



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Morocco

### Trip Report

*22<sup>nd</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017*



Barbary Sheep by Clayton Burne

**Tour Leaders: Mark Beevers and Clayton Burne**

**Top 10 species as voted by the participants:**

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Northern Bald Ibis           | 6. Desert Sparrow         |
| 2. Levaillant's Woodpecker      | 7. Spotted Sandgrouse     |
| 3. African Crimson-winged Finch | 8. Short-toed Treecreeper |
| 4. Barbary Sheep                | 9. Egyptian Nightjar      |
| 5. Pharaoh Eagle-Owl            | 10. Greater Hoopoe-Lark   |

## Tour Summary



Levaillant's Woodpecker  
by Clayton Burne

Our Morocco tour departed from Marrakech after breakfast en route to the High Atlas Mountains. Short stops en route gave us a number of commoner species as we targeted a small handful of more critical species. Our first stop near Ait Ourir saw us scoping a boulder strewn river for Moroccan Wagtail, currently a sub-species (*subpersonata*) of White Wagtail, of which we found at least two individuals in amongst larger numbers of Grey, 'Iberian' Yellow and regular White Wagtails. Small numbers of Little Ringed Plovers scuttled along the exposed sand banks alongside some much commoner residents in the form of Western Cattle and Little Egrets as well as Grey Heron. Overhead, a large flock of Hirundines contained half a dozen Barn Swallow, but more usefully some Red-rumped Swallow and Common House Martin.

Further stops up the Ourika Valley produced a pair of Barbary Partridge as soon as we exited the bus, our first north-west African endemic, Moussier's Redstart, as well as a male Cirl Bunting, a well behaved European Robin, a flock of Eurasian Crag Martin, our first Sardinian Warblers and European Serin. As we headed further up the mountain we continued adding new species, with the best behaved Levillant's Woodpecker going – a male sitting on an exposed branch for a good 20 minutes! A quick coffee break gave us heard only Eurasian Wren before we prepared ourselves for the cold and

snowy slopes around Oukaïmeden.

Recent heavy snows had heightened our hopes of some easy ticks to come, but we had to work a little harder than expected for Mistle Thrush, before getting excellent views of Short-toed Treecreeper. White-throated Dipper was flushed upstream, before shooting back past us with a mouth full of nesting material. A lone Water Pipit became an unexpected bonus, if somewhat of a nuisance as it did not allow for much of a view after being found. Large flocks of both Alpine and Red-billed Choughs greeted us around the village, as we headed for lunch, which started outdoors, before more snow pushed us inside to enjoy a number of Tajine varieties. Lunch had barely finished when we rushed outside to find hundreds of African Crimson-winged Finch (minimum count of 120!) feeding on the side walk. Short walks in the light snow added some confiding Horned Lark, Rock Sparrows and both the African and European races of Chaffinch.



Alpine Chough by Clayton Burne







**African Crimson-winged Finch by Clayton Burne**

The birding became rather tough as the snow increased, with only some barely identifiable looks at Ring Ouzel for some, while the hoped for Alpine Accentor evaded us completely. We had already had a long day, so it was back down the valley to our accommodation for the evening and a rather speculative effort at finding the 'Maghreb' Tawny Owl. A little drizzle didn't provide us with much hope, but as speculative as it may have been – a Tawny Owl did indulge us a little, perching up on a distant pole for great silhouette views.

Day two as always is a long travel day as we relocate from the Ourika Valley, over Tizi n' Test Pass to Agadir on the west

coast. Stops were limited to a pair of Little Owl en route to Ouirgane, where we pulled back a few misses from yesterday – excellent visuals of Hawfinch and a male Great Spotted Woodpecker. While stopping to take a panoramic photograph of the Tinmel Mosque, a distant raptor was confirmed to be the giant Golden Eagle, a rare species in this part of the world. Moussier's Redstart showed well again, before we headed on up the winding road towards Tizi n' Test Pass.

What was intended to be a quick effort to find Ring Ouzel turned into a prolonged and incredible hours or so. With a pair of 'Rouzel's' playing hard to get, Clayton walked towards the heavily foliated juniper tree into which they had piled into. Out came two Ring Ouzels as well as two Eurasian Jays. However, the Ring Ouzel's and Jay were of scant consequence when tour participant and long-time Rockjumper supporter Erling Krabbe made the discovery of the day. A bit of history is worth noting at this point, this was Erling's number 1 target mammal on the tour, and we had succeeded in finding it exactly zero times over the course of 13 full tours. Despite the chances being incredibly slim, Erling made sure to scan all likely habitat – causing us all to look rather disbelievingly at him when he said, 'I have the sheep', or words to the that effect. Indeed, there were more than 15 of the mythical Barbary Sheep grazing and browsing in a snow blanketed valley further up from us. Some of us immediately headed up the road to get a little closer and photograph the massive horned animals. If ever a good excuse to delay lunch was required, here it was. Having enjoyed this most unexpected bonus, we departed for lunch, traditional Berber Tajine at the Belle Vue Restaurant at the top of the pass - even if the pass was completely fogged in, not chance of a view of anything but cloud.

Down the pass we went on the Souss Plain, finding the obligatory Argan tree climbing domestic goats, a few hundred Black Kites, Little Swift and a



**Horned Lark by Clayton Burne**





**Balearic Shearwater by Clayton Burne**

few Crested Lark. With an hour to spare, a stop at Oued Souss kept the bird list ticking as we added a number of waders and gulls to the list. Whimbrel was a surprising first on a Rockjumper tour, but it was soon forgotten as a mega rarity appeared when a lone Little Gull flapped its dainty self down the river. That was pretty much it for the day, the end of a long drive and even better day.

Day 3 started after a bit of a lie in, as we headed over to the nearby Agadir Marina for a pelagic into the Atlantic Ocean. The ocean behaved well for the most part, allowing us to get approximately ten kilometres offshore before some heavy swell and strong

wind pushed us back towards land. While the diversity of species may be low, we did find and have excellent views of all the paramount species. A distant European Storm Petrel was seen almost immediately upon exiting the harbour, before a good number gave closer flybys as we headed further out to sea. Neighbouring trawlers had their concomitant litany of Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls, while we were far more interested in the associated Northern Gannets. Highlight of the morning would however be reserved for Balearic Shearwater, which started with a single bird shooting across the bow before upwards of another 6 individuals gave excellent views. Tragically, this is a critically endangered species that could be extinct within the next 60 years if current population models are accurate. Small numbers of Great Skua gave the larger volume of gulls a good run for their chum, while we also recorded a single Parasitic Jaeger in the distance. Closer to shore, we added at least three Manx Shearwater and further European Storm Petrels.

