

Bird – Watching Tour



with

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

To

MOROCCO

MARCH 20th – 30th 2026

TRIP REPORT

Places Visited

DAY 1 – FRI 20TH

PRE-BREAKFAST WALK FROM GRAND PLAZA – ALL DAY VISIT TO THE HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS AT OUKAIMEDAN

DAY 2 – SAT 21ST

TRANSFER FROM OURIKA VALLEY TO BOULMALNE DU DADES VIA THE TIZIN' TISHKA PASS.

DAY 3 – SUN 22ND

TAGDILT TRACK ALL MORNING – DADES GORGE

DAY 4 – MON 23RD

TRANSFER FROM BOULMALNE DADES TO MERZOUGA, ERG CHEBBI DUNES WITH STOPS AT A WADI EAST OF BOULMALNE – WADIA EAST OF GOULMIMA

DAY 5 – TUES 24TH

CAFÉ YASMINA – MERZOUGA LAKE – RISSANI (TOURIST TRAIL)

DAY 6 – THURS 25TH

DESERT SAFARI – WALK IN WADI NEAR MERZOUGA

DAY 7 – FRI 26TH

TRANSFER FROM MERZOUGA TO TALIOUINE WITH STOPS AT ALNIF AND TAZENAKHT

DAY 8 – SAT 27TH

TRANSFER TO AGADIR WITH STOPS AT GORGE OF AOULOZ – SOUS VALLEY – OUED SOUS ESTUARY

DAY 9 – SUN 28TH

SOUSS MASSA NATIONAL PARK – SIDI QUASSAY

DAY 10 – MON 29TH

TRANSFER AGADIR TO ESSAOUIRA WITH STOPS AT CAPE GHIR - TAMRI BAY – QUED KSOB

DAY 11 – TUES 30TH

TRANSFER FROM ESSAOUIRA TO MARAKECH AIRPORT

DAY 1 – 20TH MARCH 2026

EARLY MORNING WALK IN MARRAKECH - ALL DAY VISIT TO THE HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS AT OUKAIMEDAN

WEATHER: lots of morning sunshine with moderate breeze, cloudy later and much colder. Rain from 4pm onwards.

We started the tour this morning with a pre-breakfast walk to a local park, which happened to be closed, it was a national holiday due the ending of Ramadan. So, we walked the streets around the park and found a few interesting species. Common Bulbuls, House Buntings, House Sparrows, Spotless Starlings, Collared Doves and Wood Pigeons seemed to be everywhere.



sunrise in Marrakech

We found a single Turtle Dove, a few Sardinian Warblers, Greenfinches and then Pete found a Booted Eagle perched nearby which was a great find. The most impressive species was the swift, dozens of them filled the sky. Mostly were Pallid Swifts with a few local, non-migratory Little Swifts and Common Swifts were also seen. On the way back to breakfast it was Pete again who picked out another raptor, this time it was an Osprey.



Booted Eagle

We were joined at our al fresco breakfast tables by several House Buntings, the cheeky little mites came down for crumbs.



House Bunting and a dog bowl

At 9am we were on our way for the tour-proper, we headed directly up to Oukaimedan, a skiing village in the High Atlas Mountains that sits on a large plateau with ski-slopes all around it. On the way up we stopped to buy lunch provisions, but because of the Ramadan Holiday most shops were closed, we found fruit and snacks and water.



There was a lot more snow this year than in the previous 5 years

Our first stop as we climbed the slopes produced a few species, but it was slow and hard work. Moussier's Redstart was the pick of this first stop, we also saw African Blue Tit, a Sparrowhawk, African Chaffinch and a Sardinian Warbler.



Moussier's Redstart

The next stop was a little higher up and we had much more success from there, our view from the road overlooked a large area of rocky terrain with patches of grass and some bushes. Behind us and above was a rocky hillside with a pinewood covering a large area.



We found a few target species which included; Blue-rock Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Black Wheatear, Rock Bunting and Cirl Bunting, Moussier's Redstart (again), Coal Tit (heard) and a family of Northern Ravens flew over.

Next, we found ourselves in a clearing in some pine woods about 2km further up the hill. We searched for Firecrest which called, but was only seen by two of the group. Also, Serin, Siskin (7), Great Tit and Short-toed Treecreeper were seen. Birding-Guru Guy, then spotted a large Eagle which turned out to be a Golden Eagle, quickly followed by small groups of Red-billed Chough.



Atlas Horned-Lark

Before we reached the summit, we stopped three times to view a fast-flowing stream which was fed by the overflow of the dam. We searched for Dipper but never found one! We did have great views of Black Redstart, Black Wheatear, both Yellow and Grey Wagtails, more Chough and some Rock Doves. From a roadside pull-in we scanned the huge flocks of Chough and added Yellow-billed Chough to the list.

At Oukaimedan we spent our first hour searching the car parks for the most-wanted African Crimson-winged Finch which did not show! What we did find was a beautiful male Seebohm's Wheatear and a small flock of Rock Sparrows.

