

This report is not completed. My first intention was to include pictures and maps as well as more text about logistics and birding spots. However, as time has passed by and I haven't been writing on this report for a long time, I publish it without this content. Hopefully, I will later update with a new version. So for now, here is a short introduction, a daily log and a list of species. If anyone has any questions about the Khartoum area, please feel free to contact me on ola.ellestrom@bredband.net.

Khartoum, Sudan 18/8 – 15/9 2005 & 30/12 2005 – 25/1 2006

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In the early autumn of 2005, I got the opportunity to work in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, for a period of four weeks. I was sent there by the Swedish Civil Aviation Administration (in Swedish: *Luffartsverket*) helping the Sudan CAA to educate Air Traffic Controllers.

Even though I had some time for excellent birding, much of the time in Khartoum had to be spent on work (which also was nice) and spending time with colleagues and Sudanese friends. So even if I stayed in Khartoum for four weeks, I only had opportunity for about ten days, or parts of days, in the field. This was, however, enough to realise that the Khartoum area is excellent for birding, especially when it comes to watch migrating birds.

As I couldn't find one single trip report from Sudan on the internet, apart from a short chapter in Giles Mulhollands African tour (he visited Khartoum only one day in december, <http://www.4-siteplanning.com/africanbirdtrips/trip-journals/trip15/trip15-contents.html>), I had no idea of how much birds and what species I could expect to see in the Khartoum area. However, it's understood that the Nile must be a great corridor for migrating birds, although I thought I was about a month too early. I still think October might be the best time, but the first part of September was also great to say the least.

Before the trip I had two objectives. One was to get out in the desert to see some desert and semi-desert specialities and the other was to get to agricultural areas south of Khartoum, trying to find the endemic Cinnamon Weaver. However, I knew it could be difficult to travel outside Khartoum as you might need permission to leave the capital and also because police and military seem to get a little suspicious when they see cameras and binoculars.

My stay didn't turn out as expected from a birding point of view. I only spent one morning in the desert and I didn't get out of town to search for Cinnamon Weaver (it turned out to be not necessary). Instead I found one of the best birding spots I have ever visited, right in the center of Khartoum. It's called Tuti Island and is about 2 km²

big, situated in the confluence of the Blue and the White Niles. I made my first visit to the island on the 31st of August, without any big expectations – I had never even heard of the place before – but I was stunned by especially the amount of migratory birds. Therefore, I decided to spend most of my remaining birding there instead of going to other places. It felt more interesting to me to explore the migration than to go for a big list of African birds.

Birding at a previously unknown spot (for me, at least), which proved to be so good for migratory birds, is actually one of the greatest pleasures of my life as a birdwatcher (and I have been to about 20 birding trips on 5 continents and been a relative hardcore birder in Sweden for about 20 years).

Later in autumn, I was asked by my employer if I wanted to go back to Khartoum for another stay – this time in winter. Not as exciting from a birding point of view, but as I liked the people, the climate and also because I wanted to take some photos (I bought a camera during the autumn) I accepted. The winter is of course not as good as the autumn but I had several memorable observations even during this stay.

At this second visit the work was a little bit different as I was going alone without any colleagues. This meant that I had to start work in the mornings every Saturday – Wednesday (Sudanese weekends are Thursday & Friday) which restricted my time for birding even more than in autumn.

Khartoum

Khartoum is the capital of Sudan, situated in the middle of the country, at the confluence of the White and the Blue Nile. Actually, it is three different towns but for a visitor it appears as one. But if you ask the Sudanese they still treat it as three different cities. Khartoum is situated southeast of the confluence. To the Northeast is Khartoum North and to the West of the Nile is Omdurman. The population for the three cities are said to be about 3 millions, but it's sometimes said to be a lot more than that.

It is a very safe and friendly town. The only real danger is the traffic, which can be very intensive and people are not caring too much about rules. I didn't have to drive on my own as I had a driver picking me up at the hotel each morning, and I'm very thankful for that.

Only once I was told not to use binoculars while birding in Khartoum. This was when walking at the bridge between Omdurman and Khartoum. When I later told a Sudanese friend about that, they said it was probably the police who had a boring day at work. Normally it shall be no problem. I had expected it to be much harder to be able to do bird-watching in the Khartoum area.

Bird-watching in Khartoum

I stayed at Hilton, which is situated very close to the confluence. It's in a green area of the town and it was possible to do nice birding walks close to the hotel. In this report, the area south of the confluence is referred to as Mogran. Tuti Island is a relatively large island in the confluence. It consists of agricultural areas, woodland and a village. Other spots in Khartoum, mentioned in this report is Wan Dakin, a small island in the White Nile between Omdurman and Khartoum, and Sunt Forest, a wooded area along the eastern shore of the White Nile, about 1-2 kilometers south of Mogran.

Finally, it shall be pointed out that the water level of the Nile differs a lot between the seasons. It was approximately about 5 meters lower water level in winter. Then, a lot of sand flats occur in the Nile, which are good for terns and waders. But as it is much drier some species, which were common in autumn, was completely missing in winter (e.g. Sacred Ibis, Abdim's Stork and Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling).

Daily log (days not mentioned was mainly spent on work and/or other non-birding activities), first visit (18/8-15/9)

18/8

Me and two colleagues arrived to Khartoum 22.45, local time. The journey had started in Copenhagen about 11 hours earlier. After changing flight in Frankfurt, a stopover was made in Cairo. From Frankfurt to Cairo every seat in the aircraft was occupied, but from Cairo to Khartoum there was no more than about 30 passengers. The arrival went smoothly and less than one hour after landing we were checking in at our hotel (Hilton).

19/8

As I was very tired after the trip, having also received a cold, just days before the trip, I decided to sleep as long as possible. When I finally woke up it was very hot outside and I didn't do any birding until late afternoon when I took a walk in a green area behind the hotel and along the Blue Nile. The number of species was relatively few but I had a nice flock of Sudan Golden Sparrows close to the Mogran Family Park and a White-browed Coucal in some dense thickets close to the hotel. Also, I found a Northern Masked Weaver in a flock of House Sparrows. Opposite the hotel, across the Blue Nile, I noted an island which looked green and inviting for birds. My birding aim of the trip was mainly to get out of town a few times, to see some desert birds and to look for Cinnamon Weaver in agricultural areas south of Khartoum, but hopefully there could be some time to visit this green island too.

