

Bird – Watching Tour

with

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

in

MOROCCO



TRIP REPORT

MARCH 20th – 30th 2019

Itinerary - Morocco 20TH 30TH March 2019

- Day 1 – collection from Al Andalous Hotel (Marrakech) – Birding excursion to the Atlas Mountains - transfer to Hotel in Ourika Valley - overnight Ourika Valley**
- Day 2 – Early morning local walk in Ourika then transfer to Boumalne Dades via the western high Atlas through the Tizi-n-Tichka pass, visit to Quarzazate & the Mansour Eddahbi Reservoir – overnight Boumalne**
- Day 3 – Early breakfast followed by morning visit to Tagdilt Track – afternoon visit to Boumalne de Dades Gorge- overnight – Boumalne**
- Day 4 - Transfer to Merzouga via Goulmina and Erfoud- visit to Oued Gheris and Goulmina Plains- overnight in Merzouga**
- Day 5 - Visit to the seasonal pool at Merzouga and then several sites in Rissani - overnight in the Erg Chebbi Dunes, Merzouga**
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- Day 6 - early morning ‘Desert 4*4 Ride’ to look for Desert Species, afternoon - second visit to the Dayat Srij seasonal lake Merzouga - overnight in Merzouga**
- Day 7 - Transfer to Taliouine with birding stops along the way.**
- overnight in Taliouine
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- Day 8 - Early morning birding at Taliouine and Aoulouez Gorge followed by transfer to Agadir. Late afternoon visit to Oued Sous river estuary - overnight in Agadir**
- Day 9 - All day visit to Souss Massa National Park**
- overnight Agadir
- Day 10 - Transfer to Essaouira with morning visit to Oued Sous, Cape Rhir, Tamri and late afternoon visit to Oued Ksob**
- overnight in Essaouira
- Day 11 - Transfer to Marrakech – birding along the way at Chachaoua.**

LEADER: *Bob Buckler*

Participants: *Dave & Vanda Owen, Jeff Bailey, Jeanne Vitkovskis, Richard and Mai Geeson, Gwynn McCreanor, Andy Levitt, Jay & Jo Whetham and Dexter Hunneman.*

Summary

It was another very successful WINGSPAN TOUR of this lovely part of Africa and resulted in an impressive list of nearly 200 species. The trip was made so much more pleasurable because the group were fantastic, they gelled so well. Plenty of banter, lots of laughs and some terrific birding. Highlights included three sightings of Barbary Falcons, also Pharaoh Eagle Owl, Egyptian Nightjar and lots of encounters with Sandgrouse. The weather was generally unsettled and fairly cold at times, the lack of snow in the high Atlas mountains resulted a lack of bird species we missed Crimson-winged Finch and Atlas Horned Lark, but we saw all the other specialities that Central Morocco has to offer.

DAY 1 - 20TH MARCH 2019

TRANSFER FROM MARRAKECH TO OURIKA VALLEY WITH A VISIT TO OUKAIMEDAN

This 12th WINGSPAN Tour of Central Morocco got off to a flying start, everything went to plan and everyone met up on time and in the right place. My group of 11 'Wingspanners' had all arrived in Marrakech over the last couple of days and we all met up today at 9am as planned.

The weather was absolutely fantastic, a clear blue sky, very little wind and a temperature in the lower 20's. We could see the snow-capped High Atlas Mountains in the distance as we headed out of Marrakech.

We had logged a few species around our respective hotels before we set out and noted new species along the way to the mountains. Most of us had seen **House Bunting, Pallid Swifts, White Storks, Common Bulbul, Barn** and **Red-**

rumped Swallows by the time we arrived at our first birding venue in the Ourika Valley.



We stopped outside a disused hotel where, from past experience, I knew a colony of **Little Swifts** were breeding. We quickly found **African Chaffinch, African Blue Tit, Common Bulbul, Common Kestrel, Serin, Blackcap** and we heard **Cetti's Warbler**. One or two **Little Swifts** showed for short spell, but it wasn't until we were about to leave that a large flock of some 40+ **Little Swifts** came over and showed really well, giving a great display as they made several fly-overs.

Our journey then took us through some wonderful countryside and all the time mountains got nearer and nearer. We began to climb and made a second

stop a fair way up where we had a commanding view over the mountainous landscape. We located at least 4 male **Moussier's Redstarts**, they were all singing at some stage, one female showed up whilst we were there. We also logged **Black Redstart, Long-legged Buzzard** and **Blue Rock Thrush**.

We climbed higher and stopped in a pine woodland, where we found several **Firecrests**, a pair of **Eurasian Sparrowhawks**, a couple of **Coal Tits (subspecies *atlas*)**, **Mistle Thrush** and two of the group had brief views of a **Goshawk** displaying.

As we got higher, we realised that there wasn't as much snow as we first expected, it did not bode well for our visit to Oukaïmeden at the top. A babbling brook was our next venue, **White-throated Dipper**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Black Wheatear**, **Rock Dove**, **Red-billed Chough** and a **Long-legged Buzzard** went onto the list.

We ate our picnic lunch by the side of a small reservoir with a stunning background view, but the area was pretty much devoid of birdlife. This proved to be the case over the next two hours as we searched for **Alpine Accentor**, **African Crimson-winged Finch** and **Atlas Horned Lark**, we dipped on all three species.

What we did find was little compensation, **Rock Sparrow**, **Rock Bunting**, **Peregrine Falcon** (two birds gave fantastic aerial displays), and a **Sebohm Wheatear**. We stayed around the prime site for the Finches for at least two hours but not a single one turned up, the snow line was at least 500 meters above where it usually was at this time of the year. What a blow, we were all hugely disappointed as we made our way back down the mountain at 6pm, we even missed **Alpine Chough** into the bargain.

Hey, ho! Tomorrow is another day.

DAY 2 - 21ST MARCH 2019

TRANSFER FROM OURIKA VALLEY TO BOUMSLNE DADES, PASSING THROUGH THE TIZI-N-TICHKA HIGH PASS WITH MANY STOPS INCLUDING QUARZAZATE RESERVOIR.

WEATHER: another glorious day, chilly start but warm and sunny later, a light breeze.

We had a much more successful day today, hitting all of our target species plus a few extra bonus birds. We took breakfast at 6:30am and set out at 7:15 for the very long trip to Boumalne Dades, we planned to break up the long journey with many stops and a long lunch break.

After 15 minutes on the road we stopped in the Ourika Valley at a good site to search for the **Levaillant's Woodpecker**. It wasn't long before we heard at least two birds calling but it took quite a while to see one. In the meantime we had listed a good dozen or so common birds as well as a couple of migrants, including **Yellow Wagtail (*Iberiae*)**, **Blackcap** and Both **Barn** and **Red-rumped Swallows**. Local **Cetti's** and **Sardinian Warblers** were seen and a single **Common Nightingale** sang for quite while before we got to see it.