Seebohm's Wheatear#

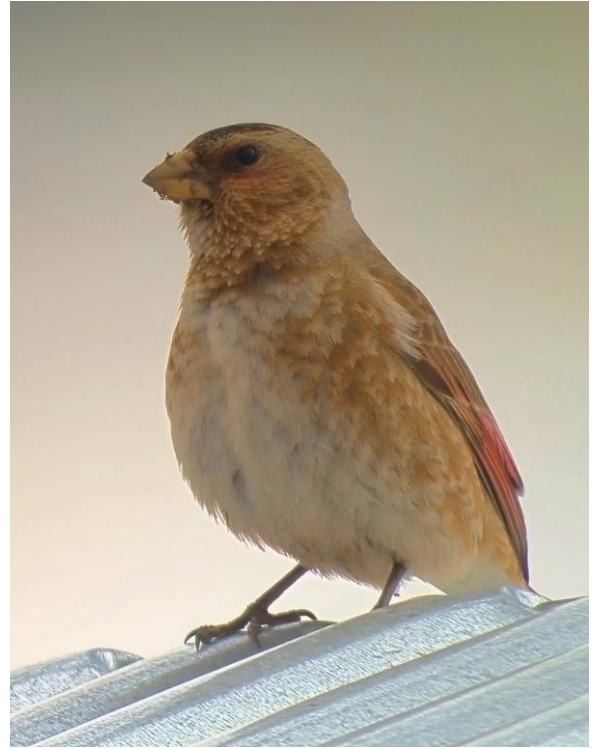


Eventually, after some anxiety from the leader (me), the Finches started to appear, what a relief. We eventually totted up about 30+ of this amazing bird, we took plenty of photographs.



The Crimson-winged Finch and the Atlas Horned Lark together - our two main target species in the bag at last - we got fairly close to these high-altitude little beauties.

Our final target species was the Atlas Horned-Lark, a drive up a side track did the trick. We found up to a dozen, they all seemed to be paired off and were working the exposed grassy areas just below the snow-line. We also found a couple of Crimson-winged Finches there too.



After a quick diversion to look at the fantastic view across to Mount Toubkal we drove back into the village and had a lovely bowl of hot soup, before making our way back down. It started to rain quite heavily as we got into the bus. We stopped at the stream once again and this time we had good views of two Dippers, job done.

We checked into our one-night hotel and whilst drinking hot mint tea, we watched Little Swifts, Cattle Egrets, Bulbuls and we heard a Cetti's Warbler as the rain continued to fall.

DAY 2 – 21ST MARCH 2026

TRANSFER FROM OURIKA VALLEY TO BOULMALNE DU DADES VIA THE TIZI N' TISHKA PASS.

WEATHER: cloudy with rain showers, prolonged rain later in the day.



We spent all day on the road making frequent stops along the way to Boulmalne Dades, but before we left we had a date with a Levillant's Woodpecker, or so we thought! Standing on the terrace overlooking the River Ourika we notched a few species and we heard the aforementioned Woodpecker in the distance. Blackcaps and Bulbuls, Little Swift and Red-rumped Swallows, Wagtails and Wrens, was all we saw.

The view from the hotel terrace of the River and the Ourika Valley

A walk along the lane produced a few more sightings: Serin, Great-spotted Woodpecker, Hawfinch and all the common species but nothing large and green!

We left the hotel at 8:30am and made a couple of stops along the road to look for the woodpecker, we heard it several times but never very close, so we ended up leaving without a sighting, doh!

Our first planned stop along the journey produced Barbary Partridge, Woodchat Shrike, Common Stonechat, Linnets, Corn Bunting, Magreb Magpie, Sardinian Warbler, Crested and Thekla's Lark, Greater Short-toed Lark and some rain.



Thekla's Lark

Before we climbed the long and winding road up through the pass we stopped to scan a ridge which often produces migrating raptors. We found four Eurasian Sparrowhawks, a pair of Resident Kestrels and several Booted Eagles. We searched for Bonelli's Eagle which usually appears in this area and after a short while we had great views of a pair of them.

We put some time on the road and drove for a couple of hours up and over the Pass (the summit is 2260 meters high) and made a stop for lunch at a roadside café. A short walk in a pine woods after lunch produced nothing except for Wood Pigeons.

Our last stop of the day was on the shore of the huge Barrage (reservoir) El Monsour Eddahbi, it was very windy there, we saw some species but not a lot. Out on the water we saw a few Great Crested Grebes and Cormorants, two Mallards flew by. A couple of Little Egrets sat on the lea-side of an island with three Black-winged Stilts and an Osprey flew over. A single Gull-billed Tern also drifted by.



the huge reservoir at Quarzazate was at full capacity

In the distance we found a small flock of Glossy Ibis and a Marsh Harrier, they were all struggling in the wind. Many Hirundines flew around us, Sand Martins, House Martins, Barn Swallows and Red-rumped Swallows. Flocks of Yellow Wagtails battled against the wind with some success, and we found a single Sandgrouse, which appeared briefly and was too far off to identify, we had very bad light, but it was most probably Pin-tailed Sandgrouse.

We left the area as it started to rain again, the last 60 minutes of daylight was spent on the road as we drove the final leg to Boulmalne Dades.

DAY 3 – 22ND MARCH 2026

TAGDILT TRACK ALL MORNING – DADES GORGE IN THE AFTERNOON

WEATHER: a beautiful sunny day, light winds, but quite chilly.

The clocks changed last night, Morocco introduced summer daylight saving a week earlier than Europe to coincide with the ending of Ramadan. That threw us out because our planned 6am walk was now in complete darkness!! Doh!! We abandoned the walk.

After breakfast we took the bus to the famous birding trail, the Tagdilt Track. We spent all morning walking, driving, stop-starting and watching an incredible variety of species.

The main track passes the municipal rubbish dump and that is where most species can be found, but we walked a kilometer or so before we got to the dump. Wheatears were everywhere especially the Red-rumped variety. Desert Wheatears and White-crowned Wheatears joined Northern Wheatears onto to the day list. Flocks of Short-toed Larks dashed about in good numbers, we saw Thekla's Lark, Crested lark, Trumpeter Finch, House Buntings, Eurasian Hoopoe and Woodchat Shrike.

A few early morning raptors appeared too! Distant views were had of Black Kite, Booted Eagle, Marsh Harrier and a beautiful male Montagu's Harrier. Kestrels flew over now and then.



