

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

TRIP REPORT

CENTRAL MOROCCO



MARCH 18TH - 28TH 2013

MARCH 18TH - LONDON TO MARRAKECH - TRANSFER TO HOTEL OURIKA – AFTERNOON VISIT TO OUKAIMEDAN (TOUBKAL NATIONAL PARK – ATLAS MOUNTAINS)

Leader Bob Buckler

Participants: Peter & Sue Morrison, Chris & Peter Hopkins, Ted Lyons, Paul Edlin

Summary

A superb tour was enhanced by a great bunch of people making my job as tour leader a pleasure and a very enjoyable experience. The weather in general was pretty good although the low cloud base in the Atlas Mountains restricted our sightings as it did when we drove through the Tizi-n-Tichkla Pass on day two. Migration was restricted to passerine sightings with very few migrating raptors seen. However, nearly all of the must-see species of Morocco were seen well, these included:

Levaillant's Woodpecker, Moussier's Redstart, Crimson-winged Finch, Tristram's Warbler, Scrub Warbler, Desert Warbler, Fulvous Babbler, Desert Sparrow, Hoopoe lark, Thick-billed Lark, Crowned and Spotted Sandgrouse, Barbary Falcon, Black-crowned Tchagra, Bald Ibis and Brown-throated Martin.



DAY 1 - MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2013

We arrived at Marrakech at 11:15am in a blaze of sunshine with fluffy white clouds passing overhead. Our first sighting was a **House Sparrow** and then a **House Bunting** both were on the roof of the terminal building, As we loaded up into the bus we made a quick scan and found **Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Pallid Swift** and a couple of **Barn Swallows**.

During our drive to the hotel we saw several **White Storks**, a couple were on the nest, we also saw **Collared Dove, Barn Swallow, Common Bubul** and a few **Little Swifts**. At the hotel we spent a little time unpacking our optics and we met up again in the hotel car park some 30 minutes later. For the remainder of the day we drove the 30km up to Oukaimedan and the Toubkal Nature Reserve found in the High Atlas mountains. The road winds its' way up through some fantastic scenery with the snow covered peaks in the background. Stopping along the way we watched several new species, our first stop produced **Black Redstart, Moussier's Redstart** (a few of us saw it), **Long-legged Buzzard, House Bunting** and lots of **African Chaffinches**.

As we drove higher we soon realised that the cloud base was very low and soon we were driving through the thick mist of the cloud. Our next stop was in a small pine copse, the visibility was very poor there and we only managed to find **Coal Tit** and more **Chaffinches**. The next stop was to survey a babbling brook, we were now above the snow-line and the temperature had dropped somewhat, our target bird, the **Dipper**, could not be found but we did see **Black Wheatear, Black Redstart** and a **Water Pipit**.



At Oukaimedan the thick cloud began to clear and we could see the full extent of this beautiful place. We drove straight round to the top car park which is the regular spot for the **Crimson Winged Finch**. Sure enough we found a dozen or so of these special birds they were feeding in a mixed flock with **Rock Sparrows**. We then spent a while searching the slopes for an **Atlas Horned Lark**, when we eventually found one it was practically walking around our feet giving excellent

views. One really good find was a male **Brambling** in full summer plumage, what a bird and an extraordinary find being so high up in the mountains.

Lastly we drove up to the TV mast above the village of Oukaimedan, we only found a couple of **Black Redstarts** so we drove down stopping once to watch a small flock of **Greater Short-toed Larks**, another amazing and unexpected find, you wouldn't expect to see this species at 8,000ft. On the way back down the mountains we pulled over to view the stream and quickly found a **Green Sandpiper** this was shortly followed by a sighting of a **Dipper**, all of the group had good views of it.

We arrived back at the hotel at 6pm, a little disappointed with the cloudy weather, let's hope it is better tomorrow.

DAY 2 - MARCH 19TH - OURIKA VALLEY TO BOUMALNE DADES VIA THE TIZI-N-TICHKLA PASS AND QUARZAZATE RESERVOIR.

A bright and early start saw us meeting in the hotel car park at 6am, it was dark, misty with light drizzle and bouts of heavier rain. Not good!



We drove a short distance to an area of open farmland, orchards and crop fields with tracks that led down to the river Ourika. Our walk started just as it was getting light, we took one of the tracks leading down to the river, we could hear many birds but at first we didn't many. Finally they started to show with views of **Common Bubul, Wren, European Robin, European Greenfinch and African**

Chaffinch getting us off the mark. Our first **African Blue Tit** soon followed and by this time we had heard our target species several times, the **Levaillant's Woodpecker**, it was calling constantly, in fact we could hear three or four of them. By the time we reached the river we had seen **Blackcap, Common Nightingale** and we heard several **Cetti's Warblers**. At the river we finally got to see two **Levaillant's Woodpeckers** in flight, lots of **Cattle Egrets** flew over us and a couple of **Grey Wagtails** flew up river.

As the light improved so did the birding and it stopped raining but remained dull and overcast. A small flock of **Hawfinches** was a nice find, a **Great-spotted Woodpecker** drummed in the distance and another **Common Nightingale** showed very well, a couple more burst into song.

We walked back to the main road as the cloud lifted and the sky brightened it was then that many birds began to appear overhead. A flock of **Red-rumped Swallows** were joined by up to eight **Little Swifts**, a couple of **Barn Swallows** and a few **House Martins**. We also added **Serin, Goldfinch, Cirl Bunting** and **Common Cuckoo** to our list. We returned to the hotel for a most welcomed breakfast.