The woodpecker frustrated us for a while longer before we got one in the scope, it was distant but perfectly viewable. A flock of **Little Swifts** circled above us and we added **Great Spotted Woodpecker** just before we left, target number 1 in the bag.

Our next stop wasn't too far further along the road, we stopped where the roadside scrub fell away steeply to our left and a magnificent panoramic view could be had of miles of countryside and farmland. We soon listed **Barbary Partridge**, **Magreb Magpie**, **Sardinian** and **Subalpine Warblers** and a single **Common Cuckoo**. **Thekla Lark**, **Linnet**, **Corn Bunting**, **Cattle** and **Little Egret** soon joined the list.

It was a little while later when we finally found our main target bird, the **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, two birds showed distantly but they were very obliging and flew much closer, they perched for a few seconds before flying off. We also listed **Common Quail (H)**, **Booted Eagle**, **Common Stonechat**, **Goldfinch** and a **Great Grey Shrike (*algeriensis*)**.

Over the next two hours we drove through the Tizi-n-Tichka pass stopping to watch a small passage of **Booted Eagles** and then once through the pass we stopped for lunch. Sitting on an outside terrace we enjoyed the sunshine although



the breeze was rather fresh. We saw **Black Wheatear** from the terrace and a large 'kettle' of **Black Kites** high above us, we counted 141 kites and a single male **Marsh Harrier** was in with them.



Our second stop this morning where we saw the Great Spotted Cuckoo

A walk in an alpine wood adjacent to the restaurant provided views of the expected **Common Crossbill**, also a single sighting of **Bonelli's Warbler**, a **Willow Warbler** in full song, lots of **Serins** and many **African Chaffinches** and **African Blue Tits**.

We ploughed on through the barren countryside as we dropped down from the mountains to the open stony-plains around Quarzazate. **White-crowned Wheatears** were very common they seemed to be on posts every kilometer or so. We then made our last two stops of the day and both we near the shore of the huge Reservoir to the east of Quarzazate.



The Elephant Nose Pygmy Shrew

It wasn't terrific birding, but we added a good number of new birds for the trip list. On and around the water we saw **Great Crested** and **Little Grebes**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Great Cormorant**, **Grey Heron**, **Little** and **Great Egrets**, an **Osprey** and a single **Green Sandpiper**.

On the dry desert area around the reservoir we found **White-crowned**, **Black-eared** and **Desert Wheatears**. It was 6pm when we started the last leg of the journey which took another 90 minutes.

We ate a delicious dinner at 8pm after running through the bird log. Tomorrow will be much more relaxing with very little travel involved.

DAY 3 - 22ND MARCH 2019

ALL MORNING VISIT TO THE TAGDILT TRACK AND A LOCAL OASIS – AFTERNOON VISIT TO THE DADES RIVER VALLEY AND GORGE. LATE AFTERNOON WALK NEAR THE HOTEL.

WEATHER: very cold for most of the morning despite bright sunshine, warmer in the afternoon.

It was a bright but breezy start to the day with plenty of sunshine but a very cold easterly wind. We set off on foot from the hotel at 7:30 and headed to a local dumping site about a kilometre away. We quickly found both **Desert** and **Red-rumped Wheatears**, they were both males, but the **Desert Wheatear** chased off the other guy before everyone had a chance to see it. Not too far away we found a second **Red-rumped Wheatear** which did show well.



The start of the Tagdilt Track, you can just make out the rubbish tip in the distance

Next came **Thekla Lark** and a small group of flighty **Trumpeter Finches** and all the time we were out there, groups of migrating **Barn** and **Red-rumped Swallows** flew north-eastward keeping low to the ground because of the wind.

We hopped onto the bus which had been following us and drove to the start of the Tagdilt Track, so called because it leads to a village called Tagdilt! It was hard going in very cold conditions, but we managed to see a fair number of birds as we walked to the centre of the rubbish tip. Small flocks of 20-30 **Short-toed Larks** made regular appearances as did both **Desert** and **Red-rumped Wheatears**, **Thekla Larks** were also common as were **Northern Wheatears** and **Temminck's Larks**.

Other species seen during the first couple of hours included; **Eurasian Hoopoe**, both **White** and **Yellow Wagtails**, **White Crowned Wheatear**, **Woodchat Shrike**, **Black Kite** and **Marsh Harrier**.

Moving around the general area we searched in vain for a **Thick-billed Lark** but instead we bumped into a huge flock of Wagtails, a mixture of **White Wagtails** and a variety of **Yellow Wagtail** subspecies. We also found 3 **Meadow Pipits** and then we got onto a small flock of **Sandgrouse** flying in the middle distance. We located them on the ground but they went up again as a male **Marsh Harrier** flew over, we counted 11 **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**.

From there we boarded the bus and drove further along the Tagdilt Track, stopping to look at Wheatears and Larks, we found our first **Desert Lark** and soon afterwards we bumped into small numbers of **Cream Coloured Coursers**. Over the next 30 minutes we saw a dozen or so more Coursers and a pair of **Hoopoe Larks**. Also a pair of **Long-legged Buzzards** circled over us at some stage.

With our target list almost complete we drove off the stony 'regs' and followed a metalled road to a small farm holding with a variety of fruit trees and small fields of alfalfa. We were disappointed with our findings, which were few and far

between. **Common Bulbul, Eurasian Hoopoe, Woodchat Shrike**, many common species but no migrant warblers. A few of the group saw a **Common Redstart** and we all had great views of **Trumpeter Finches** but not much else.



Red-rumped Wheatear

After driving into Boumalne to buy lunch we then drove up the Dades Valley toward the famous gorge. We stopped to eat our picnic lunch at site of great geological interest where very unusual rock formations can be seen. We noted **Eurasian Hoopoe** and **European Serin** there and we heard a **Common Nightingale**.

At the top of the gorge the landscape changed, steep sided cliffs rose vertically above slopes of scree. Low scrub-bushes covered the scree, this is the home of the **Tristram's Warbler**, we found a pair within 10 minutes of looking, they showed reasonably well. We also saw **Crag Martin, House Martin, Blue Rock Thrush** and **Black Wheatear**.

After a quick cup of coffee at the head of the gorge we drove back down the steep, twisting road before we got out of the bus to visit a wooded area near the river. Apart from common garden birds we saw little else, we did hear **European Bee-eaters** but our view of the sky was obscured by trees, so we never saw them.

