

Southern Morocco

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 February - 1 March 2012



Male Trumpeter Finch



Scorpion sp.



Temminck's Lark



Pharaoh Eagle Owl

Report and images compiled Peter Dunn



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader:	Peter Dunn	Naturetrek
Driver	Said	
Participants:	Vic Lunn	
	Margaret Lunn	
	Stewart Foster	
	Geoff Nelson	
	Mike Tweddle	

Tour Summary

This tour took us through tremendously stimulating scenery packed with intriguing geomorphological and geological features. From high mountain passes with snow draped summits to stony, hamada deserts, sandy deserts, marshes, estuaries and rivers. We took advantage of many opportunities to immerse ourselves in the culture of the country. We were very fortunate to have a driver who understood the importance of the wildlife and with his efforts and those of the local guides we met on the way, were able to amass a good list of Moroccan birds. The ornithological highlights were Pharaoh's Eagle Owl in a new site and the discovery of a rare Isabelline Wheatear - once extremely rare in Morocco but now appearing more regularly. We saw most of the expected larks but surprisingly not Greater Short-toed and the 'piece de résistance' in the mammal world was an amazing Fennec Fox, which we followed for a short time in the headlights on our 4x4 journey into the Merzouga Desert.

Day 1

Monday 20th February

Arrival at night with a warm breeze meeting us off the plane

We all met very early in Terminal 1 ready for when the checking desk opened. There was then time for a meal and a casual look around the terminal before boarding our EasyJet flight to Marrakech. The flight pushed back from the gate on the dot of 15.50 and the 3hr 25 min flight was soon over and we walked out into a starlit warm evening in Marrakech. Formalities over, we met our driver for the week, Said, who whipped us to the Kenzi Farah Hotel for the night, where we enjoyed a buffet dinner and drinks from the bar.

Day 2

Tuesday 21st February

Sunny, warm in the sun but cool in the moderate northerly wind

After breakfast we wandered out of the hotel awaiting our driver, to the sound of Common Bulbuls and Blackbirds. We journeyed through busy Marrakech heading for the Atlas Mountains seeing our first Pallid (20+) and Little Swifts (1). Our first stop was in the foothills just before Touama in coniferous woodland. Here we saw North African Chaffinches, the grey subspecies Atlas Coal Tit and two Cirl Buntings. We found Crag Martins on the high passes and a returning Short-toed Eagle flew north. The temperature fell with the cold north wind coming from the ice fields in the mountains and we found a sunny if not cool spot in the Tizi-N-Tichka Pass to have our picnic, where 44 Red-billed Choughs flew over and a pair of Water Pipits was a rare find.

By 16.00 we had descended to the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi close to the ever expanding city of Ouarzazate. Here we encountered many familiar species but in exotic surroundings. Grey Herons, grebes, Mallards and Great Cormorants presented no identification challenges. Continuing on Black Wheatears and White-crowned Black Wheatears were common here and a two subspecies of Southern Grey Shrike were identified. A brief stop on a stony desert produced a pair of obliging Desert Larks, enjoyed by all. It was 6pm when we arrived at our hotel in El Kelaa after travelling 275 km, where we were served dinner to the sound of local live music.

Day 3

Wednesday 22nd February

Sunny and warm (25 degrees C). No wind. Some high wispy cloud

Sunrise was at 7am. Some of us added a female Moussier's Redstart and Sardinian Warbler and heard Greenfinch for the list. It was very chilly in the hotel so we were looking forward to getting on the stony desert of the famous Tagdilt Plains. We passed through the busy town of Boumaln and then on to the plains, Said cleverly getting us onto tracks that didn't look passible to explore a whole range of habitats from large rocky 'scree' to typical sandy desert interspersed with low growing spiny bushes. The Tagdilt Plain is famed for exquisite birds such as Red-rumped Wheatear, Temminck's Lark, and Long-legged Buzzard, which were quickly added to the list. A party of Crowned Sandgrouse flew past the minibus having been flushed by a Short-toed Eagle.