After breakfast we set off for the long journey to Boumalne Dades, we made frequent stops along the way, the first of which was just passed the town of Ourika. The road was high above the surrounding farmland and we could see the Atlas Mountains shrouded in cloud behind us. Before too long we had notched up several new birds for the trip, the best of which was a flock of eight **Moroccan Magpies**

showing their blue face-patches and three **Great-spotted Cuckoos**, we had close views of one of these superb birds. We also got great views of **Thekla Lark**, **Sardinian Warbler** and distant views of **Corn Bunting**.



Over the next 100 kilometers we stopped a couple of times to watch specific birds namely: **Great Grey Shrike** and **Booted Eagle**. We drove up through the Tizi-n-Tichkla pass, where we saw several **Black Wheatears**, then down towards Quarzazate stopping for lunch just passed Taddart. During lunch-break we searched a pine wood for **Common Crossbill** but found, instead, a flock of **Rock Sparrows**, a **Bonelli's Warbler** and we got good close views of the **Moroccan** sub-species of **Coal Tit**.

We took lunch sitting out in the warm sunshine on a terrace that had terrific views of the surrounding countryside. During lunch a small flock of **European Bee-eaters** flew passed and in the valley below we watched a **Black Wheatear** and saw a **Barbary Partridge** in flight. A couple of **Common Ravens** were seen mobbing a **Booted Eagle** and just after a **Black Kite** flew down the valley.

During the late afternoon we made two stops near the huge reservoir at Quarzazate, the first, at a small stream produced **Green Sandpiper**, **Hoopoe** (2), **White-crowned Wheatear** (2), **Common Redstart**, **European Bee-eater** (6) and lots of **Common Bubul**. The second stop was near the shoreline of the Quarzazate reservoir which was a bit of a disappointment. In the past this site has produced hundreds of birds of many species but this year the water level was so low that not many birds were seen at all and it was very windy which is not conducive to good birding.

A pair of **Desert Wheatears** flitted along the track as we approached and a after a few minutes we logged: **Grey Heron** (15), **Ruddy Shelduck** (12), **Mallard**, **Gadwall** (1), **White Stork** (1), **Common Coot** (1), **Marsh Harrier** (1), **Yellow Wagtail** (2), **White Wagtail** (5), **Water Pipit** (1), **Meadow Pipit** (3), **Little Ringed Plover** (3), **Common Redshank** (1), **Northern Wheatear** (1) and not much else.

The light began to fade so we jumped back onto the bus for the last leg of the journey to Boumalne Dades which took another 90 minutes, we arrived at 7:30pm and went straight down for dinner.

DAY 3 - MARCH 20TH - BOUMALNE DADES THE TAGDILT TRACK AND DADES GORGE

An early breakfast-call found us in the dining room at 6:30am and after consuming a lovely breakfast we set off on foot towards the Tagdilt Track. Our first bird of the day was a **House Bunting** which was singing from the roof of the hotel this was quickly followed by a **Thekla Lark**, **Collared Dove** and a **White-crowned Wheatear**, all were seen from the small compound at the front of the hotel.

We walked out to the mini-dump a few hundred meters from the hotel entrance, we had a clear blue sky but it was very windy which made it feel quite cold. As we approached the dump a single **Stone Curlew** flew up from a gully and landed not too far away and a pair of **Temminck's Horned larks** showed very well. Next a **Trumpeter Finch** was found in another gully with several **Thekla Larks** and a **Northern Wheatear**. A single **Alpine Swift** flew over as we were watching a **Red-rumped Wheatear** and then a small flock of **Short-toed Larks** landed close by.

We then jumped onto the bus and set off for the 'new' Tagdilt track, which is, in fact a tarmac road, we stopped a couple of clicks along this road to view a series of seasonal pools near the roadside. Our first **Desert Wheatear** of the day was found and another couple of **Red-rumped Wheatears** appeared close by. At the pools we found two **Little Ringed Plovers** and a single **Ringed Plover** but it was just passed the pools that the star bird appeared. We located a couple of **Crowned Sandgrouse**, they had just dropped in, they were soon joined by six more, all giving excellent views.



A visit to a mini oasis a little further along the track provided more sightings with a good selection of migrants on show; **Tawny Pipit, Common Redstart, Whinchat, Tree Pipit, Woodchat Shrike, Crested Lark, Thekla Lark**, a couple of **Short-toed Larks, Northern Wheatear, Trumpeter Finch** and a superb male **Sebohm's Wheatear**.

Back on the Tagdilt Track we turned west and headed out onto the 'hammada', this stony desert habitat is home to several sought after species. **Cream-coloured Coursers** were the first to show, four we seen at first and

several more followed.

It was now getting quite hot but we persevered and took a walk in search of other larks. The **Hoopoe Lark** took some finding, but what a great find and such a crowd pleaser. After returning to the bus we headed off towards Boumalne Dades which could be seen in the distance, along the way a couple more **Hoopoe Larks** were seen along with singles of; **White Wagtail, Common Kestrel, Booted Eagle** and our last new bird of the morning, a **Desert Lark**.

In Boumalne Dades we picked up picnic supplies before driving up through the Dades Gorge. Along the way to the head of the gorge we stopped to watch **Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush** and a **Long-legged buzzard** seen perched on the rocks. Near the top of the gorge we walked along the road whilst searching the mountain scrub for warblers. The **Tristram's Warbler** was our main target and after a short while we

found one, but the wind had picked up again which hampered our search, we also found a single **Rock Bunting**.

