

# Southern Morocco

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 16 March 2013

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Fulvous Babbler by Neil Friswell



Thick-billed Lark by Neil Friswell



House & Desert Sparrows by Gary Woodburn



Black-crowned Tchagra by Gary Woodburn

Report compiled by Terry Goble & Gary Woodburn  
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## Tour Summary

This tour was designed to target the rich birdlife of Southern Morocco, the itinerary taking in all the major sites to connect with the very special birds of the region, many of which are rarely encountered elsewhere. This entailed travelling through spectacular and ever-changing scenery from the bustling cultural experience of the crowded souks to the vast empty and desolate plains of the stony desert, with the backdrop of the magnificent snow covered Atlas Mountains seemingly ever present. The birds were the major attraction of the region, but there is a variety of wildlife to be enjoyed, exotic butterflies like the Plain Tiger and Swallowtail, 'cute' mammals such as the endearing and wonderfully named Fat Sand Rat. We were also lucky enough to observe some other mammals, which are never easy (Egyptian Mongoose, Foxes and Hare). The floral attractions are also noteworthy. However, it is the birdlife that many make this trip for and the quality of the birding in this region was summed up by many of the participants declaring that the day at Erg Chebbi was among the best birding experiences that they have ever enjoyed, when you realise that this included the experienced guides you begin to understand the special nature of Southern Morocco.

## Day 1

Thursday 7th March

Arrival in Marrakech

The group arrived in Marrakech in two parties; a morning departure arrived in Marrakech late morning, while an afternoon departure arrived late evening. The majority of the group were on the morning flight and after checking in and a quick freshen up at our hotel, we headed out to explore the old town. An interesting tour with our local guide Mohammed led us through the maze of colourful souks and into areas most tourists wouldn't see. As we explored the colourful stalls and immersed ourselves in the local culture, we also started to build the bird list with our first views of Pallid Swift, Little Swift, White Stork, Spotless Starling and House Bunting.

Arriving back at our hotel late afternoon we enjoyed our first evening meal together and awaited the arrival of the second party who were flying out during the afternoon. The afternoon party eventually arrived later than expected due to delays at the airport. After a quick bite to eat, we all turned in early in anticipation of our journey over the Atlas Mountains the following day.

## Day 2

Friday 8th March

### Marrakech to Ouarzazate

Some of the group gathered for a walk in the grounds at 6:45am prior to breakfast. The grounds had good cover for migrants and resident birds. Overhead there were several flocks of Pallid Swift, the key identification features being obvious in such good light. Despite craned necks Little Swift were proving hard to connect with, however a small group was picked up flying over the hotel grounds and again the excellent morning light made their white rumps stand out. Within the grounds the bird sounds were dominated by noisy Common Bulbuls, which were very apparent and numerous. There were a few other species to connect with: Greenfinch, Blackbird, Serin and a male Blackcap. A brief view of a buzzard was had as it appeared above the hotel trees before disappearing from view. This was most likely a Long-legged Buzzard, but not satisfactorily identified. It was soon time to gather for breakfast, which was a well prepared buffet.

Due to the previous night's late arrivals, guests and leaders were still introducing themselves at breakfast and setting out the day's itinerary. We set off at 8:30am, a little later than we would have liked as today was a long driving day. After winding our way through the busy Marrakech streets we were soon heading out of the city and heading for our first stop over- looking olive groves, where we picked up some new species including 'African' Chaffinch and a Great-spotted Cuckoo, which flew overhead. Some of the group, notably Andrew and Rose were drawn to the parade of classic cars that passed up the hill, enjoying the procession of vintage cars.

We soon set off again to a coniferous wood, just before Touama, where we again encountered several African Chaffinches, more Serin, and some interesting butterflies including Provence Hairstreak, Moroccan Hairstreak and Plain Tiger, there were also a variety of other Whites and a Cleopatra. We then enjoyed some birds of prey as firstly a Lesser Kestrel hunted over the wood, followed soon after by a more distant pale phased Booted Eagle. After enjoying these birds we decided it was time to move on, but not before Jane proudly showed the group a Robin!

The next stop was at Touflihit for teas and coffees as we started to climb up into the High Atlas Mountains. The views were spectacular of snow-capped peaks. We found a suitable resting site for our lunch, prepared by our drivers. We were soon enjoying both our lunch and some higher altitude species as both Alpine and Red-billed Chough wheeled around us giving not only great views but a chance to compare the two species one of the most obvious differences being their calls as well as their bills.

