

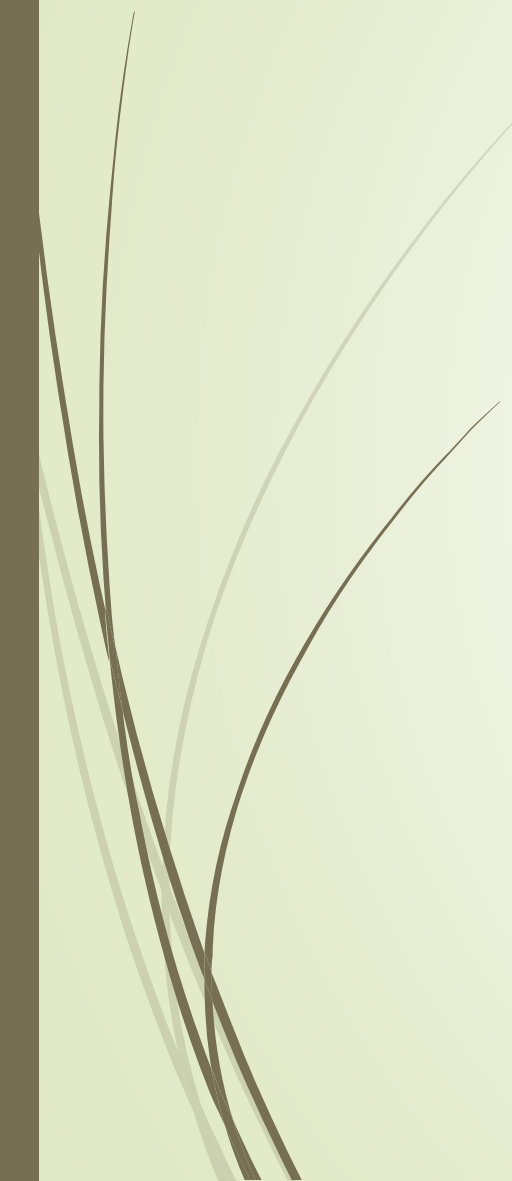


Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*) Conservation Efforts and Status in the Sultanate of Oman