We were having difficulty finding Hoopoe Larks so Peter suggested heading for a small farmed oasis which Said managed to drive to and a short walk found our quest, a pair of Hoopoe Larks feeding amongst the stones. Also here we saw Desert Wheatear, Thekla and Lesser Short-toed Larks and a small flock of Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Said found a Scorpion beneath a large stone and it was sharing its' hideout with a Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizard (*Uromastyx acanthinura*). Fat Sand Rats peered from the sanctity of their refuges and continued to excavate as we watched.

We decided to have our picnic at another oasis and en route came across six more Hoopoe Larks at close quarters and best of all a flock of 13 Cream-coloured Coursers scurried about in front of us. Said prepared an ample picnic and while we were enjoying this he found our first Bar-tailed Desert Larks for the trip!! A man of many talents and keen eyes...

In the afternoon we marvelled at the sculpturing effects of sub-aerial erosion on the granite at the mouth of the Dades Gorge. Fists of fingers protruded skywards. We drove to the upper restaurant and then walked back down. Nearly all our target species appeared in the first 200 yards with fat Gundis climbing in the rock, a female Tristram's Warbler below us – which is always a nice angle to view from, and really wild Rock Doves in the gorge. We failed to find any Barbary Partridge or see any birds of prey but House Martins were steadily passing through the gorge on their journey north. At the end of the walk we partook in some refreshments at the lower café before the drive back to the hotel, having travelled 140 km, for our evening meal and log.

Day 4

Thursday 23rd February

Cloudy start with cold northerly wind, bright and sunny pm and warm

After breakfast we packed the minibus and headed out over the Tagdilt Plain to try and catch up with any other larks.

We came from a different area and as we left the town of Boumaln de Dades we found a large flock of Trumpeter Finches with House Buntings and White-crowned Black Wheatears on some waste ground. Some of the birds were too close to focus on! We continued onto the plains through the town 'rubbish dump' where four Black Kites scavenged and Lesser Short-toed, Crested and Thekla Larks could be identified. A quick run around the tracks showed that most of the birds were in the area of the dump so we returned to see a Long-legged Buzzard, a group of eight Temminck's Larks and Fat Sand Rats and a Sundevall's Jird skipping about, after which we got back to the road to head east. Continuing east we came across three nice Mourning (Maghreb) Wheatears, two males and a female alongside the road and

We headed for the dramatic Todra Gorge where we had lunch and also added Barbary Ground Squirrel, Barbary Partridge and Barbary Falcon. We made a few stops to explore the stony Marrha Plain, hoping to find Thick-billed Lark. We failed on this count but found three Fulvous Babblers, two Dartford Warblers and surprise of all was an upright Isabelline Wheatear, way off course but showing all the characteristics of the species... Further checks of larks only identified Bar-tailed, Desert, Thekla and Crested Larks, none of which had 'thick bills' We arrived at Hotel Belere in Erfoud around 6pm after a journey of 272km and were all looking forward to trying the bar and restaurant before our (very) early start the next day

Day 5

Friday 24th February

Clear sky as sun rose then broken cloud, becoming sunny and warm pm

Lahcen, our driver, was ready and waiting for us after our early breakfast and we were on the road heading for the desert in our 4x4 at 5.30am. After leaving the road we started to transverse the stony desert in search of any life in the headlights. The first creature was a Sundevall's Jird hopping along in front of the car, then we caught sight of some eyes in the headlights and to our surprise it was a fantastic Fennec Fox, looking like a pale Chihuahua with huge ears. Lahcen followed it for a short while so we all had great views in the headlights and Vic even managed a short piece of video.