A pair of 'North African' Ravens came very close and a Lesser Kestrel also put in an appearance. A larger bird of prey (Eagle sp) was seen briefly but disappeared before it could be identified.

At a brief comfort stop our stay was extended by the distinct sound of a Levalliant's Woodpecker calling. This proved to be a frustrating and tantalising encounter. The bird did not call again and we spent probably longer than we should at this stop in the hope of locating it. We were however compensated by finding a flock of Rock Sparrows and 'Atlas' Coal Tit amongst others. Gary had what we thought as an unusual record of Brambling.

We finally climbed down out of the mountains and stopped briefly at Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi. A different suite of birds was encountered here including a Squacco Heron. We could not stop long and arrived in our hotel in Boulmalne de Dades in the dark after a long but excellent day. We had dinner at 8pm and shared information about the next day's itinerary and some of the pre-breakfast birding walks that were happening throughout the week.

## Day 3

Saturday 9th March

### Boumalne de Dades

#### Sites Visited – Tagdilt Track & Dades Valley/Gorge

An early morning bird walk took us out of the hotel gates to explore an area of stony desert nearby. We explored just a tiny fraction of the stony plains here but the walk yielded some of our first desert birds of the trip, superb Desert Wheatears, Red-rumped Wheatears, Trumpeter Finches and a single Desert Lark being the highlights.

After breakfast we took a fifteen minute drive down to the old Tagdilt track, a track running across extensive stony plains. Exploring the famous dump area for larks, good numbers of Temminck's Horned, Lesser Short-toed, and Crested Larks were logged and also a single Thekla Lark. Red-rumped Wheatears seemed reasonably common and at least two pairs of Desert Wheatears were logged. A number of Fat Sand Rats put in an appearance on the walk; everyone agreed "what a great name for a rodent!"

Next we moved on to the impressive Dades Valley and Dades Gorge. The lower valley is a broad lush green irrigated area with some impressive rock formations, while further up the river carves through rock to create a truly impressive steep sided deep gorge.

En route to our lunch stop the first Hoopoe and Crag Martins of the trip were spotted from the minibuses. We drove steadily up the valley and had our picnic lunch at an impressive restaurant built into rock at the top of the gorge. Up at the restaurant a family of Gundis sunbathing on the rocks nearby and a few ground squirrels were a crowd pleaser. From the restaurant two Golden Eagles were picked up soaring high over the valley, then lunch was interrupted by the appearance of a superb Bonelli's Eagle! Other interesting birds seen from the restaurant included Black Wheatear, Black Redstart, Rock Sparrow and Crag Martins.

After lunch we took a leisurely stroll down the road a little to explore the rocky habitats. More Black Wheatears were seen, followed by two Blue Rock Thrushes and then a fine male Tristram's Warbler. For many this species was on their 'most wanted' list.

Further down the valley two North African Blue Tits were located and finally gave views to those members of the group who had previously missed them. A quick tea stop at a small cafe saw more Crag Martins performing well for the group and a large flock of over fifty Black Kites migrating northwards over the gorge.

Fully refreshed it was time to move on. We retreated down the valley and back out on to the stony plains of the Tagdilt Track for an evening of lark hunting. Failing to locate Thick-billed Lark during the morning visit, this was now the target species for the evening. The pressure was on to locate this often difficult and much sought after species, but within two minutes of leaving the minibuses we were watching two stunning Thick-billed Larks at close range. With Thick-billed Lark under our belts we continued to bird around the dump area spending time observing the broad range of larks on offer here. A little later a third Thick-billed Lark put in an appearance delighting the photographers amongst the group who secured some nice images. Other birds logged on this evening walk included Long-legged Buzzard, Trumpeter Finches and multiples of Desert, Northern and Red-rumped Wheatears. A happy group returned the short distance to our hotel for the evening meal, including plenty of talk about Thick-billed Larks and Tristram's Warblers.

## Day 4

Sunday 10th March

### The Tagdilt Plain, Todra Gorge and Erfoud

A small group gathered at 6:45am to walk to the small pool a short walk from the hotel. A discussion about nocturnal Hoopoes revealed that more than one of the group was woken by their distinctive call and sure enough a few were spotted around the hotel grounds. At the pool we encountered a few desert species of wheatears and larks and a flock of Trumpeter Finches.