21/8

I used the last two hours of the day for a walk along the Blue Nile. A small flock of White-winged Black Terns and an Icterine Warbler showed that the migration had started. However, the highlight was a beautiful black morph Gabar Goshawk which was seen both perched and in flight.

24/8

After work, our hosts from the Sudan CAA, took us to lunch at a nice restaurant. Just outside the restaurant, I found a pair of Nile Valley Sunbirds, a species I expected to be common but I only saw it twice in autumn and once in winter. Instead, Beautiful Sunbird was very common. In the afternoon, I went for another walk along the Blue Nile, in the Mogran area. The highlight was undoubtedly a Yellow-breasted Barbet, which was seen just by the entrance to the Mogran Family Park. I never saw it there again although I searched for it several times (the habitat is not ideal, I think, so probably it wasn't a resident bird). Among migratory species I saw a few Red-backed Shrikes and more White-winged Black Terns.

25/8

Today there was no work so I headed for an extensive wooded area south of the hotel along the White Nile. The Nile was very flooded at the time so much of the forest (called "Sunt Forest") was under water. The area was good for birds although I visited it in the afternoon when it was very hot. Several species of Herons, Green Bee-eater, Abyssinian Roller and a small flock of Whiskered Terns were among the birds I saw. After this, I once again walked along the Blue Nile, where I found an Eastern Bonelli's Warbler.

26/8

My colleagues and I walked along the Blue Nile together, this time a little further away from the hotel than previous times. In this area, Little Bee-eater was common. A few Spotted Flycatchers and a Garden Warbler were new signs that this is a good area for migratory birds. About one kilometer from the hotel, I found out there was a ferry to the island which I thought could be great for birds. Now I decided to go there next time I was free from work in the morning, which was the following Wednesday (31/8).

28/8

Mainly work, but made another walk along the Blue Nile in the afternoon. Saw a few Willow Warblers and a European Marsh Warbler as well as more White-winged Black Terns.

31/8

Today I didn't start working until 12 o'clock so I decided to take the ferry to Tuti Island in the morning. Among the first birds I saw was a pair of Egyptian Plovers on the south shore of the island. Then I saw a couple of Lesser Grey Shrikes on a telephone wire and several Hoopoes. I continued westwards along the island and found new birds all the time. In all, I had 17 new trip species this day. Most amazing was probably that I saw at least 50 Hoopoes! Fields of maize proved to be good for birds, especially weavers. Most were Village Weavers, but I also saw several Northern Masked Weavers and Northern Red Bishops. Just when I decided to turn around to be able to get back in time for work I found an area with maize which held a lot of weavers. When looking without binoculars, I saw what appeared to be a reddish-brown weaver-like bird flying into the maize. "Well, couldn't that be..."? I scanned the tops of the maize and found just the two common species. Damn, I felt

so sure that was something different! One more scan, and suddenly I found not one, but two male Cinnamon Weavers. The species I had planned to make a possibly expensive and unsafe expedition for south of Khartoum was found two kilometers from the hotel. Fantastic! After ten minutes with the weavers I return towards the ferry, this time following the edge of the woodland instead of walking across the fields. This resulted in nice species as Black Scrub-Robin, Masked Shrike and White-throated Bee-eater. Also, another Yellow-breasted Barbet was seen, the second and last of the trip.

2/9

I woke up before dawn and had my mind set on a trip to the desert. But I really didn't know where to go. In a brochure about Khartoum there was a picture of a nice sandy desert called "Desert west of Omdurman". So I asked in the hotel reception that I wanted to go to a place like that. They were a little puzzled and didn't understand what I should do there. But after a little conversation they asked a taxi driver outside and finally I was on my way. After about 20 minutes we were out of the city and it looked promising. So after a few more kilometers I told the taxi driver to stop and told him I would take a little walk of about two and a half hours. First I walked over some sandy plains, hardly seeing any birds at all. Then I headed for some stony hills with a small wadi a bit further away. Here I found several nice birds such as Desert Lark, Southern Grey Shrike, White-crowned Black Wheatear and best of all two Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse. On my way back to the road, crossing the sandy plains and yet again seeing almost no birds at all, five small birds landed on the ground ahead of me. It was a flock of Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks – very nice! Before leaving, in a rocky area close to the road, I saw a pair of Blackstarts, which perhaps is a little outside the range shown according to Sinclair & Ryan.

In the afternoon, some of the students took me and my colleagues on a trip in the southern part of Khartoum, along the eastern shore of the White Nile. Not so many birds, although the only Glossy Ibises of the trip were seen.

4/9

I had another morning free from work so I went to Tuti Island again. I decided to walk fast past the area I covered last time because I thought the northwestern part looked very good from a distance. This proved to be a good decision. Already from the beginning it was obvious there were more birds around than last time. I saw several European Rollers and flocks of European Bee-eaters were seen or heard almost all the time. When I reached the point where I turned around last time, I suddenly had several White-headed Babblers feeding at a close range. A new bird for me, and a species I hadn't expected. But I later saw two more flocks and actually saw it every time I later visited the island. The following hour contained more surprises. The first was a very tired Ruddy Turnstone, which was standing at a field about ten meters from the shore. It didn't fly although I was only three meters from it. It is probably rare with inland records from Africa. Later I walked along an area with grass. I heard something moving although I couldn't see anything. I assumed it was a small mammal. Out of curiosity I tried to either flush it (if it was a bird) or make it run out on the path. I succeeded and I got a very nice view of a Corncrake crossing the path just a few meters ahead of me. The fields in the northwestern part

were great for birds and I saw for example about 40 Lesser Grey Shrikes. On the way back I had another nice observation as I found a Barred Warbler in some thickets along the path.

6/9

I went to Tuti Island in the morning as I didn't have to be at work until 13.00. I will probably never forget this day as the island was cooking with birds. Compared to the previous visit, it was more of almost everything. As last time, I decided to focus on the open area in the northwestern part of the island. But even before I came there it was obvious that there were more shrikes, more wheatears, more warblers and more hoopoes than before. In fact, I counted about 120 hoopoes in the open areas of the island - an area of about 2 km x 300m! At earlier visits, I had only seen a few wheatears. Today, there were at least one hundred of Northern Wheatears and also 3 Pied Wheatears, as well as a few Isabelline Wheatears. I also counted 110 Lesser Grey Shrikes and about 70 Red-backed Shrikes. The first Woodchat Shrikes were seen and also one Southern Grey Shrike. Among the warblers four Barred Warblers and one Great Reed Warbler were especially nice, and there were good numbers of Greater Whitethroats. Among the rarer birds the Ruddy Turnstone was still present, at the same spot as last time – still not looking healthy. And in short grass I flushed a little warbler at a distance of less than a meter. It appeared brown with a rounded tail – obviously a *Locustella*! It disappeared but I managed to flush it again and this time it landed so I could see it well. It was a Grasshopper Warbler – very nice to see that species on migration! And I also flushed a Long-tailed Nightjar which landed in the open – great observation! And two Common Mynahs, which of course might be escapees. The Cinnamon Weavers were also seen again – giving excellent views. It was, as I stated before, a memorable day – there were birds everywhere!