Red_rumped Wheatear



female Desert Wheatear



a Trumpeter Finch

At the rubbish dump we found our main target species, the THICK-BILLED LARK, we watched a pair of them for a while and then two more joined them before they flew off. We also added White Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, lots of Barn Swallows, House and Sand Martins. More raptors appeared and we found an immature Egyptian Vulture.

Thick-billed Lark

We drove deeper into the stoney plains, away from the rubbish and the smells and the packs of wild dogs that live there. Beyond the 'litter-fringe' we found a beautiful Great Grey Shrike, we saw more Desert Wheatears and we watched our first Temminck's Larks.

We searched for Cream-coloured Coursers without finding one and during one stop we had better views of Short-toed Larks and at a small cultivated area we found a Spectacled Warbler, some Serins and Meadow Pipits.



the terrain at the Tagdilt Track

A walk in some small cultivated areas produced more Meadow Pipits but not the expected migrant birds. On the way back into town we stopped when a shout went up of “Courser”. A single bird flew up from the roadside, but we could not relocate it, but as we searched for it we found our first Hoopoe Lark!



Great Grey Shrike



a male Serin

We drove back into town to buy lunch supplies and spent quite a while doing so. Our afternoon was spent driving to the head of the Dades Gorge, it was spectacular there, the whole 30km-long gorge is stunning with some fantastic geological features including the famous “Monkeys Fingers” formation.



part of the Monkeys Fingers formation

At the top of the gorge we stopped for a walk and to search for Tristram's Warbler, we found a single male bird which showed extremely well, but not long enough for me to get a digi-picture unfortunately. Other species on show included: Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Bunting, Black Wheatear and dozens of 'Rock Pigeons'. We made our way back down the gorge stopping once for birding which produced very little, it was early evening now and time to call it day, a very good day, I must say!

DAY 4 – 23RD MARCH 2027

TRANSFER FROM BOULMALNE DADES TO MERZOUGA, ERG CHEBBI DUNES WITH STOPS AT A WADI EAST OF BOULMALNE – A WADI EAST OF GOULMIMA

WEATHER; a beautiful sunny day, with a light breeze, perfect!



We left our wonderful Riad straight after breakfast and headed south-east towards the Sahara Desert. Before we left the area we had unfinished business with some sandgrouse, if we could find them.

We drove for ten minutes and parked by a roadside pool which unfortunately had just dried up. We hoped that some sandgrouse would still drop in looking for water. We searched the area finding lots of desert species we had seen yesterday, it was nice to see them again. Temminck's Lark, Hoopoe Lark, Short-toed Lark, Thekla's Lark, Red-rumped, Northern and Desert Wheatears. At one point we saw four Montagu's Harriers in the sky at once, all female types.

A picture our group just before we left for the Sahara Desert

After 30 minutes or so we heard Sandgrouse calling in the distance and finally found a few flying around, boy were they distant! We managed to identify Black-bellied and Pin-tailed varieties. We decided to move a little nearer to where we thought these birds were dropping down, that didn't help. A short walk produced nothing more except a Thick-billed Lark sighting.



a Desert Lark

We set off on our journey to Merzouga, five minutes into the journey a party of 9 Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew past the bus. Ten minutes later we stopped at old river bed and met up with a local guy who was to guide us for a couple of hours looking for some specialist species. The Pharaoh Eagle Owl being the main one, but first, he showed us a Long-legged Buzzard standing on a nest with a couple of chicks beneath it.



Long-legged Buzzard with chicks

He led us along the river-bed which had huge sand-stone cliffs bearing above us and it was on one of these that the Eagle Owl sat, looking down at us. Wowza! That's a bird and a half. It was also guarding a nest hole with a couple of chicks that could not be seen.

Next we searched for Magreb Wheatear, it had been a regular sighting in this environment for several years but today we could not find one, despite spending a lot of time looking. We found Desert, Black, Northern

and White-crowned Wheatears but not the Magreb. European bee-eaters flew over and at least two Blue-cheeked were in with them, but only Guy saw them.

Trumpeter Finch



Next the local guide showed us a nest site of the Lanner Falcon, we think the sitting-bird flew off before we arrived because two of the group saw it in flight. The Falcon did not return whilst we were there. We watched lots of Trumpeter Finches, a couple of Eurasian Hoopoes, we saw our first Desert Larks and to our great delight a party of 6 Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters flew quite low over the top of us.

We made it back to the bus and put some time in along the road, we stopped to buy lunch in Tinghir and we ate it at a roadside café before moving on. It was 3pm when we arrived at a wadi just east of Goulmima, we got out and searched the scrub, walking deeper into the wadi. We quickly found Subalpine Warbler, Spanish Sparrows, Desert Wheatear, Eurasian Hoopoe, Desert Lark, Trumpeter Finch and then quite quickly we found a pair of Saharan Scrub Warblers.



record shot of the Scrub Warbler – the little blighter wouldn't keep still

What a delightful little bird, it reminds me of the Fairy Wrens in Australia, but these birds are not so brightly coloured and they spend a lot of time on the ground hopping about.

We still had a long drive to Merzouga and it was now 4:30pm so we set off and spent the next 2 ½ hours getting to our next hotel on the edge of the Egri Chebbi Sand dune system. We saw more bee-eaters, a Brown-necked Raven, Little Egret and Cattle Egrets along the way.



The view of the dunes from our hotel terrace this evening

Dinner was taken at eight, it went down well., we have three nights out here in the desert region.