We then made an early stop at Auberge Yasmina with the dominating Saharan sand dunes of Eg Chebbi to the south, where a pair of Desert Sparrows had taken up residence in a nest box in the tamarisks. We were able to marvel at the subtle sandy-greys of both birds, the male having the contrasting black bib. Continuing on from here we continued in a circular route around the rocky desert to the north, finding a pair of Brown-necked Raven at a nest tree, five further Desert Sparrows, two obliging Cream-coloured Coursers and both African Desert and Spectacled Warblers. A concerted check of some stony desert found one of our target birds, three Thick-billed Larks feeding with two Temminck's Larks – a great find. A long, low rocky outcrop caught our attention. As we scrambled over it we discovered perfectly preserved fossils of an elongated ammonite-like mollusc that seemed to have been straightened out. They are known as *Orthoceras* and they swam around this area in warm seas of the Devonian era some 450 million years ago.

We returned to Café Yasmina for refreshments and a site where we found Yellow-flowered Broom-rape had burst through the sandy crust to thrust upwards in a colourful spike. It was parasitizing the roots of Tamarisk trees. After drinks we headed back out onto the desert to look for Sandgrouse, not at the usual oasis but a feeding area which Lahcen knew. Here we were able to compare both Crowned and Spotted Sandgrouse as they fed on the weedy sand dunes. A little further three Fulvous Babblers scurried away in front but the search for Houbara drew a blank after Lahcen told us the Saudi-Arabs had been hunting it with falcons.

As we headed for lunch at Hasslabied Berber Coop we passed what was left of Merzouga Lake, where 17 Ruddy Shelduck loafed on the banks and three Kentish Plover feed alongside the water's edge. After a lunch we were given a talk on and shown the many types of Berber carpets, jewellery and souvenirs but nobody took up the offer of any bargains. The total journey was 187 km.

It was 3 pm when we returned to our hotel in Erfoud. This left enough time for a walk over to the Oued Ziz for more birding. We were rewarded with Black-winged Stilts, Green Sandpipers, an Iberian Chiffchaff amongst Common Chiffchaff and our first long-billed, sandy-coloured Maghreb Larks for the trip.

Day 6

Saturday 25th February

Sunny and warm all day Cool northerly breeze

We left Erfoud at 8am and began our long journey westwards following the south side of the Anti-Atlas through spectacular and varied desert landscapes. We made a brief stop at the Oued Ziz where we saw another large billed Maghreb Lark, two Moroccan Wagtails and were fortunate to meet a young man named Lahcen who said he could show us both Eagle Owl and Lanner Falcon. A deal was struck and we headed south of Rissini to a small wadi where a magnificent Pharaoh's Eagle Owl sat on a cliff surveying it's territory. This would have been well worth the 'tip' on its own but Lahcen then took us to the north of Rissini to the 'old' Eagle Owl site where we saw the Lanner chick on its nest and then one of the adults sat on the cliffs gleaming in the morning light. To cap it all when this bird took off the other adult also appeared. A worthwhile guide who was justly rewarded and thanked...

We stopped for refreshments in Ainif, a bustling local market town that was 'sans alcohol' much to the dismay of the group who wanted to celebrate two excellent birds. However once refreshed we continued on, stopping for a superb Barbary Falcon overhead and a pair of confiding Hoopoe. We stopped to eat our picnic in an oued just to the west of Tazzarine where we found Moussier's and Black Redstarts feeding together, Common Bulbuls and a herd of camels!! On our way to the Draa Valley we stopped at the bridge over the Draa to add Kingfisher, Cetti's Warbler and Common Sandpiper to the list. We continued the tortuous ascent of the Tinifit Pass rising to 1660m, and enjoyed spectacular views near the summit.

The descent to the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi crossed beautiful countryside and we arrived with enough time to savour a variety of species on the water. An enforced stay to dusk, due to soft mud, ensured we saw plenty, including Greater Flamingos, Marbled Duck, Osprey, Marsh Harriers, a Peregrine and numerous ducks and coot. We were soon at our hotel in Ouarzazate enjoying the contents of the bar and dining room. Today's journey was 381km.