After a short stop at the hotel, we headed approximately an hour north of Agadir, driving around Cap Rhir to Oued Tamri for a spot of gull watching. Half a dozen Ruddy Shelduck were soon followed by large numbers of Mallard which all became null and void when Northern Bald Ibis were spotted feeding on the opposing banks. Everyone grabbed a quick and very distant scope view as we headed closer to the estuary to search for other species. Knowing where the ibis were already, was a major bonus! We walked onto the sandy dunes to enjoy the large numbers of Audouin's and Lesser Black-backed Gulls that sat roosting near the surf. Again, all was quickly forgotten as the ibis arose from the distant bank and headed towards the estuary, landing only a few hundred metres way to have a late afternoon drink. A lifer for almost everyone on the tour, it was certainly one of the best views that either of the guides had



**Great Skua by Clayton Burne**





had too! Such good views were something of a bonus, and so we headed back to our hotel for a slightly earlier dinner than expected.



Northern Bald Ibis by Markus Lilje

One of the main reasons for spending time on the Moroccan west coast is to visit Oued Massa and Oued Souss. Leaving town early this morning, we encountered a number of Spotless Starlings and Eurasian Magpies before bringing the vehicle to a sudden halt to enjoy excellent views of up to 15 Eurasian Stone-Curlew in a scrubby field. Scopes were then in place to search for Common Crane, but to no

avail. Not to be deterred, we hauled in two Black-crowned Tchagra to point blank range, an amazing sighting of these skulky birds showing so well out in the open! Cetti's Warbler declined to play ball, but the sought after Common Crane flock was found in the nick of time – while distant, this small flock of 17 wintering birds represents an excellent 'Africa tick'!

Heading down towards the estuary mouth, we kept picking up good species – a flock of over 50 Spanish Sparrow, Eurasian Wryneck, Common Kingfisher, Bluethroat, European Stonechat, a number of Moussier's Redstart, European Greenfinch, Common Linnet and a Corn Bunting. Common Quail and Water Rail remained heard only as is the norm. While searching for butterflies, Erling stumbled upon a Red-necked Nightjar, and we were all able to enjoy good flight views of a bird as it disappeared into the scrub to seek shelter for the balance of the day. Moving higher up the river, a small pod of Tufted Duck was soon followed by a very responsive Cetti's Warbler, allowing great views of itself. Sitting perched on top of a bush, on sand bank, flying under our feet etc., this individual clearly hadn't consulted the Cetti's Warbler manual of agoraphobic behaviour. As lunch approached, two further species of prime significance to Western Palearctic listers soon showed, a pair of Black-winged Kite and a handful of Brown-throated Martin. Lunch was served in the most remarkable local family restaurant, lemon and herb chicken with vegetable tajine and homemade bread followed by cous and peanut treacle dessert!

The balance of the afternoon was spent at Oued Souss, as we closed off a few missing species including the rather desirable Marbled Duck and Slender-billed Gull. New tour species were plentiful, with Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Eurasian



Pallid Harrier by Clayton Burne



Teal, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Snipe and Spotted Redshank augmenting the list.



**Thick-billed Lark by Clayton Burne**

Another long travel day as we repositioned from the western coast of Morocco deep inland to Boumalne-du-Dades. While much of the day was confined to the vehicle, we did make strategic stops en route adding Spectacled Warbler, our first Red-rumped and White-crowned Wheatears, a handful of Barbary Ground Squirrel, three Short-toed Snake Eagles and two Long-legged Buzzard. We arrived in Ouarzazate for a late lunch at the Kasbah Café which overlooks the towns Kasbah. A short drive saw us visiting the nearby Barrage el Mansoor Eddahbi which was disappointingly short on water. Despite the water level, the birds soon started to tick over, with our first Sedge Warbler, a

few Western Marsh Harrier, some distant Ferruginous Duck, gorgeous Kentish Plover in breeding plumage, a few more Marbled Teal and a Wood Sandpiper. However, we hit gold with a female Pallid Harrier – a major rarity for Morocco! The fun had to end, as we still had another two hours on the road to reach our destination for the next few nights – Boumalne-du-Dades. Tomorrow we hit the Tagdilt Track for a multitude of larks and other inhabitants of the stony, arid plains.

The famous Tagdilt Track, one of Morocco's staple birding stops. While it is home to some of the most sought after species in the country, it is by no means the most attractive birding site... A few minutes after dawn we alighted amid the wreckage of mankind – millions of plastic bags, building material, nappies, dead dogs, feral dogs and cracking birds. It is an uncomfortable dichotomy that some of the biggest drawcards in this country, live in the most desecrated of environments.

On the plus side, the birding lived up to and perhaps even surpassed expectations. No sooner had we come to a halt, and our first larks – Lesser Short-toed and Temminck's were seen at close range. A Long-legged Buzzard sat perched on a pile of building rubble before we found our first major target – the incredible Thick-billed Lark. This is a tough bird, one that can run birders ragged for days on end. By the time we had walked 200 yards, we had already seen approximately ten individuals! We moved further on, picking up further flocks of Lesser Short-toed Lark before finding a group of Eurasian Skylark and two overflying Greater Short-toed Lark. The birding was interrupted by a very cute Fat Sand Rat carrying nesting material into its



**Cream-colored Courser by Clayton Burne**







**Tristram's Warbler by Clayton Burne**

sandy burrow. With the majority of the targets in the bag, it was time to move on to more pristine rocky flats to search for more larks. We made little ground initially, finding three Cream-colored Courser and two Eurasian Stone-curlew at the dump site, two most unusual species this close to the rubbish.

Upon entering more pristine habitat, we found a number of gorgeous male Desert Wheatear, more Cream-coloured Courser and a large flock of roughly 87 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. The sandgrouse were 'in flight' visuals only unfortunately. We were soon distracted by the call and display flight of Greater Hoopoe-Lark. We

observed at least two individuals displaying, as well as both males haranguing a female in flight – showing off their hoopoe light wing pattern and shape. Some careful observation revealed the last of our mornings quarry, Black-bellied Sandgrouse. We obtained excellent scope views of perched birds, as well as flight views showing their jet black bellies. We managed to relocate the flock on the ground one more time before they did what only good sandgrouse do, disappear without a trace!

Our afternoon was spent up the spectacular Dades Gorge. We tried our luck for the completely mis-named Desert Lark (which lives on rocky slopes and gorges – not in the desert), and had great success in getting what is essentially a rather dull species to land close enough for excellent views. Further up the gorge we had the most crippling views of Tristram's Warbler before finding two distant Bonelli's Eagle. While the eagles were distant, they put on a great show rising, falling and banking repeatedly against the sky and cliff face allowing us to see their distinctive underwing. A short coffee break overlooking the gorge put an end to an excellent day, leaving us a short drive back to our hotel.

We departed Boumalne-du-Dades early and headed to the nearby Gorges du Todgha spending a few hours birding along the rather cold gorge road. We hoped for Common Gundi never showed themselves, but we did manage views of Tristram's Warbler and Rock Bunting.