DAY 5 – 24TH MARCH 2026

ERG CHEBBI AND MERZOUGA LAKE – RISSANI SUBURBS

WEATHER; lovely warm, sunshine all day with fluffy white clouds. Top temp 27C

It was a perfect morning to start our desert birding, clear blue sky, no wind and a lovely cool temperature. After breakfast we went to the terrace of the hotel to meet with the regular bird-ringing group, I have met this group for the last 10 years and enjoyed some superb birds-in-the-hand. Today was no exception! We started with a Common Whitethroat, then a couple of Subalpine Warblers, another Whitethroat and then during the next round of ringing they pulled a Saharan Olivaceous warbler out of the bag, wowza!! Just what the group were hoping for.



a Saharan Olivaceous Warbler

From the terrace we also noted Brown-necked Ravens, they were building a nest in one of the Tamarisk Trees nearby. We also noted a few Western Bonelli's Warblers, White-crowned Wheatears, Northern Wheatears and Laughing Doves, a couple of Ruddy shelduck flew over.



the view of the dunes from the terrace of the Cafe Yasmina Hotel

Whilst the seasonal pool at Café Yasmina was totally dry this year the main lake at Merzouga had plenty of water in it and lots of birds had been reported. That was our next destination.

At the lake we stopped at several places along the eastern shoreline and noted quite a few species, the most notable because of their number was the Greater Flamingo. It was strange watching water-birds in the Saharan Desert, feeding next to camels that were drinking!



Ruddy Shelduck - dozens were on the lake

Ruddfy Shelduck were dotted all over the lake, we picked out both Little and Great-crested Grebes, Common Coot, Shoveler, Gull-billed Terns, Kentish and Little Ringed Plovers.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters were hunting over the water in the distance and Yellow Wagtails of several races chased insects on the shoreline. Only a single Marsh Harrier went onto the 'raptor-list', whilst Bonelli's, Subalpine and Sedge Warblers completed our passerine list. Crested Larks and Bar-tailed Larks were all that we saw in the scrub.



it seemed odd to see camels and waterfowl in the same area

We popped into the town of Merzouga to buy lunch supplies and then drove 15 kilometers towards Rissani before stopping to eat it. We parked next to a ‘wadi’ where I have previously seen a good selection of birds including the Desert Warbler. Today, however, we walked for 30 minutes after lunch and saw just one single bird, a Great Grey Shrike! We abandoned our effort to see the warbler.



Magreb Lark – it looks like a large, Crested Lark with a longer bill.

The suburbs of Rissani have many open areas of scrub and small cultivated plots, all surrounded by low-lying dirt mounds. Large clumps of pine trees are the prime habitat for the Fulvous (Chatterer) Babbler and this is where we concentrated our efforts to find one.

The Magreb Lark (a large, pale type of Crested Lark) with a long bill, appeared almost as soon as we got off the bus. We saw several of them, a new bird for our list.



a Yellow Wagtail

It was very hot, dry and dusty which was not pleasant for walking but that is what we did. We were rewarded for our efforts with the sighting of two Fulvous Chatterers, they didn't show well but good enough for everyone to enjoy them.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters dashed over us but never perched for prolonged views, we also saw both Woodchat and Great Grey Shrikes, lots of White-crowned Wheatears, a Northern Wheatear, several Western Subalpine Warblers and one or two Western Bonelli's Warblers.

A later stop next to a couple of flooded fields found us watching Cattle Egrets, Yellow Wagtails (*flava* and *Iberiae*) also Eurasian Hoopoe, Blackcap and more Magreb Larks.

We finished the day sipping coffee at a roadside café before driving back to the dunes to our hotel.

DAY 6 – 25TH MARCH 2026

DESERT SAFARI 4*4 EXCURSION AROUND ERI CHEBBI – LATER A WALK IN A WADI NEAR MERZOUGA



WEATHER: dull, overcast, light rain with heavier downpours. Sunny late afternoon

a Painted Frog in the gardens at Yasmina

Today was our big 'desert-day' we had a number specialist species to look for and we hired three 4*4 jeeps for the morning. The only problem with that was..... it was pouring with rain at 7am when we got up for breakfast and it refused to stop all morning. It was such a blow and a big disappointment for the group.



looking from the entrance to Cafe Yasmina - very wet.

We visited the terrace at Café Yasmina in the hope that the ringing group were catching birds in the rain, but that was not happening. So, we boarded our jeeps at 9am and set off for the desert region beyond the dunes.

We went straight a known watering hole where Sandgrouse regularly come down to drink, when it's not raining!! We waited for nearly an hour and saw just one bird, a Bar-tailed Lark, which was new for most of the group. Nothing else flew by, so we went in search of the sandgrouse.

We never saw a single one, one of our most wanted species failed to turn up for the show!! It had to be the weather because yesterday morning, apparently, hundreds turned up. The main problem was that many small pools or puddles were dotted all over the desert and the birds were not reliant on this one pool that we were watching, they could be drinking anywhere.

We stopped at an area of small bushes and scrub to search for Desert Warbler, we saw a couple of Subalpine Warblers and Brown-necked Ravens flew over before one of the drivers shouted out. He had found a Desert Warbler, sure enough as we gathered round him this little sandy coloured Warbler appeared. In fact a second bird appeared and we went on to find two more! Wowza!

Next we drove to a small camping site, where people can stay overnight to experience the true desert 'life'. The small compound was full of Sparrows and to our great delight most of them were Desert Sparrows, they were coming down to food offerings thrown there by the camp owners! Better still, a small group of Fulvous Babblers were joining them, as well as a Blackbird and a White-crowned Wheatear.



- Desert Sparrows

After that excitement we returned for more grouse searching. We saw more Ravens, Desert and Black-eared Wheatears, we watched Hoopoe Larks performing their kamikaze flight display and we found Bar-tailed Larks, a first for most of the group. But no grouse appeared, the rain became a little lighter and the sky brightened, it was midday.