8/9

Today I was free so of course I once again went to Tuti Island. My colleagues Bertil and Thomas had been forced to hear my praises to the island for a few days and although not especially interested in birds, they decided to join me. Today turned out to be one of the hottest days I've experienced in my life – the temperature was 43 degrees in the shadow during the afternoon! As always there were lots of birds on the island although no species were seen in very high numbers. A few species was however added to the trip list, such as African Pied Wagtail and Black-crowned Tchagra. The most exciting thing was that a new "island" – a grassy flat halfway across the White Nile – had evolved since last time due to sinking water level. It was some distance but on this island I found a Yellow-billed Stork and lots of waders, among these about 300 Black-tailed Godwits. Due to the heat we stopped birding at about 10 o'clock and took the ferry from Tuti Island to Omdurman. From there we walked back across the Mogran Bridge which was tactically correct as it made me getting much closer to the island with the waders, making it possible to add for example several *Calidris*-species to the trip list!

9/9

Another day free from work and another early morning boat trip to Tuti Island. As I was free all day I decided to walk around the entire island, although it again was very hot and the northeastern part is mainly woodland and village. But the morning

hours were spent in the fields of the southern and western parts as usual. The number of shrikes was considerably lower than before but it was yet again lots of wheatears. In the "wheatear fields" northeast of the Omdurman ferry I found the first Desert and Black-eared Wheatears of the trip and also two wheatears, which first made me confused. But after a short consultation of literature I realized it was Heuglin's Wheatears, a species I had seen in Cameroon in 2003. I certainly didn't expect to see it in Khartoum! Close to the North edge I had excellent views of some Sudan Golden Sparrows and another surprising find – Crimson-rumped Waxbill. In the woodland of the north coast I found a pair of Vieillot's Barbets and among migrating birds a European Nightjar was especially nice.

12/9

Today I didn't start working until 13.00 so I had time for a few hours on Tuti Island again. However I woke up to very strong wind and for example the red carpet outside the entrance of Hilton had blown away several meters! But I went to the island anyway and once again it proved to be a good decision. The number of wheatears and warblers were lower than on previous visits. The two most common shrikes (Lesser Grey & Red-backed) were also seen in low numbers, but instead Woodchat and Masked Shrikes had their best day during my stay. But in all it was not as good as on previous visits. But due to the strong wind (from the east) there was instead an impressive visible migration. Among the first things I saw after entering the island was a flock of 8 European Golden Orioles flying east along the Blue Nile. In the following hour I saw several more flocks of that species – all flying east along the river. At the same time I noticed flocks of doves flying east along the south side of the island. To my surprise these were European Turtle-Doves, a species I hadn't seen in Sudan before. They came in flocks of about 30-80 birds and the total number during the morning was impressive – about 1300! Other species which migrated in good numbers during the morning were White-winged Black Tern and Garganey. Other good birds seen during this visit included a male Diederik Cuckoo, two Greater Short-toed Larks and the only Common Redstart of the trip.

15/9

I was free from work and in the evening it was time for me to fly back to Sweden. I had initially set my mind on Tuti Island but my colleagues had planned a trip to Jebel Aulia – a large dam in the Nile about 40 km south of Khartoum – and I decided to join them as it was said to be a good birding spot. The area held a lot of terns, pelicans and also some gulls (in fact the first I saw in Sudan). The highlight was however two Scissor-tailed Kites which flew by – unfortunately at a relatively long distance. On the way back, a flock of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouses flew across the road, becoming the last new species of the autumn trip.

Daily log (days not mentioned was mainly spent on work and/or other non-birding activities), second visit (30/12-25/1)

1/1

I celebrated the New Year with a visit to Tuti Island together with a Sudanese friend. I was really excited as I didn't know what to expect. Many of the African birds from

autumn was of course still around and easy to see, such as the White-headed Babbler. Only a few species which I didn't see in autumn was seen and none of these were surprising. Most pleasure gave the good number of Pied Wheatears. As it was very hot (or perhaps I hadn't adapted yet) we only birded the southern part of the island and returned back already at noon.

6/1

I made a new trip to Tuti Island with my Sudanese friend. Many birds were obviously the same as on New Year's Day but I found some new ones and also a few surprises. The greatest pleasure was the Pied Wheatear of the rare, white-throated form *vittata* – a form I had never seen before. Also very surprising was a Bimaculated Lark. More expected but still very enjoyable was my first Isabelline Shrikes in Sudan – three different birds. I also had another excellent view of two Crimson-rumped Waxbills close to the North edge and my first Stonechat (probably of the race *variegata*) in Sudan.

12/1

Yet again I found myself on the way to Tuti Island. On this, my 9th trip to the island I added six new species to my Sudan list. So far I've never left the island with less than four new ones which I find quite remarkable. The highlight of the day was the female Rüppell's Warbler which was seen in the scrub around the North edge. Apart from this and Egyptian Goose, the rest were common European birds, for example two species of Ringed Plovers. Also, my first Grey-headed Gull for Tuti Island was seen (but also seen in Jebel Aulia in September).