Having enjoyed some much needed coffee, we set off eastwards heading toward Midelt where we were to spend the night. We made a handful of precision stops en route, picking up a pair of Bar-tailed Lark in uncharacteristic stony habitat, a



**Desert Lark by Clayton Burne**





**Streaked Scrub Warbler by Clayton Burne**

male Spectacled Warbler, our first Trumpeter Finches and a small flock of 8 Fulvous Babbler. Our major priority was the Streaked Scrub Warbler, high on the list of family collectors as it is currently a monotypic family. Despite the recently degraded habitat, it took less than a few minutes to locate our first bird. After some tracking and chasing, we ultimately had stunning views of a pair displaying on the ground, as well as watching one individual bound along the sandy substrate from one bush to another. Larks were in good supply here, with Thick-billed, Bar-tailed and Greater Short-toed

all showing in flight. With the critical species all in the bag, we continued towards Errachidia, making a quick stop at Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil. Poor water levels meant the lake was of little interest, holding over 100 Great Crested Grebes but little else. The surrounding arid scrub produced further Trumpeter Finches before we called it a day and drove for a few more hours to Midelt. With the High Atlas containing much snow, we were psychologically prepared for the freezing cold endeavour tomorrow morning for Dupont's Lark.

We had to be up very early this morning to have any chance of finding Dupont's Lark, considered the toughest bird to see in the Western Palaearctic. After a quick coffee, we were out before first light. The Zaida Plains are barren, with views of the snow covered High Atlas. Consequently, the conditions are frigid, apparently just right for our quarry. Arriving just as the first rays of light emanated over the horizon, we were relieved to hear a number of individuals calling. However, we all knew that this was the easy part, seeing the little blighters was quite another matter. As it happened, much running around by Mark had me onto the first bird, a mere glimpse and a scatter. Much gnashing of teeth followed, as we attempted to find the bird again. Ultimately, we have no idea if we ever relocated that first individual, what we do know is that we did find one. Specifically, we chanced upon an individual that seemed unaware of our presence, allowing us prolonged views as it went about its morning business of digging in the sand, scuttling from one bush to another and occasionally standing atop a piece of scrub to



**Dupont's Lark by Clayton Burne**





observe its surroundings. We spent at least 25 minutes watching the bird, eventually walking away from it!



**Egyptian Nightjar by Clayton Burne**

High on the adrenalin of success, we ate a late breakfast and headed south towards Erfoud. A quick stop at Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil turned up no new waterfowl species, but within the scrub we found a Subalpine Warbler. A rarely recorded species on our Morocco tours, we were treated to prolonged views. We had one last lark to add to our list and we found one near the vehicle near Erfoud. The Maghreb Lark was formerly a sub-species of Crested, but this longer billed and paler

species is quite distinctive. Having dropped our bags at the hotel, we ventured out for an initial exploration of the nearby sand dunes. Despite our efforts, we could add no new species to our lists – but did enjoy further sightings of Bar-tailed and Greater Hoopoe-Lark.

Our day around Erg Chebbi, traversing sand dunes and gravel plains roughly 10km from the Algerian border is ‘the’ day for specialist birding. From our comfortable hotel we divided up into a handful of 4x4 Landcruisers and hit the desert. Our local Berber birding contact had produced the goods yet again, putting us onto an Egyptian Nightjar roosting at the edge of some scrub. A few hundred metres away we watched a very co-operative pair of African Desert Warbler sit exposed on the thorny scrub that surrounds the base of the small sand dunes. Two great birds in the bag, but now we had to leg it to get to the sandgrouse site in time. A very small spring, literally a puddle 20 yards long by 2 yards wide was the centre of attention for an estimated 200 individuals. Our luck was really in, as not only did we have many Spotted, but also small numbers of Crowned and single Pin-tailed meaning that we had seen four species of Sandgrouse on a single trip for the first time.

A pair of Brown-necked Raven flew over the sandgrouse site shortly after the last birds had drunk. We now had a good deal of the desert specials and it was only 09:00! We continued through the desert, spreading out to see what we could find. A pair of distant and skittish Cream-colored Courser became unimportant when a vagrant Isabelline Wheatear was found nearby. Unfortunately, it only



**Greater Hoopoe-Lark by Clayton Burne**





**African Desert Warbler by Clayton Burne**

hung around for a few seconds, disappearing into thin air with only a few people seeing the bird and a couple of record shots taken. Next it was off to a remote household to find Desert Sparrow, which duly obliged. Two pairs showed remarkably well, while we also picked up a Woodchat Shrike, around five Subalpine Warblers and Iberian Chiffchaff. With that, it was off to enjoy a wonderful lunch with the massive sand dunes of Erg Chebbi as a backdrop.

With little to find in the afternoon, we set off for Rissani to make another attempt at finding Pharaoh Eagle-Owl. Lots of searching and much gnashing of teeth revealed nothing. Our drivers headed off to search another spot, allowing us to dawdle somewhat around the cliffs. It was during this time that we found our quarry dozing on a ledge in the aptly named 'Tim's Crack', a vertical shaft in the rock face. While distant, we enjoyed good scope views of a bird enjoying the peace and quiet high above us. We made one last stop to search for Lanner Falcon, and although we failed to find the bird – we did see an adult Red Fox ran along a ledge for prolonged views. We called it a day after this, ending what was comfortably the highlight day of the tour.

Our penultimate day was mostly reserved for a fairly long drive to Ouarzazate. We made one birding stop near Tinejdad that produced our second Pallid Harrier of the tour, a national rarity in Morocco. Other species included improved views of Fulvous Babbler, many Trumpeter Finch coming to drink at a small water trough, Long-legged Buzzard, Greater Hoopoe-Lark, Spectacled Warbler, Maghreb Lark and one distant Fat Sand Rat. As we got closer to Boumalne-du-Dades, a short traverse of the Tagdilt Track was made, revealing a large, but mobile flock of Greater Short-toed Lark, two point-blank Cream-colored Courser, a number of Desert Wheatear and a few Temminck's Lark. Post lunch we made our way to Ouarzazate, checking into our hotel. Some of us went birding again at Barrage el Mansoor Eddahbi, while others headed out to explore the city and indulge in some retail therapy. With the wind kicking up, we braved the cold and volatile conditions, but managed to add no new birds to the list. Highlights included repeat views of the first vagrant Pallid Harrier that we saw here a few days ago, more Marbled Teal and the first signs of migration, with over 50 Black Kites and nearly 100 White Storks passing overhead or landing near the dam to roost for the night.



