

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

TRIP REPORT

Morocco March 8th – 17th 2008

Leader Bob Buckler

Summary.

Our group of seven ‘Wing-spanners’ toured the wonderful countryside of Morocco in early March, visiting the high Atlas Mountains, the stony plains of the ‘Hammada’, the southeast region of Tafilalt, (the area closest to the Sahara), the lush Sous valley and the coastal estuary of the Oued Sous and the Massa national park.

Saturday 8th March

A dry sunny day with temps in the lower 20’s greeted the group as they disembarked at Marrakech from their Easy Jet Gatwick flight at 10:15am. We met our driver Ahmed and loaded up into the bus for the drive to Oukaimedan in the western high atlas, a journey of some 80km. Birds began to appear as we skirted the suburbs of Marrakech, we headed for the snow capped peaks of the Atlas Mountains that looked enticing and exciting as they towered over the plain of Haouz. As we crossed the plain we noted **Barn Swallow**, **Spotless Starling**, **House Sparrow**, **White Stork** and **Collared Dove**. We stopped off to buy our lunch and made our first encounter with the true Morocco, both in culture and currency.



We ate our picnic lunch in the glade of a pine copse in the foothills and began finding birds almost straight away, a very showy **Firecrest** flitted amongst the leaf litter and then **Coal Tit** and **African Blue Tit** appeared, both sub-species and subtly different from the strain at home. Next the raptors put on a show, a **Northern**

Goshawk sped across the skyline as a **Long-legged Buzzard** circled above and then a **Golden Eagle** delighted us as it soared on the thermals until it disappeared from sight.

We then stopped at a sparkling stream, noting **Dipper**, **Rock Dove** and **Red-billed Chough**, driving on and climbing all the time we reached our hotel at 3pm in Oukaimedan. After a short settling-in period we explored the hotel grounds, we spent a good half an hour watching the two races of **Chaffinch** seen side by side, a small flock of **Rock Sparrows**, **Mistle Thrush**, **Black Redstart** and more of the African race of **Blue Tit**.



Moving on, our next destination was the mountainside around the village, we took a track up to the radio tower, along the way we had great views of **Atlas Horned Lark** and, at the summit a **Rock Bunting** sat on top of a small fir tree about 50 meters below us. From the top the views were breathtaking with snow capped peaks towering above us and the lush green valley below.

A **Yellow Wagtail (iberica)** was found as we drove towards our last destination of the day – the Ski-lift car park. Within minutes of arrival we were watching **Crimson-winged Finch**, **Rock Sparrow** and more **Horned Larks** in mixed flocks as they feed in the car park and were within a few feet of us, fantastic! As the sun went down the temperature fell rapidly so we beat a hasty retreat back to the hotel for a warm-up and a Moroccan dinner of Lamb Tajines.

Sunday 9th March

A pre-breakfast excursion found us wandering around the grounds of the hotel where we had great views of the African race of **Chaffinch**, also **Blue Tit**, **Mistle & Song Thrush**, **Rock Sparrow** and **Black Redstart**. Driving through the village we saw hundreds of **Chough**, of both species which had descended on the village, they were everywhere alongside small flocks of very genuine looking **Rock Doves**. In one garden a small flock of finches contained two **Brambling**, we arrived at the Ski lift car park which was now deserted, except for hundreds of birds. **Raven**, **Red-billed** and **Alpine Chough**, **Rock Doves**, **Horned Larks**, **Rock Sparrows** were joined by at least 50 **Crimson-winged Finches**, we had tremendous close views of all of them.

We set off after breakfast for the long journey to Boumalne du Dades; we planned to spend all day travelling whilst making frequent stops for refreshments and birding. Our first stop was a few kilometres north of Ourika, we pulled to the side of the road and scanned fields and hedgerows producing a fascinating list which included, **Black-winged Kite**, **Corn Bunting**, **Common Bubul**, **Southern Grey Shrike**, **Crested Lark**, **Stonechat** and a superb male **Mousierre's Redstart**.

