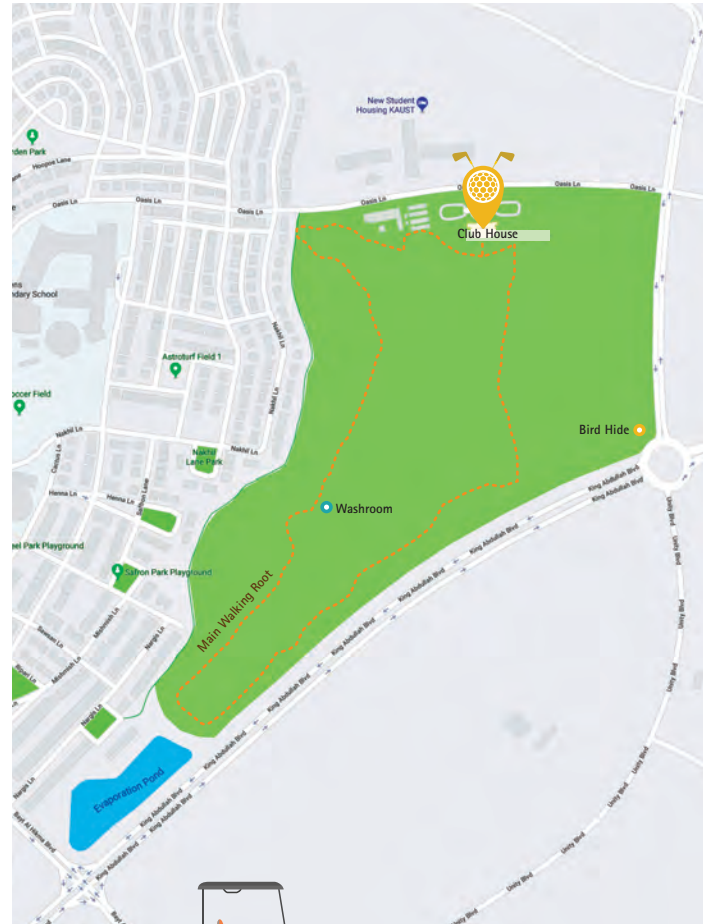


## Common Birds at the Golf Club

Common Name	status	Common Name	status
Gadwall	M	Namaqua Dove	R
Mallard	M	Common Cuckoo	M
Northern Shoveler	M	Short-eared Owl	M
Eurasian Teal	M	Nubian Nightjar	R
Little Grebe	M	Common Swift	M
Night Heron	R	European Roller	M
Squacco Heron	R	Pied Kingfisher	??
Cattle Egret	R	Common Kingfisher	R
Grey Heron	R	Green Bee-eater	R
Purple Heron	M	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	M
Little Egret	M	European Bee-eater	M
Great Cormorant	MW	Eurasian Hoopoe	R
Steppe Buzzard	M	Red-backed Shrike	M
Marsh Harrier	M	Daurian Shrike	MW
Common Kestrel	M	Lesser Grey Shrike	M
Corncrake	M	Steppe Grey Shrike	M
Spotted Crake	M	Woodchat Shrike	M
Common Moorhen	R	Masked Shrike	M
Eurasian Coot	R	House Crow	R
Black-winged Stilt	R	Crested Lark	R
Spur-winged Lapwing	R	Short-toed Lark	M
White-tailed Lapwing	M	White-spectacled Bulbul	R
Grey Plover	MW	Sand Martin	M
Ringed Plover	MW	Barn Swallow	M
Little Ringed Plover	M	Red-Rumped Swallow	M
Kentish Plover	R	Willow Warbler	M
Greater Sandplover	R	Greater Whitethroat	M
Common Snipe	M	Blackcap	M
Eurasian Curlew	MW	Common Myna	R
Whimbrel	MW	Song Thrush	MW
Common Redshank	R	White-throated Robin	M
Common Greenshank	M	Common Redstart	M
Wood Sandpiper	M	Siberian Stonechat	M
Common Sandpiper	R	Isabelline Wheatear	R
Little Stint	M	Northern Wheatear	M
Collared Pratincole	M	Black-eared Wheatear	M
Sooty Gull	R	Spotted Flycatcher	M
Slender-billed Gull	MW	House Sparrow	R
Caspian Gull	R	Ruepell's Weaver	R
White-winged Tern	M	Yellow Wagtail	M
Feral Pigeon	R	White Wagtail	M
European Turtle Dove	M	Tree Pipit	M
Eurasian Collared Dove	R	Red-throated Pipit	M
Laughing Dove	R	Tawny Pipit	M
		African Silverbill	R

R-resident, M-Migrant, MW-Migrant and winter

## Map of Walk



- Bird Hide ask at reception to be escorted by cart to the hide
- There are several water dispensers around the course.