After breakfast we went to explore deeper into the Tagdilt Plain along drivable tracks. We soon began to pick up desert species and enjoyed an encounter with a flock of Black-bellied Sandgrouse, which then led us to a pair of Cream-coloured Coursers, which were characteristically difficult to observe amongst the sparse vegetation. We drove on to a site we hoped would produce Mourning Wheatear, however we were to be disappointed. The generally scarcity of birds was accounted for by a shooting party that had recently arrived. A resident German lady invited us into her a garden, which was a mini migrant trap and we enjoyed a little garden birding, in particular a splendid male Black-eared Wheatear which was much admired. On the way out of the desert area we stopped at a likely pool and were rewarded with a prolonged view of a Long-legged Buzzard eating its kill, as well as some waders, larks and a White Stork.

We continued on towards our next destination at Todra Gorge. We enjoyed good views of Black Redstart and Black Wheatear. A few House Buntings caused a little excitement as they were in habitat that we would have expected Rock Bunting, however all seen were identified as House Bunting. The gorge itself was worth the trip as it is a spectacularly walled gorge and is clearly a popular attraction. We then drove on to our next destination deeper into the desert at Erfoud.

## Day 5

Monday 11th March

### Erfoud & the Sahara Desert

## Sites Visited – Erg Chebbi sites, Cafe Yasmina, Merzouga, Dayet Srji - What a day !

We were collected from our hotel by our Berber guides at 5am. With the group distributed among four comfortable 4x4 vehicles we set off on our Saharan adventure. Our first stop, to enjoy the desert sunrise, was made at around 6.15. The Berber guides had our next target staked out, with the words “Houbara Bustard” mentioned we leapt back into the 4x4s and with excitement building charged off across the desert in a small convoy. Fifteen minutes later we arrived at a vast area of open stony plains with some low scrub and the lead Berber guide explained, “this is the spot”. What seemed like a needle in a haystack situation was quickly turned around when telescopes were trained on the plains and a superb Houbara Bustard materialised from the scrub in the far distance! This incredibly rare bird was very distant, so once everyone had seen it through telescopes we boarded the 4x4s again and drove a little closer. To their credit the Berber guides would not go too close, they did not want to disturb this bird, but they got us all close enough for some excellent views of this Moroccan stunner! The day couldn’t have started any better, but this was just a taste of things to come...

Back into the vehicles and again we were off across the desert, next stop an area of grasses and low scrub amongst the desert sands. A thirty minute stop and a short walk helped us to secure our first Bar-tailed Desert Larks, at least four Hoopoe Larks, a single Desert Lark and also a surprise Thick-billed Lark! Amongst the grasses and scrub two Black-eared Wheatears and a pair of Desert Wheatears were logged.

On towards the next site and a quick stop en-route secured a single Tawny Pipit, and then a second stop allowed us excellent views of thirteen Spotted Sandgrouse.

Our next stop was a Berber camp and our only sightings of the superb Desert Sparrow. Six birds associating with House Sparrows around the camp allowed close approach and put a smile on everyone’s face, not least the photographers amongst the group! Also at the camp a single Spectacled Warbler and two White-crowned Black Wheatears were logged.

Moving on, our Berber guides took us to a small oasis area on the edge of the Erg Chebbi dunes. A half hour stop here saw the group locating two noisy Fulvous Babblers and a range of migrants including Ashy-headed Wagtail, Subalpine Warbler, Western Bonelli’s Warbler and Melodious Warbler. A quick stop was made at an area nearby with more grasses and low scrub. With the help of our Berber guide we were positioned on a ridge, when an African Desert Warbler appeared. This is high on many people’s wish lists for the trip and often quite a difficult bird to locate!

Next we made a stop at the famous Cafe Yasmina on the edge of dunes for more birding and a quick tea break Moroccan style. Mint tea with the stunning backdrop of the impressive Erg Chebbi dune system, what a view! Yasmina yielded more migrants including multiple Subalpine Warblers and Chiffchaffs, a male Common Redstart and at least one Saharan Olivaceous Warbler.

A traditional Berber lunch was taken at the Berber Depot in the desert town of Merzouga, and then from here we headed out to the large lake at Dayet Srji. In contrast to the morning’s desert birding this stop offered us a host of wildfowl and waders. Highlights included an impressive count of 56 Marbled Ducks, many Ruddy Shelducks, 110 Greater Flamingos, three Whiskered Terns, one Little Stint and three Kentish Plovers.