Taimur Al Said

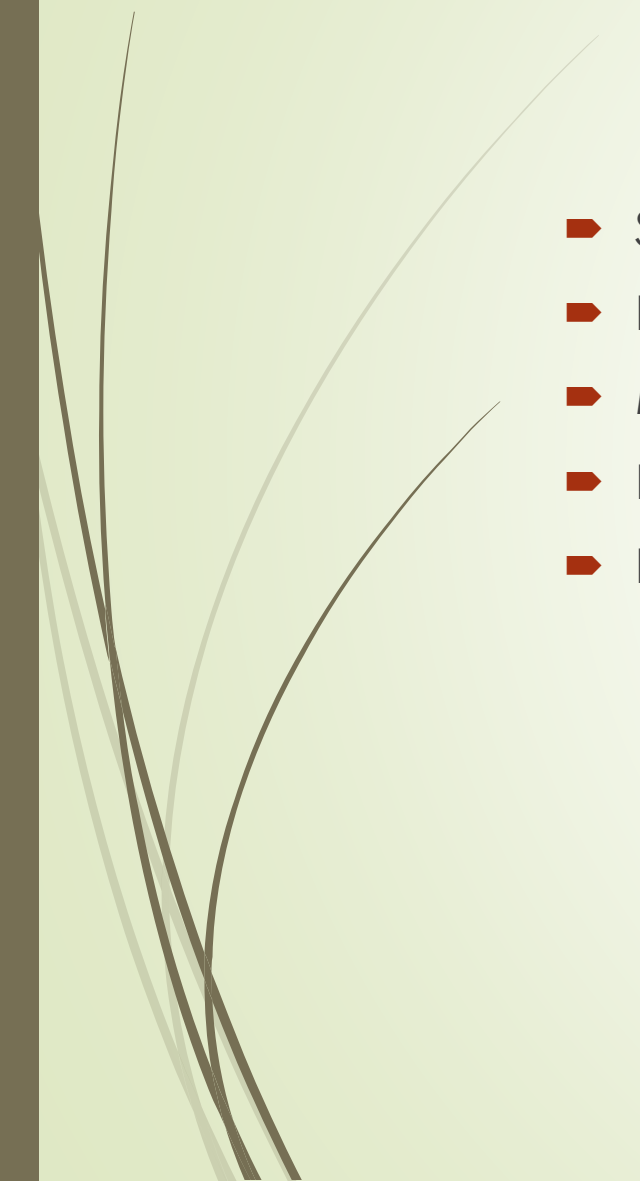


Species Overview

- Migratory falcon breeding in arid islands and coastal cliffs
 - They nest late summer to early autumn
 - Highly dependent on island ecosystems
 - Globally declining population
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What's been done in the past?

- Since 2014, no systematic surveys in Oman until recently
 - Few surveys elsewhere within breeding range
 - Most studies short-term or not comprehensive
 - Result: lack of up-to-date global and national status data
 - Evidence strongly suggests ongoing population decline
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Importance of Oman

- ▶ Historically one of the most important Nesting areas worldwide
- ▶ Main Nesting sites: – Daymaniyat Islands – Fahal Island – Suwaydi Islands
- ▶ Estimated pairs: – Daymaniyat Islands: 30–40 pairs – Fahal Island: 25–30 pairs – Suwaydi Islands: 5–10 pairs
- ▶ Longest and most detailed studies globally conducted in Oman

Nesting sites

Damaniyat islands reserve



Sawadi

Fahal

Muscat



7.5

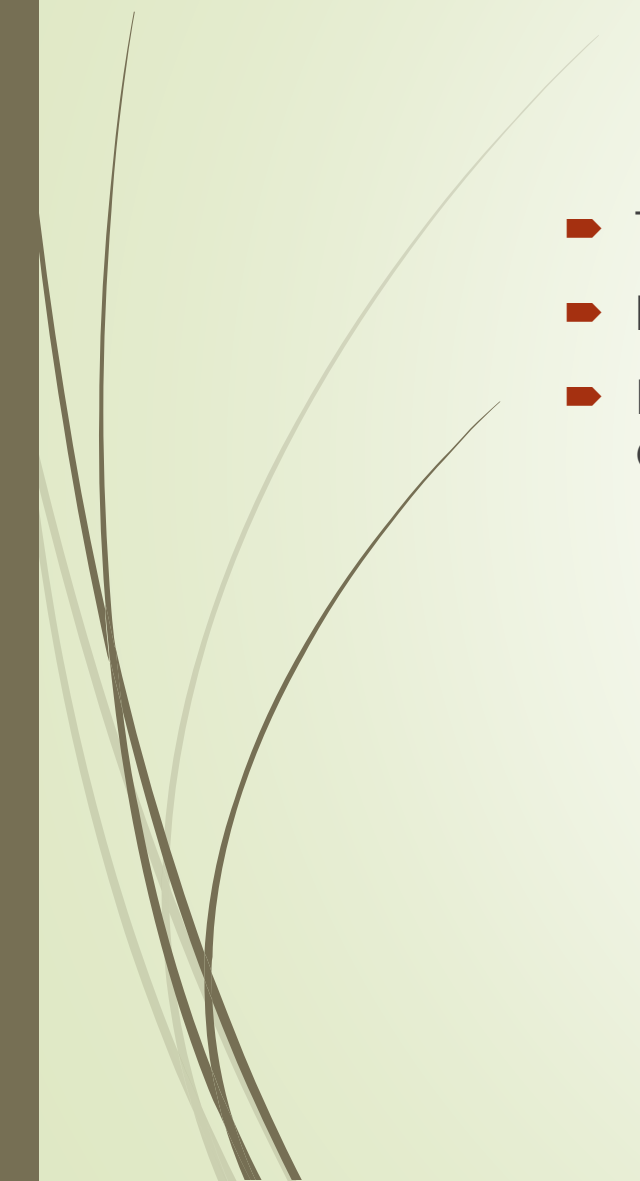
15 km

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Warning Signs of Decline (2022)