For the last couple of hours of the afternoon we re-visited the Tagdilt track still searching for the **Thick-billed Lark**, again without success. But we found many of the species seen earlier and one nice find was a single **Lesser Short-toed Lark**.

The weather had been terrific today with bouts of windy conditions but overall a lovely day, as the sun dropped behind the snow-capped peaks we looked eastward and wondered what was in store for us tomorrow as we headed out towards the desert region.

DAY 4 – MARCH 21ST - BOUMALNE DADES TO MERZOUGA ERG CHEBBI SAND DUNES VIA GOULMIMA, ERFOUD AND RISSANI

Today started as yesterday did, we were all up at 6am, and considering this was an optional pre-



breakfast walk I was impressed by a 100% turn out. We walked to the small 'dump' about 500 meters from the hotel. At the 'dump' we found all the species that we recorded yesterday with particularly good views of **Trumpeter Finch, Red-rumped Wheatear, Desert Wheatear, Short-toed Lark** and we watched a pair of **Temminck's Horned Larks** building a neat nest in a small cup-shaped hollow in the ground. To top the morning off and to our great delight a pair of **Thick-billed Larks** turned up just

as we were about to return to the hotel for breakfast. They got the crowd buzzing and they cheered me up for the day as they showed very well, down to a few meters.

We set off for our 3-day excursion into the desert region at about 9am. It wasn't long before we turned off the main road onto a side track. This was a diversion to a secret location where we knew **Pharaoh Eagle Owls** were breeding. Sure enough we had great, prolonged views, from a good distance, of one of these magnificent predators. We also saw **White-crowned Wheatear, Desert Lark** and **Common Kestrel**.

Our next stop was after about 40km due east of Boumalne Dades, we pulled over to search a well known site for **Magreb Wheatear**. We didn't see the wheatear but found, instead, a pair of **Barbary Falcon's**, how amazing was that? One of the birds was standing next to the nest, it was built high up on a

ledge, it then flew up to an old ruin on top of the cliff face and mated with its partner, the pair then gave a great show of circling above us before drifting off westward.

Our good luck continued as we stopped east of Goulmima to search for the hard-to-find **Scrub Warbler**, after 10 minutes of searching in the midday heat we found two of these little beauties. They were very elusive at first but we persevered and got good views of them in the end. We also recorded **Great Grey Shrike (ssp. elegans)** and **Desert Wheatear** but not much else was seen.

From there we set off back towards Goulmima and then turned south towards Erfoud, we made a brief stop at the river Farquala some 10km south of Goulmima where we found **Little Ringed Plover, Sand Martin** and to our great delight there were two pairs of **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** feeding and/or breeding there. These little gems were much appreciated by the group but we nearly lost one of them as a **Peregrine Falcon** swooped down and tried to snatch it in mid-air, it had a lucky escape.

Another hour on the road saw us pass through Erfoud and Rissani, along the way we saw two more groups of **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** and many **White-crowned Wheatears** sitting on the buildings.

The last leg of our journey took us across the desert on rough tracks, we could see the magnificent Erg Chebbi sand dunes in the distant, they looked like golden mountains in the light of the afternoon sun. It was along these tracks that we stopped for our last



birding of the day. We walked for an hour or so along a wadi and after a while we started to find a few birds, but not many.

We found our first **Bar-tailed Desert Larks**, there were several of them running amongst the tufts of grass, we also saw two or three **Hoopoe Larks**, some of them were singing and performing their kamikaze display flights. A **Eurasian Chiffchaff** then appeared and a pair **Desert Wheatears** showed well just before we located our target species the **African Desert Warbler**. We only got distant views of one of them as it moved from bushes to grass clumps singing each time it stopped. But then it flew high over our heads and disappeared from view.

We arrived at Kasbah Café Yasmina at 6pm with just enough time left for a quick mint-tea on the superb terraces before showering for dinner. From the terrace we had wonderful views of the Erg Chebbi sand dune system which is truly spectacular, there is usually a large seasonal lake adjacent to the Café Yasmina but for the third year running there wasn't any water in it. Another dry winter has left the lake devoid of water but the surrounding tamarisk provides a good area for birding. It was in the tamarisk

that we found our last bird of the day, a superb male **Subalpine Warbler**. Dinner was taken in the large dining room at café Yasmina at 7:30pm.

Day 5 - March 22ND - Café Yasmina - Merzouga Lake - Rossani Area

Another early start saw most of the group assembling on the terrace of the Kasbah Café Yasmina at 6am. The visiting ringing group were putting out their nets and whilst they were doing that we looked out over the area scanning for birds. The best we could come up with was a male **Marsh Harrier** and not much else. Back on the terrace the ringing group let us watch them in action as several birds were being 'processed' and ringed before their release. We saw them ring: **Iberian Chiffchaff, Subalpine Warbler, Common Redstart, Willow Warbler** and **Western Olivaceous Warbler**.