Day 7

Sunday 26th February

Sunny all day long (25 degrees C)

We enjoyed a good hours birding at the Barrage after breakfast adding numerous birds to the list , mainly waders such as Red & Greenshanks, Wood Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint. An early Sedge Warbler was a surprise and a Barbary Falcon flew straight over the lake without worrying any of the birds there!

We set off west heading for our hotel in Taroudant and made stops for refreshments and to enjoy a few birds such as Moussier's Redstart and Long-legged Buzzard. The terrain became increasingly barren and birdless until we arrived at the Saffron Tea House where a cup of the local brew revived us with our lunch. Exploring the plantation we added Blackcap to the list and found many other species which would not go amiss in an English garden.

Now we entered the zone of the endemic Argan forest. This spinaceous tree bears fruits used for oil manufacture. A quick stop at Oued Souss only added European Pond Terrapin, and a Herrmann's Tortoise was rescued from a local street and relocated in some (slightly) greener pasture. The run in to Taroudant takes us through 80km of flat agricultural land with tall trees, orchards and some industrial development. This is prime habitat for Black-winged Kite. We were not disappointed, when one bird was found on wires next to the road and remained to be photographed and videoed, whilst another was seen hovering over the fields a little later.

We arrived into Taroudant after a journey of 313km, as ex-French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was having tea on the terrace surrounded by his entourage, and we enjoyed watching both Little and Pallid Swifts zooming about overhead.

Day 8

Monday 27th February

Sunny all day and pleasantly warm with a sea breeze along the coast

The call to prayer gave an atmospheric early alarm wake-up at 5.30am. We left in bright sunshine and checked the town walls for swifts – only Pallid was showing. Travelling to Agadir we saw the Moroccan Magpies again but little else of interest until we turned north along the coast. We stopped alongside a small beach which held 52 Audouin's Gulls and many Lesser Black-backed Gulls while a few Gannets moved offshore. As we rounded Cap Rhir to overlook a small estuary near Tamri, we got excited about a distant blob on an island which was our first Northern Bald Ibis. This bird then took off and flew directly towards us, and out of nowhere came another 30+ of its friends which flew directly over our heads and fed on the hillside above us – fantastic views! Further checks of the estuary also produced three Spoonbills in breeding plumage and too many Audouin's Gulls to count.

Before lunch we checked the cliffs to the north of Tamri where the ibis breed but only saw one soaring above, so we returned to the estuary to explore the tamarisk groves whilst Said prepared our picnic. Looking back at the ibis on the hillside a further 17 joined them and we found Kentish Plover and a bright male Subalpine Warbler around the estuary. After lunch we headed back towards the hotel to check in, not before finding half a dozen Bald Ibis right next to the road giving superb photo and video opportunities.

Following a short siesta at 4pm we made our way to the Oued Souss. The tide was coming in and there were good numbers of wading birds using the muddy edges. Greater Flamingos were alongside even greater numbers of White Storks which steadily increased all evening. New waders for the trip included Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew and Grey Plover and also a few Sandwich Terns joined the roosting gulls. We walked a trail eventually arriving close to the guarded barrier to the king's palace, and were waiting for dusk and Red-necked Nightjars, when we were unceremoniously told to go by an officious police officer, despite Said's best efforts. We had had a good day with some fantastic views of Bald Ibis so we decided to return to the hotel for dinner after 222 km.