13/1

Today I had arranged with the driver from CAA to take me to some interesting desert areas north of Khartoum and also to do some birding in other areas of the Nile Valley. We departed early in the morning with a Landcruiser, which was more suited for desert trips than the Toyota Camry which normally was used for daily transport. The road out of Khartoum to the North is excellent - tarred and without very much traffic. After about an hour we were in very arid areas, locally with a lot of scrub vegetation and small acacias but in other areas sandy desert without any vegetation at all. In areas with vegetation we made several stops along the road. The most obvious thing was the lack of birds. A few wheatears of different species, small flocks of Blue-naped Mousebirds and some Crested Larks were all birds to be found in the first hour. Then, at a stop along the main road I hit the jackpot when I found a Nubian Bustard moving through the scrub. Not a very good observation – it was surely about 1 km away and after half a minute or so it disappeared behind vegetation – but nevertheless very nice and completely unexpected. After this success (I was so happy that my driver thought I had taken drugs) we continued out on sand tracks in areas without any vegetation at all. The lack of birds was even more prominent here. But the few birds to be seen – a Bar-tailed Lark and a small flock of Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks – were nice. Then we drove to a little camp by the Nile, west of the village of Sabaloga, where I walked around for about an hour and also made a short boat trip on the Nile – around the island named "The Sixth Cataract". Very rich birdlife! Especially from the boat I saw a lot of nice birds, for example Sudan Golden Sparrows and several Egyptian Plovers. And in the scrub

around the camp were lots of warblers. On the way back we stopped in some rocky areas where I saw a few Desert Larks and Southern Grey Shrikes. Back in Khartoum in the afternoon after a very exciting day we made a brief stop by the fish market in Omdurman, raising the daily total of Egyptian Plovers to 9.

19/1

Once again I went to Tuti Island and this came to be my last visit. And finally it seemed I had seen all the species there as I didn't get any new species on my Sudan list. Together with my Sudanese friend, who joined me at the island for a third time and really seemed to enjoy the birds, I walked around most of the island and also visited the southeastern edge for the second time and for the first time in winter. The highlights of this visit were a Speckled Pigeon (my second observation in Khartoum), a Sudan Golden Sparrow and a new Pied Wheatear of the *vittata* form.

20/1

A friend of mine had invited me to his native village, which is situated about 180 km southeast of Khartoum, along the Blue Nile. As he knew I was a birdwatcher he also had planned to take me out to some nice places apart from the usual content of dinner and meeting relatives. So I really looked forward to it as this part is a little different from the Khartoum area. We went there early in the morning. Not very many birds were seen en-route but a few Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks and two Pied Crows were new Sudan birds for me. In fact, these Pied Crows were the only Corvids I saw during my two stays in Sudan. And I didn't see a single vulture! Surprising and strange, but maybe it can explain why the Black Kite is so extremely common. After a few hours we arrived to the village, Arebab, and got dinner and a walk around in the village. After that we went to an area by the north bank of the Blue Nile with some farms and also a dry wadi. The area was relatively green and it had good numbers of wintering Palearctic birds. Compared to Tuti Island, there were more Black-eared Wheatears and Isabelline Shrikes. I also got two new Sudan ticks. Both were species that I had seen in Cameroon in 2003. African Collared Dove seemed to be relatively common and I saw about ten birds as we were driving around on the sandy tracks. And in a dry wadi I found two Sennar Penduline Tits. Late in the afternoon we left for Khartoum. On the main road northwest of Rufaa I saw a European Marsh Harrier and I expected it to be my last new bird in Sudan. Because then darkness arrived and it was my last day without work. But at dusk, before it got all dark, I suddenly saw a nightjar flying close to the road. It disappeared before I saw it properly. But only shortly afterwards I saw another one, much closer and also as it crossed the road. A large white wingpatch and a light yellowish plumage - the bird was a male Golden Nightjar! In the following half-an-hour I saw four more nightjars, however only one of which I saw well enough for 100% positive identification - that was also a Golden! As I understand after some research, the area where I saw the nightjars seems perfect for the species, that is very arid savanna with only few scattered trees and bushes. But still I never expected to see that species. It was a fantastic end to my Sudanese birding, at least for this time.

Species list

I have made separate lists for the autumn visit (A) and the winter visit (W). This way, I assume it's easier to compare the seasons.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

A: Not recorded

W: 2 Tuti Island 12/1, 2 Sabaloga 13/1

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

A: 7→ into the Blue Nile, Tuti Island 12/9

W: 5 Tuti Island 12/1

European Teal *Anas crecca*

A: 12↓ Tuti Island 9/9

W: Not recorded

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

A: Not recorded

W: 1 female Tuti Island 12/1

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A: 16↓ 6/9, 50↓ 9/9 and 550↓ 12/9, all seen from Tuti Island. Also, 50 Jebel Aulia 15/9.

W: Not recorded

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

A: On Tuti Island, singles were flushed on 6/9, 9/9 & 12/9.

W: Not recorded

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

A: 32↓ 7/9 & 14↓ 13/9, both observations at Mogran.

W: 110↓ along the White Nile, at Mogran 16/1.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

A: Seen regularly in the Mogran area, usually in small numbers. Highest count was 15 Wad Dakin 8/9. Also 10 Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: Not recorded

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

A: 1 Mogran 24/8, 1 Tuti Island 4/9, 7 Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: 3 Arebab 20/1

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

A: 7↓ Hilton Hotel at dusk 13/9

W: Not recorded

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

A: Very common. Breeds in large colonies along the shores of the Nile in the Mogran area and also at Jebel Aulia. Seen everywhere.

C: Common but in much reduced numbers since autumn.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

A: 15 Sunt Forest 25/8, 2 Wan Dakin 8/9

W: Not recorded

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A: 10 Wan Dakin 8/9, 30 Omdurman 9/9. Up to five on each visit to Tuti Island and singles on other sites along the Nile.

W: Relatively common around Tuti Island, with a maximum of 40 19/1, most on Sand flats in the White Nile. Singles seen elsewhere.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

A: 1 Sunt Forest 25/8, 1 Tuti Island 4/9

W: Not recorded

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

A: 10 Wan Dakin 8/9, 30 Omdurman 9/9. A few seen on most visits to Tuti Island and the Mogran area.

W: 1 Tuti Island 19/1

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

A: 5 Sunt Forest 25/8, 2 Jebel Aulia 15/9, up to 3 at each visit to Tuti Island.

W: Not recorded

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

A: Up to 3 daily in the Mogran area and at Tuti Island.

W: 2 Tuti Island 6/1, 4 Tuti Island 12/1, 2 Tuti Island 19/1

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

A: Up to 10 daily in the Mogran area and at Tuti Island.

W: 1 Tuti Island 12/1, 1 Tuti Island 19/1

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

A: 1 Wan Dakin 8 & 9/9, 1 seen in flight Tuti Island 12/9. Probably only one bird involved in these observations.

W: Not recorded

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

A: Seen daily in small numbers, both at Tuti Island and in central Khartoum. Breeds in the area.

W: Not recorded

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

A: 70← White Nile, South of Khartoum 2/9

W: Not recorded

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

A: Common in the Mogran area, where it also breeds in small numbers in the Cattle Egret colonies. Flocks of up to 60 were seen each evening flying south past Mogran to roost further south.