It was now mid-afternoon and time to head back to base. However, the Naturetrek Berbers had one final surprise up their sleeves. On our return towards our hotel at Erfoud, a quick diversion saw the 4x4s picking up a local goat herder who directed us to another area of open sand, stones and grasses. Within two minutes the local goat herder had borrowed a telescope and placed it neatly on a roosting Egyptian Nightjar. A bird so superbly camouflaged that even when placed in the centre of a telescope's view many people still could not see it! However, when eventually spotted it delighted everyone with its incredible cryptic plumage.

We returned to the hotel mid-afternoon with plenty of time for showers and some relaxation. With some daylight still left a small party walked down to the nearby river and logged two Moroccan Wagtails and at least thirty Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters calling high overhead, our first bee-eaters of the tour.

## Day 6

Tuesday 12th March

### Erfoud to Ouarzazate via Rissani

The day got under way with a drive down to Rissani, where we all enjoyed a brief view of the historical remains of the old town. However our main target of the day was Pharaoh Eagle Owl, and after a little wrong turn (which produced stunning views of a Little Owl) we parked near the wadi where the owl was known to roost. Despite extensive scanning and precise directions we were unable to locate the owl. The day was getting hotter by the minute and after a long search we decided to head for an alternative site. This site was north along the main road from Rissani. We scanned the cliff faces at a likely site, however our fears were confirmed when a fossil seller (Ali the Nomad) arrived to say that the owls (a pair) were no longer there at that time, so we decided to head on to our next destination.

We stopped for lunch at a café in a small town and although there was not much in the way of avian distractions a Desert Lark was enjoyed at close quarters. We had a long drive ahead so we were soon underway to our next destination via the dramatic Tizi-n-Tiniffit Pass before descending towards Ouarzazate and our next hotel. On the way we stopped at an oasis, which provided the best views of Blue-Cheeked Bee-Eaters. These delightful birds could be seen swooping over the tops of the palms and alighting on a telephone wire stretched across the river. Excellent telescope views were enjoyed and some very lovely photographs were taken. There were also a few Little Egrets and a Grey Heron feeding in the shallow water below. It was soon time to be on our way again to reach Ouarzazate.

## Day 7

Wednesday 13th March

### Ouarzazate to Taroudant

Sites Visited - Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Oued Irriri, Tinfat (Saffron Café), Taroudant

An early morning walk near the hotel logged our first Laughing Doves of the tour, up to four birds. Also noted on the morning walk were two Hoopoes, a Black Redstart and a large flock of White Storks. Essentially a travel day, our first stop after breakfast was the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, a large reservoir just outside Ouarzazate. Due to strong winds and some sandstorms the birding was difficult, however we still managed to find some good birds at this large wetland site. Amongst an excellent spread of wader's, highlights here were four Temminck's Stints, six Little Stints, and two Wood Sandpipers.

Wildfowl and waterbirds were represented by a range of dabbling ducks, Ruddy Shelducks and Spoonbill. Passerines logged included two Water Pipits, a single Meadow Pipit and a fine flock of over thirty Trumpeter Finches.

Now on the road to Taroudant our next stop was the Oued Irriri, a small river valley with some irrigated agricultural fields and trees, essentially a green area in the desert landscape, well worth a check for migrants.

A thirty minute stop here was useful with a number of migrants logged including multiple Subalpine Warblers, Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers, Woodchat Shrikes, two Short-toed Larks and our first Western Orphean Warbler of the tour. A supporting cast here included an elusive female Moussier's Redstart and at least two Corn Buntings.

Onwards and upwards, our next stop was at Tinfat, a high pass over the hills between Ouarzazate and Taroudant. A stop for lunch at the Saffron Tea House was interesting with a local cafe offering tea made from locally produced saffron. The higher altitude here meant we were up in the clouds and temperatures were certainly cooler. A birding walk around the local area offered a pair of superb Moussier's Redstarts at the cafe and a surprise flock of Brambling in the nearby woodland, including some stunning black-headed males in full summer plumage, over fifty birds in total. This is a scarce species in Morocco so such a large flock is a notable record. Two Tree Pipits and two Blackcaps were also logged at the Brambling site.