Fulvus Chatterer



Two of the four Egyptian Nightjars we saw today



Finally we visited another area of scrub, where a tall local Berber was waiting for us. He was the Nightjar-finder, I have met him several times over the years. He led us to a stoney area with small scrub and pointed out an Egyptian Nightjar. The bird was sitting out in the open and looked wet. A second bird was located, then a third and finally a fourth!! Wowza! I never expected that. My group was buzzing with excitement!



searching for Desert Warbler

We left the nomad and his nightjars and set off back to our Auberge for a late lunch. We never had much time left for birding in the afternoon but we spent a couple of hours walking a local wadi in search of Coursers and Sandgrouse. The sky had cleared, the sun came out and it warmed up. We saw the sandgrouse, in fact we saw dozens of them as they flew over us. From the calls we can only be certain that Spotted Sandgrouse were present but it was highly likely that Crowned Sandgrouse were there too!



Hoopoe Lark

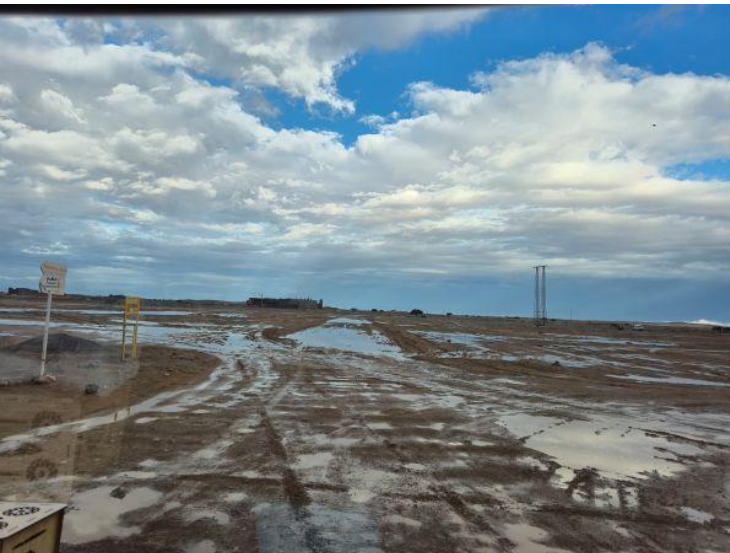
We watched Hoopoe Larks and Wheatears on the ground and in a single tree we found two Bonelli's Warblers and a Woodchat Shrike. We dipped on the Coursers and made our way back to the hotel at 6pm.

DAY 7 – 26TH MARCH 2026

ALL DAY TRANSFER TO TALIOUINE WITH STOPS AT ALNIF AND TAZENAKHT

WEATHER; We had a huge thunderstorm and a very heavy rain-storm at 5am then a clearer sky as we went further west. Sunshine from 1pm.

I have never witnessed so much rain in the Sahara Desert before, we got up to find huge pools of water all over the desert floor, some of the tracks were mud-baths. The rain had stopped but the flooding continued, the roads were flooded in parts and every river and stream was overflowing.



after the rain in the Sahara Desert this morning

We made our first stop just before we reached the tarmac on the Merzouga road, a falcon sat on top of a pylon, using bins only we identified it as a Lanner Falcon, when it flew off the identity was confirmed.

Just beyond Rissani on the Alnif road we stopped to search a cliff face for more falcon activity and the stoney plains for sandgrouse,

none of them turned up, so we moved on.



Dark sky and flooded roads ahead of us at Merzouga

Our first official stop was at a café just east of Alnif, we walked around the gardens and found a few species: Common and Moussier's Redstarts, Trumpeter Finch, House Bunting, Crested Lark and a few Barn Swallows.

We were diverted at Alnif because on the west side of town the road was flooded, the diversion took us around the south side of town and back to our route. More flooded areas slowed us down quite a lot, we bought lunch supplies and stopped to eat on the road to Agdz.



Brighter weather after lunchtime and dry roads

From a high point in a roadside lay-by we had good views of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Subalpine and Bonelli's Warblers, Great Grey and Woodchat Shrikes and more Swallows. Just east of Agdz we stopped again and found European Bee-eaters, Laughing Doves, Barbary Partridges and more warblers.



distant record shot of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters

The roads seemed drier as we travelled further westward and the floods were less frequent; rivers were flowing where I have never seen water before. I predict that next week is going to be a wildflower extravaganza all over central Morocco.

We were in and out of the bus all day but the distant and time soon flew by and it didn't seem too bad, there was always the extraordinary and fascinating scenery to look at. It was 5pm when we stopped at the desert plains just west of Tazenakht. We took a walk as the sunshine began to wane, nothing of any great

interest turned up, until Claire found a Scorpion, then another and another. From then onwards, I think more eyes were on the ground than on the horizon looking for birds.



one of several Common Yellow Scorpions found in the arid plains

We did find four Cream-coloured Coursers, quite distant, but with a little stealthy walking we got fairly close to them, good enough for the photographers I think.

It was nearly dark when we arrived at Taliouine where our stop-over hotel was situated, no-one went out birding before or after dinner.

DAY 8 – MARCH 27TH 2026

TRANSFER FROM TALIOUINE TO AGADIR - WITH STOPS AT AOULOZ GORGE – SOUS VALLEY – OUED SOUS ESTUARY

WEATHER; cloudy, misty and drizzling rain to start. Brighter later and much warmer at the coast.

After a slow start we had an epic birding day today, we saw literally thousands of birds ranging from migrating raptors to large flocks of waders on the estuary shoreline at Oued Sous.

After our 7am breakfast we assembled by the bus to load up the luggage, a Levaillant's Woodpecker called in the distance and a Golden Oriole called several times from the nearby woods. We also noted: African Chaffinch, Cirl Bunting and Common Bulbul before we boarded the bus and left the area.