We spent the rest of the morning climbing through the Tizi-n-tichka pass and at one stop we watched a pair of **Long-legged Buzzards** displaying and mating, our lunch stop was made 40 kilometers from Quarzazate at a road junction. On the rugged hill side we found **Trumpeter Finch**, **Goldfinch (parva)**, **Spanish Sparrow**, **Thekla Lark**, **Black Redstart** and another pair of mating **Long-legged Buzzards**.

Another stop near the reservoir at Quarzazate we picked up **Great Crested Grebe**, **Common Chiffchaff**, **House Bunting**, **White-crowned Wheatear**, **Serin**, **Common Kestrel** and a few distant **Terns**. We arrived in

Boumalne du Dades very late in the afternoon and quickly located our hotel on the edge of town, as the light was fading we decided to relax before tucking into a lovely dinner of cous cous and roasted vegetables.

Monday 10th March.

We made an early excursion to the Tagdilt trail with plenty to see on a cold but bright morning. Our first birds were **Cream Coloured Coursers** they were everywhere and a count of over 100 was no exaggeration. Next we stopped to look at a flock of **Short-toed Larks** and we had a brief view of a male **Thick-billed Lark**, we searched in vain but could not relocate it. We were soon distracted by close views of **Temminck's Horned Lark** and a **Hoopoe Lark**; distant views were had of perched **Lanner Falcons** (2), **Long-legged Buzzards** (4) and flying **Western Marsh Harriers** (3). Wheatears began to show themselves with **Red-rumped**, **Desert** and **Black-eared** being noted. Just before our two hours were up a single **Crowned Sandgrouse** flew over us calling, unfortunately most of the group were inside the bus by then. We headed back to the hotel for a breakfast break after an exciting morning.

Returning to the tracks across the hammada of the Tagdilt we found **White Wagtail**, **Hoopoe**, **Northern Wheatear** and **Seebohm's Wheatear** and at the 'rubbish tip' several **Black Kite** sightings were made. A little further on we crossed a wadi where there were **Trumpeter Finches**, an **Orphean Warbler**, a **Subalpine Warbler** and a **Spectacled Warbler** all in the same bush! A **Southern Grey Shrike** sat on top of another bush and a **Desert Lark** gave a crowd-pleasing show. More flocks of **Short-toed Larks** flew by and Coursers were everywhere, at 1pm it began to get too hot to bird so we headed into Boumalne for lunch and then onto the famous gorge for a cooler afternoon.

Along the gorge we found **Black Wheatear**, **Rock Dove**, **Crag and House Martin**, **House Bunting**, **Black Redstart**, **Chiffchaff**, **Chaffinch** and **Blue Tit**. Late in the afternoon we returned the Tagdilt track but stayed on the tarmac road, we set up stall near a small pool hoping to see sandgrouse as they came to drink. We saw the usual fare of **Red-rumped** and **Desert Wheatears**, **Temminck's Horned lark**, **Coursers**, a distant **Marsh Harrier** and a **Tawny Pipit**. A **Green Sandpiper** was put up by a small herd of donkeys but no sandgrouse appeared, the light was fading, the temperature dropping and tummies were rumbling, so we set off back to the hotel for a well earned dinner.

Tuesday 11th March

Three of us made it to the 6:30am excursion, we ventured on foot from the hotel, walking left uphill along the escarpment, the morning was not as bright as usual with some cloud and a chilly breeze. After a while we noticed movement in a shallow valley, a mixed flock of **Trumpeter Finches** and **Short-toed Larks**, about 40 birds, were feeding on the ground. Several Thekla Larks feed nearby and two Bar-tailed Larks were found further along the valley. A Sylvia warbler was picked up and quickly lost in the scrub, possible Tristram's but we will never know.

An early breakfast was taken and we were on the road by 8:30am taking leave of our hosts Moustapha and Jamila as we set off for our desert section of the tour, our destination was Rissani. We stopped many times, the most note-worthy being a palm grove just outside of Tinehir where birds were everywhere. Our first of many **Common Redstarts** was found very early on, a beautiful plumaged male, then several **Spectacled Warblers** went on the list followed by **Crested Lark**, **Woodchat Shrike**, **White Crowned Wheatear**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Sub-alpine Warbler** and possibly 3 **Fulvous Babbler**s flew down behind a palm tree never to be seen again.