**Crowned and Spotted Sandgrouse by Clayton Burne**







**Fulvous Babbler by Clayton Burne**

Our last day of the tour saw a few of us heading back to Barrage el Mansoor Eddahbi for an hour of early morning birding. There were few changes to the waterfowl and storks that we had recorded the previous evening, but we did manage to add a new bird to the checklist, as a Peregrine Falcon flew overhead before smashing into a Rock Dove over the nearby village. The morning finished on a high note as we managed a very close approach of two Little Owls perched up on a mud wall, the light falling perfectly for some great photos. Post breakfast we

began the drive back to Marrakech, traversing the Tizi n'Tichka pass en route.

We took lunch in the scenic village of Toufliht, a displaying Northern Goshawk displaying overhead on arrival. A short walk through the pine forests proved to be very productive, and somewhat hectic as various desirable species cropped up one after the other. First up was the much desired Common Firecrest that put on a decent display before being side-lined by an exposed Short-toed Treecreeper. Great Spotted Woodpecker sat up in the sun, a good catch up for a few participants before much action ensued when a Red Crossbill was found. Despite running down the busy road, most participants endured an excruciating search which ultimately failed to relocate the birds. With the prospect of dipping imminent, the good eyes of Erling found a female further up the road. We all went sprinting back up the road and enjoyed walk away views of single Red Crossbill fully exposed at the top a pine tree. Northern Goshawk again displayed nearby as we entered the restaurant for lunch. Very happy with our haul, we continued on the final leg of our journey stopping at an Argan co-operative. The unique Argan tree is one of the oldest trees in the world, endemic to a small region of only around 8000km<sup>2</sup> in south western Morocco. We learnt a little of the process involved in converting the Argan nut into oil for both beauty products and cooking oils before indulging in a fair amount of product acquisition. And that would have been the end of the tour, but sharp eyes managed to add another good species to the list – when a blonde phase Booted Eagle gave us enough time to jump out of the bus and enjoy a fly over view. A fabulous way to finish an enjoyable and record shattering tour of Morocco.



**Desert Sparrow by Clayton Burne**



# Morocco: Atlas to Sahara II

## Annotated List of species recorded

**Note:** Number in brackets ( ) indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

## Birds (190 in total: 187 seen, 3 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.1).

**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

### Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae

#### **Ruddy Shelduck**

*Tadorna ferruginea*

(5) 6 Oued Tamri 24.2, 60 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 30 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 30 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

#### **Mallard**

*Anas platyrhynchos*

(7) 6 Oued Souss 23.2, 34 Oued Tamri 24.2, 20 Oued Souss 25.2, 20 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 15 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 6 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

#### **Northern Shoveler**

*Anas shoveller*

(4) 30 Oued Souss 25.2, 40 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 50 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 50 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

#### **Northern Pintail**

*Anas acuta*

(1) 4 Oued Souss 25.2.

Only 1 pod of 4 seen.

#### **Eurasian Teal**

*Anas crecca*

(4) 10 Oued Souss 25.2, 20 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Fairly common and widespread

#### **Marbled Duck (VU)**

*Marmaronetta angustirostris*

(4) 8 Oued Souss 25.2, 3 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 6 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 6 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Small pods of these attractive ducks seen at various locations, with the best visuals while looking towards the King's Palace in Oued Souss.

#### **Ferruginous Duck (NT)**

*Aythya nyroca*

(1) 4 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2.

A few distant individuals seen.

#### **Tufted Duck**

*Aythya fuligula*

(1) 3 Oued Massa 25.2.

Small pod seen on the Oued Massa

### Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies Phasianidae

#### **Barbary Partridge**

*Alectoris barbara koenigi*

(2) 2 Ourika 22.2 and 2 Taroudant 23.2.





We were very fortunate to find two individuals as soon as we stepped out of the vehicle in the Ourika Valley. Despite the birds running off the road, we ended up getting good views.

**Common Quail***Coturnix coturnix coturnix*

(1) 2 heard Oued Massa 25.2.

One heard calling from the wrong side of the Oued Massa.

**Northern Storm Petrels *Hydrobatidae*****European Storm Petrel***Hydrobates pelagicus*

(1) 20 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2.

Good numbers of these dainty birds seen relatively near to shore, far away from marauding gulls on our pelagic.

**Shearwaters and Petrels *Procellariidae*****Manx Shearwater***Puffinus puffinus*

(1) 3 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2.

Small numbers seen as we returned to the Agadir harbour.

**Balearic Shearwater (CR)***Puffinus mauretanicus*

(1) 10 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2.

Enjoyed excellent views of this species on multiple occasions.

**Grebes *Podicipedidae*****Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*

(5) 5 Oued Massa 25.2, 5 Oued Souss 25.2, 5 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 3 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 3 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Great Crested Grebe***Podiceps cristatus cristatus*

(5) 10 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 105 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 10 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 10 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Flamingos *Phoenicopteridae*****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus roseus*

(2) 140 Oued Souss 23.2 and 80 Oued Souss 25.2.

Large numbers only at Oued Souss

**Storks *Ciconiidae*****White Stork***Ciconia ciconia ciconia*

(8) 10 Marrakech 22.2, 120 Taroudant 23.2, 10 Ouarzazate 26.2, 10 Gorges du Dadès 27.2, 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3, 150 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3, 300 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3 and 100 Marrakech 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Ibises and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*****Northern Bald Ibis (CR)***Geronticus eremita*

(1) 50 Oued Tamri 24.2.

An incredible sighting as a number of individuals moved from their distant feeding location to spend a few minutes drinking at the Oued Tamri.

**Glossy Ibis***Plegadis falcinellus*

(1) 120 Oued Massa 25.2.

Large numbers only at Oued Massa.



**Eurasian Spoonbill***Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*

(4) 110 Oued Souss 23.2, 1 Oued Tamri 24.2, 8 Oued Souss 25.2 and 10 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2.  
Common and widespread

**Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*****Little Bittern***Ixobrychus minutus minutus*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

A great sighting by one participant, but as with small bitterns - it disappeared into cover before anyone else could get onto it.

**Western Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

(8) 40 Ourika 22.2, 40 Oued Souss 23.2, 80 Oued Souss 25.2, 20 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 60 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2, 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 50 Marrakech 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea cinerea*

(9) 6 Ourika 22.2, 2 Oued Souss 23.2, 2 Oued Tamri 24.2, 5 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2, 40 Oued Souss 25.2, 5 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 6 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta garzetta*

(7) 6 Ourika 22.2, 10 Oued Souss 23.2, 1 Oued Tamri 24.2, 100 Oued Souss 25.2, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3.

Common and widespread

**Boobies and Gannets *Sulidae*****Northern Gannet***Morus bassanus*

(2) 50 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2 and 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

Common on our pelagic, a few seen from the shore while at Oued Massa.

**Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*****Great Cormorant***Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus*

(8) 10 Oued Souss 23.2, 10 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2, 15 Oued Massa 25.2, 15 Oued Souss 25.2, 20 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 8 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 300 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 100 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

**Osprey *Pandionidae*****Western Osprey***Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

(5) 1 Oued Tamri 24.2, 1 Oued Massa 25.2, 1 Oued Souss 25.2, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Individuals seen at various locations.