After returning to the hotel at 5:30 some of the group went out for walk but did not record any new sightings for the trip. We all ate dinner at 8pm before retiring for the night.

DAY 4 - 23RD MARCH 2019

TRANSFER FROM BOUMALNE DADES TO ERG CHEBBI DUNE SYSTEM, MERZOUGA – WITH STOPS AT SITES NEAR GOULMINA AND ERFOUD.



WEATHER: another very cold start, the easterly wind was not so strong but still very chilly, after a bright start it clouded over for the rest of the day.

Trumpeter Finch

At 7:30 we made a second attempt to see the elusive **Thick-billed Lark** at the rubbish dump on the Tagdilt Track. It was barely light when we arrived and apart from a pair of **Little Owls** we hardly saw a bird for the first 30 minutes. Eventually the local **Desert** and **Red-rumped Wheatears** showed up as did **White Wagtails, Short-toed Larks**, both **Thekla** and **Crested Larks** and not much else.

So, we set off for the Desert region without a tick for the **Thick-billed Lark**, maybe we shall see it later

during the rest of the trip. Our next stop was some 20 kilometres along the road, we turned onto a dirt track and drove a kilometer or so to an area with a steep sided gorge rising over an obvious dry river bed from ancient times.

Our walk took us down onto the 'river-bed' where we had excellent views of the cliffs on either side of us. The first target bird was soon in the bag as this was a regular stop for WINGSPAN TOURS, I and my driver Ahmed knew of the

whereabouts of a pair of **Pharaoh Eagle Owls**. With the help of a local lad we quickly found the current preferred nest site of the owl, we scoped it from a fair distance without disturbing the owl.



The Pharaoh Eagle Owl

Next we found a **LANNER FALCON** sitting on a rock on the skyline, then the young lad showed us its nest and once again we scoped it from a distance without disturbing the sitting bird. In the meantime, we had logged **Desert Larks**, **White-crowned Wheatears** and **Trumpeter Finches**.

Back up at the bus we saw a distant **Short-toed Eagle** and we found our last Wheatear on our 'wanted' list, the **MAGREB WHEATEAR**, it was a female, so not so impressive as the male bird, but still a great find.



The next stop we made was a further 20 kilometers along the route, it was a short speculative, but unsuccessful search for the **Thick-billed Lark**, we did find **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Woodchat Shrike**, **Desert Wheatear**, **Desert Lark**, **Common Redstart**, we saw 5 **White Storks** and two **Booted Eagles** high up on the thermals, but no the lark we had hoped for.

The ridge in the distance is where the owl was found, a desolate landscape

After stopping to pick up lunch in Goulmina we drove another 10 kilometers or so and stopped at a wadi (dry river bed). Our picnic lunch soon disappeared so we set off for a search of the wadi, our main target bird was the **STREAKED SCRUB WARBLER**. We quickly found **Desert (Great) Grey Shrike**, **Bonelli's Warbler**, **Spectacled Warbler**, **Subalpine Warbler** and **Desert Wheatear**.

After an hour of walking through the scrub we hadn't seen the 'warbler' but we did find **Cream-coloured Courser** (4 flew over us), **Fulvous Babbler**, a group of 8, **Short-toed Lark**, about 30 in a flock. We then found our first **Bar-tailed Lark** also **Crested Lark**, **Common Redstart** and a **Common Whitethroat**.

A second hour went by and just before we had decided to call it a day we found two **STREAKED SCRUB WARBLERS**. They showed really well but would not keep still for a second! We all, had excellent views of this fantastic bird.

Relieved to be back on the bus for a rest we then set off for Erfoud, but it wasn't long before we were out birding again, this time we walked along the Oued Gheris just south of Goulmina. It was still cold and late in the afternoon, not much was seen along this river in the way of birdlife. We found 4 **Green Sandpipers**, 2 **Little Ringed Plovers** and 2 **Ruddy Shelduck**.

Back on the bus for the last time today, we made good time down to the Erg Chebbi Dunes via Erfoud, it was 6:30pm as we checked into our Auberge. We had noted **Laughing Dove** and **Brown-necked Raven** along the way.

We had dinner at 7:30 in a very busy restaurant, we called our bird-log in the quiet of the new reception area at our Auberge Hotel. We have now seen 111 species with at least 85 more to find.

DAY 5 - 24TH MARCH 2019

AUBERGE CAFE YASMINA 'LAKE' – WADI NEAR MERZOUGA – DAYAT SRIJ SEASONAL LAKE – RISSANI

WEATHER: heavy rains overnight cleared by morning, but cloud persisted until noon. cold at first then warm later.

A terrific rainstorm blew in overnight, but I slept through it, large puddles and pools of rainwater were everywhere, this boded well for migrant passerines dropping in. At the hotel the usual bird-ringing group were there and they gave us a ringing demonstration straight after our breakfast. We saw several species in the hand.

Hoopoe Lark

As expected, the ringers were having a field day, a huge fall of migrants had occurred especially **Common Redstarts**. We saw plenty of birds at the ringing station including: **Common Whitethroat**, **Willow Warbler**, **Bonelli's Warbler**, **Subalpine Warbler**, **Common Nightingale**, **Reed Warbler** and about a dozen **Common Redstarts**.



Four **Purple Herons** were perched in a row of tall tamarisk trees and they took off as we boarded our bus for our day's birding trip.

We left the ringers in peace and travelled across the desert towards Merzouga we were heading for a wadi where we hoped to see an **African Desert Warbler**. Along the way we bumped into some exciting finds, including **Brown-necked Raven**, **Cream Coloured Courser**, **Hoopoe Lark** and small flocks of **Short-toed Larks**. The most interesting find was of a group of **Spotted Sandgrouse**, they were feeding not far from the track, we counted 33 of them and had great views.

At the wadi we spent an hour walking and searching for the **Desert Warbler**, finding lots of other species but not the warbler. Groups of **Spotted Sandgrouse** frequently came over us, we counted another 30 birds, also seen were **Black-eared Wheatears**, they are a common migrant on passage, **Woodchat Shrike**, **Short-toed Larks**, **Desert Wheatear**, **Subalpine Warbler**, **Willow Warbler** and **Brown-necked Raven**.

After an hour we jumped back onto the bus and drove a couple of kilometers further on and tried our luck there, this time we struck gold, we saw two **African Desert Warblers**, they seemed to be feeding close to one particular bush and we assumed that they had a nest there, what a fantastic little bird, perfectly adapted to desert life in colour and behaviour. We had prolonged views of these straw- coloured jewels of the desert.

Job done, we drove into Merzouga town where we bought our picnic supplies before driving across to the huge seasonal lake called Dayat Srij. This body of water has not been present for the last 6 years during our visits in March, so it was quite a spectacle to see hundreds of water birds on the edge of the Sahara Desert.