Next we stopped at a wadi just west of Goulmima, as soon as we stepped into the scrub two **Common Quail** flew up and were quickly lost to sight. Several **Spectacled Warblers** flitted in and out of sight and a fabulous **Tristram's Warbler** was very showy. More **Subalpine Warblers** were counted along with two **Southern Grey Shrikes**, 50+ **Short-toed Larks**, many **Trumpeter Finches** and four **Bar-tailed Larks**. We made a couple more stops but only recorded many of the species already listed.

At 3pm we arrived at our Auberge where we were booked to stay for the next three nights and at 4pm we explored the garden of this wonderful oasis which consisted of a large walled garden littered with many trees and shrubs. We listed the usual fare of **Trumpeter Finch, White Crowned Wheatear, Redstart, Chiffchaff, Hoopoe, Serin, Sardinian and Subalpine Warblers** and to our great delight 3 **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** flew in and landed on a telephone wire. These colourful gems hunted and devoured dragonflies for an hour or so before disappearing beyond the garden wall but not before our cameras had recorded their visit.

Wednesday 12th March



What a fantastic day we had this day, an early start found all the group heading off towards the wadi adjacent to our Auberge, one of the first birds recorded was the **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** as 4 of them flew from the tree-lined entrance track, where they probably roosted, never to be seen or heard of again. In the wadi warblers were everywhere with **Subalpine** being by far the most common. **Spectacled, Sardinian and Chiffchaff** were also very common warblers found in the scrub. Some of the group watched a **Fulvous Babbler** for a short period and all of us saw **Desert Lark, Southern Grey Shrike, W. C. Wheatear, Trumpeter Finch, Serin, Common Redstart, House Martin and Barn Swallow**.

We returned to the auberge garden and noticed a distinct increase in the number of warblers. There must have been hundreds of **Chiffchaff and Subalpine Warbler** that were joined by the odd **Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Sardinian Warbler**, well what a great start to our first full day in the Tafilalt.

Following a lovely breakfast set in the most wonderful surroundings we headed south across the desert to Merzouga, to the large seasonal lake to be more precise. We logged **Black Kite** as we approached the town of Merzouga and a few **Barn Swallows** passed as we crossed the dry stone plain to find the lake. At lakeside we listed many species, hundreds of birds fed in the lake, **Greater Flamingo, Ruddy Shelduck, Marbled Duck, Shoveler, Black Winged Stilt and Black-necked Grebe** being the most common. On the shoreline we noted **Kentish Plover and Sanderling** (a truly unforgettable experience as you direct people to a Sanderling using distant camels as reference markers!!). In the lakeside scrub we saw **Short-toed Lark, Tawny Pipit**, a displaying **Hoopoe Lark** (an incredible sight in itself but as we were watching it a **Lanner Falcon** swooped from nowhere and nearly took it in mid display!). We also saw **Desert Wheatear** and a great find, **Isabelline Wheatear**. Amongst the **Common Coot** we picked out one or two **Red-knobbed Coot** and from a number of shoreline positions we added **Grey Heron, Greenshank, Sand Martin and Little Grebe** all a truly bizarre sight on the edge of the Sahara desert.

The temperature was becoming unpleasant so we jumped into the bus and headed for refuge in the form of an auberge along the edge of the very impressive Erg Chebi dune system. The dunes towered above us as we searched some outbuildings and a camel dung heap for the very rare **Desert Sparrow**. After a very hot half hour we eventually found a female amongst the many **House Sparrows**, then a male appeared on the wall of an outbuilding, eventually the pair giving great close views as the camera shutters clicked away, The **Desert Sparrow** is a stunning looking bird it would be a great shame if Morocco lost this species. At the auberge Yasmina we sat and ate lunch overlooking the seasonal pool from the raised terrace. What a great afternoon we