70km down the road we pulled over to a regular site on this tour, the Aoulouz Gorge, I have seen many a good bird in this gorge over the years. A fair amount of water was flowing in the river, too much perhaps! Not enough muddy fringes around pools could be seen or at the base of the reedbeds.

We saw a few birds and heard a lot more. Sedge Warblers, Blackcaps, a single Little Bittern and four different species of raptors – Peregrine Falcon (a pair), Long-legged Buzzard, Common Kestrel and a Sparrowhawk. We heard Black-crowned Tchagra, Common Nightingale, Olivaceous Warbler and Common Moorhen without seeing any of them.



this very distant raptor sat on top of the gorge. It had us confused at first, but we decided on it being a juvenile Long-legged Buzzard

Our next stop was much more productive and quite exciting, we pulled over at the head of the Sous Valley where wide-open terrain had scattered bushes and Argan Trees, some cultivated areas and hedges of pine trees. We searched for Black-winged Kite, but first we found Cirl Bunting, Corn Bunting, Spanish Sparrow, Turtle Dove, Sardinian Warbler, Serin, Greenfinch, Crested Lark and four Montagu's Harriers.

The dull, low cloud began to clear a little and as it did so, Black Kites began to appear – in their hundreds and then thousands!! Huge swirling clouds of Kites, spiralled upwards and disappeared into the clouds. We watched many of these 'kettles' it was amazing.



Black Kites appeared in flocks of 100+ there must have been 2-3000 of them in the 30-minute passage

In the meantime, Matts, found the Black-winged Kite, it perched not far from us and stayed for about 30 minutes in one tree before flying off, wowza! That was special.



a record shot of the Black-winged Kite found by Matts

More raptors appeared, as Short-toed Eagle, Booted Eagle and Montagu's Harrier joined the mass of Black Kites, even a small flock of Lesser Kestrels flew over. The Kites were still forming large 'Kettles' as we left.

We stopped for a coffee and to buy lunch which we ate on the bus as we travelled non-stop to Agadir. Our destination was the huge estuary of the River Sous, we arrived around 3pm.

The tide was receding as we walked to the river across a heathland, we noted Zitting Cisticola, Sardinian Warbler, Magreb Magpie, Crested larks and lots of Wood Pigeon. A distant White Stork's nest had a pair in attendance and an Osprey sat on a pylon eating a fish.



Eurasian Spoonbills being photo-bombed by a Greater Flamingo



More Flamingos join in with a few Grey Plovers, bottom right

We collected a nice list of species during this first period at the river, Eurasian Spoonbills, Greater Flamingo's, Avocets, Black-winged stilts, Grey Heron, Caspian and Gull-billed Terns and both Ruddy and Common Shelducks.

Waders included Redshank, Greenshank, Grey Plover, Ringed Plover and Black-tailed Godwits. As we crossed the heath toward the river mouth, we put up a couple of Stone Curlews! Paul then found a third one on the ground, this bird let us approach and gave excellent views!



Stone Curlew found by Paul



Walking along the side of the estuary towards the beach, we added a few gull species which included: Mediterranean, Slender-billed and it was Matts who found us a Little Gull. There was also Black-headed, Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls present.



Slender-billed Gull - one of six in a small pool with Med Gulls and Black-headed Gulls



it was Matts again who found another great species for the list, with this Little Gull sighting



Caspian Tern with a Eurasian Oystercatcher

More waders went onto the list as we progressed to view wider mudflats, we added Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Dunlin, Kentish Plover, Bar-tailed Godwits, Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper. Sandwich Terns appeared in good numbers.



lots of Magreb Magpies were dashing about in the marsh

It was approaching 6pm when we left, it had been very exciting day with birds galore, we probably saw more birds today than on the rest of the trip combined, 85 species in all today!

DAY 9 – MARCH 28TH 2026

ALL DAY VISIT TO SOUSS MASSA NATIONAL PARK AND SURROUNDS

WEATHER: wall to wall sunshine all day, a light breeze.

My favourite part of the trip is the early morning walk along the main Souss Massa trail over-looking the river. Today was exceptionally good, once again perfect weather, a lovely temperature, no wind and a clear sky.

From our high vantage point, we could see for miles and quite far in both directions along the river, bird song came from all directions. The area was alive with butterflies too, carpets of colourful flowers covered the sand-stone landscape. We listed dozens of species, we had great views, in really good light, of most of them during this first hour or so, except for the Black-crowned Tchagra of which there was only a distant sound.



Looking up the river Souss towards Sidi Rabat



and down river from the raised track of Souss Massa National Park



Warblers flitted about in the tamarisk scrub, we saw Olivaceous Warblers quite frequently, also Sardinian, Subalpine and Blackcap Warblers. Bulbuls and Moussier's Redstart were common and Zitting Cisticolas drove me mad with their incessant calling. In the air we noted our first Plain Martins, a pair were visiting a nest just above the road and gave us great views.

A Blackcap and above a Sardinian Warbler, apparently I just missed an Orphean Warbler in the same twigs!!

On the river we saw Spoonbills and Greater Flamingos, we added Kingfisher, Common Snipe and Marbled Duck to our list. Moorhens, Coots, Little Grebes, Common Sandpipers, Ruff, Greenshanks and Curlew Sandpipers were also present. After walking a mile or so the road dropped down to level of the river and we got back onto the bus for the short drive the

reserve entrance. We then took a second walk into the reserve along a high track with the river a little further away from us. Along this track we found the Tchagra, two of them. Great, but short views were had by most of us and some got lucky with prolonged views.

a Zitting Cisticola - they were very common along the track





lots of Common Stonechats were about

We saw 5 Pintail Ducks and 7 Eurasian Teal further along the river, last year there were three American Blue-winged Teal in the same place!! We also added a few waders which included Kentish and Ringed Plovers, also Gull-billed Terns, a White Stork and a Marsh Harrier.