W: Not recorded

Scissor-tailed Kite *Chelictinia riocourii*

A: 2→ across the White Nile at Jebel Aulia 15/9.

W: Not recorded

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

A: 1 close to Sunt Forest 20/8, 1 in southern Khartoum 2/9.

W: Not recorded

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

A: Very common everywhere. Probably only ssp *aegyptius*, often considered a separate species.

W: Still very common everywhere but the impression was that the number was reduced since autumn.

European Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A: Not recorded

W: 1 female close to Rufaa 20/1

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A: 1 female ↓ Tuti Island 12/9

W: Not recorded

Gabar Goshawk *Melierax gabar*

A: Seen on four visits to Tuti Island, with a maximum of 4 on 12/9. Also, two birds were seen at Mogran and one in Omdurman. Two birds were of the beautiful black morph.

W: On Tuti Island: 1 1/1, 2 6/1 & 1 12/1. One bird on 6/1 was of the black morph.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

A: 1 Tuti Island 31/8, 1 Hilton 1/9

W: Not recorded

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

A: not recorded

W: 1 male Tuti Island 1/1 & 6/1, 3 en-route Khartoum – Rufaa 20/1

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

A: 1 juv seen around Hilton several times. Also 1 ad central Khartoum 24/8, 1 ad Sunt Forest 25/8, 1 Khartoum airport 7/9 and 1 juv Tuti Island 12/9.

W: Not recorded

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

A: 1 ad Hilton 7/9

W: Not recorded

Corncrake *Crex crex*

A: One seen on Tuti Island 4/9. Great observation.

W: Not recorded

Nubian Bustard *Neotis nuba*

A: Not recorded

W: 1 in semi-desert with scattered bushes, SE of Sabaloga 13/1

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

A: 4 Tuti Island 4/9, 10 Wan Dakin 8/9

W: 10 Tuti Island 6/1, 50 Tuti Island 12/1, 10 Omdurman 13/1 & 70 Tuti Island 19/1.

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*

A: 2 Tuti Island 6/9 (western shore), 5 Tuti Island 9/9 (northeastern shore).

W: Not recorded

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius*

A: On Tuti Island: 2 31/8, 2 8/9 (same as 31/8), 1 9/9. Probably three birds involved.

W: On Tuti Island: 2 1/1, 5 6/1, 2 12/1 & 4 19/1. Other observations were 6 Sabaloga 13/1, 3 Omdurman 13/1 and 2 Arebab 19/1. Obviously more common in winter than in autumn.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

A: Not recorded

W: 7 Tuti Island 12/1, 1 Tuti Island 19/1

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

A: Not recorded

W: 4 Tuti Island 12/1, 15 Tuti Island 19/1

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

A: Common in agricultural areas

W: Common as in autumn

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

A: 2 Wan Dakin 8/9

W: 3 Tuti Island 12/1, 10 Tuti Island 19/1

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

A: 1 Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: Not recorded

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

A: 50↓ Tuti Island 6/9, 15 Wan Dakin 8/9

W: 2 Tuti Island 19/1

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

A: 1 Wan Dakin 8/9

W: Not recorded

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

A: 30 Wan Dakin 8/9, 25 Tuti Island 12/9

W: 4 Tuti Island 19/1

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

A: 15↓ Tuti Island 4/9, 300 Wan Dakin 8/9, 20↓ Tuti Island 9/9, 15 Tuti Island 12/9

W: 30 Tuti Island 6/1, 2 Tuti Island 12/1

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A: 4↓ Tuti Island 6/9, 1 Wan Dakin 8/9, 2→ Hilton 14/9

W: 1 Tuti Island 6/1, 4 Tuti Island 12/1, 7 Tuti Island 19/1

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

A: 4 Sunt Forest 25/8, 1 Mogran 28/8, 1 Tuti Island 6/9, 1 Tuti Island 12/9

W: Not recorded

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

A: 6 Wan Dakin 8/9, 4 Tuti Island 9/9

W: Not recorded

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleuca*

A: Relatively common in the Mogran/Tuti area with up to 10 seen at each visit. Also 3 Jebel Aulia 15/9.

W: 1 Tuti Island 1/1, 5 Tuti Island 12/1, 5 Sabaloga 13/1, 5 Tuti Island 19/1, 3 Arebab 20/1

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

A: An odd find was 1 juv on Tuti Island 4/9 and still present on 6/9. The bird was obviously sick and didn't fly although I was just three metres away. Inland records in Africa is probably unusual.

W: Not recorded

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

A: Not recorded

W: 30 Tuti Island 12/1

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

A: 3 Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: 1 Tuti Island 12/9

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

A: 1 ad ssp *fuscus* ↓ Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: Not recorded

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

A: Relatively common at Tuti Island. Seen every visit, with maximum 40 6/9. Also singles at Mogran and 3 Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: 4 Tuti Island 6/1, 25 Tuti Island 12/1, 10 Omdurman 13/1, 30 Tuti Island 19/1

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

A: First observation was 6 Mogran 21/8. After that increasing numbers and about 50 seen at each visit to Tuti Island. There were also 80→ along the Blue Nile 12/9. Also 22 Sunt Forest 25/8, 25 south of Khartoum 2/9 and 250 Jebel Aulia 15/9.

W: 200 Tuti Island 1/1, 1000 Tuti Island 6/1 & 12/1, 2500 Tuti Island 19/1. Also seen in small numbers everytime I visited the shores of the Nile. The largest flocks were at sand flats outside the northeastern shore of the island. This part was only visited on 19/1.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

A: 4 Sunt Forest 25/8, 5 Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: Seen in the big flocks of White-winged Black Terns. At least 10% of the *Chlidonias*-terns were this species, that is about 250 on 19/1.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii*

A: 2 west of Omdurman 2/9

W: Not recorded

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

A: 10 north of Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: not recorded

Rock (Feral) Pigeon *Columba livia*

A: Common

W: Common

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

A: 1 Tuti Island 9/9

W: 1 Tuti Island 19/1

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

A: Not recorded

W: 10 Arebab 20/1

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

A: A spectacular migration at Tuti Island in the morning of 12/9 with 1300→ along the Blue Nile. A few birds were seen on the northern part of the island the same day but otherwise no observations.