Day 9

Tuesday 28th February

Sunny and hot and bright all day. (26 degrees C). Light breeze

After breakfast we set off from Agadir and made our way south towards Oued Massa. This picturesque river valley and estuary supports a wealth of wildlife and plants. We stopped by a rubbish tip which as usual yielded some good migrant birds; Subalpine Warbler, Whitethroat, Northern Wheatear and eight Cream-coloured Coursers. Continuing on we arrived at the entrance track that led to the reserve. Said dropped us off so we could walk the length of the track and meet him at the picnic site. The river was quite high but almost immediately we started adding new species for the list. A Flock of Glossy Ibis flew over, Spanish Sparrow males were feeding around the entrance and a little way down the track we found Plain Martin entering nest holes like Sand Martins. Moussier's Redstarts fed close by, Zitting Cisticola called from the tall reeds and suddenly a bird crossed the track and sat right next to us...a superb Black-crowned Tchagra, allowing us to take close photos and video.

As we approached the village and the reserve entrance we heard the distinct call of Common Crane and 12 birds flew over the river (flying back during lunchtime). Mike was lucky to see a Great Spotted Cuckoo at the side of the track and by the time we arrived at the reserve we were ready for lunch which was prepared again by Said.

After lunch we moved back towards the village of Massa and stopped at various points on the river. New for the trip was Tufted Duck and Stripe-necked Terrapin and we had good views of another Moroccan Cormorant and a Black-shouldered Kite. As we left to head back to Oued Souss, we found another Great Spotted Cuckoo alongside the road, so we all caught up with Mike, and a Little Owl sat out on a distant wall. We spent an hour at Oued Souss to see if there was any difference there from the previous day but there were the same waders, storks and Flamingos with an Osprey sitting close by. It had been a long hot day so we opted for an early finish, after 117 km, to prepare for our move back to Marrakech the next day, to catch our flight home.

Day 10

Wednesday 29th February

Sunny, bright and warm (24 degrees C)

We set off from our hotel at 8am heading north to Marrakech for our evening flight to Manchester. Our route took us through the Anti Atlas foothills then over the plains to Marrakech. We made a few stops en route where we picked up birds like Subalpine and Spectacled Warblers, Thekla Larks and two Long-legged Buzzards. Lunch was a traditional and tasty tagine in a café just outside Chichaoua after which we wandered around the almost dried up river where our final new bird for the tour was found – a Song Thrush!!

The rest of the time was spent getting into Marrakech and a break in the Memorial Gardens before we bid Said farewell and given him the customary thanks for his safe driving, good eye and being a good friend. Our final journey was 274 km. In total we had travelled approximately 2181 km

The flight back to Manchester took off and landed on time and we said affirmed to meet again on another birding adventure abroad.

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Black-crowned Tchagra

Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only; ✓ = commonly recorded but not counted)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
1	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>			2					2	4	
2	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				26	✓	25				
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3				4	4				
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>					200+	✓				
5	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					4	3				
6	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>					4	40				
7	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>									12	
8	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	2				5	2			2	
9	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	2									
10	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					17	7	100+	✓		
11	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	4	4			12	✓	200+	✓		200+
12	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>							40			
13	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>									18	
14	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>								47	2	
15	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					1					
16	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	12	8		2	✓			2	✓
17	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	8				6	10	10	8		
18	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>							1	1		
19	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1	1			20	✓	6	2		
20	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>							4			
21	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Moroccan Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus</i>								1	3	
22	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						1	1		1	
23	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>							2		1	
24	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			4		1					
25	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1	1								
26	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					3				2	
27	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1							
28	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1									

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
29	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		3	1				1			2
30	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	4	6			4	7	6	✓	✓
31	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>						3				
32	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						1				
33	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>			1	1		1	3			
34	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1					3	1	1	2	1
35	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
36	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>									12	
37	Eurasian Stone-Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>		1					H	H	H	
38	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				8		25	22	15	✓	
39	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>								2	2	
40	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									30	
41	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>								1		
42	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				3				1		
43	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>								6	15	
44	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								4	2	
45	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							2	6	✓	
46	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>							1	1	3	
47	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				2			6			
48	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>							2			
49	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						1		6	8	
50	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>							2			
51	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>						10	2			
52	Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>		15		2					8	
53	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓					✓	3	✓	✓	
54	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>								100+		
55	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>								✓	✓	✓
56	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>								✓	✓	✓
57	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								6		
58	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>				12						
59	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>		12								
60	Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>		26		13						