Moving on we left the cool climes of Tinfat and headed towards Taroudant. After descending to lower altitudes and entering the remnant Argan forests another roadside stop was made. Here a range of migrants included more Subalpine Warblers and Woodchat Shrikes. At least four Moussier's Redstarts were seen and two Southern Grey Shrikes of the dusky looking race *algeriensis*. A pair of Barbary Partridges was also seen by a lucky few. As we continued towards Taroudant we had our first sightings of the famous tree-climbing goats of the local Argan forests, with a couple of goats perched at the very top of tall trees looking quite out of place! As the landscape changed to more arable fields we stopped at a likely looking place for farmland birds and after sifting through numerous House Sparrows were able to identify some Spanish Sparrows although it seemed that some hybrids may have been in the flock. We then pushed on to the next hotel, but a Black-shouldered Kite caused the group to grind to another halt and this lovely bird of prey was being enjoyed by all until it was seen off by a Black Kite clearly much larger. We were fortunate to see a few more Black-shouldered Kites before we left the region and approached our next destination of Taroudant.

## Day 8

Thursday 14th March

### Taroudant to Agadir

The majority of the driving behind us we were now able to drive in a more relaxed fashion as we made our way to the coastal town of Agadir. The plan for the day was to drive to our lunch stop, birding on the way and then return to the hotel to check in and freshen up before visiting the Oued Sous. The plan was varied a little for a stop to photograph the tree-climbing goats by the roadside. We made our first birding stop looking over a small beach close to Cap Rhir and were soon picking out the smart Audouin's Gulls among the plentiful Lesser Black-backed and Western Yellow-legged Gulls. We then arrived at our lunch spot and were initially disappointed not to find Bald Ibis. There were many other birds to keep us happy including Zitting Cisticola, Cetti's and a Reed Warbler singing.



An ever-vigilant Gary then spotted a small party of Ibises, fairly distant. We were however able to walk a little closer and soon we were enjoying much better views of Bald Ibis, their strange 'punk' hair-dos and red bills now visible. After an enjoyable picnic lunch we made our way back to the hotel to get checked in. After a brief time to relax we set off again. This time we headed for the Royal Palace site at Oued Souss. We were greeted with a great view of an Osprey high up on a pylon. Among the gulls and waders we were able to find some Mediterranean and Slender-billed Gulls. We then wandered over to the vicinity of the Palace grounds. Two Little Owls were obliging and in the pools by the golf course we picked up Spoonbill and Shoveler among others. We set out wandering around the paths on the sandy 'heath' and Martin found two Barbary Partridges, but was not able to get anyone else on to the birds as they quickly disappeared. As we were beginning to lose the light a distant Red-necked Nightjar could be heard, we unfortunately could not locate the bird before it became too dark. We then made our way back for dinner at the hotel.

## Day 9

Friday 15th March

### Agadir & Oued Massa

Sites Visited – Massa Dump, Oued Massa National Park entrance track, Massa Road Bridge, Oued Massa National Park trails

An early morning bird walk produced flocks of Little, Pallid and Common Swifts wheeling around over the hotel and nearby town. After breakfast we made our way towards the Oued Massa estuary, approximately one and a half hours south of Agadir. This is a large site at the mouth of the Oued Massa that offers a range of varied habitats including estuary/mudflats, scrubland, wetland/marginal vegetation and stony desert tracks. First stop of the day was the dump area; the stony plains here held Lesser Short-toed Larks, Thekla Larks and at least four Corn Buntings. Moving on, the group took a walk along the entrance track to the reserve. This trail covered a range of habitats and some excellent birds were logged including Western Orphee Warbler, multiple Subalpine Warblers, Blue Rock Thrush, Turtle Dove and more stunning Moussier's Redstarts.

A picnic lunch was taken at the entrance to the Oued Massa National Park where more birds were found, a scan of the river here producing two Great White Egrets, two Night Herons and two Common Cranes. After lunch we headed back inland to the river bridge, the most reliable site locally for Plain Martin. Twenty minutes birding from the bridge area secured some good views of a large hirundine flock which contained at least six Plain Martins. Also logged at the 'martin bridge' were seven European Bee-eaters, one Ashy-headed Wagtail and a superb Lanner Falcon which put on a good display overhead. From the bridge we moved on to search the local scrub for Black-crowned Tchagra. An hour search resulted in yet more migrants including excellent numbers of Subalpine Warblers and Chiffchaffs, but unfortunately no Black-crowned Tchagra.