By 8am we were off in the minibus heading towards Merzouga, we stopped a few times to watch some desert species which included **Brown-necked Raven** and **Bar-tailed Desert Lark**. We continued along the track to Merzouga and onto the main tarmac road before turning onto another track which took us to the lake. It always amazes me to see a wealth of wildlife in the midst of this desert region, the lake was brimming with birds. From the eastern shore we found a nice,

small flock of **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** feeding very close to the shore. In the water we saw **Greater Flamingo, Ruddy Shelduck, Little Egret, Avocet** and a large number of **Black-winged Stilts**. As we moved to the northern end we could see the birds on the western shore, we picked out **Common Coot, Shoveler, Great Crested Grebe** and a **Booted Eagle** circled above us.

Finally we drove around to the north-west corner of the lake and we were able to get closer views of a good number of ducks which turned out to be **Marbled Duck (35+), Ferruginous Duck (4), Common Pochard (6)** and **Common Coot (100+)**. We also found a few waders which included: **Little Stint, Sanderling, Kentish Plover** and **Green Sandpiper**. The brightly coloured **Yellow Wagtails (*ssp. Iberiae*)** looked truly beautiful in the morning sunshine we found a flock of some 20+ birds, with them we saw a couple of **White Wagtails**.

It was now approaching lunchtime so we drove up to Rissani to buy our picnic supplies, but before we ate lunch we drove to an area near the town to look for the **Long-billed Crested Lark**, which turned up right on cue, a few small groups of **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** also grabbed our attention.

It was now quite windy, dust and sand was being lifted into the air making birding and eating sandwiches a bit tricky. We stopped at the river on the Alnif road and sat in the shelter of the new bridge. From there after eating lunch we walked along the river and found **Moroccan Wagtail, Great Cormorant, Grey Heron, Willow Warbler, Common Bubul, Ruddy Shelduck** but viewing wasn't good in the windy conditions.



For the next couple of hours we searched the area for **Lanner Falcon** without much luck but we did find a flock of 14 **Spotted Sandgrouse** which were seen in a large 'hidden' valley in an area that was fairly sheltered. As the afternoon wore on

the wind started to subside and we spent a while driving through the back lanes of Rissani. It was about 5:30pm when we finally found our target species, a small flock of some 5-6 **Fulvous Babblers**, one bird in particular sat out in the open for some 5 minutes and posed for the cameras, thank you very much!

We also saw many **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters**, in fact I have never seen so many here before, also **Woodchat** and **Great Grey shrikes, Hoopoe, Long-billed Crested Lark, Barbary Partridge** but smaller passerines we very few and far between.

Finally we set off for an area where I had seen **Egyptian Nightjars** in previous years, we stopped to look at a **Little Owl** along the way. The area where the nightjars were last seen has been drastically transformed with the building of the new Erfoud to Merzouga Road, so we were disappointed and left without a sighting. We drove back to Yasmina in the dark and ate a lovely tajine at 8:30pm.

DAY 6 - MARCH 23RD - CAFÉ YASMINA AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS

Another early start found us on the terrace of Yasmina watching the bird ringers do their work. Today we saw: **Common Redstart, Common Nightingale, Woodchat Shrike, Subalpine** and **Bonelli's Warbler** in the hand before we went in for breakfast.

The rest of the morning was spent in the small villages and open areas near to Café Yasmina looking for **Desert Sparrow**, we never saw one and the usual nesting box near Yasmina had been damaged by kids. We did enjoy other bird sightings throughout the morning which included several **White Crowned Wheatears, Brown-necked Ravens** and hundreds of the 'wrong' species of sparrow – the **House Sparrow**.

At lunchtime we returned to Yasmina where we ate a Berber omelete for lunch and then at 2pm we went for an escorted 4*4 drive into the desert to continue our search for the elusive **Desert Sparrow**. After several stops we eventually caught up with the colourful little fellow; at last, we had our final target 'desert' species in the bag. During the drive we also found **Woodchat Shrike, Hoopoe Lark, Greater Short-toed Lark, Bar-tailed** and **Desert Larks, Trumpeter Finch, Desert Wheatear** and **Northern Wheatear**.

We spent the last couple of hours of daylight watching from the terrace or walking through the dry bed of the lake at Yasmina. We found many migrant species and there seemed to be an influx of **Bonelli's Warbler** and **Subalpine Warblers**; but we also saw **Saharan Olivaceous Warbler, Common Redstart, Willow Warbler, Tree Pipit** and to our great delight a **Lanner Falcon** flew over and circled above us for a while, The Lanner was seen again some 30 minutes later as it tried to take a **Collared Dove**, but it missed.



Finally a sizable flock of **European Bee-eaters** came in from the east and settled in the tamarisk nearby, it was a lovely, colourful sight in the superb light of the late afternoon. That was our last birding of the day so we disbanded and set off to our rooms to prepare for dinner.

Day 7 - March 24TH - café Yasmina to Taliouine

Our last morning at Yasmina, alongside the Erg Chebbi dunes, started just as the previous two days had with an early start on the terrace. The wind had gone

completely it was a beautiful morning with a little chill in the air. We watched the ringing of several species of birds, in fact the ringers were extremely busy because many birds were caught in their nets. We saw in the hand: **Subalpine & Willow Warblers, Bonelli's Warbler, Common Nightingale, Woodchat Shrike** and two new species for our trip list: **Reed Warbler** and **Melodious Warbler**.

We were on the road by 8am after we had consumed a lovely breakfast at Café Yasmina, our plan was to reach Agdz by 1pm. Birds of note seen along the way were :- **Brown-necked Raven, White-crowned Wheatear (20+), Hoopoe Lark, Booted Eagle, Black Kite, Corn Bunting, Little Egret** and several other species.