W: Not recorded

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

A: Common

W: Common

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

A: Common

W: Common

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

A: 4 Sunt Forest 25/8, 2 Tuti Island 31/8, 1 Tuti Island 6/9, 2 Tuti Island 9/9

W: 3 in semi-desert north of Khartoum 13/1, 15 en-route Khartoum – Rufaa 20/1. On Tuti Island: 4 1/1, 2 6/1, 2 12/1, 2 19/1.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

A: Seen on all visits to Tuti Island, with a maximum of 6 6/9.

W: Seen on three out of four visits to Tuti Island, maximum 4 6/1.

Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

A: A splendid male close to the north edge of Tuti Island 12/9

W: Not recorded

European Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

A: Singles seen on Tuti Island 4/9, 6/9, 9/9 & 12/9. The bird on 9/9 was an adult, the rest were juveniles.

W: not recorded

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

A: Seen almost daily at Tuti Island, with a maximum of 6 4/9. Also seen several times in the Mogran area and in scrub around Hilton. This species is often lumped with Burchell's Courser *Centropus burchelli*, a species found in Southern Africa.

W: Seen at all visits to Tuti Island, maximum 4 1/1.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

A: One seen in flight outside Hilton in the evening 3/9.

W: One calling in Riadh (part of Khartoum) in the evening of 17/1.

Golden Nightjar *Caprimulgus eximius*

A: Not recorded

W: 2 positively identified en-route Rufaa – Khartoum 20/1 (approximately 30-40 km from Rufaa). Another four nightjars were briefly seen in the same area and could very well be the same species. All birds were seen hunting at dusk or shortly after that. The area was very arid savanna with only few scattered trees and bushes.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

A: One male flushed and then perching in a tree at the northeastern part of Tuti Island 9/9.

W: Not recorded

Long-tailed Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis*

A: A splendid male flushed from the ground and then perching in the open at Tuti Island 6/9.

W: Not recorded

European Swift *Apus apus*

A: 60↓ Hilton 14/9, 100 Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: Not recorded

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

A: Common

W: Common

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

A: Relatively common in the entire Khartoum area, also in the more urban parts of the town. Seen daily in small numbers.

W: As in autumn. Also relatively common in semi-desert north of Khartoum.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

A: Small numbers seen several times in the Mogran area and at Tuti Island, usually only 1-2 a day.

W: 1-2 seen on all visits to Tuti Island. Also, 2 Sabaloga 13/1 and 2 Rufaa 20/1.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

A: Only seen on Tuti Island: 1 31/8, 6 4/9, 1 6/9, 5 8/9, 12 9/9.

W: Not recorded

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

A: Common at Tuti Island, about 50 seen on each visit. Especially common on the northeastern shore which I only visited once, 9/9, when the daily total became more than 100.

W: About 25 at each visit to Tuti Island. Also about 20 Arebab 20/1.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

A: 15 Sunt Forest 25/8, 10 Tuti Island 31/8

W: 6 Sabaloga 13/1, 2 en-route north of Khartoum 13/1

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

A: On Tuti Island: 150 4/9, 7 9/9, 50 12/9. Also 6↓ Hilton 8/9.

W: Not recorded

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

A: Only seen on Tuti Island: 6↓+8 4/9, 3↓+1 6/9, 2 8/9, 3 9/9, 1 12/9.

W: Not recorded

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*

A: Seen on every visit to Tuti Island, but only 1-2 daily. Also seen several times from the car while going to work (perching on telephone wires) and a few times in the Mogran area. Also, 2 Sunt Forest 25/8.

W: Not recorded.

European Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

A: Common on Tuti Island, both as a breeding and a migrating species. Daily counts: 50 31/8, 20 4/9, 120 (!) 6/9, 30 8/9, 40 9/9, 25 12/9. The largest flock on 6/9 consisted of 17 birds! A few birds were also seen at Sunt Forest and in agricultural areas around Khartoum.

W: On Tuti Island: 10 1/1, 20 6/1, 10 12/1, 10 19/1. A few seen elsewhere.

Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A: 1 Mogran 24/8, 3 Jebel Aulia 15/9. Also seen on four visits to Tuti Island: 5 4/9, 10 6/9, 1 8/9, 2 9/9

W: 1 Tuti Island 1/1, 2 Tuti Island 6/1

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasatus*

A: 1 Tuti Island 31/8, 1 in south Khartoum 2/9, 3 Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: Not recorded

Yellow-breasted Barbet *Trachyphonus margaritatus*

A: 1 at the entrance to Mogran Family Park 24/8 and 1 Tuti Island 31/8. A nice surprise!

W: Not recorded

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieliloti*

A: 2 seen and heard calling in the wooded northeastern part of Tuti Island 9/9

W: Not recorded

European Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

A: On Tuti Island: 1 9/9, 2 12/9.

W: Not recorded

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*

A: Not recorded

W: 8 en-route Khartoum – Rufaa 20/1

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*

A: 5 west of Omdurman 2/9

W: 4 in sandy desert east of Sabaloga 13/1

Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*

A: Not recorded

W: 1 SE Sabaloga 13/1

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*

A: 2 west of Omdurman 2/9

W: 5 in stony desert around Sabaloga 13/1

Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*

A: Not recorded

W: 1 Tuti Island 6/1. A surprise find this far south!

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

A: 2 Tuti Island 12/9

W: not recorded

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

A: Common at Tuti Island (up to 30 on each visit) and seen at several other places in the Khartoum area.

W: Common at Tuti Island and also in semi-desert areas north and southeast of Khartoum.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*

A: Common

W: Common

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

A: Not recorded

W: 5 Sabaloga 13/1

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A: 1 west of Omdurman 2/9, 5 Tuti Island 6/9, 20 Tuti Island 12/9, 1 Hilton 14/9, 25↓ Hilton 15/9

W: Seen in small numbers, especially at Tuti Island. Highest count was 50 1/1.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

A: Relatively common. Seen almost daily, even when not birding.