- ▶ Two rapid assessment visits in September 2022
 - ▶ Islands previously hosting ~10 pairs showed only 3 pairs
 - ▶ Reinforced concerns of decline: – Daymaniyat Islands – Oman nationally – Global population
- 



Survey Results 2023

- ▶ Total active nests located: 20 – Daymaniyat Islands: 9 nests – Fahal Island: 11 nests
- ▶ Daymaniyat findings: – 10 occupied territories on 4 islands – Average of 3 nestlings per nest
- ▶ Prey remains included: – Locusts (frequent) – Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Nightjar, Swift, Bridled Tern



Survey Results 2024

- ▶ Fahal Island: – Estimated 17–24 occupied territories – Numbers lower than 1978 and 2007–2014
- ▶ Daymaniyat Islands: – 11 nests occupied by at least one adult – Similar to 2023, lower than historical levels
- ▶ Some fledging occurred before surveys, limiting exact counts

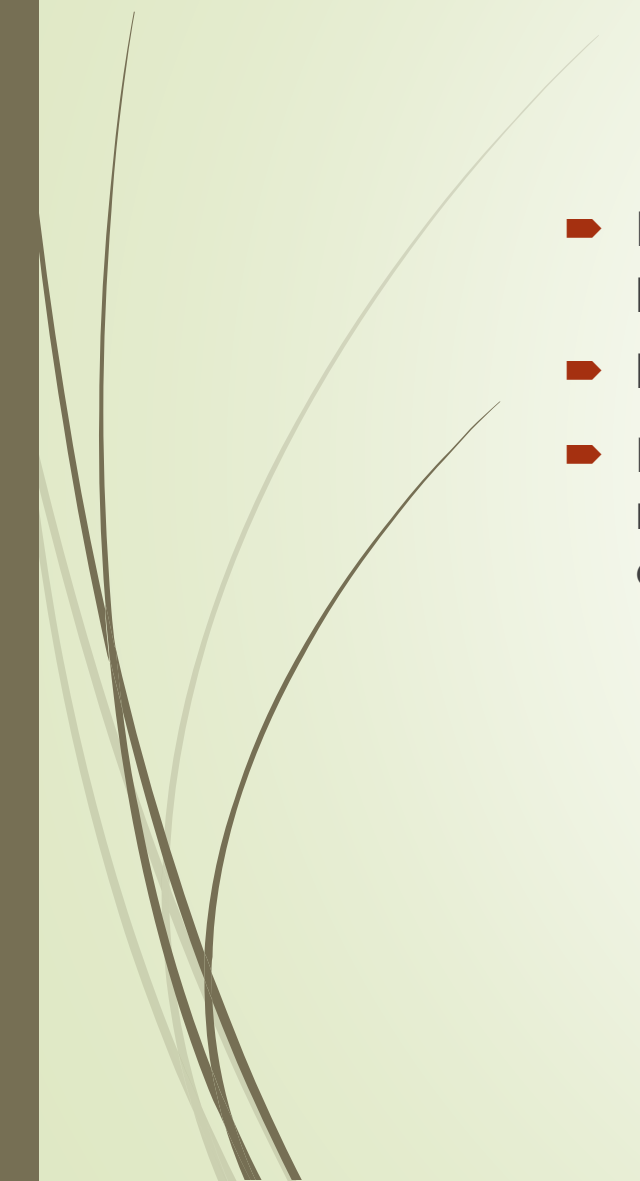


2025 Results & Ringing Programme

- ▶ Fahal Island: – 17–24 adult falcons – 15–20 successful nests – 21 nestlings
- ▶ Daymaniyat Islands: – 11 adult falcons – 8 successful nests – 18 nestlings
- ▶ 11 nestlings fitted with: – Metal BTO rings – Plastic green colour rings
- ▶ Ringing helps understand: – Movement – Mortality – Longevity – Site fidelity



Capacity Building & Way Forward

- ▶ Rangers trained and involved in: – Field surveys – Nest monitoring – Ringing procedures
 - ▶ Increased ranger enthusiasm and ownership
 - ▶ Next steps: – Improve survey forms and guidance – Establish long-term monitoring programme – Strengthen Oman's role in global Sooty Falcon conservation
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Thank you