We bought lunch in Agdz and sat to eat it just 5km west of the town. **Laughing Dove** was heard by a few of the group, we also saw **Black-eared Wheatear, Woodchat Shrike** and **European Bee-eater**.

We arrived at Taliouine at 4:30pm, our accommodation was at the Toubkal Auberge on the edge of town, the auberge overlooked an area of woodland, cultivated land and the Oued Zagmouzen (which had a lot more water in it than the last couple of years). Before dinner we took a walk down towards the river and despite windy conditions we saw quite a number of common woodland species. There were many **Laughing Doves, Hoopoe, European Bee-eaters, African Chaffinches, Subalpine Warblers, Woodchat Shrikes, Common Bubuls** and several other species.

At 6:30pm the light began to fade so we called it day and went back to our rooms to get ready for dinner.

DAY 8 – 25TH MARCH. TALIOUINE TO AGADIR VIA THE ‘SOUS PLAIN’ PASSING THROUGH AOULOZ AND TAROUDANT.

What a fabulous day!! The weather was perfect, clear blue sky a lovely temperature and a nice cooling breeze, perfect for my kind of birding. We listed an amazing 92 species despite traveling for 3-4 hours!



The day started with a similar walk as last night, which was down towards the river, we started at 6:15am just as it was getting light. We found two new species for the list, **Western Orphean Warbler** was the first, which began singing as we entered the small cultivated area, it was hard to track down but eventually we all had excellent views of it. Many other species were singing including **Common Nightingales**, which also showed very well for us, the whole area was alive with bird song. We also found **Common Redstart** and a good selection of other warblers which included **Melodious, Olivaceous, Bonelli's** and **Willow**. As we walked back to the Auberge we noticed some birds feeding in the conifers, these turned out to be **Serin** and half a dozen **Siskin**, our second new bird of the day.

The second leg on the journey to the coast commenced at 8:30am and it wasn't long before we stopped for a spot of birding. It was the Gorge at Aoulouz that was our destination. From the bridge just outside the town we looked over a good stretch of the Oued Sous which had a good flow. In fact there was probably too much water as we couldn't see any of the usual array of herons, egrets and waders. We only found two **Little Egrets** and two **Ruddy Shelduck**.

We then walked into the gorge and watched a few falcons on the cliffs, they were **Common Kestrel** and **Peregrine Falcons**. On the rocks we saw **House Bunting** and **Blue Rock Thrush** and in the wooded valley below us we found a number of roosting **Black-crowned Night Herons**. Many **Serin** were singing and a **Booted Eagle** was sighted several times as it drifted over the cliff tops along the gorge. Further up the river we found a **Common Kingfisher, Grey Herons, Great Cormorants, Grey Wagtails** and a single **Common Sandpiper**.

In the vegetation which surrounded a small farming area we found **Common Nightingale, Sardinian Warbler, Willow Warblers** and **African Chaffinches**. Several butterflies were on the wing and the **Moroccan Orange Tip** was particularly enjoyed by the group.

A few kilometers further on the landscape changed into a more open scrubland. A huge flat plateau spread out for several kilometers each side of the road. The whole area was covered in scattered bushes and scrub, we stopped and took a short walk in the scrub, we were hoping to find **Black-winged Kites**.

The area was brimming with birds especially shrikes, there were lots of **Woodchat** and **Great Grey Shrikes, Black-eared Wheatears, Northern Wheatears** and small parties of **European Bee-eaters** flew over. In the scrub we found several **Spectacled Warblers** which was a first for many of the group. We also found a **Tawny Pipit, Melodious, Sardinian** and **Subalpine Warblers** in good numbers but the kite eluded us on this occasion.

We arrived at our hotel at 3pm, we checked into our rooms and had a quick wash and change before setting off for the nearby Oued Sous. Great disappointment greeted us as we approached the river, hundreds of cars were parked along the road and we soon found out that a major golf tournament was taking place on the new golf course next to the King's Palace, fortunately we were able to walk along the new pathway along the river's edge.

From the bank we spent an hour or so looking at the gulls and a few waders, we logged **Greenshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Ringed Plover** as well as **Greater Flamingo, White Stork** and the following gulls: **Yellow-legged, Lesser black-backed, Black-headed** and **Mediterranean**, but the best of all was 3rd/4th year **Great Blacked Back Gull** (my first for Morocco). We also found a single **Gull-billed Tern**.



In the salt marsh scrub we saw **Zitting Cisticola** and **Sardinian Warblers** and as we moved further down the river towards the river mouth we saw many waders on the huge expanse of expose mud. We quickly added **Grey Plover, Eurasian Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Sanderling** and **Kentish Plover**. To find further species we had to scope a series of pools that were found in the heath-land but these pools lay next to the fence-line of the King's Palace which was heavily guarded, As discreet as possible we watched: **Eurasian Spoonbill, Great White Egret** (in flight), **Avocet, Redshank, Greenshank, Northern Shoveler** and **Black-winged Stilts**.

We climbed a bank to get better views of the pools and from a higher vantage point we added **Marbled Duck, Ruff, Osprey & Whimbrel**, then a Palace Guard appeared and asked to us to move away, which we did with reluctance. As we were now at the shoreline we found two more species, a flock of **Red**

Knot flew by and two or three **Stone Curlews** were flushed from the dunes and out to sea we saw a few **Northern Gannets**.