W: 3 Tuti Island 12/1, 10 Tuti Island 19/1

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

A: 10 Jebel Aulia 15/9

W: Not recorded

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

A: 1 Tuti Island 4/9, 1 Tuti Island 6/9, 2 Tuti Island 12/9

W: Not recorded

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

A: On Tuti Island: 2 6/9, 4 9/9, 5 12/9

W: On Tuti Island: 8 6/1, 3 12/1, 1 19/1. Also, 1 Arebab 20/1

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

A: Not recorded

W: 3 Tuti Island 6/1, 1 Tuti Island 12/1

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

A: 15 Tuti Island 9/9, 10 Tuti Island 12/9

W: Common at Tuti Island and in agricultural areas elsewhere. Most appeared to be of ssp *flava*, but also a few *thunbergi* and one *lutea*.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

A: Not recorded

W: Common, especially at Tuti Island

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

A: 2 Tuti Island 8/9, 1 Tuti Island 9/9

W: 2 Tuti Island 1/1, 1 Tuti Island 12/1, 1 Sabaloga 13/1, 2 Rufaa 20/1

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

A: Common

W: Common

Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin *Carcotrichas galactotes*

A: 1 Tuti Island 6/9, 1 Tuti Island 9/9

W: 1 in scrub just outside Hilton 31/12

Black Scrub-robin *Cercotrichas podobe*

A: Resident on Tuti Island, where usually seen in pairs. Daily counts were 1 31/78, 4 4/9, 6 6/9, 2 8/9, 8 9/9, 4 12/9.

W: Seen at every visit to Tuti Island: 8 1/1, 4 6/1, 15 12/1, 4 19/1. Also, 3 Sabaloga 13/1

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A: 1 female Tuti Island 12/9

W: Not recorded

Blackstart *Cercomela melanura*

A: 2 west of Omdurman 2/9

W: 3 Sabaloga 13/1

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

A: Only seen on Tuti Island: 1 31/8, 2 4/9, 8 6/9, 4 9/9, 20 12/9

W: Not recorded

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

A: Not recorded

W: 1 male Tuti Island 6/1, 1 male (not the same as 6/1) & 1 female Tuti Island 12/1, 1 female Tuti Island 19/1 (same as 19/1). The female seemed to be of the ssp. *variegata*. Unfortunately the males weren't seen well enough to identify to subspecies.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

A: Only seen on Tuti Island: 1 31/8, 1 4/9, 5 6/9, 1 9/9

W: Only seen on Tuti Island: 3 1/1, 4 6/1, 2 12/1

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A: On Tuti Island: 7 4/9, 100 6/9, 15 8/9, 150 9/9, 30 12/9

W: Relatively common on Tuti Island with up to 20 seen on each visit. A few seen elsewhere.

Heuglin's Wheatear *Oenanthe heuglini*

A: 2 Tuti Island 9/9. A surprise which confused me when I first saw the birds.

W: Not recorded

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

A: 3 Tuti Island 6/9, 1 Tuti Island 8/9, 8 Tuti Island 9/9

W: Common in green areas: up to 20 on each visit to Tuti Island. One male of the white-throated morph *vittata* was seen on the last three visits (6/1-19/1). On the last visit, another similar bird was seen. Also, 2 Sabaloga 13/1, 7 en-route north of Khartoum 13/1, 5 en-route Khartoum – Rufaa 20/1 and 4 Arebab 20/1.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*

A: 2 Tuti Island 9/9, 1 Tuti Island 12/9

W: 2 Tuti Island 6/1, 1 Tuti Island 19/1, 4 Arebab 20/1

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

A: 1 female Tuti Island 9/9

W: 2 Tuti Island 1/1, 6 Tuti Island 6/1, 4 Tuti Island 12/1, 9 in the Sabaloga area 13/1, 2 Tuti Island 19/1

White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*

A: 4 west of Omdurman 2/9

W: Not recorded

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

A: Not recorded

W: 1 female Sabaloga 13/1

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

A: A relatively common bird on Tuti Island, where up to 10 were seen or heard on each visit.

W: Same as in autumn.

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*

A: Relatively common at Tuti Island and along the shores of the Nile in the Mogran area. Up to 20 seen in a day.

W: Same as in autumn.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

A: One flushed and then seen well at about two meters distance at Tuti Island 4/9. A species rarely seen in Africa (due to secretive habits when not singing – it is a regular passage migrant and winter visitor).

W: Not recorded

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A: 2 Tuti Island 4/9, 1 Tuti Island 9/9, 2 Tuti Island 12/9

W: Not recorded

European Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

A: 1 Mogran 28/8

W: Not recorded

European Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A: 4 Tuti Island 6/9, 3 Tuti Island 9/9. I didn't visit any suitable habitat except for small areas of Tuti Island (a comment also valid for some of the following species).

W: Not recorded

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

A: 1 Tuti Island 6/9, 1 Tuti Island 8/9.

W: Not recorded

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

A: This species is probably both breeding and a migrant in the area. Around 10 were seen at each visit to Tuti Island and singles were seen at other sites in the Mogran area and at Jebel Aulia.

W: 1 Tuti Island 6/1, 5 Tuti Island 12/1, 2 Sabaloga 13/1, 5 Tuti Island 19/1

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

A: 1 Mogran 21/8, 1 Tuti Island 4/9

W: Not recorded

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli*

A: Not recorded

W: 1 female Tuti Island 12 & 19/1 (same bird on both occasions).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

A: 1 ad Tuti Island 4/9 and 4 juv Tuti Island 6/9. Very nice to see this species on migration!

W: Not recorded

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

A: Not recorded

W: About 15 at each visit to Tuti Island, 10 Sabaloga 13/1.

Greater Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

A: Obviously the most common migrant warbler at Tuti Island in the first half of September. Daily counts were 30 6/9, 3 8/9, 40 9/9 and 10 12/9.

W: 1 Tuti Island 6/1

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

A: On Tuti Island: 2 4/9, 3 6/9, 3 8/9, 5 9/9, 1 12/9. Also, singles seen at Mogran 26/8 and 28/8.

W: Not recorded

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*

A: 1 Mogran 25/8 and 1 Tuti Island 12/9

W: Not recorded

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

A: 1 Tuti Island 31/8, 1 in scrub in the desert west of Omdurman 2/9

W: Not recorded

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

A: Not recorded

W: 1 Tuti Island 1/1, 10 Sabaloga 13/1

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A: On Tuti Island: 15 6/9, 30 9/9, 15 12/9. Small numbers also seen in the Mogran area and 2 in the desert west of Omdurman 2/9.

W: On Tuti Island: 2 1/1, 2 6/1, 1 12/1

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

A: 2 Mogran 26/8 and 1 south of Khartoum 2/9. Also seen at all visits to Tuti Island: 2 31/8, 25 4/9, 15 6/9, 5 8/9, 15 9/9 and 10 12/9.