**Hawks, Eagles, and Kites *Accipitridae*****Black-winged Kite***Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*

(3) 2 Oued Massa 25.2, 1 Taroudant 26.2 and 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3.

Highly desired by WP listers, we managed some excellent sightings at Oued Massa and en route to Taroudant.





**Short-toed Snake Eagle***Circaetus gallicus*

(3) 5 Taroudant 26.2, 1 Ouarzazate 3.3 and 2 Toufliht 4.3.

Our best sighting was en route to Taroudant, where two individuals flew overhead.

**Booted Eagle***Hieraaetus pennatus*

(1) 1 Toufliht 4.3.

Our final bird of the tour seen between Toufliht and Marrakech.

**Golden Eagle***Aquila chrysaetos homeyeri*

(1) 1 Ouirgane area 23.2.

One distant individual seen flying over the mountains surrounding the Tinmel Mosque. Had it not been an unplanned stop to take photos of the mosque from distance, it is doubtful we would have latched onto this rare Moroccan species.

**Bonelli's Eagle***Aquila fasciata fasciata*

(2) 2 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 1 Midelt 1.3.

Two sighting, both of which were unfortunately rather distant.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk***Accipiter nisus punicus*

(2) 2 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 1 Oued Massa 25.2 and 1 Oued Souss 25.2.

**Northern Goshawk***Accipiter gentilis gentilis*

(1) 1 Toufliht 4.3.

An individual serenaded the end of our tour by displaying right over our vehicle as we exited for lunch and again on our way out!

**Western Marsh Harrier***Circus aeruginosus*

(4) 1 Oued Tamri 24.2, 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 10 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 6 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

**Pallid Harrier (NT)***Circus macrourus*

(2) 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 1 Tinejdad 3.3.

Getting one bird on the tour was excellent, getting two quite phenomenal.

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans migrans*

(3) 250 Taroudant 23.2, 55 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Only two flocks of substance were seen, with what looked to be the beginning of migration across Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi

**Long-legged Buzzard***Buteo rufinus cirtensis*

(5) 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 4 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 1 Boumalne-Dadès 28.2, 4 Tinejdad 3.3 and 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Absent during the first half of the tour, became more reliable during the latter.

**Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae****Water Rail***Rallus aquaticus aquaticus*

(1) 1 heard Oued Massa 25.2.

Not unusually, this species was heard but not seen at Oued Massa

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

(3) 2 Oued Tamri 24.2, 2 Oued Massa 25.2 and 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

Small numbers found in typical wetland habitat.

**Eurasian Coot***Fulica atra atra*

(5) 10 Oued Massa 25.2, 100 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 100 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 100 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread



**Cranes Gruidae****Common Crane***Grus grus*

(1) 17 Oued Massa 25.2.

We managed to find the wintering flock a few minutes before they began to wander over the horizon. While distant, this was a much desired target on the tour.

**Thick-knees Burhinidae****Eurasian Stone-curlew***Burhinus oedicnemus*

(2) 1 Taroudant 23.2, 2 heard Oued Souss 23.2, 15 Oued Massa 25.2 and 2 Oued Souss 25.2.

**Oystercatchers Haematopodidae****Eurasian Oystercatcher***Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*

(1) 14 Oued Souss 25.2.

One small flock found at Oued Souss.

**Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae****Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

(3) 10 Oued Souss 23.2, 20 Oued Souss 25.2 and 10 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2.

Fairly common around Oued Souss.

**Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avosetta*

(4) 2 Oued Souss 23.2, 1 Oued Tamri 24.2, 12 Oued Souss 25.2 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3.

Fairly common around Oued Souss, with 2 birds seen later in the trip.

**Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae****Grey Plover***Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*

(2) 30 Oued Souss 23.2 and 70 Oued Souss 25.2.

Good numbers seen at Oued Souss only.

**Common Ringed Plover***Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula*

(5) 20 Oued Souss 23.2, 100 Oued Souss 25.2, 40 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Little Ringed Plover***Charadrius dubius curonicus*

(5) 5 Ourika 22.2, 1 Oued Souss 25.2, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 30 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 20 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Kentish Plover***Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*

(3) 1 Oued Souss 23.2, 25 Oued Souss 25.2 and 25 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2.

Small numbers around Oued Souss with a larger flock at Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi.

**Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae****Common Snipe***Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

(3) 1 Oued Souss 25.2, 4 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Mostly flushed individuals until two were seen quietly patrolling the reed fringes at Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi

**Black-tailed Godwit (NT)***Limosa limosa*

(2) 1 Oued Souss 23.2 and 50 Oued Souss 25.2.

Fairly common at Oued Souss.





**Bar-tailed Godwit***Limosa lapponica lapponica*

(1) 3 Oued Souss 25.2.

Fairly rare on our tour, with 3 individuals confirmed at Oued Souss on our second visit.

**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*

(2) 1 Oued Souss 23.2 and 1 Oued Souss 25.2.

Fairly rare this far south, so we were very pleased to find 1 individual at Oued Souss.

**Eurasian Curlew (NT)***Numenius arquata arquata*

(2) 15 Oued Souss 23.2 and 20 Oued Souss 25.2.

Fairly common at Oued Souss.

**Spotted Redshank***Tringa erythropus*

(1) 3 Oued Souss 25.2.

At least three amongst the Common Redshanks.

**Common Redshank***Tringa totanus*

(2) 30 Oued Souss 23.2 and 40 Oued Souss 25.2.

Fairly common at Oued Souss.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

(5) 3 Oued Souss 23.2, 2 Oued Massa 25.2, 15 Oued Souss 25.2, 3 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 6 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 4 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Green Sandpiper***Tringa ochropus*

(3) 2 Oued Massa 25.2, 2 Oued Souss 25.2, 3 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 3 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Fairly common at Oued Souss and later at Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi.

**Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola*

(3) 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

We managed to find at least one on every trip to Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi.

**Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos*

(3) 1 Ourika 22.2, 1 Agadir 24.2 and 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

Not particularly common with odd sightings here and there.

**Sanderling***Calidris alba alba*

(2) 10 Oued Souss 23.2 and 10 Oued Souss 25.2.

Fairly common at Oued Souss.

**Little Stint***Calidris minuta*

(5) 2 Oued Souss 23.2, 1 Oued Massa 25.2, 2 Oued Souss 25.2, 11 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 20 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Dunlin***Calidris alpina*

(2) 10 Oued Souss 23.2 and 12 Oued Souss 25.2.

Fairly common at Oued Souss.