The sun was rapidly dropping from the sky as we walked slowly back, a flock of some 30 **Gull-billed Terns** flew over us and a single **Sandwich Tern** was seen on the bank of the river. By the time we reached the entrance to the estuary it was almost dark, so we hung around hoping for a glimpse of **Red-necked Nightjar** but we couldn't get near to the best place for them because of the guards, however as we approached the car park where our bus was waiting for us we heard a Nightjar calling, a little consolation but our day was not entirely ruined by the restricted access to the wonderful reserve here at Qued Sous.

DAY 9 - MARCH 26TH - SOUSS MASSA NATIONAL PARK

It was a fabulous trip today, the weather was gorgeous, the birds superb and the group saw several new trip-birds, our total for the day was 74 species. We ate breakfast at 6:30am and set off for the hour-long journey southward to Souss Massa. **Common Bubuls** were calling loudly in the hotel grounds and above



us hoards of **Pallid Swifts** and a few **Little Swifts** filled the sky. Along the way to Souss Massa we noted **Great Grey Shrike, Spotless Starling, Moroccan Magpie, Little Swift, Laughing Dove** and **Crested Lark**.

Our first walk began just inside the reserve perimeter, we started on a track high above the river and we could see for miles across fields and farmland. The birding was so good that it took us 1 ½ hours to walk a few hundred meters. Our first bird was a superb **European Roller**, it sat in the morning sun at

the top of a tree, we scoped it from above in superb light, what a great start.

Many other birds entertained us, with sightings of **House Bunting, Black-eared Wheatear, Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers, Blackcaps, Sardinian Warblers, Subalpine Warblers** and some very colourful **Stonechats**. We had excellent views of **Moussier's Redstart**, both the male and the female showed very well and several **Laughing Doves** were very obliging.

Our main target bird was the **Black Crowned Tchagra** and a few of the group had brief glimpses of two birds as we made our way further along the track, not a very satisfactory sighting really so we pressed on in the hope of better views. Over the next hundred meters we caught up with **Western Olivaceous** and **Western Orphean Warblers** and a very showy **Woodchat Shrike** posed for our cameras.

We then got back onto the bus and drove into the official reserve and continued our walk along the track, we could see a great expanse of the river in both directions and it was from there that we added a few more species. A couple of waders sat in the river with a **Ruddy Shelduck** and a **Moroccan**

Cormorant, the waders turned out to be a **Greenshank** and a **Spotted Redshank**, as we were watching them a superb male **Montagu's Harrier** appeared, it was quartering the reed-bed on the far bank, the fabulous light gave us an excellent sighting of this exquisite raptor.

As we neared the 'mouth' of the river (there isn't a mouth really the whole body of water is essentially a brackish lagoon) we could see a sand bar across it, on and near the sandbar we could see, a single **Eurasian Spoonbill**, a huge flock of (150+) **Sandwich Terns** with about 50 **Gull-billed Terns**, many of both of these two species were in summer plumage and looking lovely. We also found a solitary **Caspian Tern**, a juvenile **Audouin's Gull**, many **Yellow-legged** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**. In the water we found **Little Grebe**, **Little Egret**, **Moroccan Cormorant** and further along the shore we saw **Sanderling**, **Ringed** and **Kentish Plovers** and a single **Red Knot**.

The ocean was very misty so we couldn't see off shore but the track itself was superb, it was covered in an array of colourful flowers, many butterflies and lots of birds in song. There were **Eurasian Linnets** singing everywhere, many in bright red summer plumage, **European Stonechats**, **Moussier's Redstarts**, **Goldfinches**, brightly coloured **Greenfinches** and many *sylvia* warblers, mainly **Sardinian** and **Subalpine**. The last stretch of the footpath proved best for sightings of the **Black-crowned Tchagra**, we heard several in song and we finally had great views of a couple of individuals.



At lunchtime we walked north along the coast, uphill through the sand dunes to a small village where a hotel has a fantastic terrace that overlooks the ocean. It was very warm now but a lovely cooling breeze came onshore. We sat and ate a lovely lunch, relaxing in the superb surroundings and we finally dragged ourselves away at 2:30pm for some more birding.

We drove into the village of Massa and down to the river, our first stop was on a new bridge where we found two more **Black-crowned Tchagras**, they were singing in competition from either side of the river. A couple of **Yellow Wagtail (iberiae)** dropped in close by and a **Common Sandpiper** fed in the rocky shoreline near the bridge. A short walk along a track through some farmland failed to produce very much because it was getting very windy. Highlights along the walk included a **Turtle Dove** 'turring' a **Common Quail** 'calling' and we had good views of **Western Olivaceous Warbler**. Finally we drove to some open meadows in search of our first **Plain Martin** (now referred to as **Brown-throated Martin in the 2nd edition of Collin's**) but we failed to find one.