Please report any unusual sighting to:  
[EnvironmentMatters@KAUST.edu.sa](mailto:EnvironmentMatters@KAUST.edu.sa)



### Other guides in this series

- Mangrove Walk
- King Adullah Monument & Nature Conservation Area
- South Beach

## HSE Self Guided Bird Walk Series

# The Safaa Golf Club



جامعة الملك عبد الله  
للعلوم والتقنية  
King Abdullah University of  
Science and Technology

Health, Safety  
and Environment

<http://hse.kaust.edu.sa>  
[EnvironmentMatters@kaust.edu.sa](mailto:EnvironmentMatters@kaust.edu.sa)

# Around the Safaa Golf Club

The golf course is an excellent place to observe many of the birds found at KAUST. The variety of habitats attracts both migrant and resident species.

There is a bird hide overlooking the main lake where water birds, including different species of herons, can be viewed at leisure. Two other lakes are also often productive.

The wooded areas and tall trees offer cover to many species and there is usual a plentiful supply of insects on which to feed. It is in these areas that a number of the most unusual birds have been found at KAUST. The open grassed fairways appeal to some species, including attractive bee-eaters and waders. A number of local birds have become resident here and many migrant species visit.

On Sunday afternoons the course is open to walkers and this is the best time to visit. During passage periods up to 50 species may be observed in one visit. At other times visits to the bird hide can be arranged by contacting the golf reception at 808 6158.

There are walking paths around the course which usually take about 60 minutes to complete. Arriving at the main pool towards dusk is highly recommended as many birds fly in or out at this time.

Over 170 birds have been seen at the golf course. A complete list is posted on the noticeboard in the reception area.



## Key Birds in the Area



### Caspian Tern

*Hydroprogne cassia* 53 cm

The world's largest tern frequently visits the main lake, plunge diving for the abundant fish found there. It has a bright red beak and is resident in the area.



### Eurasian Hoopoe

*Upupa epops* 28 cm

This attractive bird is often seen hunting worms by using its long bill to probe in the grass on the fairways. It often fans out its black and white crest as it lands.

### Black-crowned Night Heron

*Nycticorax nycticorax* 60 cm

During the day these herons are usually hidden in the thicker parts of the podocarpus trees. The adults have black caps and backs. The juvenile birds are streaked and have a diagnostic red eye when seen well.



### Green Bee-eater

*Merops orientalis* 24 cm

Often found perched on one of the rope posts from where they hunt insects, including bees. A resident. Usually found in pairs. Smaller than the similar migrant European and Bluecheeked Bee-eaters.



### Squacco Heron

*Ardeola ralloides* 45 cm

This small heron looks a dull yellow brown when seen standing. However, in flight its white wings become evident. It is often skulking at the main pool.



### Black Scrub Robin

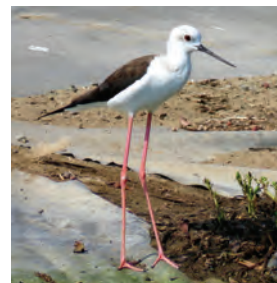
*Cercotrichas podobe* 18 cm

A local bird, well established at the golf club. Usually seen feeding on fairways but with cover nearby. The long tail has white tips. It often sweeps the tail in a circular motion.

### Black-winged Stilt

*Himantopus himantopus* 37 cm

This elegant bird has long red legs. It is often found in groups resting on the sides of the main lake. It is resident in the area and duller juvenile birds are often found with them.



### Ruepell's Weaver

*Ploceus glabula* 11 cm

A common resident which makes the familiar dome shaped nest. Females and juvenile birds are duller than the brightly coloured yellow male. Often nests in colonies. Noisy, chattering continuously.