**Ruff***Philomachus pugnax*

(5) 2 Oued Souss 23.2, 50 Oued Souss 25.2, 20 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 15 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 6 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae****Cream-colored Courser***Cursorius cursor cursor*

(3) 14 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 2 Erg Chebbi 2.3 and 5 Tagdilt Track 3.3.

We had many memorable sightings of this species at Tagdilt Track on two different dates.



**Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers *Laridae*****Slender-billed Gull***Chroicocephalus genei*

(1) 3 Oued Souss 25.2.

Late on our last visit, we managed to find an adult and two sub-adults amongst the commoner Yellow-legged Gulls at Oued Souss.

**Black-headed Gull***Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

(6) 500 Oued Souss 23.2, 200 Oued Souss 25.2, 50 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 30 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 30 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Little Gull***Hydrocoloeus minutus*

(1) 1 Oued Souss 23.2.

A rare bird for Morocco, it was found in flight by Mark as it headed slowly down Oued Souss to roost

**Audouin's Gull***Ichthyaelus audouinii*

(2) 250 Oued Tamri 24.2 and 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

Good numbers at their prime roost of Oued Tamri

**Mediterranean Gull***Ichthyaelus melanocephalus*

(3) 25 Oued Souss 23.2, 1 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2 and 8 Oued Souss 25.2.

Fairly common at Oued Souss

**Yellow-legged Gull***Larus michahellis michahellis*

(3) 5 Oued Souss 23.2 and 100 Oued Tamri 24.2.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull***Larus fuscus graellsii*

(3) 5 Oued Souss 23.2 and 1000 Oued Tamri 24.2.

Very common along the west coast.

**Caspian Tern***Hydroprogne caspia*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

Singleton seen at Oued Massa

**Sandwich Tern***Thalasseus sandvicensis*

(3) 60 Oued Souss 23.2, 1 Oued Tamri 24.2, 3 Agadir 24.2 and 50 Oued Souss 25.2.

Some large flocks seen heading off to roost at Oued Souss

**Common Tern***Sterna hirundo*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

Single individual seen on the Oued Massa.

**Skuas and Jaegers *Stercorariidae*****Great Skua***Stercorarius skua*

(1) 3 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2.

Good views of at least three individuals on our pelagic.

**Parasitic Jaeger***Stercorarius parasiticus*

(1) 1 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2.

Distant views of a single bird on our pelagic, with only a few people getting on the bird,

**Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae*****Pin-tailed Sandgrouse***Pterocles alchata caudacutus*

(2) 87 Tagdilt Track 27.2 and 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

At least 85+ were first seen along the Tagdilt Track, a rare location for this species, and only identified well after the tour thanks to a record shot from Ingrid. We found a singleton amongst the more numerous Crowned and Spotted at Erg Chebbi.





**Spotted Sandgrouse***Pterocles senegallus*

(1) 150 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

A huge flock at Tagdilt Track was followed by even more at Erg Chebbi

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse***Pterocles orientalis orientalis*

(3) 15 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 4 Zaida 1.3 and 2 Tagdilt Track 3.3.

A small flock was found quietly feeding on the Tagdilt Track, while smaller groups were flushed later on.

**Crowned Sandgrouse***Pterocles coronatus coronatus*

(1) 20 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

A good number were seen joining the Spotted and lone Pin-tailed at Erg Chebbi.

**Pigeons and Doves Columbidae****Rock Dove***Columba livia livia*

(11) 10 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 20 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 20 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.

**Common Wood Pigeon***Columba palumbus palumbus*

(5) 2 Ourika 22.2, 1 Oued Souss 25.2 and 75 Toufliht 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Eurasian Collared Dove***Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

(11) 12 Ourika 22.2.

Common and widespread

**Laughing Dove***Spilopelia senegalensis phoenicophila*

(3) 6 Oued Massa 25.2 and 2 Taroudant 26.2.

**Owls Strigidae****Pharaoh Eagle-Owl***Bubo ascalaphus*

(1) 1 Rissani 2.3.

After much searching of cracks and crevices, Tim scored a major hit when he found an individual high up on a hidden ledge within a vertical crack.

**Tawny Owl***Strix aluco mauritanica*

(1) 1 Ourika 22.2.

It took some eagle eyed spotting, and while distant - we had an individual perched up on a pole near our accommodation. A potential future split.

**Little Owl***Athene noctua saharae*

(4) 2 Ourigane area 23.2, 1 Boumalne-Dadès 26.2, 1 Tagdilt Track 27.2 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

**Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae****Red-necked Nightjar***Caprimulgus ruficollis*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

A very fortuitous find. Having failed to even hear the species at Oued Souss on our first attempt, we scored big when Erling flushed a bird and more importantly remembered exactly where it had landed, allowing the entire group to enjoy daylight views as the bird flushed and flew across us.

**Egyptian Nightjar***Caprimulgus aegyptius saharae*

(1) 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

Using our local nomad contact, we had this species practically lined up for us on arrival.

Historically thought to arrive in Morocco around March, the species is now being found in early February even!



**Swifts Apodidae****Pallid Swift***Apus pallidus brehmorum*

(7) 2 Ourika 22.2, 3 Tizi-n-Test 23.2, 10 Agadir 24.2, 10 Oued Massa 25.2, 10 Ouarzazate 26.2 and 50 Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Little Swift***Apus affinis galilejensis*

(3) 3 Tizi-n-Test 23.2, 2 Agadir 24.2 and 1 Ouarzazate 26.2.

Small numbers seen at various locations

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae****Common Kingfisher***Alcedo atthis atthis*

(1) 3 Oued Massa 25.2.

Three birds seen at Oued Massa was the sum of our sightings

**Hoopoes Upupidae****Eurasian Hoopoe***Upupa epops epops*

(5) 1 Tizi-n-Test 23.2, 2 Taroudant 26.2, 2 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2, 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3 and 1 Erfoud 3.3.

Unusually small numbers seen at various locations.

**Woodpeckers Picidae****Eurasian Wryneck***Jynx torquilla*

(1) 2 Oued Massa 25.2.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker***Dendrocopos major mauritanus*

(2) 1 Ouirgane area 23.2 and 1 Toufliht 4.3.

We managed to locate 1 adult both at Ouirgane and Toufliht ensuring the entire group got onto this widespread, but attractive woodpecker.

**Levaillant's Woodpecker***Picus vaillantii*

(3) 2 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 1 heard Ouirgane area 23.2 and 1 Toufliht 4.3.

One of the early target species, we had crippling views of a male while heading up the Ourika Valley as he sat motionless for at least 20 minutes.

**Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae****Common Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*

(10) 1 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 3 Oued Massa 25.2, 4 Ouarzazate 26.2, 2 Gorges du Dadès 27.2, 1 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 4 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2, 3 Midelt 1.3, 4 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 6 Toufliht 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Lanner Falcon***Falco biarmicus erlangeri*

(1) 1 Tagdilt Track 27.2.

