* on 04/02/16

£100.00



What a wonderful cause. Wishing you every success.

Donation by *Helga* on 02/02/16

R 200,00



Donation by *D MacGillivray* on 02/02/16

R 1 000,00



Good luck. May you be successful in your goal.

Donation by *Gerhardus Malherbe* on 01/02/16

R 100,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 01/02/16

R 200,00



Keep up the good work!

Donation by *John Little* on 01/02/16

R 500,00



Enjoy holding high the SA banner

Donation by *Anoniem* on 01/02/16

R 500,00



Lots of luck and happy spotting

Donation by *G and B* on 01/02/16

R 1 000,00



Good luck - enjoy !

Donation by *Charles* on 01/02/16

R 100,00



Good luck to all involved in this very worthy cause

Donation by *Anonymous* on 01/02/16

R 200,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 01/02/16

R 175,00



Good luck!!!

Donation by *Dawn Greensides* on 01/02/16

R 350,00



Good luck!

Donation by *Rob and Mary* on 31/01/16

€10.00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 31/01/16

R 350,00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 31/01/16

\$100.00



Awesome cause ! good luck

Donation by *Maureen du Plessis* on 30/01/16

£20.00



Good work guys!

Donation by *Henriette Sutcliffe* on 29/01/16

R 175,00



All the best to The Bandits... Great work in conserving our migrants.

Donation by *Mel Tripp* on 29/01/16

£20.00



Donation by *Anonymous* on 29/01/16



Good Luck ...:)

Donation by *Michele Nel* on 29/01/16



Good luck!

Donation by *John and Alison Bradshawe* on 28/01/16

R 200,00



Donation by *Robin Gray* on 28/01/16

R 1 000,00



Donation by *Marj Crouch* on 27/01/16



What a fantastic cause! Wishing you all great success.

Donation by *Raydude* on 27/01/16