had, birds were everywhere with dozens of warblers passing just below through the tamarisk scrub. We saw many **Subalpine and Sardinian Warblers, Chiffchaff, a wonderful and showy Bonelli's Warbler, Sedge Warbler, and Common Redstart**. On the lake there was **Little Grebe, Black-winged Stilt, Greenshank, Little Ringed Plover, Ruff, Ruddy Shelduck** and a couple of **Green Sandpipers**. Then the excitement really started as we heard distant calls from high above, soon a flock of Bee-eaters descending onto the trees on the shoreline of the pool. Nineteen **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** put on a brilliant colourful shown in the great afternoon light, what a crowd pleaser and when three **Brown-necked Ravens** put in an appearance sometime later they hardly got looked at because the group were still admiring the Bee-eaters. We spent 3 hours sitting on that terrace and it seemed like fifteen minutes, but it was getting late so we unfortunately dragged ourselves away from this tremendous site and headed back across the desert track for our evening meal of chicken tajine, the conversation was lively as the group were still buzzing from a great relaxing afternoon.

Thursday 13th March

Today we made an early start and at 6:30am we boarded 4-wheel drive jeeps for our excursion into the desert proper to search for the very rare **Houbara Bustard**. We headed south east from Merzouga and soon all signs of inhabitation were lost from sight. We saw several bird species en-route such as **Barn Swallow, Desert Wheatear, Desert lark, Hoopoe Lark, Cream Coloured Courser, Southern Grey Shrike and Short-toed Lark**.

After a couple of hours we sat and ate our pre-packed breakfast of pancakes, buns, bread, honey, tea, coffee and orange juice. Now fully refreshed we renewed our search and spent the next couple of hours searching every likely looking stretch of habitation, we drove close to the frontier between Morocco and Algeria and just as we found the **Houbara Bustard** we were flagged down by soldiers from a Moroccan army outpost who apparently thought we had crossed over from Algeria. After about 45 minutes, during which time our drivers got a ticking-off, our passports were checked and mint teat and cake was consumed we were allowed to pursue our interest.

The trail of the Houbara was truly cold by now and we spent another hour searching without success, so we headed back to our auberge having spent 5 hours driving around some wonderful and beautiful terrain managing only a brief encounter with our target bird.

After that gruelling morning we had a leisurely lunch in the gardens of the auberge and then spent an hour or so looking at new migrant 'arrivals' in the garden bushes. We found **Bonelli's, Melodious, Wood and Willow Warblers** and saw many **Chiffchaff, Subalpine Warbler, Trupeter Finches and White Crowned Wheatears**.

At 3pm we headed north to Rissani and then onto the road to Alnif, after a short while we stopped at a wadi and as we emerged from the car we saw several (9) **Brown-necked Ravens** circling on the thermals. We then walked along the dry river bed with a rocky escarpment towering above us on our left. We were pestered by young lads who were trying to sell us fossils and trinklets but they became very useful as they new where to find our target species the **Pharoah Eagle Owl**. Sure enough, after another half-kilometre walk during which we noted a pair of **Brown-necked Ravens**, there was an adult Owl sitting out on the rock high above us and just below it there were too fluffy young owls, a delightful sight and well worth the walk. We duly paid our guides and set off back to the bus for the drive back to the auberge first stopping off in Rissani to pick up food supplies for long drive the next day.



Friday 14th March

We said farewell to our hosts at the auberge and with great sadness we left our desert home for the long journey to the coastal area around Agadir. We planned a two-stage journey with an overnight stop at Taliouine about two thirds of the way. During the journey we made several stops and noted some good species from the bus. Roadside stops produced the usual array of Wheatears, Shrikes, larks and Finches, whilst at least 4 **Blue-cheeked Bea-eaters** were seen on wires near to Erfoud. At the reservoir near Quarzazate we saw an **Osprey, Great-crested Grebe, Grey Heron, Mallard, Ruddy Shelduck and Common Coot** whilst in the town centre we added **Lesser Kestrel and Pallid Swift**. At a stop near a tourist centre we saw **House Bunting and Laughing Dove** and a few kilometres outside of Boumalne du Dades we stopped to watch a small flock of **Thick-billed Larks** that gave excellent views, pleasing the group as they had missed the two, brief, previous sightings.