A quick drive back to the Massa National Park entrance saw us heading off on the reserve trails on the hunt for Black-crowned Tchagra. Soon we had located three tchagras including a vocal bird giving a fantastic display flight. Bonus birds from the National Park walk came in the form of a single Wryneck, two Cirl Buntings and a Thekla Lark. At the mouth of the Massa a number of gulls and terns were recorded including two Caspian Terns and several Audouin's Gulls. We returned to our hotel mid-evening after a great days birding. At our final evening meal together we all reflected on the tour and discussed a few of our favourite birds.

## Day 10

Saturday 16th March

### Agadir to London

Most of the group had a relaxed morning getting ready to set off for a last stop for birding before heading to the airport. However a keen group did set off by taxi to Oued Souss to enjoy their last morning birding. We all set off late morning to have a picnic in a wooded area next to the Oued Souss estuary. Whilst waiting for the food to be prepared we enjoyed a few migrants the pick of which was surely the Western Orphean Warbler that eventually gave great views after skulking in the shrubs.

After lunch we had just enough time to search for Barbary Partridge on the sand heath bordering the estuary. Here we encountered numerous Woodchat Shrikes, Subalpine Warbler, Sardinian Warbler and a Spectacled Warbler for a bit of variety. A Hoopoe coming through was also a welcome addition. The Osprey was still surveying the water from their pylon perch and overhead European Bee-eaters came low enough for good views before heading north and out of sight. A steady migration of northbound raptors and storks was also logged at Oued Souss with two Montagu's Harriers, five Marsh Harriers, eight Kestrels and an impressive 350 white storks. Finally, after a fruitless search for the Partridge we headed back to the minibus and made our way to the airport. We said goodbye to our drivers and checked in for the journey to Gatwick. The group said their final farewells and went on their journey's home after a satisfying and rewarding trip.

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Moussier's Redstart by Neil Friswell

## Species List

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

	Common name	Scientific name	March											
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		1				2	1			3	2	
	Great Crested Grebe			✓										
2	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>										2		
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		1		1						30	15	10
4	North African Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus</i>										1 Juv		
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1								20	15	20
6	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						2	1	1				
7	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea albus</i>											2	
8	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1					16	1		20	1	
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	✓	10			✓	✓		✓	20	
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		1										
11	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>											4	
12	Eurasian White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	40	2	2					53	4	350
13	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>										34		
14	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>									10	1	1	
15	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>						110		2			1	
16	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		✓				50				2		
17	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>									60			
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>						3		✓		2	4	1
19	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		2										
20	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		1						40		4		
21	Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>						56				1		
22	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						2						
23	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		1								1		1
24	Black Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			80	3	40			6				
25	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>								4				
26	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>										1		5
27	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>									1		2	2
28	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1							1		1	
29	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		5	1	1			1	1	1			
30	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			2									
31	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>			1									
32	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		6						3				
33	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		1		1			1					
34	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	4	1	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	8
35	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>											1	
36	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>		1	1									
37	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>										3	1	
38	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>		2						2		1	1	
39	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>											2	
40	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						1	10			1	3	
41	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓				100	4			1	6	
42	Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>						1						
43	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>										6		5
44	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						40	3	✓			2	
45	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						20		✓		7	1	
46	Eurasian Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>										LO		
47	Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>			2									

	Common name	Scientific name	March												
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
48	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>													15
49	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		1		1	1	✓	✓		4	15	50		
50	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					10	✓	✓		10				2
51	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					4			3			15	30	
52	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>								6					
53	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>									2				2
54	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>									5	1	8		
55	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								4					
56	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							1		2	1	3		
57	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				3	2	3	1		2	1			
58	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>									5				
59	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>							1	8	2	H	2		
60	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>								2					
61	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								30	4	1	1		
62	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>											15	1	
63	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						1		10		1			
64	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								2					
65	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>									3				
66	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		1						4	10	4			
67	Little Gull	<i>Hyrocoloeus minutus</i>													1
68	Western Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis michahellis</i>										✓	✓	✓	
69	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>										✓	✓	✓	
70	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>									60	20			
71	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>									3			3	
72	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>											2		
73	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>						3							
74	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>									19	70	3		
75	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>						20							
76	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>				5									
77	Rock/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓						10	3	5	10	
79	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>											1	1	
80	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>									4	3	15		
82	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				1	2	1			2	2	2		
83	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>										H			
84	Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>						1							
85	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			✓										
86	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
88	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓	10								1	25	4	
89	Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>						30	70						
90	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>											5	150	
91	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			3	3	1	1	3		2	H	1		
92	Greater Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>		1											
93	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>											1		
94	Levaillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>		H											
95	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>				6	20								
96	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>					40		2						
97	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>			1	2	1						1		
98	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>			3		4								