One distant bird seen over the Tagdilt Track. Disappointingly, we were unable to locate any breeding pairs.

**Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus minor*

(1) 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

**Bushshrikes and Allies Malaconotidae****Black-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra senegalus cucullatus*

(1) 3+3 heard Oued Massa 25.2.

Despite being a notorious skulker, we managed to obtain uninterrupted views of a pair as they sat on an exposed branch next to the road around Oued Massa.





**Shrikes *Laniidae*****Southern Grey Shrike***Lanius meridionalis elegans*

(1) 3 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

Restricted to the far south-east

*algeriensis*

(9) 1 Marrakech 22.2, 1 Oued Tamri 24.2, 1 Oued Massa 25.2, 1 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 4 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 2 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Woodchat Shrike***Lanius senator*

(1) 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

One individual interrupted our appreciation of Desert Sparrow momentarily.

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*****Eurasian Jay***Garrulus glandarius minor*

(1) 2 Tizi-n-Test 23.2.

**Eurasian Magpie***Pica pica mauritanica*

(6) 1 Marrakech 22.2, 10 Taroudant 23.2, 2 Agadir 24.2, 6 Oued Souss 25.2 and 6 Marrakech 4.3.

Common around Marrakech and the west coast littoral, this sub-species is due to be elevated to full species status shortly: Maghreb Magpie *Pica mauritanica***Red-billed Chough***Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax barbarus*

(2) 100 Oukaïmeden 22.2 and 40 Tizi-n-Test 23.2.

Common around Oukaïmeden

**Alpine Chough***Pyrhocorax graculus graculus*

(2) 150 Oukaïmeden 22.2 and 10 Tizi n'Tichka 4.3.

Common around Oukaïmeden

**Brown-necked Raven***Corvus ruficollis*

(2) 10 Erg Chebbi 2.3 and 4 Tinejdad 3.3.

Fairly common only around Erfoud and Erg Chebbi where it replaces Northern Raven.

**Northern Raven***Corvus corax tingitanus*

(3) 3 Oued Tamri 24.2, 1 Tinejdad 28.2 and 2 Zaida 1.3.

Small numbers seen in various locations.

**Chickadees and Tits *Paridae*****Coal Tit***Periparus ater atlas*

(2) 10 Oukaïmeden 22.2 and 1 Toufliht 4.3.

**African Blue Tit***Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus*

(3) 6 Ourika 22.2, 6 Ouirgane area 23.2 and 2 Tizi n'Tichka 4.3.

Regularly seen at the beginning of the tour in forested habitat, absent from the deserts and gravel plains.

**Great Tit***Parus major excelsus*

(3) 2 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 2 Ouirgane area 23.2 and 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

**Larks *Alaudidae*****Greater Hoopoe-Lark***Alaemon alaudipes alaudipes*

(4) 4 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 2 Erfoud 1.3, 10 Erg Chebbi 2.3 and 3 Tinejdad 3.3.

One of the birds of the tour for many, we had a number of excellent sightings.

**Thick-billed Lark***Ramphocoris clotbey*

(2) 10 Tagdilt Track 27.2 and 1 Tinejdad 28.2.



We expected this species to be difficult, but we had already found 5 pairs within the first 20 minutes of birding the rubbish tip at Tagdilt! Further individuals were seen in rather more pristine habitat.

**Desert Lark***Ammomanes deserti payni*

(1) 1 Gorges du Dadès 27.2.

**Bar-tailed Lark***Ammomanes cinctura arenicolor*

(4) 4 Tinejdad 28.2, 2 Erfoud 1.3, 20 Erg Chebbi 2.3 and 6 Tinejdad 3.3.

Good numbers of this shy lark were found towards the end of the tour, mostly near the sandy deserts of Erfoud and surrounds.

**Eurasian Skylark***Alauda arvensis harterti*

(1) 20 Tagdilt Track 27.2.

**Thekla Lark***Galerida theklæ*

(4) 10 Taroudant 26.2, 10 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 10 Midelt 1.3 and 2 Tagdilt Track 3.3.

Common in the Anti-Atlas, preferring higher altitudes than Crested or Maghreb Lark.

**Crested Lark***Galerida cristata riggenbachi*

(7) 6 Taroudant 23.2, 4 Oued Tamri 24.2, 10 Oued Massa 25.2, 6 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 6 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Maghreb Lark***Galerida macrorhyncha macrorhyncha*

(3) 1 Erfoud 1.3, 2 Erg Chebbi 2.3 and 2 Tinejdad 3.3.

Common in the far east, replacing Crested Lark.

**Horned Lark***Eremophila alpestris atlas*

(1) 15 Oukaïmeden 22.2.

Fairly common only at high elevations around Oukaïmeden

**Temminck's Lark***Eremophila bilopha*

(2) 15 Tagdilt Track 27.2 and 3 Tagdilt Track 3.3.

Common on the Tagdilt Track

**Greater Short-toed Lark***Calandrella brachydactyla*

(3) 2 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 4 Tinejdad 28.2, 40 Tagdilt Track 3.3 and 7 Ouarzazate 3.3.

A flighty lark that never gave us good views despite a number of sightings

**Dupont's Lark (NT)***Chersophilus duponti duponti*

(1) 3 seen & 4 heard Zaida 1.3.

**Lesser Short-toed Lark***Alaudala rufescens minor*

(2) 30 Tagdilt Track 27.2 and 10 Zaida 1.3.

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae****Common Bulbul***Pycnonotus barbatus barbatus*

(11) 20 Ourika 22.2.

Common and widespread

**Swallows Hirundinidae****Brown-throated Martin***Riparia paludicola mauritanica*

(1) 4 Oued Massa 25.2.

Another very desirable species for WP listers, at least 4 individuals seen around Oued Massa

**Sand Martin***Riparia riparia riparia*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

On individual seen amongst a mixed Hirundine flock

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica rustica*

(9) 10 Ourika 22.2, 5 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3, 30 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 20 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread





**Eurasian Crag Martin***Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

(8) 30 Ourika 22.2, 10 Ouarzazate 26.2, 20 Gorges du Dadès 27.2, 20 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2, 2 Rissani 2.3, 1 Tinejdad 3.3 and 12 Tizi n'Tichka 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Common House Martin***Delichon urbicum*

(9) 6 Ourika 22.2, 10 Ouirgane area 23.2, 10 Agadir 24.2, 20 Oued Massa 25.2, 10 Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Gorges du Dadès 27.2, 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 6 Tizi n'Tichka 4.3.

Common and widespread this year

**Red-rumped Swallow***Cecropis daurica rufula*

(4) 6 Ourika 22.2, 4 Ouirgane area 23.2, 2 Ouarzazate 26.2 and 3 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3.