How strange it was to see both **Camel** and **Flamingo** in the same scope view? There were hundreds of birds out there, we listed about 20+ species, the main sightings were of; **Greater Flamingo**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Eurasian Coot**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Ferruginous Duck** and **Northern Shoveler**. Other species worth a mention were; **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Kentish Plover**, **Whiskered** and **Gull-billed Terns** and several other birds were seen around or above the lake, **Magreb Lark** (formerly **Long-billed Lark**), **Yellow Wagtail** (both *Iberiae* and *flava*), **Hoopoe Lark**, **Booted Eagle**, **Black Kite**, **Marsh Harrier** and **Common Kestrel**.



At the seasonal lake near Merzouga

A large raft of ducks was too distant to identify the species, we assumed they were **Marbled Duck** from their size and shape, (later we found out that 120 **Marbled Duck**, a dozen **Garganey** and a couple of **Blue-winged Teal** were in that flock) so we intend to make a second visit and make an effort to get to the far side of the lake to scope them.

We left the lake around 2:30pm and headed into Rissani where we took the 'Tourist' route around the outskirts of the town. We searched for **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** and had sightings of two of them, but they were fairly high up, calling but not perching. We also saw a lot more **Magreb Larks**, a few groups of **Fulvous Babblers**, **Common Bulbul**, **Desert (Great) Grey Shrike** (*Lanius elegans*), **Woodchat Shrike**, lots of **Barn Swallows** and several **Booted Eagles**.

We left for the hotel around 5:30 and arrived back around 6:15, some of the group went out for a walk around the grounds, some went for a shower. Those that went for a walk saw two more **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** flying over the hotel grounds and one or two of the group visited the ringing group who showed them a **Sedge Warbler** and more **Common Redstarts**.

Dinner was served at 7:45, you guessed it, tajine was on the menu!

DAY 6 - 25TH MARCH 2019

AUBERGE CAFE JASMINA GROUNDS – 4X4 TOUR OF THE DESERT REGION – DAYAT SRIJ SEASONAL LAKE

WEATHER; Cloudy first thing after more rain, much brighter in the afternoon, a cold breeze all day.

This was our last full day in the desert region, so we made the most of it, we had a fabulous day searching out some of the most sought-after regional specialities, we went for quality not quantity and it paid off handsomely.

After a lovely breakfast we set off into the vast flat desert region around the Erg Chebbi Dunes, it was quite cold first thing, but we soon got used to it. We drove straight to an area where a huge flat, stony, plain that had very little vegetation growing on it and ahead of us was a group of Sandgrouse sitting on the stones.

Over the next half an hour we watched the Sandgrouse through our scopes, there were about 50 in that first group but soon we noticed a second group and all the time we were there small groups were coming and going. Unfortunately for us they were all **Spotted Sandgrouse** and not the Crowned variety that we were hoping for.

We continued our search noting many other birds too, lots of **Hoopoe Larks**, small flocks of **Greater Short-toed Larks**, various Wheatears, **Brown-necked Ravens**, **Common Kestrel** and a **Marsh Harrier**.

Next, we drove to a small group of dwellings which was a known site for breeding **Desert Sparrows** and within minutes we saw a female feeding two fledglings, marvellous! It was a while before a male turned up and when one did, we saw



a second one too. We watched them for quite a while and in the meantime, we also found a **Sebohm Wheatear** and a **Bar-tailed Lark** which was still on the wanted list for some of the group.

For the next hour we searched more areas of the desert for elusive **Crowned Sandgrouse** without success, so we concentrated on another regional speciality, the **EGYPTIAN NIGHTJAR**. We drove to a wadi where a local Berber herdsman was waiting for us, he led us, on foot, to a place nearby and pointed out a **NIGHTJAR** that was roosting on the ground, wow, just like that, there was the bird.

A little later he called us over to another place not far off and pointed out a second bird, it was

amazing how he was finding these birds because they are so well camouflaged, they blend in so beautifully with their surroundings.

Back in the 4x4 vehicles we continued our search for Sandgrouse and towards midday we came across several small pockets of **Spotted Sandgrouse** and several small groups of **Cream Coloured Coursers**, in fact we found both birds together at one stage!

It was 1pm when we returned to Auberge Cafe Yasmina for lunch, we spent an hour there before setting off for a second visit to the lake at Merzouga. Some birds were seen around the Auberge including **Woodchat Shrike**, **Subalpine Warbler**, **Bonelli's Warbler** and two **Laughing Doves**.

Egyptian Nightjar

At the lake we had a very difficult time trying to negotiate the muddy tracks around to the west side where we hoped for good close views of the ducks we missed yesterday, namely, **Marbled Duck**, **Blue-winged Teal** and **Garganey**.

After a lot of walking we seemed to have not got any closer, there were many inlets to walk around and headlands in the way, it was a frustrating time. Eventually we arrived at a muddy outcrop where we could scope the area where the ducks were feeding. We listed dozens of **Northern Shoveler**, hundreds of **Eurasian**



Coots, a few **Northern Pintail**, a pair of **Gadwall**, 4 **Ferruginous Ducks** and even further away we saw the **Marbled Ducks**. One or two of the group picked out a **Garganey** and a single **Eurasian Teal** but not the Blue-winged variety.

After more walking we gave up trying to get close to these birds, we did find a large group of **White Storks**, about 70 of them, we also found a **Saharan Olivaceous Warbler**, more **Subalpine Warblers** and several **Yellow Wagtails**.

Desert Sparrow – male feeding a juvenile

It was 5pm when we left and almost 6pm when we arrived back at the Auberge, there was a lot of excitement around the bird ringers when some of the group went onto the main terrace for some last minute birding. A **Barbary Falcon** had just been seen and after a while it reappeared for us to see, smashing, a great bird to finish off a great day. Later more of the group were able to see this bird through the scope, it was perched on a pylon eating a 'catch'.

We ate again at 7:30 and after we called the bird-log, we have now seen 145 species, tomorrow we head off towards the coast, we have our longest day on the road ahead of us.

DAY 7 - 26TH MARCH 2019

TRANSFER FROM MERZOUGA TO TALIOUINE EN-ROUTE TO AGADIR WITH STOPS ON THE RISSANI TO ALNIF ROAD AND THE PLAINS AT TAZENAKHT

WEATHER: CLOUDY WITH some sunny spells and periods of rain.



We were glad that we were travelling today with the weather being dull and wet for most of the day. We spent a short spell on the hotel terrace after breakfast before loading onto the bus for the first stage of our long journey to the coast.