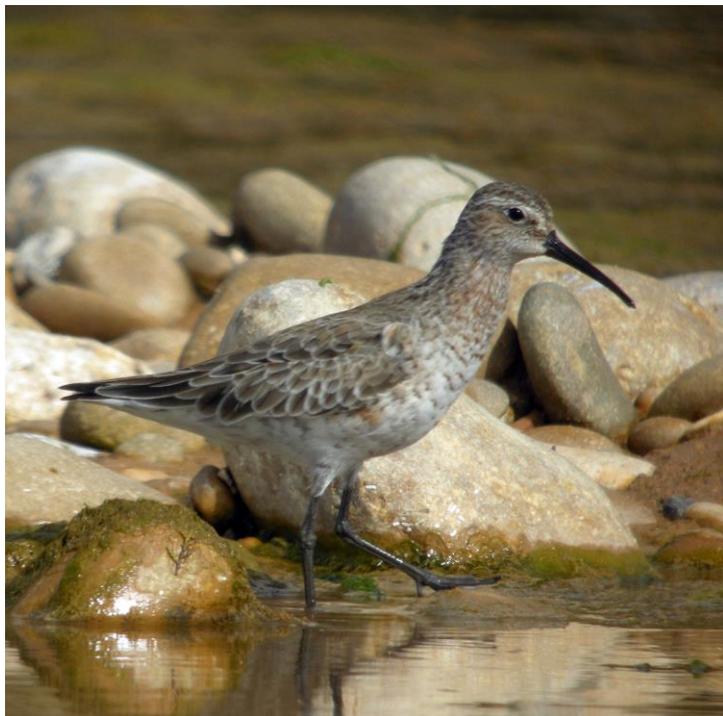
The sky clouded over the wind increased so we decided to call it a day, it was now 4:30pm and the light was beginning to fade too.

We ended the day fairly early as we pulled into the hotel car park at 5:30pm. We ate a lovely fish dish at 7:30pm before retiring at 10pm for a well earned rest and so ended another great day at the Souss Massa National Park.

DAY 10 - MARCH 27TH - AGADIR – CAPE RHIR - TAMRI – OUED KSOB – ESSAOUIRA

This was our last full day birding, we needed to see a few more species, especially the **Bald Ibis** and the **Brown-throated Martin**. At 6:30am we went down to breakfast and by 7:30am we were packed, loaded onto the bus and on our way through Agadir heading northward to Tamri.

It was dull and misty with patches of light rain, but the mist was slowly lifting as we drove north. At Cape Rhir we stopped to look for **Bald Ibis** without success but we did walk down to the point and in good light we could see a fair distance off-shore. Before long we had seen many **Northern Gannets**, the usual



gulls and at least five **Manx Shearwaters** with two of them sitting on the water. Along the beach we could see a **Little Egret** and not much else as there were many people fishing.

At Tamri we visited the large brackish pool which sits just below the town, we spent a while searching the open water and reed-beds but found very little: **Moroccan Wagtail, Little Egret, Little-ringed Plover, Moroccan Cormorant, Grey Heron** and a large roost of gulls which included many **Audouin's Gulls**. Before we went for a walk about 40 **Bald Ibis** were seen flying over a distant hill and to our delight the birds drifted towards us and after circling for a while they eventually dropped down onto the

beach not too far from where we were standing, we had excellent views of them with a back drop of rolling surf. During a short walk around the lagoon we found **Sardinian Warblers, Zitting Cisticola** and we heard a **Reed Warbler** but generally it was very quiet.

We continued our journey northward after stopping to buy picnic supplies (for the last time) and just south of Essaouira we turned off the main road to pay a visit to Oued Ksob. Despite huge development in the area, including a new bridge, there were lots of birds to see. The shrubby tobacco plants found on the shingle banks of the river held **Serins, Greenfinches, Linnets, Goldfinches, African Chaffinches** and many **Blackcaps**.

We began our walk about 2km upriver at a bridge which spans the main road. Down on the shingle by the river we had a terrific couple of hours watching many species coming to drink and bathe, the

number of **Blackcaps** was impressive, many other species joined them at the water's edge, at any one time you could see: **Greenfinch, Blackcap, Goldfinch, African Chaffinch, Linnet, Chiffchaff, Song Thrush, Blackbird** and **Laughing Doves**.

Our target species the **Brown-throated Martin** turned up in small numbers throughout our stay, there was probably a dozen birds in all, we could see their nest holes in the sandy bank and several of them flew very close to us, the group were underwhelmed, I think, by this plain looking bird. A group of **Little Egrets** sat in the water near a large flock of **Yellow-legged Gulls** and it was there that we found several waders. We enjoyed good views of **Common** and **Green Sandpiper, Greenshank, Curlew Sandpiper** and **Little Ringed Plovers**. Other sightings included: **Common Moorhen, Spotless Starling, Subalpine Warbler, Common Bubul, Great Tit** and a couple of **Common Kestrels**.

We had about an hour left before the sun went down so we walked down river from the new bridge to the shore where a huge roost of Gulls could be seen. We never added any new gulls to our list and we didn't see a single Tern, but it was a lovely evening and despite a chilly wind we enjoyed our last moments looking across the beach to the town of Essaouira. In all in all it was a superb day, we recorded a few new species and finished with a tour list of 189 species, an excellent tally and a testament to the

efforts of all the group.

DAY 11 - MARCH 28TH -
ESSAOUIRA – MARRAKECH

Our final day had arrived, we had an early start, what's new? So breakfast was at 6am and we set off at 7:00am for Marrakech, we had no time for stops along the way, unless we saw something new, which did not happen.

Well that was that, the end of the tour had arrived, we drove to the Airport with no further



sightings to add. Over the last 10-days we had recorded 184 species, heard five more (**Common Quail, Red-billed Chough, Common Cuckoo, Red-necked Nightjar** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker**) and had seen two subspecies that are likely to be split in the future, **Moroccan Wagtail** and **Long-billed Crested Lark**. It was a lovely group of people and it was a pleasure to lead them, we have some great memories to take home with us and a superb list of species for our records.