Another two stops found us firstly, on the 'regs' just outside of Tazenakct where we saw **Woodchat Shrike (5), Cream-coloured Courser, Thekla Lark, Short-toed Lark, Desert, Northern and Black-eared Wheatear, Trumpeter** Finch and many **Subalpine Warblers**. Next we stopped just outside of Taliouine where we noted **Hoopoe, Southern Grey Shrike, Barn Swallow and Crested Lark**.

Two very interesting species were noted from the bus towards the end of our journey, the first was a **Barbary Falcon** sitting in bright sunshine on a roadside pylon and the second was our first **Montagu's Harrier**. We were now at the head of the Sous valley, the vegetation was changing from barren stony plains to cultivated fields with lush green bushes, shrubs and trees. We stopped overnight in Taliouine some 200 kilometers from Agadir where a whole new range of bird species awaited our attention as we approached the western coastline of Morocco.

Saturday 15th March

An early walk around the garden of the hotel and the surrounding olive grove proved to be very productive for those of the group that made the effort. A couple of **Tawny Owls** called just before daylight as did the local imam about 04:45! The harsh call and song of the **Common Bulbul** seemed to come from every tree in the garden as we emerged from our rooms and a dawn chorus to rival any in England could be heard from the olive grove next door. During a one hour walk we noted many species including **Wryneck, Olivaceous, Melodious, Bonelli's, Willow and Subalpine Warblers, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Song Thrush** and we also noted our first Greenfinch and Great Tit. Returning to the hotel we watched the Bulbuls for a while and added **Blue Rock Thrush, House Martin and Red-rumped Swallow** before retiring for breakfast.

On the road by 8:45 we set off for the second leg of our journey to Agadir along very straight roads and wide open countryside, several stops produced **Marsh and Montagu's Harriers**, many **Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrikes** were seen and a party of 15 migrating **Black Kites** that were flying very low down the valley, they could not find thermals in the dull overcast conditions. Our most productive stop was at the airfield just outside of Tarroudant where a small party of **Fulvous Babblers** were very well appreciated, once we had got our eye for this species we noted another two groups along the dual carriageway just after Tarroudant.

After Tarroudant the countryside was lost to suburban Agadir and further stops only produced **Common Magpie, Spotless Starling and Common Swifts**, it was early afternoon when arrived at the Souss Massa National Park and it was very hot. A cooling breeze helped us cope with the heat as we walk the track towards

the month of the river, we had great panoramic views over the riparian scrub and extensive reed-beds. We added many new species here and one of the first delivered a lovely melodic song from a very close dead tree, the bird, a **Black-crowned Tchagra** was equally as impressive as its song. The river held **Greater Flamingo, Spoonbill, Little Egret, Glossy Ibis** a few wildfowl, **Marbled Duck, Teal, Mallard, Moorhen, Coot** and **Little Grebe**. The scrub was alive with warblers many of which we had already noted but a **Great Reed Warbler** (seen) and a Reed Warbler (heard) were new for the trip, as was Zitting Cisticola. We also saw **Mousierre's Redstart** (male and female), **Laughing Dove**, our first **Linnet, Stonechat** and the usual fare of gulls – **Yellow-legged, Lesser Black backed** and **Audouin's**. We next tried an area just south of the town of Sidi Rbat, where open, cultivated fields were fed by small pools and water filled ditches. Unfortunately the water had dried up, there were no pools and very few birds. We noted a **Water Rail** as it scooted across our path as we arrived and the sky was full of **Barn Swallows** and **Common Swifts**. We added **Meadow Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Sparrowhawk, Booted Eagle**, and **Common Kestrel** to our ever growing daily tally, our total for the day was an impressive 90 species. So at 6pm, after a very long day we headed towards Agadir to our hotel for a hot showers and a good meal.