Triple 'C' – Cream-coloured Courser

Our first stop was made just after passing through Rissani after about an hour on the road, we were dropped off at one end of a huge flat basin. We walked the entire length of the basin to where our bus was waiting, it was a distance of about 3km.

The target species were **Crowned Sandgrouse** and **Thick-billed Lark** but any bird was welcome for the day list. It wasn't long before we heard **Spotted Sandgrouse** but it took a fair old time before we pinned them down, it was a big area and with a light breeze the sound travelled quite far.

We found a dozen or so of **Spotted Sandgrouse** on the ground and a few more in the air but no sight nor sound was made of the **Crowned Sandgrouse**. We did see plenty of other species especially **Desert** and **Bar-tailed Larks**. Wheatears were all over the place too, we saw **Northern**, **Black-eared**, **Desert**, and **White-crowned**, also **Trumpeter Finch**, **Subalpine Warbler** and finally the group all saw a **Spectacled Warbler**. One group member saw **Thick-billed Lark** but none of the rest of us saw it.

Back at the bus we realised that we spent far too much time birding, we had a very long way to travel so we set off with the intention of putting some kilometers on the clock. We drove for about 3 hours making one toilet stop, one lunch-shopping stop, also one coffee stop. We ate lunch on the bus as we travelled further towards the coast.

Birds seen en-route included both species of **Bee-eater**, **Blue-cheeked** and **European**, also **Long-legged Buzzard**, **Laughing Dove**, **Common Redstart**, **Common Kestrel**, lots of sightings of Wheatears and Larks.

We arrived at our hotel in Taliouine around 6:45pm the long day was over, after some confusion about rooms we all sat down to a nice dinner and a cold beer.

DAY 8 - 27TH MARCH 2019

TRANSFER FROM TALIOUINE TO AGADIR WITH A STOP AT AOULOUEZ GORGE AND A VISIT TO OUED SOUS ESTUARY

WEATHER: A cold start, dull and overcast, warm and sunny at the coast, a chilly wind all day.



What a fabulous day's birding we had today, we saw 95 species and our sightings included some excellent species. It had rained again overnight and our visit to the almond groves behind the hotel just after breakfast was really quite rewarding because the area was alive with migrant species.

Western Orphean Warbler

At first it seemed that only resident species were present with hordes of **Common Bulbuls**, **Chaffinches**, **Greenfinches**, **Blackbirds**, **Collared Doves** and many other common species adding to a crescendo of bird song that was really quite loud.

We quickly found other species such as **Thekla Lark**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **Corn** and **House Bunting** and we heard **Common Nightingale**. Then as the light improved and it warmed a little, migrant warblers began to appear. We found **Melodious Warbler**,

Bonelli's Warbler, many **Subalpine Warblers** and a few **Orphean Warblers** as well as **Turtle Dove**, **Laughing Dove**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Moussier's Redstart** and we heard **Levaillant's Woodpecker** in the distance.

At 8:30 we jumped onto the bus to continue our journey to the coast and after 45 minutes we stopped at one of my favourite birding places in Morocco, the Aoulouez Gorge. We parked near the road bridge and spent an hour or so scanning the river which had quite a low level but it had developed several reed-fringed pools.

A distant pool held a **Grey Heron**, a pair of **Little Grebes**, a few **Moorhens** and, to our great delight, a female **Little Crake**. This bird was showing extremely well feeding out on the lily pads in full view. Over the next half hour we discovered another four **Little Crakes** and right below us a **Spotted Crake** came into view, what a nice find by Jay.

As the air temperature warmed up we noticed a large flock of **Black Kites** circling on the thermals then sudden there was an eruption of **White Storks** as around 500 took to the air about a kilometer downstream, it was an amazing sight. **European Bee-eaters** came over in small flocks of 10-30 birds and **Booted Eagles** seemed to be ever-present overhead.

Back on the ground Andy found a **Moustached Warbler** just below the bridge which caused quite a stir and we tracked down one of two **Black-crowned Tchagras** that had been singing all the time we were there. We also watched many **Reed** and **Sedge Warblers**, a **Common Kingfisher** and a few **Little Egrets**.

Phew, what a fantastic hour we had had and it didn't stop there! We took a walk along a track that led us to the gorge, but we didn't get far because more **Little Crakes** were found and we scoped both **Green** and **Common Sandpipers**,

Ruddy Shelduck, Squacco Heron, Grey, Yellow and Moroccan Wagtails and we finally tracked down one of the many **Common Nightingales** that were singing. We also added **Serin, Linnet** and **Cirl Bunting** to the list.

Jay and Andy were having a 'purple-patch', they came up with our second **Barbary Falcon**, it was sitting on a pylon eating breakfast. **Black Kites** and **White Storks** continued to form swirling 'kettles' high in the sky above us and **European Bee-eaters** continued to pass over, a single **Montagu's Harrier** also flew over the gorge. The whole visit to this wonderful spot was just amazing.

Eventually we had to leave and as we approached the bus we heard an **Iberian Chiffchaff** singing, but we could not locate it in dense cover, a pity! After buying lunch in town we drove for another 40 minutes or so and pull over onto a large flat area of scrub, this was a site where I had seen **Black-winged Kite** in the past. We ate our picnic lunch before taking a stroll in the heat of the day, the area was alive with **Greenfinches, Crested Larks, House Sparrows, Goldfinches** and still more **Black Kites** swirled above us.

Moustached Warbler

After 30 minutes we realised that the **Black-winged Kites** was not present, so we got back into the bus to continue our journey. An hour later we passed through Taroudant and then we made a quick coffee stop.



Another 45 minutes took us to Agadir and our hotel, I recorded a sighting of a **Black winged Kite** but no one else on the bus got to see it. We arrived at the hotel at 5pm and after a quick check-in and a short time in our rooms we set off for the Oued Sous estuary. It was 6pm when we arrived at the Oued Sous, we intended to stay until dark to try to see a **Red-necked Nightjar**. It was also high tide so many birds had gone off to roost elsewhere.

Our search for a **Stone Curlew** went unrewarded but we added several new species to our trip list, these included: **Grey Plover, Common Redshank, Eurasian Curlew, Dunlin, Slender-billed** and **Audouin's Gulls**. We also saw a great many other species during our walk along river towards the sea. **Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt**, there were also hundred of gulls roosting on a sand bar with a hundred or so of **Sandwich Terns**.

We watched an **Osprey** fishing and found our first **Greater Ringed Plovers** before watching a beautiful setting sun. As it got dark we walked to the woodland where we hoped to see the nightjar, we stayed until 8:30pm but not a single nightjar called! One consolation was the sighting of two **Stone Curlews**.

It had been a tremendous birding day with many great sightings, we went home happy and ate a late dinner before retiring for the night.