Back on the bus we drove to the centre of the village and bought lunch which we ate sitting on the bridge at the bottom of the village watching Flamingos and some more Plain Martins with Sand Martins and Swallows. Olivaceous Warblers came very close to us in the tamarisk bushes.



Orphean Warbler

A trip up to the seaside town of Sidi Quassay produced our only sighting of Bald Ibis, we only saw one during our visit. From the beach car park we saw Northern Gannet, Sandwich Terns and a gull roost on the beach held a few Audouin's Gulls, but only I saw them!



the beach at Sidi Quassay - there are a few Audouin's Gulls in the distance in this picture!!

Back in the Sous Massa Valley we walked along tracks for a mile or so, looking for Common Quail, many were calling and we had brief views of at least three of them. We also added Green Sandpiper to the list, we saw an Osprey, Kestrels and Pallid Swifts. The alfalfa fields produced very little which was surprising as they are usually covered in Yellow Wagtails and Pipits, we saw one Meadow Pipit.



a female Moussier's Redstart

A tired group got back to the bus around 5:30pm we drove back up to Agadir to our hotel arriving in good time for our 8pm dinner.

DAY 10 – 29TH MARCH 2026

TRANSFER TO ESSAOUIRA WITH STOPS AT CAPE GHIR, TAMRI BAY AND OUED KSOB

WEATHER: another sunny day but very windy.

Late news from yesterday; after dinner some of the group went to a small park very close to the hotel after a Scops Owl was heard just before dinner. The park was locked closed but through the fence, and to our

great surprise, we saw a pair of Stone Curlews! They gave out their eerie call and delighted the group, there was no sight nor sound of the Scops Owl.

This morning, we were all packed and ready to go at 8am for the journey northward along the coast to Essaouira, we planned a few stops to look for a couple of species missing from our list. The first stop at the side of the road was made so we could scan a distant flock of roosting gulls. We found our target gull, four were present. The Audouin's Gull! It is one of my favourite gulls, we had good scope views of them, but they were distant.

At Cape Ghir we stood on the cliffs and spent an hour or so sea-watching, it was very pleasant, standing in nice sunlight with a gentle onshore breeze. Thousands of gulls were out on the sea, a huge string of them, we saw some massive Tuna Fish too!

Gannets poured northward in large numbers, a constant stream of them flew past the point. As did Cory's Shearwaters, they passed by, one at a time, occasionally in pairs, every minute or so. The other activity we saw was a single Pomarine Skua, a few Whimbrels and small flocks of Sandwich Terns.



A SEA-WATCH AT CAPE GHIR

At Tamri we visited the large lagoon and 'scoped a few species on the beach. Another Gull roost held 50+ Audouin's Gulls but they were no nearer than the last sighting, however, the light was much better. The lagoon was flooded and held very few birds, we saw Mallard, Common Coot, Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black-winged Stilts, Common Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plovers. A few Blad Ibis flew over us, heading both north and south and we saw White Wagtails in the car park.



Flamingos, Spoonbills and Black-winged Stilts at Tamri Bay

We bought lunch in Tamri town and drove up the hill to the desert landscape to eat it. From our high vantage point, we could see Bald Ibis feeding in the scrub and after eating our lunch we walked down to get better views. Over the next hour more groups of Ibis came to feed, whilst others flew over and headed to their cliff nest-sites.



one of the rarest birds in the world, Bald Ibis, and also one of ugliest!!



We had good view of Spectacled Warbler too, also Thekla's Lark and we could hear Short-toed Lark, but we never located one. We had a bit fun when the driver, Adamane, got the bus stuck in the sand (for the third time this trip!!), it took a good 30 minutes to rescue the bus with the help of a couple of local guys.



these are Audouin's Gulls, seen at Tamri

Our delay meant we had to forego one of our birding stops. It was 5pm when we got to Oued Ksob just south of Essaouira. It was very windy there and the river was very full of fast flowing water, the colour of muddy sand. We saw very little there, it was hopeless until Matts called out a Bonelli's Eagle which drifted over, a smashing sighting.

Both Green and Common Sandpipers were seen, a Grey Heron appeared, a couple of Mallards sat on a bank. We saw many Pond Terrapins, a Ground Squirrel and a few Butterflies, but the wind drove us away in the end.

That concluded our birding for the tour, tomorrow we shall have leave at 6am for the 3 hour drive to Marrakech. Our, traditional Riad in the centre of Essaouira was superb, a classic Riad with all the trimmings, the food was excellent too!

Some of the group ventured out after dinner and walked the narrow streets to enjoy the atmosphere and some true Moroccan life.

DAY 11 – MARCH 30TH 2026

TRANSFER FROM ESSAOUIRA TO MARRAKECH AIRPORT

We left our hotel at 5am in the dark and drove to Marrakech airport in the dark – we made one short stop along the way for a coffee and toilets. Our arrival at Menara Airport concluded the tour.

We had seen 182 species, a few more were heard, not seen. Most of the Moroccan Specialities had been seen, we missed only Levaillant's Woodpecker, Magreb Wheatear and we could have done with better views of Sandgrouse.

Most of the group went home happy having seen: African Crimson-winged Finch, Atlas Lark, Thick-billed Lark, Seebohm's Wheatear, Streaked Scrub Warbler, Tristram's Warbler, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Saharan Olivaceous Warbler, Fulvous Chatterer, Desert Warbler, Desert Sparrow, Egyptian Nightjar, Bar-tailed and Desert Larks and watched Hoopoe Lark performing its kamikaze style display flights.