Sunday 16th March

Our last full day of birding had arrived and we intended to make the most of it. At 6:30am we made a start travelling the short distance to the Oues Sous estuary and by 6:40am we jumped out of the bus to the sound of **European Bee-eaters** as a flock of 10 flew over. The tide was receding and on the emerging mudflats we watched **Greater Flamingo, Curlew, Redshank, Greenshank, Dunlin, Sanderling, Bar-tailed Godwit** and the Moroccan race of Common Magpie. Our next stop found us walking across a sandy heathland to view a wider part of the river mouth. We saw **Spoonbill, Turnstone, Kentish, Little, Grey and Ringed Plover, Little Stint, Sandwich Terns, Y. L. Gulls, Audouins Gull** an **Osprey** drifted up the estuary putting up every bird in sight. On the heath we watched **Moussiere's Redstart, Sardinian Warbler**, our first **Robin** of the trip and **Zitting Cisticolas**, whilst overhead Pallid and Common Swifts dashed about. At 9am we headed back to the hotel for breakfast before heading north to look for the star bird of the trip, the very rare Bald Ibis. However before we reached our destination one of the group had to be returned to the hotel because of a stomach bug, the rest of the group waited at a coastal vantage point where we logged **Northern Gannet, Blue Rock Thrush, House Bunting, Common Kestrel** and a **Preying Mantis**.



After an hour we were back on the road and we reached our beach-destination very shortly, the river Tamri flows into the sea just before the town and forms a wide basin with reed fringed pools. On the main pool a flock of **Yellow-legged Gulls** contained a few **Audouin's Gulls** and the large flock of **Common Coot** held a single **Red-knobbed Coot**. Our star bird was found on the hillside behind the village where scope views were had by all, a group of some 31 **Bald Ibis** were feeding amongst the sparse vegetation. Soon a second flock came over the hill and they were joined by the first group, the whole flock came towards us and to our delight they landed on the bank of the lagoon some 100 meters away giving excellent views. There was an impressive flock of 69 birds in all and

they stayed for an hour before flying off over the hill never to be seen again! We ate our lunch in the shade of some tall bushes and then some of the group took a walk into the reed-beds whilst others went for a paddle in the sea. In the reeds we noted **Reed Warbler (singing), Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Sardinian** and **Subalpine Warblers**. In the small pools we found **Little Grebe** and more **Common Coot**.

As mid-afternoon approached we decided to head back to the Oued Sous where it would be cooler, some of the group elected to return to hotel for a quiet relaxing drink in the shade of the garden trees. At the estuary there were thousands of birds, alongside those already recorded we saw **Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed**

Tern, Slender-billed Gull. We had a fantastic fly-over by an **Osprey** as it glided right over the top of us. The sun had moved round to the west and provided perfect lighting for scanning over the estuary, a photographer's dream scenario, we counted 18 different species of waders during our 2 hour vigil, added to that were the gulls, terns, egrets, herons and other wildfowl, what a place!

The tide began its relentless rise, the light began to fade, the birds set off to find lodgings for the night and so, reluctantly, did we. The day's fading light was as if the curtains of time were being drawn closed across our wonderful window through which we had the opportunity to view this magical place.

Monday 17th March

We made a very early start to travel the 200 kilometers from Agadir to Marrakech, even at 5am the **Common Bulbuls** were noisily going about their business in the hotel garden. The drive was uneventful we made one stop and noted more **Bulbuls, House Bunting, Spotless Starling** and **White Stork**. The birding tour was over as we arrived at Menara airport for the return flight to London, Gatwick.

The trip was made a great success because the efforts of the participants, the humorous banter and the relaxed atmosphere created by everyone on the tour. We encountered 174 species and had some memorable experiences, the group voted the **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** as their favourite sighting, especially the flock of 19 that descended into the trees from the desert skies as we sat sipping cool drinks overlooking the seasonal pool at Café Yasmina, with a backdrop of the Erg Chebi dunes, what better way could you spent an afternoon?