DAY 9 – 28TH MARCH 2019

SOUS MASSA NATONAL PARK ALL DAY

WEATHER: warm and sunny all day, hazy clouds and a light breeze which increased in the afternoon

After an early breakfast we were on the road by 7:45 heading south from Agadir inn the direction of Dakhla. It took an hour to get to Massa, we noted **Little Swift** along the way as well as hundreds of doves, magpies, bulbuls and a few larks.

I love visiting Sous Massa the approach track to the National Park is always full of birds and the views down to the river and across to the flat valley are stunning. The weather was perfect, hazy sunshine with a temperature in the lower 20's and a very light breeze.

Birds were everywhere we didn't know where to look for the best, **Moussier's Redstarts**, **Common Bulbuls**, **Laughing Doves**, **House Buntings**, **Sardinian**, **Subalpine** & **Willow Warblers**, **Common Whitethroat**, **Eurasian** & **Iberian Chiffchaff**. Lots of **Common Redstarts**, **Zitting Cisticolas**, **Common Stonechats** were flitting about and we saw 3 pairs of **Little Owls** in the first kilometer or so.



The river didn't hold much, we saw a single **Sandwich Tern**, **Grey** and **Purple Herons**, **Greenshank**, **Common Sandpiper**, a couple of **Ospreys** and not much else. At least 3 **Black-crowned Tchagras** were seen and we heard a couple more and we finally caught up with **Western Olivaceous Warbler**.

Moussier's Redstart

The walk in the National Park was very pleasant too but fewer birds were seen because the habitat changed from tamarisk bushes to low scrub where

lots of **Goldfinches**, **Linnets** and **Serins** were seen feeding. As we approached the river mouth a few pools and sand-bars appeared in the river and there we saw a few waders. **Kentish** & **Greater Ringed Plover**, **Sanderling**, **Dunlin**, **Grey Plover**, **Eurasian Curlew** went on the day list and a single winter plumaged **Slender-billed Gull** was also present.

The main sand-bar separating the river from the ocean held what looked like a large flock of **Cormorants** and as we got nearer we soon realised that the flock of black birds on the sand bar was in fact a large group of **Bald Ibis**!! How bizarre was that? Well we could scope them from the main track and see what they were but to say we had good views would be misleading, the heat haze caused a lot of distortion in the scope, but we could identify them.

Our path led us higher as we turned north and the views back down to the river mouth and the ocean was stunning and we could see over the sand-bar where a few hundred gulls and terns were roosting. We saw **Audouin's Gulls**, **Yellow-legged** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** as well as a large flock of **Sandwich Terns**, there could have been other species with them, but we were too far from away to be able to identify anything else.



We walked up to a village where our bus was waiting for us, we then drove into Massa to buy lunch, after which we drove to an area upriver where a flat fertile valley was covered in the small fields and hedgerows.

After we ate our picnic lunch, we took a walk along narrow tracks that led us through small pastures, fields of crops and lots of small fields where alfalfa was being grown. Many birds were seen, we added **Tree Pipit** to our list and a lucky few found a **Bluethroat**. Lots of **Yellow Wagtails** were seen, we found our third subspecies, *flavissimo*, this subspecies spends the winter in Africa but breeds in the UK.

The afternoon wore on, we noted many swifts above us, both **Common** and **Pallid** species were seen, we also saw two large raptors, the first was an adult **Bonelli's Eagle** and the second was a **Short-toed Eagle**, but generally there wasn't any raptor passage of note.

Lots of hirundines were feeding over the fields, they were mainly **Barn Swallows** but also found **Sand Martins** and the smaller **PLAIN MARTIN**, which is a speciality of the area and one that most of us wanted to see, to be honest the **Bluethroat** caused more excitement than the **Plain Martin**.

It was 5pm when we left the lovely area and we arrived back at the hotel an hour later, a lovely fish dinner was served at 7:30pm and our bird-log now revealed that we had seen 185 species, I don't think that we will break the WINGSPAN record of 202 species but it could be close.

DAY 10 – 29TH MARCH 2019

TRANSFER FROM AGADIR TO ESSAOUIRA WITH VISITS TO OUED SOUS, TAMRI AND OUED KSOB

WEATHER: A glorious start to a lovely sunny day, breeze late afternoon

A few shore birds were missing from our list, so we made a last-ditch effort to see them at Oued Sous this morning before we drove along the coast to Essaouira. It was a fantastic morning, the light was superb, the river estuary was perfectly still, the river was like a mill pond.



One of the first birds we saw was a **Mediterranean Gull** it sat preening on the near shore with a bunch of **Black-headed Gulls**, it was a new bird for the list. The morning light illuminated the birds with an orange tinge, the Greater Flamingos, Spoonbills and Avocets looked like a scene from a contemporary painting, a photograph could not do the scene justice.

Our walk took us along a raised embankment giving us a perfect vantage point from which to view the muddy estuary, with the tide sitting at half-mast many birds were feeding on the exposed mud. We saw many **Eurasian Curlews**, **Black-winged Stilts**, **Common Redshanks**, **Common Greenshanks**, **Grey Plovers** and our second new bird of the day, a **Whimbrel**.

Further sightings included some really lovely **Slender-billed Gulls**, **Sandwich Terns**, an **Osprey** and lots of other gulls, the numbers of small wading birds was disappointing and we left with still a few missing from the list.

We now drove through Agadir and joined the rush-hour traffic. From the north of the city the road climbed the hillside giving us tremendous panoramic views of the port and marinas. The whole coast from then on was rugged with a scrub-covered, sandy landscape and very few buildings, it was beautiful.

We made two short stops to look at roosting gulls on a couple of sandy beaches when we added **Audouin's Gull** to the day list before stopping for walk down to the cliff at Cape Rhir. This headland provides an excellent and prominent outlook point for sea-watching.

As in previous years the weather was too nice and apart from hundreds of **Northern Gannets**, **Yellow-legged Gulls** and dozens of **Sandwich Terns** very few species were seen. A very light northerly breeze was not conducive to good sea-watching, we needed a good strong westerly, preferably a north-westerly.

After spending 40 minutes or so we notched two more species, **Common Scoter** (11) and a single **Gull-billed Tern**. So



we turned our efforts to searching the scrub on the gentle slopes behind us. Soon we found a **Stone Curlew**, also **Black** and **Black-eared Wheatears**, **Crested** and **Thekla Larks**, **House Bunting** and lots of **Linnets**.

Bald Ibis

We continued our journey north toward Tamri and just before Tamri Bay we saw a group of **BALD IBIS** feeding on the scrub-covered slopes. We had great views of these 'ugly' beasts before we found another small flock on the seaward side of the road.