If you enjoyed reading about our adventure in Morocco why not come and join us in 2027?

SPECIES			DATE SEEN											
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae														
1	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>					X				X			
2	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>									X			
3	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>										X		
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X			X				X	X	X	
5	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>										X		
6	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>										X		
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas chlypeata</i>					X							
GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae														
8	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>		X						X		X		
9	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>										X		
PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae														
10	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					X					X		
11	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		X			X							
PROCELLARIIFORMES: Procellariidae														
12	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>												X
CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae														
13	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		X	X						X	X	X	
PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae														
14	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X										
15	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>										X	X	
16	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>									X	X	X	
PHOENICOPTERAFORMES: Phoenicopteridae														
17	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>						X	X	X	X	X	X	
PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae														
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X							X	X	X	
19	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X		X	X				X	X	X	
20	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	X	X		X	X							
21	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>									X			
SULIFORMES: Sulidae														
22	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>										X	X	
SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae														
23	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacro. moroccanus</i>		X							X	X	X	
24	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>		X										
ACCIPITRIFORMES : Gypaetinae														
25	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			X									
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae														
26	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	X	X							X	X		
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae														
27	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>									X			
28	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	X											
29	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aguila fasciata</i>		X										X
30	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		X							X			
31	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	X	X	X						X			
32	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipitor nisus</i>	X	X							X			
33	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X	X		X	X				X		
34	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			X	X					X			
35	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	X		X						X			
36	North African Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo cirtensis</i>				X					X			

SPECIES			DATE SEEN										
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
76	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
77	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X	X	X	X				X	X		X
78	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	X	X						X	X		
79	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
80	Laughing Dove	<i>S. senegalensis</i>			X	X	X		X	X	X		
STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae													
81	Pharaoh Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>				X							
82	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua saharae</i>									X		
CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae													
83	Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>						X					
CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae													
84	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X	X		X				X	X		X
85	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	X								X	X	
86	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinus galilejensis</i>	X	X									
CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae													
87	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>									X		
CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae													
88	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>				X	X		X				
89	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	X	X			X	X	X		X
BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae													
90	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			X	X	X				H	X	
PICIFORMES: Picidae													
91	Levaillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>	H	H						H			
92	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus m. mauritanus</i>		X						H			
FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae													
93	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
94	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>			X					X			
95	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco b. erlangeri</i>				X			X				
96	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus minor</i>								X			
PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae													
97	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>								H	X		
PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae													
98	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius e. elegans</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X		
99	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Senator rutilans</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae													
100	Magreb Magpie	<i>Pica pica mauritanica</i>	X	X						X	X	X	X
101	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax p. barbarus</i>	X	X									
102	Yellow-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	X										
103	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>				X	X	X	X				
104	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	X						X			X	
PASSERIFORMES: Paridae													
105	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater atlas</i>	H										
106	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>	X	X	X								
107	Great Tit	<i>Parus major excelsus</i>	X										
PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae													
108	Greater Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>			X	X		X					
109	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Rhamphocoris clotbey</i>			X	X							
110	Desert Lark	<i>Ammonanes deserti</i>				X							
111	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cincturus</i>						X					
112	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>		X	X	X				X	X		X

SPECIES			DATE SEEN											
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
149	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Montacilla solitarius</i>	X		X						X			
PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae														
150	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		X										
151	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H						H	H		H	
152	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	X											
153	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				X				X				
154	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	X		X					X		X		
155	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		X								X		
156	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
157	Seebohm Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe seebohmi</i>	X											
158	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>			X	X		X						
159	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>		X		X		X				X	X	
160	Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oesta</i>			X	X								
161	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe l. riggenbachi</i>	X		X	X				X			X	
162	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae														
163	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus minor</i>	X											
PASSERIFORMES: Cer														
164	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	X											
PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae														
165	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
166	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				X					X			
167	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>						X						
168	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	X											
PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae														
169	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava,iberiae</i>	X	X	X		X				H			
170	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	X	X										
171	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			X	X							X	
172	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla a. subpersonata</i>		X									X	
173	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>												
174	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus prtaensis</i>			X							X		
PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae														
175	African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla c. africana</i>	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	
176	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		X										
177	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>			X	X				X				
178	Afr. Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys alienus</i>	X											
179	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	X		X						X	X	X	
180	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		X	X							X		
181	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis c. parva</i>		X						X		X		
182	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	
183	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	X											
PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae														
184	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		X							X			X
185	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	X		X	X								
186	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	X	X						X	X	X		
187	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	

BUTTERFLIES & INTERESTING INSECTS			DATE SEEN											
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
1.	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>										X		
2.	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>										X		
3.	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>		X								X		
4.	Greenish Black-tip	<i>Euchloe charlonia</i>	X									X		
5.	Moroccan Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis belia</i>				X								
6.	Western Dappled White	<i>Euchloe crameri</i>					X							
7.	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocca</i>			X								X	
8.	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>							X					
9.	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	X											
10.	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>											X	
MAMMALS- REPTILES – AMPHIBIANS – INTERSTING INSECTS			DATE SEEN											
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
11.	Fat Sand Rat	<i>Psammomys obesus</i>			X									
12.	Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	X										X	X
13.	Common Red Fox		X											
14.	Spanish Pond Turtle (terrapin)	<i>Mauremys leprosa saharica</i>											X	
15.	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>											X	
16.	House Gecko	<i>Tarentola annularis</i>	X											
17.	Bibron's Agama	<i>Agama impalearis</i>								X				
18.	Margarita's Fringe-toed Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus margaritae</i>				X								
19.	Nosed Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>					X							
20.	Common Yellow Scorpion	<i>Buthus occitanus</i>								X				