THE DATES FOR THE 2014 TOUR ARE 14TH – 24TH MARCH, TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL OR CONTACT US VIA OUR CONTACTS PAGE ON WWW.WINGSPANBIRDTOURS.COM

SPECIES			NUMBER OF BIRDING DAYS RECORDED	HIGHEST COUNT C=common H=heard
1	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	5	100+
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3	4
3	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	1	2
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	3	4
5	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	3	35
6	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	1	8
7	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	1	4
8	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>	4	2
9	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	2H	0
10	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	1	16
11	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	3	10+
12	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	1	5
13	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	4	10+
14	Great Cormorant	<i>Phal. Carbo moroccanus</i>	6	9
15	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2	2
16	Cattle Egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>	5	50+
17	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5	8
18	Great White Egret	<i>Casmerodius alba</i>	1	1
19	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	6	C
20	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	7	115
21	(Northern) Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	2	44

22	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	3	28
23	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	3	154
24	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2	2
25	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>	4	2
26	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetus</i>	1	1
27	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	4	2
28	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	1	1
29	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2	1
30	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1	1
31	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus cirtensis</i>	4	1
32	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	1
33	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	9	3
34	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumani</i>	1	4
35	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrines</i>	3	2
36	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	1	2
37	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	1	1
38	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	4
39	Common or Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	3	150+
40	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	1	5
41	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2	25
42	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	3	80+
43	Stone-Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	2	3
44	Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	1	8
45	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	4	10+
46	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	6	6

47	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	4	10+
48	Grey or Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1	15
49	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	2	50+
50	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	3	15+
51	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1	2
52	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	2	6
53	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	1	18
54	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	4	3
55	Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	3	3
56	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	2	2
57	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	1	1
58	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	3	3
59	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	1	5
60	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	1	7
61	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	1	1
62	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	1	3
63	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	1	C
64	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	1	8
65	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	4	C
66	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	2	12
67	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	4	100+
68	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	1	1
69	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	3	80+
70	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	2	70+
71	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	1	1

72	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	1	4
73	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>	1	16
74	Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>	1	8
75	Rock Dove	<i>Columbus livia</i>	4	10+
76	Rock Dove (domestic)	<i>Columbus livia</i>	10	20+
77	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	6	C
78	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	11	C
79	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2	!
80	Laughing Dove	<i>Strep. Senegalensis arenicola</i>	5	2
81	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	1	3
82	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus conorus</i>	3	H
83	Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	1	1
84	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	2	1
85	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>	1H	0
86	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	5	50+
87	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	4	100+
88	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	1	1
89	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	3	20+
90	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1	1
91	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	8	2
92	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	5	30+
93	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus chrysocerus</i>	3	18
94	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1	1
95	Levaillant's Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>	1+1H	2
96	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>	2H	0

97	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	9	C
98	Long-billed Crested Lark	<i>Galarida c. riggenbachi</i>	1	4
99	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	6	5
100	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella b. rubiginosa</i>	7	20+
101	Lesser short-toed Lark	<i>Candella rufescens minor</i>	1	1
102	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti payne</i>	4	2
103	Bar-tailed Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes c. arenicola</i>	2	4
104	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>	1	2
105	Temminck's Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>	2	10+
106	Atlas Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris atlas</i>	1	1
107	Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	4	3
108	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	1	12
109	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	4	5
110	Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	2	6
111	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	11	C
112	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	5	8
113	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	6	10+
114	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	2	1
115	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	2	1
116	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	2	3
117	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2	2
118	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla .f. iberiae</i>	8	50+
119	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	7	5+
120	Moroccan White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>	3	2
121	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	3	2

122	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	1	2
123	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	4+3H	2
124	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	5	2
125	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	3	2
126	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	3	4
127	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	8	2
128	Black-Eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	4	3
129	Sebohm's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe sebohmi</i>	1	1
130	White Crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	6	C
131	Black wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	4	3
132	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	4	4
133	Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>	2	3
134	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata rubicola</i>	2	2
135	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	1
136	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	2
137	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	11	C
138	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	2	2
139	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1+1H	1
140	Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>	1	2
141	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	5	10+
142	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	1H	0
143	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	5	C
144	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	1	4
145	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	6	C
146	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserti</i>	1	1

147	Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>	1	1
148	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	2+2H	2
149	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	2+5H	1
150	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais opaca</i>	5	1
151	Saharan Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais opaca reiseri</i>	2+1H	1
152	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	3	1
153	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	5	5+
154	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	6	10+
155	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus colybita</i>	3	2
156	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	1	1
157	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1	1+1H
158	Great Tit	<i>Parus major excelsus</i>	5	3
159	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	2	2
160	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>	4	2
161	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor elegans</i>	3	2
162	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor algeriensis</i>	4	3
163	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	10	4
164	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>	1+1H	4
165	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	9	C
166	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>	1	5
167	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica mauritanica</i>	5	8
168	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	1H	0
169	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	3	2
170	Browned-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	3	5
171	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	4	20+

172	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	11	C
173	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>	1	2
174	Rock (Petronia) Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	2	50+
175	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelobs</i>	3	2
176	African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>	6	10+
177	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	1	1
178	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	5	10+
179	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis parva</i>	8	20+
180	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris voussi</i>	5	8
181	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	1	5
182	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	7	6
183	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>	5	15
184	Crimson –winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>	1	20+
185	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	1	4
186	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	1	1
187	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza circlus</i>	4	2
188	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	8	11
189	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	5	6