In the large inlet and lagoon at Tamri we scoped another gull roost where the best birds were a few 'pink' **Slender-billed Gulls**, with more **Audouin's Gull** and the common bigger gulls. **Ruddy Shelduck**,

Little Ringed Plover and **Common Sandpiper** were also seen. In the lagoon a few dozen **Eurasian Coots** were joined by a pair of **Little Grebes** and two **Marbled Ducks**. The vast reedbed held a pair of **Marsh Harriers** and we saw a **Sedge Warbler** performing its song and display-flight.

Just before we left a **Barbary Falcon** flew very low over some of the group and superb views were had, good photographs were also taken.

After stopping to buy lunch in Tamri we drove a few more kilometers to an area of Argan Trees where we walked to look for a few more migrant birds. After a kilometer or so we had seen a few birds but not many. **Orphee Warbler**, **Crested** and **Thekla Larks**, **Song Thrush**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, both **Great Grey** and **Woodchat Shrikes** and a large flock of **Eurasian Linnets** about 60 of them!

A pair of **Long-legged Buzzards** were chasing one another around above the trees and a distant **Common Raven** made up the rest of our sightings. We continued to Essaouira, stopping for coffee and ice-creams before making our final birding stop of the day.



The Oued Ksob runs into the bay at Essaouira, we began our walk about 3km up river and walked towards the river mouth. The river was a mere trickle with a few reedy pools, ideal for watching waders, herons and egrets and lots of small passerines coming down to drink.

We listed quite a few species, waders included **Green** and **Common Sandpipers**, **Common Greenshank**, **Common Redshank**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Greater Ringed** and **Little Ringed Plovers** and both **Cattle** and **Little Egrets** and a bunch of **Glossy Ibis**.

Yellow Wagtails joined **White & Moroccan Wagtails** feeding along the water's edge and lots of finches were coming down to drink. We didn't find anything of great interest in the scrub but the **Plain** (or Brown-throated) **Martin** was ever present, this little beauty was our star bird of the walk.

We concluded our walk at a second bridge where our bus was waiting for us, we then drove to the old walled town of Essaouira. The walk from the car park took us through narrow (traffic free) streets into an ancient world where many shops, Riads, guesthouse and hotels lined the streets. There was a lovely atmosphere, the ambience set the scene for what was about to greet us as we stepped into our wonderful Riad. What a fantastic place, an ancient building steeped in Moorish traditional architecture and decorated in all kinds of Moroccan artefacts. We ate a lovely dinner, our last supper together, we then took an early night, it had been another tiring, but bird-filled day.

DAY 11 – 30TH MARCH 2019

TRANSFER FROM ESSAOUIRA TO MARRAKECH AIRPORT WITH A PRE-BREAKFAST WALK AROUND ESSAOUIRA PORT AND CROP FIELDS NEAR CHICHAOUA

WEATHER: After early morning rain, heavy cloud persisted until lunchtime, then a warm spell of bright sunshine lasted until we reached the airport when it rained again.

Our last day had arrived, we had time for some birding before we set off for the Airport at Marrakech so before breakfast we strolled round to the port at Essaouira. It was a busy place as many fishing boats were returning to port to unload their catches, hundreds of gulls scoured the area for scraps of fish. We found a **Great Black-backed Gull**, an usual sighting for this far south, a good bird for our list. We also found a couple of **Ruddy Turnstones** on the nearby rocks.

Scanning the bay, we saw dozens of **Sandwich Terns** fishing with many more gulls in attendance. It was dull and quite chilly, so we didn't stay out too long. By 8:45 we were all packed onto the bus and ready for the 4-hour journey to the airport.



Lesser Short-toed Lark

After about 90 minutes we stopped in an area of cultivated land where large fields of crops were surrounding by fallow fields of short grass, it was an ideal place to look for the larks that we had not yet seen. We quickly found a pair of **Little Owls**, these were about the third pair seen this morning. Then we discovered a family party of **Tawny Pipits** and soon after we noted many **Skylarks**, they dashed about as they paired off and some went up high singing.

The **Calandra Lark** was much harder to find, it took quite a while and it was Dexter, our American companion that found them first. We then found **Northern Wheatear** and to our great enjoyment we discovered several **Lesser Short-toed Larks**. They were quite hard to get onto but eventually one dropped from the sky quite near to us and we scoped it well.

The rest of the journey was made without too much birding except when we stopped for lunch. Most of us took a short walk after eating and enjoyed our last few birds of this wonderful trip. **Turtle Doves**, perched from the power lines and **Little Swifts** dashed into a disused building. Many small finches fed by the roadside, we saw **Serin**, **Linnet**, **Goldfinch** and **Greenfinch**.

Tawny Pipit

The last part of the journey took us into the suburbs of Marrakech and then into the airport, the trip was finally over. Most of the group went into the terminal building whilst 4 stayed on the bus, they were to be taken into the city for one more night. We said our farewells to Ahmed and Idriss our drivers and entered the terminal building in the rain!

The final total count of species was 192, in addition, we saw the subspecies: Moroccan Wagtail and

African Chaffinch and we heard a Magreb Tawny Owl, giving a grand total of 195.

SPECIES RECORDED IN MOROCCO BETWEEN 20TH – 30TH MARCH 2019

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	X	X	X	X		X	
2	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>						X					
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X						X		X	
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>					X	X					
5	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>						X					
6	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>						X					
7	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>						X					
8	Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>						X				X	
9	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					X	X					
10	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					X	X					
11	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>										X	
GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae													
12	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		H						X			
13	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>		X						X			
PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae													
14	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		X						X		X	

15	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		X			X	X					
	PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae												
16	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					X	X		X		X	
	CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae												
17	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
	PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae												
18	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>								X		X	
19	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>									X	X	
20	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					X			X	X	X	
	PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae												
21	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X	X		X			X	X	X	
22	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					X				X		
23	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		X									
24	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
25	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
26	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>								X	X		
	SULIFORMES: Sulidae												
27	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>										X	
	SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae												
28	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		X						X	X	X	X
	ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae												
29	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>								X			
30	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>					X				X		
31	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	X	X		X	X	X		X			
32	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>									X		
33	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipitor nisus</i>	X	X	X								
34	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipitor gentilis</i>	X										
35	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
36	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>								X			
37	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		X	X		X	X		X			
38	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo cirtensis</i>	X		X				X			X	
	GRUIFORMES: Rallidae												
39	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>								X			
40	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>								X			
41	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>								X		X	
42	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					X	X				X	
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae												
43	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>								X		X	
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Haematopodidae												
44	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								X		X	
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae												
45	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					X	X		X	X	X	
46	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					X			X		X	
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae												
47	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>								X	X	X	
48	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								X	X	X	
49	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				X	X	X				X	
50	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					X	X			X	X	
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae												
51	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>									X	X	
52	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								X		X	
53	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								X		X	
54	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					X	X		X	X	X	
55	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		X		X				X		X	

