

## SAUDI ARABIA 2022



Arabian Spiny Mouse, Tanomah

I had a short-5-days-trip to Saudi Arabia, mostly to the mountains and lowlands of the SW and pretty much for birding, but I still managed to see a 12 species of mammals, including few interesting ones . Worth to say that it's fairly easy travel around but as my visit was during Ramadan, I had some problems to find accommodation and food, so I can recommend not to travel there during Ramadan.

The South West is very populated so spotlighting was a bit of an issue.

Here you have a commented list of the species I've managed to see

Hamadryas Baboon- Extremely common along all the roads, specially between Tanomah and Abha



Arabian Spiny Mouse- Fairly common around Tanomah, at high elevation, around 2000 masl. They like hang around cliffs and rocky outcrops

Wagner's Gerbil- One at Tanomah and one near the entrance of Raydah Escarpment.



King Jird- Fairly common near Abha and Tanomah. Very easy to detect their burrows, as they are sizeable. Not active in very early morning





Yemini Mouse- Just one near the entrance of Raydah escarpment. Lovely animals and a real specialty of this region



Straw-colored Fruit Bat- Very common near Jizan, specially near mango orchards.



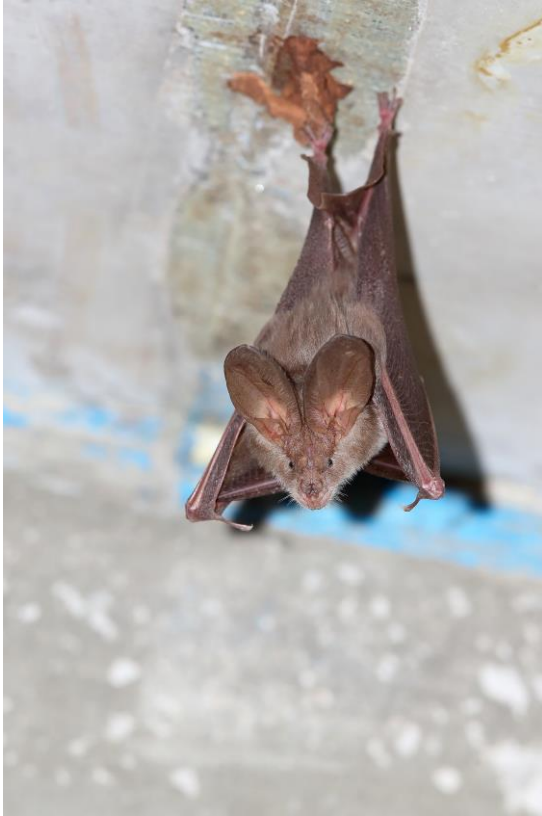
Straw-colored Fruit Bat and Egyptian Mouse-tailed Bat

Egyptian Rousette- Few of them at dusk after Bisha

Egyptian Mouse-tailed Bat- found inside an abandoned house near Jizan and inside a small cave near Riyadh. Smart!

Molossid sp- Had a potentially interesting sighting of few molossids that I couldn't identify at this location: 17.168142, 42.692574 . They emerged right after sunset, with light enough for good views, being pretty vocal (Perfectly audible with the naked ear). They weren't Tadarida, genus that I am very familiar with, so following literature they were either Midas Free-tailed Bat or Nigerian Free-tailed Bat.

Egyptian Slit-faced Bat- Bunch of them were roosting inside an abandoned house near Jizan, alongside with Egyptian Mouse-tailed Bats



Egyptian Slit-faced Bat and Geoffroy's Trident Bat

Geoffroy's Trident Bat- Hundreds in the Hidden Cave, near Riyadh

White-tailed Mongoose- One at night crossing the road below Tanomah

Red Fox- One near Tanomah

**Stuff I missed:** Large Aden Gerbil, that I looked for it in the far SW, near Jizan, and Garden Dormouse, that I tried at several localities without an sniff of it





Raydah Escarpment