See bird list below

SPECIES	LATIN NAMES	NUMBER OF BIRDING DAYS RECORDED	HIGHEST COUNT C=common H=heard
1. Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	2	6
2. Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	3	21
3. Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1	10+
4. Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	2	10+
5. Great Cormorant	<i>Phal. Carbo moroccanus</i>	2	20+
6. Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	2	10+
7. Cattle Egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>	3	No count
8. Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	4	6
9. White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	5	No count
10. Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	1	14
11. Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	1	69
12. Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	3	200+
13. Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	3	60+
14. Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2	4
15. Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	1	6
16. Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	1	40+
17. Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	6	3
18. Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	7	37
19. Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	6	100+
20. Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	4	5
21. Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans migrans</i>	2	2
22. Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	3	27
23. Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	2	3
24. Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1	1
25. Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	6	3
26. Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	5	2
27. Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetus</i>	3	2
28. Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>	2	2
29. Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1	1
30. Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanii</i>	6	4
31. Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	7	4
32. Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	2	7
33. Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	4	3
34. Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1(probable)	1
35. Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	1	2
36. Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	2
37. Common or Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	2	2
38. Red-Knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	2	2+
39. Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	1	1
40. Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>	5	3
41. Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	4	3
42. Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	6	20+
43. Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	5	50+
44. Stone-Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	2	3

45. Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	3	14
46. Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	2	5
47. Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	6	10+
48. Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	5	5
49. Grey or Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	5	10+
50. Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	2	7
51. Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	1	2
52. Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	5	50+
53. Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	3	3
54. Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	4	15
55. Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	3
56. Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa arquata</i>	6	100+
57. Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	2	1
58. Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	1	5
59. Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	1	2
60. Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	1	8
61. Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	5	3
62. Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	3	1
63. Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	7	50+
64. Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1	1
65. Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	3	2
66. Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	2	1
67. Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	2	3
68. Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cahinnians</i>	4	4
69. Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	2	3
70. Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	7	50+
71. Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	2	3
72. Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pierocles alchata</i>	2	2
73. Rock Dove/ Feral Pigeon	<i>Columbus livia</i>	6	20+
74. European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	6	50+
75. Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	7	50+
76. Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	1	1
77. Laughing Dove	<i>Strep. Senegalensis arenicola</i>	5	30+
78. Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	1	1
79. Tawny Owl	<i>Strix strix</i>	2	H
80. Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	7	10
81. Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	6	4
82. European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	2	2+2H
83. Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus chrysocerus</i>	1	1
84. Common or Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1	1+3H
85. Bar-tailed Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes c. arenicola</i>	2	1
86. Desert lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti payne</i>	1	1H
87. Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	7	100+
88. Thick-billed Lark	<i>Rhamphocoris clotheby</i>	1	1
89. Calandra Lark	<i>Melamocorypha calandra</i>	5	3
90. Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	1	1
91. Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Candrella rufescens minor</i>	6	20+
92. Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	4	5
93. Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae aguirrei</i>	4+2H	2
94. Horned (Atlas) Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris atlas</i>	6	1

95. Temminck's Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>	3	10+
SPECIES	LATIN NAMES	NUMBER OF BIRDING DAYS RECORDED	HIGHEST COUNT C=common H=heard
96. Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	7	5+
97. Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	1	1
98. Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	7	100+
99. Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	2	3
100. House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	7	50+
101. Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	7	50+
102. Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	6	5
103. Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	2	2
104. Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	2+1h	2
105. Yellow Wagtail	<i>M.f.iberiae</i>	2	5
106. White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	3	10
107. Moroccan White Wagtail	<i>M. alba subpersonata</i>	4	5
108. Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	2	3
109. Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	7	20+
110. European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	4	10+
111. Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	1	2
112. Mousierre's Restart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	1	2
113. Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	4	10+
114. European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	1	2
115. Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	3	2
116. Seebohm Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe o. seebohmi</i>	1	4
117. Black-Eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	3	1+2H
118. Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	5+2H	2
119. Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oesta</i>	1	1
120. Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe Isabellina</i>	1	1
121. White Crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	6	5
122. Black wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	2	2
123. Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola salitarius</i>	2	3
124. Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1	2
125. Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	6	8
126. Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomenus</i>	4	3
127. Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	6	2
128. Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1	1
129. Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	2+5H	2
130. Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	2H	H
131. Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais elaeica</i>	4	10
132. Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia ortensis</i>	1	1
133. Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	2	2
134. Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>	4	10+
135. Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	2+2H	4
136. Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	6+1H	20+
137. Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	1	1
138. Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	2	1
139. Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	5	2
140. Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	1	2
141. Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	2+1H	1
142. Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus</i>	1	2