56	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					X			X	X	X	
57	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>											X
58	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>									X		
59	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					X	X					
60	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								X	X		
	CHARADRIIFORMES:Glareolidae												
61	Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>			X	X	X	X	X				
	CHARADRIIFORMES:Laridae												
62	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>								X	X	X	
63	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>								X		X	X
64	Audouin’s Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>								X	X	X	
65	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>										X	
66	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>											X
67	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>								X	X	X	X
68	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>								X	X	X	X
69	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					X					X	
70	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								X	X	X	X
71	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>					X						
	PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclidae												
72	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>					X	X	X	X			
73	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>			X								
	COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae												
74	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
75	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus excelsa</i>	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
76	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>					X			X	X	X	X
77	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
78	Laughing Dove	<i>S. senegalensis phoenicophila</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae												
79	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>		X									
80	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		X									
	STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae												
81	Pharaoh Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>				X							
82	Tawny (Maghreb) Owl	<i>Strix aluco mauritanica</i>							H				
83	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua saharae</i>			X	X					X		X
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae												
84	Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>						X					
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae												
85	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X							X	X	X	X
86	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	X								X	X	X
87	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinus galilejensis</i>	X	X							X		X
	CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae												
88	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>								X			
	CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae												
89	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>					X	X	X				
90	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>							X	X	X		
	BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae												
91	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	PICIFORMES: Picidae												
92	Levaillant’s Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>		X						H			
93	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major mauritanus</i>		X									
94	FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae												
95	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
96	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus erlangeri</i>				X							
97	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco perigrinus minor</i>	X										

98	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>						X		X		X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae												
99	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus cucullatus</i>								X	X	H	
	PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae												
100	Desert Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor elegans</i>		X		X	X		X	X		X	X
101	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Senator rutilans</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae												
102	Magreb Magpie	<i>Pica pica mauritanica</i>	X	X						X	X	X	X
103	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax p. barbarus</i>	X										
104	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>				X	X	X	X				
105	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>										X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Paridae												
106	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater atlas</i>	X										
107	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus</i>	X	X	X							X	
108	Great Tit	<i>Parus major excelsus</i>								X	X	X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae												
109	Greater Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>			X		X	X	X				
110	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Rhamphocoris clotbey</i>							X				
111	Desert Lark	<i>Ammonanes deserti payni</i>			X	X			X				
112	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cincturus arenicolor</i>				X		X	X				
113	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			X								X
114	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae ruficolor</i>		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
115	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata riggenbachi</i>				X				X	X	X	X
116	Maghreb Lark	<i>Galerida macrorhyncha randonii</i>					X	X					
117	Temminck’s Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>			X								
118	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella b. brachydactyla</i>			X	X	X	X	X				
119	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>											X
120	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala rufescens minor</i>											X
	PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae												
121	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae												
122	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola mauritanica</i>									X	X	
123	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		X			X			X	X		
124	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
125	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Pryonoprogne rupestris</i>	X	X	X								
126	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	X		X					X	X	X	
127	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica rufola</i>	X	X	X		X			X		X	X
	PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae												
128	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H	X	H					H	X	X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Scotocercidae												
129	Streaked Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta saharae</i>				X							
	PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae												
130	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilis</i>		X		X	X	X			X		
131	Eurasian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>									X	X	
132	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>								H	X		
133	Western Bonelli’s Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>		X		X	X	X		X		X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae												
134	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogo</i>								X			
135	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					X			X		X	
136	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					X			X			
137	Saharan Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida reiseri</i>						X					
138	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>									X		
139	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hyppolias polyglotta</i>								X			
	PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae												

140	Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis								X	X	X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae												
141	Fulvous Babbler	Turdoides fulvus				X	X						
	PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae												
142	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla mauritanicus	X	X	X						X	X	
143	African Desert Warbler	Sylvia deserti					X						
144	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis				X	X			X	X		
145	Orphean Warbler	Sylvia hortensis								X		X	
146	Tristram’s Warbler	Sylvia deserticola			X								
147	Spectacled Warbler	Sylvia conspicillata				X			X				
148	Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
149	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala		X						X	X	X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae												
150	Common Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla balearicus	X										
	PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae												
151	Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		X	X								
	PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae												
152	Spotless Starling	Sturnus unicolor	X	X						X	X	X	X
	PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae												
153	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
154	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus deichleri	X	X									
155	Song Thrush	Turdus philomenus		X								X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae												
156	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	X	X									
157	Bluethroat	Luscinia svecica									X		
158	Common Nightingale	Megarhynchos megarhynchos		X	H		X	X		X	H		
159	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	X										
160	Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
161	Moussier’s Redstart	Phoenicurus moussieri	X							X	X		
162	Blue Rock Thrush	Montacilla solitarius	X	X	X					X			
163	European Stonechat	Saxicola torquata		X							X		
164	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
165	Seebohm Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe seebohmi	X					X	X				
166	Desert Wheatear	Oenanthe deserti		X	X	X	X	X	X				
167	Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica		X			X	X	X		X	X	
168	Red-rumped Wheatear	Oenanthe oesta			X	X							
169	Black Wheatear	Oenanthe leucura riggenbachi	X		X	X				X		X	
170	White-crowned Wheatear	Oenanthe leucopyga		X	X	X	X	X	X				
171	Magreb Wheatear	Oenanthe halophila				X							
	PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae												
172	White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus minor	X										
	PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae												
173	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
174	Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis		X									
175	Desert Sparrow	Passer simplex							X				
176	Rock Sparrow	Petronia petronia	X										
	PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae												
177	Yellow Wagtail	Flava, flavissimo, flava, iberlae		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
178	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	X							X			
179	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba			X	X	X					X	
180	Moroccan Wagtail	Motacilla alba subpersonata		X						X		X	
181	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris											X
182	Meadow Pipit	Anthus prtaensis			X								
183	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis									X		

	PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae												
184	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>							X	X			
185	African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>	X	X	X				X		X	X	
186	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>			X	X	X	X	X				
187	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris voousi</i>	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
188	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		X		X			X	X	X	X	X
189	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra poliogyna</i>		X									
190	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis parva</i>		X	X				X	X	X	X	X
191	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
	PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae												
192	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		X					X	X	X		
193	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	X										
194	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>							X	X			
195	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X