W: Not recorded

White-headed (Cretschmar's) Babbler *Turdoides leucocephala*

A: Resident on Tuti Island, where seen on all but the first visit. They are normally seen in small flocks of about 4-5 birds. Daily counts were between 5-15. On 12/9, I also released a bird who had been trapped in a fish net. This is a species with a very restricted range in eastern/central Sudan, Eritrea and northwestern Ethiopia.

W: Seen on all visits to Tuti Island, daily counts were between 6-10. Also, 7 at the Sixth Cataract, Sabaloga 13/1.

Sennar Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus punctifrons*

A: Not recorded

W: 2 Arebab 20/1

Nile Valley Sunbird *Hedydipna metallicus*

A: One pair close to the airport 24/8 and 1 male Tuti Island 8/9. I thought this species should be much more common!

W: 3 Arebab 20/1

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*

A: Common in gardens and wooded areas around Khartoum. Seen daily, even during non-birding activities.

W: Much scarcer than in autumn, with only a few (up to 5) at each visit to Tuti Island but not recorded around Hilton or in the central parts of Khartoum.

European Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A: 1 Tuti Island 6/9, 1 Tuti Island 8/9. On 12/9, I saw 68→ in small flocks along the Blue Nile and additional four birds were seen on the island.

W: Not recorded

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

A: 1 Tuti Island 8/9, 2 Tuti Island 9/9

W: Not recorded (although it's probably wintering in the area)

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

A: Not recorded

W: 3 Tuti Island 6/1, 2 Tuti Island 12/1, 6 Arebab 20/1

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

A: One of the most exciting things about Tuti Island was the large number of this species: 15 31/8, 40 4/9, 110 (!) 6/9, 10 8/9, 30 9/9, 25 12/9. A few birds were seen on other sites.

W: Not recorded

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A: Common migrant at Tuti Island: 5 31/8, 30 4/9, 70 6/9, 10 8/9, 40 9/9, 5 12/9. On 4/9 (but only this date) I recorded several males with grey back, indicating the ssp *kolybini*. A few birds were seen in other areas around Khartoum.

W: Not recorded

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

A: Only seen at Tuti Island, but in surprisingly low numbers compared to other shrikes: 3 4/9, 1 6/9, 4 9/9, 7 12/9.

W: Not recorded

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

A: 2 in the desert west of Omdurman 2/9, 1 juv Tuti Island 4/9.

W: 2 around Sabaloga 13/1, 1 en-route Khartoum – Rufaa 20/1

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

A: Only seen at Tuti Island: 1 31/8, 1 (probably the same as 31/8) 4/9, 8 (6 ad & 2 juv) 12/9.

W: 2 Tuti Island 6/1, 2 Tuti Island 12/1, 1 Arebab 20/1

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

A: Not recorded

W: 2 en-route Khartoum – Rufaa 20/1

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

A: Common around most of Khartoum

W: Not recorded

Rüppell's Starling *Lamprotornis purpuropterus*

A: 2 seen very well Tuti Island 31/8. Not seen on later visits, thus perhaps not resident on the island.

W: Not recorded

Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*

A: 2 in the southwestern part of Tuti Island 6/9. This species might be an escape but it has spread westwards on the Arabian peninsula and it is not impossible it could reach Khartoum from there. I can't find information on recent observations from Sudan, so it might be a new species for the country.

W: The two birds at Tuti Island were seen again, at the same place, on the 6/1.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A: Common. Often seen in large flocks, even in agricultural areas away from villages (in Sweden, it is rarely recorded outside towns and villages).

W: Common as in autumn.

Sudan Golden Sparrow *Passer luteus*

A: 10 Mogran 19/8, 4 Tuti Island 9/9.

W: 4 The Sixth Cataract, Sabaloga 13/1, 1 Tuti Island 19/1. Both observations at Tuti Island were at the Western shore, a few hundred meters from the North edge.

Northern Masked Weaver *Ploceus taeniopterus*

A: Breeding at Tuti Island, where about 10 seen on each visits. However, the 9/9, when I also visited the wooded Northeastern shore, the daily total was about 50.

W: Obviously scarcer than in autumn. Only observations were at Tuti Island, 10 6/1 and 15 12/1.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

A: Common in agricultural areas, especially at Tuti Island.

W: Common but obviously in smaller numbers than in autumn.

Cinnamon Weaver *Ploceus badius*

A: 2 males Tuti Island 31/8 and 6/9, both observations at the same place. This species is endemic to Sudan.

W: Not recorded

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

A: Up to 25 on each visit to Tuti Island, where it probably breeds. Also seen at the few times I visited other agricultural areas, so it is obviously common.

W: Much scarcer than in autumn, with maximum count 4 Tuti Island 12/1.

Cut-throat *Amadina fasciata*

A: 2 Tuti Island 4/9, 4 Tuti Island 12/9 (two pairs, including the ones from 4/9).

W: Much more common than in autumn but only seen on Tuti Island: 2 1/1, 10 6/1, 40 12/1, 60 19/1. Most birds were seen in flocks close to the North edge of the island (an area not visited on 1/1).

Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga*

A: 1 Tuti Island (at the North edge) 9/9 and 1 Tuti Island (at the Western shore) 12/9.

W: 2 close to the North edge on the Western shore of Tuti Island 6/1.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

A: Common at Tuti Island, up to 30 seen in a day. A few seen elsewhere.

W: Around 50 seen at all visits to Tuti Island. A few seen elsewhere.

African Silverbill *Euodice cantans*

A: Relatively common at Tuti Island with maximum count of 30 9/9, most along the wooded Northeastern shore. Much scarcer in the more open areas of the island. Also frequently seen in gardens and parks around Khartoum.

W: Seen in about the same numbers as in autumn.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

A: Seen at Tuti Island: 2 males 31/8, 1 male 6/9, 4 9/9, 3 12/9. Also, 1 male south of Khartoum 2/9.

W: Only seen at Tuti Island: 3 males + 1 female 6/1, 1 juv 12/1, 1 male 19/1. Obviously it breeds at the island.

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

A: Seen at five out of six visits to Tuti Island, with a maximum of 7 8/9. This species is parasiting the Red-billed Firefinch. Also seen at a two other sites when doing non-birding activities in Khartoum.

W: Seen on Tuti Island, 3 on each visit 6/1, 12/1 and 19/1. Also, 10 in the Arebab area 20/1.

White-rumped Seedeater *Serinus leucopygius*

A: On Tuti Island: 10 31/8, 2 6/9, 2 12/9. Only seen in the more wooded areas, where I didn't spend so much time. Also, 2 south of Khartoum 2/9.

W: Not recorded