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Charadrius dubius curonicus Gmelin, 1789 - Lybia, Tripoli, Alhadba



Study of birds in Libya. The coast line of Libya has different kinds of wetlands such as islands, lagoons, lakes, salt marshes and bays (Defos et al., 2001). These habitats provide foraging sites and good shelters for migratory birds during their migration from Europe and Asia to Africa and back. Moreover, some of these sites provide residential and nesting ground for some species. However, Libya, with its relatively dry climate, is perceived as having comparatively few wetlands and waterbirds. It is also, ornithologically speaking, the least known country of Mediterranean Africa (Smart et al., 2006). Recent reviews list 317 species, of which approximately 25% are breeders (Toschi, 1969; Bundy, 1976). They account for about 75% of the avifauna of Libya, passing from the western Palearctic region to their southern winter quarters. Some of these also occur here as breeding species. There are many other papers reporting about waterbirds (e.g. Gaskell, 2005; Smart et al., 2006; Hering, 2009; Essghaier et al., 2009; Etayeb & Essghaier, 2012; Etayeb et al., 2013a,b and 2014), as well as some unpublished reports (e.g. Defos du Rau et al., 2001, Etayeb, 2002). However, there are only few experienced ornithologists in Libya, which has resulted in deficiency of information on Libyan birds during last three decades. However during the last decade, interest in the Libyan wetlands has increased. In the mid-nineties the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), adopted a “Protocol concerning Special Protected Areas (SPA) and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean”. Annex II of the Protocol includes a “List of Endangered or Threatened Species”, including 15 waterbirds, for which a Bird Action Plan has been prepared (UNEP MAPRAC/SPA, 2003). Libya was involved in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and has also ratified the Ramsar Convention, and in 2002, two wetlands in the Jebel Akhdar area were designated. In 2005, Libya signed the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), under the umbrella of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (Smart et al., 2006). Consequently, a regular wintering water-bird census for Libyan wetlands has launched in year 2005.

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© Photos copyright of the authors. Off: Libya, Ain Ashaghigha, photo K.S. Etayeb. Middle: Gaber Own, photo K.S. Etayeb. Down: Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos* (Linnaeus, 1758), Libya, Tripoli, Alhadba, photo Bouras. Cover: Little Ringed plover, *Charadrius dubius curonicus* Gmelin, 1789, Libya, Tripoli, Alhadba, photo Bouras.