	Common name	Scientific name	March												
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
99	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>				4			2						
100	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>			20	10	25		10				10		
101	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>			15	2	40								
102	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Maghreb Lark	<i>Galerida cristata macrorhyncha</i>							3	1					
104	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			1									3	
105	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			2										
106	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>												6	
107	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			1	1	3	✓	✓				30	50	
108	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		1	10	5	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			30	✓		5							
110	Northern House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			13	✓		✓	✓						
111	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		10				1	8	3	4				
112	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>						1	2				1		
113	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>							1	2	2				
114	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				LO		1	2		1				
115	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>							2						
116	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>						5	1	2	2			1	
118	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						3	1						
119	Ashy-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava cinereocapilla</i>						3	1				2		
120	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>			1				1						
121	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		1	3	1									
122	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Northern Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1						H					
124	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
125	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			2	3					1	1			
126	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1						H			1		
127	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		1	3	10				2	1	1			
128	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1				1							1
129	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>				2				6	2	20			
130	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>											4		
131	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>		2	3	10	20	✓			1				
132	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>		1	10	3									
133	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			3		1	3					2	3	
134	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>				2	1		1						
135	Red(Buff)-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>			20	10									
136	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>			8	4	6								
137	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>								2	5	10	5		
138	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	5						H	10			
139	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>									H	1			
140	Saharan Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais opaca reiseri</i>					2				1				
141	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>					1								
142	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				1				2		1			
143	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	1	1		2	✓	✓		10	✓	2		
144	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>									1				
145	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>					1					✓			
146	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		1	1	4		6	6	5				1	
147	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>											1		
148	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>							1			1	1		
149	Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia nana</i>					2	1							

	Common name	Scientific name	March												
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
150	Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>			1										
151	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>					1	1							
152	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>					8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		1		5			✓	12	✓	✓			
154	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>					2								
155	Atlas Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater atlas</i>		2											
156	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		1	3				2	2	H				
157	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus ultramarinus</i>		1	4						5				
158	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis elegans</i>					2								
159	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis algenensis</i>		1	1	10		2	5	6	3				
160	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>				5	1	2	20	8	3	10			
161	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>									3				
162	Moroccan Magpie	<i>Pica pica mauritanica</i>		1				2		20	✓	✓			
163	Yellow-billed Cough	<i>Pyrhcorax graculus</i>		30											
164	Red-billed Cough	<i>Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax</i>		200											
165	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>					1								
166	'North African' Raven	<i>Corvus corax tingitanus</i>		2				4		1					
167	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	1	1	1	1		1	1	50	✓	✓			
168	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
169	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>							6						
170	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>					6								
171	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		30											
172	'North African' Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>		10	10				5	4	5	2			
173	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		H											
174	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		1					50						
175	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		3		4		✓	✓	✓	✓	2		2	
176	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		2				✓	✓	2	✓	✓			
177	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		1	1	5		1	1	2	1				
178	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		4	2	2	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
179	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>			4	10	5	20	20	30					
180	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>								H	2				
181	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	2	3	10	✓			
182	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>							3	1	1				

## Mammals

Fat Sand Rat, *Psammomys obesus*

Barbary Ground Squirrel, *Atlantoxerus getulus*

Fox sp (Possible Rupells),

Savanna Hare, *Lepus microtis*

Gundi, *Ctenodactylus gundi*

Red Fox, *Vulpes Vulpes*

Egyptian Mongoose, *Herpestes ichneumon*

Bat sp.

## Butterflies

Provence Hairstreak, *Tomares ballus*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*

Cleopatra, *Gonepteryx cleopatra*

European Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*

Small White, *Artogeia rapae*

Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera*

Moroccan Orange Tip, *Anthocharis belia*

Moroccan Hairstreak, *Tomares maturetanicus*

Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*

Lang's Short-tailed Blue, *Leptotes pirithous*

Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*

Allard's blue, *Plebejus allard1*

Plain Tiger, *Dunaus chrysippus*