ATLAS OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF ARABIA:
OBSERVER RECORDS SHEET EXAMPLE OF COMPLETED FORM

Observers name and initials: …ANDREW SMITH……

Observers reference No for sheet:…2011/3..... Period of Records:SPRING 2011

Place: …RIYADH AREA…….....State……KSA.....

Office use : (Completed by coordinator)		**Date:** (Completed by coordinator)		**Record Nos:** (Completed by coordinator)		**Accession No:** (Completed by coordinator)
1 Species name	**2 Species Code**	**3 Square Ref**	**4 BEC**	**5 Date (day, month year)**	**6 Remarks - continue overleaf if necessary**	**7 Leave blank** (Completed by coordinator)
1 Egyptian Vulture	247	MA25	1	2.2.11	Increasingly rare in this area.	
2 Griffon Vulture	251	MA26	13	12.3.11	See note over	
3 Long-legged Buzzard	288	MB25	11	6.6.11	See note over	
4 Kestrel	304	MA25	1	29.5.11	Male seen at one site all of May	
5 Sand Partridge	363	MB26	12	7.8.11	Covey of nine with about 6 not quite full grown	
6 Barbary Falcon	321	MA25	0	1.7.11		
7 Barbary Falcon	321	MB26	6	12.4.11		
8 Barbary Falcon	321	MA26	3	13.4.11	Pair seen twice in same area.	
9 Cream-coloured Courser	464	NA26	15	3.2.11	2 eggs	
10 Common Myna	1587	MA26	6	15.2.11	See note over	
11 Trumpeter Finch	1676	MB26	O	28.1.11	Flock of 200 at waterhole.	
12 Crested Lark	972	MB26	9	22.5.11	See note over	
13 Garganey		MB25	3	1. 6.11	Male & female at one site since March	
14 'Bishop' species	???	MB26	0	30. 4.11	See note over	
15 House Sparrow	1591	MB26	12	15.1.11	Very young bird – showing yellow gape	
16 House Sparrow	1591	MA26	1	14.3.11	Several birds dead near grain store	
17 House Sparrow	1591	LB25	1	23.4.11	See note over	
18 Conservation	5011	MA26	99	15.1.11	See note over	
19 Wildlife Exploitation	5009	MA26	99	28.4.11	See note over	
20 Habitats – Wafrah sewage lagoon	5008	MA26	99	1.5.11	See note over	

Notes

a. Observers may place their own sheet identifying mark in the space provided to identify the sheet.

b. The Species Code is the four digit number shown on Form 2, the Square Reference and the Breeding Evidence Code (BEC) are shown on Form 1. Only the highest BEC need be shown for each species/square but repeat information for all confirmed breeding occurrences (BEC 10-16), with notes of habitat, breeding period, nest site, clutch size, etc, would always be valued. Only show one record per line. Dates must be given in the format day/month/year, eg 14/06/2002. Only give one date in column 5; extra information and dates can be given in the notes column or on the reverse.

c. The notes space (column 6) may be used to report brief comments on breeding or habitat, eg '3 eggs' or '40 pairs in colony'. More detailed notes should be made on the reverse, or in an accompanying note, cross referring to the appropriate line number. Activities that are accurately described by the BEC definition need not be mentioned. Observers wishing to place any embargo on a record should mention this in the Remarks column.

It is recommended that ABBA Observer's Report Sheets should be copied to the local ornithological recorder, if one exists.

When complete this report sheet should be sent to: Michael C Jennings, ABBA Co-ordinator, Warners Farm House, Warners Drove. Somersham, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3WD, UK. Tel/Fax: 01487 841733 (International: 00 44 1487 84.1733). Email: arabianbirds@dsl.pipex.com

---

Remarks (continued from overleaf)

(NB It is not essential to include any extra remarks but they are very helpful. These are examples of the sort of extra information that is valued)

Line 2. Griffon A small colony on the Tuwaiq escarpment, about 5 prs – nest sites spread along 200 m of cliffs. 2 birds sitting on nests on ledges, 2 other visited ledges where there were almost certainly nests . Locality visited regularly during April and May, 15 adults in air together at dusk on 26 April.

Line 3 Long-legged Buzzard Cliff nest site located only after young had left the nest. Juv seen 1 km SW on 12 June, possibly from this site. Pair seen regularly in area in April and May. Under the nest were eggshells and the remains of many large Dhub lizards and a hare.

Line 10 Common Myna Visiting presumed nest site in lamp post. No other evidence to support breeding despite close watch over next few days. Note one found dead with dead sparrows at grain store – see records no 18.

Line 12 Crested Lark Carrying grasses collected on a lawn to a nest beside a thistle. Although this species is still quite common in the area it seems clear to me and other observers who have been here a number of years that this species is becoming much less common than it was. Some days we do not see it.

Line 14 'Bishop' A orange-red and black weaver-like bird seen several times by reeds and a lagoon on the southern ring road. Not identified for certain but may be a Northern Red Bishop <u>Euplectes franciscanus</u>, a photograph of which appeared in Phoenix 27 page 22. Seen carrying grass or reed strips.

Line 17 House Sparrow One group of sparrows was seen way into the desert near a temporary bedouin camp. There did not appear to be any suitable nesting habitat nearby (no bushes or rocks) so they probably come to this site to feed on spilt grain for sheep and camels and on human food scraps.

Line 18 Conservation At a grain store near a large dairy farm a number of dead birds were found including about 5-7 House Sparrows and a Common Myna. There was some evidence that poisoned grain had been put down for rats but samples of suspect baits seen could not be obtained as they were in a secure area.

Line 19 Wildlife Exploitation Various snare traps were being used at a small pond visited by many doves for drinking. The birds were taken away live and did not appear to be for human consumption. Some falconry objects seen in one of the 'hunters' cars, so perhaps these birds were being used for training falcons or as live falcon food.

Line 20 Waffrah sewage lagoon. This is an old style sewage lagoon (approx 200 m by 100 m = 2 ha) adjacent to the Waffrah light industry site. It has been in existence for about 8 years. It is surround by earth banks and overflow waste and sewage water evaporates here, sometimes creating wet muddy areas as it dries up or lagoons up to 60 cm deep. There is one small permanent area of reeds. The whole site is surrounded by planted tamarix bushes about 3 m high. This site is scheduled to disappear when it is connected to the mains waste water systems next year.