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
61	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia livia</i>		5								
	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓				✓	4	✓	✓	
63	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	✓	✓	
64	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	4	1	2	2			1	6	✓	✓
65	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>									2	
66	Pharaoh Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>						1				
67	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>									3	
68	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	20						✓	30+	10	
69	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	1						2			
70	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						1				
71	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1		1	2	3	3			1	1
72	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>									2	
73	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>							✓	8	2	✓
	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis algeriensis</i>	5		2	2	✓					
	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meidonalis elgans</i>	1		2							
74	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1									
75	North African Magpie	<i>Pica pica mauritanica</i>	✓							1	✓	✓
76	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	44									
77	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>				6	20					
78	North African Raven	<i>Corvus corax tingitanus</i>	3									
79	Atlas Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater atlas</i>	1									
80	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>							2			3
81	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>	12	3	2	1					1	
82	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>		8		6						
83	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>				3						
84	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>		2	1	8						
85	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>	3		2	4	8	✓				
86	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>		20	20							
87	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Maghreb Lark	<i>Galerida macrorhyncha</i>				2	2					
89	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>		5	6							✓

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
90	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>		8	8	2						
91	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	1	5		✓	✓	✓	✓		
92	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>									2	
93	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					1				1	
94	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	✓	✓		1	5			10	✓
96	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	
97	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			1							
98	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					1				H	
99	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1									
100	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>				1						
102	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>							1			
103	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>							1	2		
104	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>			3	4	2					
105	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H						2		1	H
106	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserti</i>				1						
107	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>									1	
108	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>			2							
109	Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>		1								
110	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>				3						1
111	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>								1	2	1
112	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	2	2	3	1	3	3	✓			✓
113	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	2			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	8	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1									3
116	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>									2	1
117	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	3	✓	2	6	3	2			1
118	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>		1	2	1	2	7			6	3
119	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	3				2	4	4	4	4	2
120	Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>		20	12	1						
121	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>			1							

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February								
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
122	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						1		1	
123	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>		2		10	8				
124	Mourning Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugens</i>			3						
125	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	20		✓	✓	✓	✓			
126	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	18	12	✓			3	1		2
127	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	1	1	7		2	4	1	1	
128	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>								2	
130	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>				7					
131	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>	1				✓	✓	1	2	
132	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1								2
133	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>			2		2	1	1	1	1
134	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			5		6	1	1		
135	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>								3	
136	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	2								
137	African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>	✓					5		1	✓
138	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	3			6	5	2	✓	✓
139	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		5	1	2		6	✓	✓	✓
140	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	10	1	1		12	✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>						6			8
142	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>	12		50+	12	6	60+			
143	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			5			3			
144	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			2						1
145	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	2								
146	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	8	3	10	2	1	7	4	4	✓

Mammals

Fennec Fox

Sundevall's Jird *Meriones crassus*

Barbary Ground Squirrel *Atlantoxerus getulus*

Fat Sand Rat *Psammomys obesus*

Common Gundi *Ctenodactylus gundi*

Butterflies & Moths

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Morocco Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis belia</i>	Greenish Black-tip	<i>Euchloe charlonia</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	Southern Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>
Humming-bird Hawk-Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		

Dragonflies

Dragonfly sp	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
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Other Taxa

Pond Tortoise, Side-striped Terrapin, Hermann's Tortoise, Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizard (*Uromastix acanthinura*) Moorish Gecko, Agama Lizard, various sand/wall lizard sp., Tiger beetle sp., Dung beetle sp. Scorpion (*Buthus tunetanus*); Red Flashwing Grasshopper; Blue Flashwing Grasshopper; Egyptian Grasshopper; *Megascolia bidens* , (a parasitic wasp that preys on large beetles). Bee Fly sp.



Northern Bald Ibis