Small numbers of this species noted at a few locations

**Bush-Warblers and Allies Cettiidae****Cetti's Warbler***Cettia cetti cetti*

(4) 1 heard Ourika 23.2, 1 heard Oued Tamri 24.2, 1+10 heard Oued Massa 25.2 and 2 heard Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.

We got the typical run around from a number of Cetti's, but eventually one played ball giving us excellent exposed views.

**Streaked Scrub Warbler Scotocercidae****Streaked Scrub Warbler***Scotocerca inquieta saharae*

(1) 2 Tinejdad 28.2.

We found a pair in the Tinejdad area. Fortunately they were amongst relatively open scrub allowing for good views.

**Leaf-Warblers Phylloscopidae****Common Chiffchaff***Phylloscopus collybita collybita*

(4) 1 Oued Tamri 24.2, 20 Oued Massa 25.2, 2 Taroudant 26.2 and 1 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.

**Iberian Chiffchaff***Phylloscopus ibericus*

(1) 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

One individual broke our appreciation of Desert Sparrow just long enough for us to ID this tricky species.

**Reed-Warblers and Allies Acrocephalidae****Sedge Warbler***Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

(3) 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 4 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Seen on each visit to Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi

**Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae****Zitting Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis cisticola*

(3) 1 heard Oued Souss 23.2, 1 Oued Tamri 24.2, 3 Oued Massa 25.2 and 3 Oued Souss 25.2.

**Laughingthrushes Leiiothrichidae****Fulvous Babbler***Turdoides fulva maroccana*

(2) 8 Tinejdad 28.2 and 4 Tinejdad 3.3.



**Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*****Eurasian Blackcap***Sylvia atricapilla*

(4) 6 Ouirgane area 23.2, 1 Oued Massa 25.2, 2 Taroudant 26.2 and 2 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.

**African Desert Warbler***Sylvia deserti*

(1) 2 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

A gorgeous pair of these pale warblers popped in to view for short periods of time.

**Tristram's Warbler***Sylvia deserticola maroccana*

(2) 2 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 4 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.

**Spectacled Warbler***Sylvia conspicillata*

(4) 3 Taroudant 26.2, 1 Tinejdad 28.2, 3 Erg Chebbi 2.3 and 2 Tinejdad 3.3.

A handful of individuals were dropped in on at a few locations.

**Subalpine Warbler***Sylvia cantillans*

(2) 1 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 1.3 and 5 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

**Sardinian Warbler***Sylvia melanocephala melanocephala*

(5) 5 Ourika 22.2, 1 Tinmel Mosque 23.2, 1 Agadir 24.2, 10 Oued Massa 25.2 and 1 Taroudant 26.2.

(1) 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

*valverdei*

Common and widespread

**Kinglets *Regulidae*****Common Firecrest***Regulus ignicapilla balearicus*

(1) 2 Toufliht 4.3.

Two individuals showed well in the pine trees near our lunch stop in Toufliht.

**Wrens *Troglodytidae*****Eurasian Wren***Troglodytes troglodytes kabyloorum*

(3) 4 heard Ourika 22.2, 1 heard Igunane 23.2 and 1 heard Toufliht 4.3.

**Treecreepers *Certhiidae*****Short-toed Treecreeper***Certhia brachydactyla mauritanica*

(2) 1 Oukaïmeden 22.2 and 2 Toufliht 4.3.

Great sightings of this much enjoyed species at both locations.

**Starlings *Sturnidae*****Spotless Starling***Sturnus unicolor*

(8) 6 Marrakech 22.2, 100 Taroudant 23.2, 8 Agadir 24.2, 3 Oued Massa 25.2, 25 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 10 Marrakech 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*****Ring Ouzel***Turdus torquatus torquatus*

(2) 2 Oukaïmeden 22.2 and 8 Tizi-n-Test 23.2.

**Common Blackbird***Turdus merula mauritanicus*

(11) 20 Ourika 22.2, 2 Agadir 24.2, 6 Oued Massa 25.2, 2 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 2 Rissani 2.3.

**Song Thrush***Turdus philomelos*

(2) 1 Tizi-n-Test 23.2 and 2 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.

Unfortunately, both visuals were either too distant or quick to get more than a record shot.

**Mistle Thrush***Turdus viscivorus deichleri*

(1) 2 Oukaïmeden 22.2.



**Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*****European Robin***Erithacus rubecula rubecula*

(3) 1 Ourika 22.2, 1 Ouirgane area 23.2 and 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

**Bluethroat***Luscinia svecica*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

**Black Redstart***Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*

(6) 1 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 2 Tizi-n-Test 23.2, 1 Agadir 24.2, 3 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 1 Midelt 1.3.

Common and widespread

**Moussier's Redstart***Phoenicurus moussieri*

(6) 1 Ourika 22.2, 1 Tinmel Mosque 23.2, 1 Agadir 24.2, 6 Oued Massa 25.2, 2 Taroudant 26.2 and 3 Tinejdad 28.2.

We had a number of good views of the north west African endemic

**Blue Rock Thrush***Monticola solitarius solitarius*

(7) 1 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 1 Taroudant 26.2, 1 Gorges du Dadès 27.2, 1 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2, 2 Erfoud 1.3 and 2 Ouarzazate 4.3.

A common species during the latter half of the tour, perched or scuttling along walls and roof tops.

**European Stonechat***Saxicola rubicola rubicola*

(5) 1 Agadir 24.2, 6 Oued Massa 25.2, 3 Taroudant 26.2, 1 Tagdilt Track 27.2 and 1 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2.

Small numbers seen mostly in or around agricultural lands

**Northern Wheatear***Oenanthe oenanthe*

(1) 1 Taroudant 26.2.

Surprisingly, we only had one sighting of this species

**Isabelline Wheatear***Oenanthe isabellina*

(1) 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

Another Moroccan rarity seen in the sand dunes of Erg Chebbi. Unfortunately, the bird took to flight after only a small number of participants had seen the species and could not be relocated.

**Desert Wheatear***Oenanthe deserti homochroa*

(5) 10 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 2 Tinejdad 28.2, 4 Midelt 1.3, 6 Erg Chebbi 2.3 and 10 Tagdilt Track 3.3.

Common from the Anti-Atlas to the eastern deserts.

**Red-rumped Wheatear***Oenanthe moesta*

(5) 6 Ouarzazate 26.2, 10 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 1 heard Zaida 1.3., 4 Tagdilt Track 3.3. Common in the Anti-Atlas only.

**Black Wheatear***Oenanthe leucura riggenbachi*

(6) 2 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 2 Tizi-n-Test 23.2, 6 Ouarzazate 26.2, 6 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 4 Midelt 1.3.

Common and widespread

**White-crowned Wheatear***Oenanthe leucopyga leucopyga*

(7) 6 Ouarzazate 26.2, 3 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 10 Erfoud 1.3, 20 Erg Chebbi 2.3, 50 Tinejdad 3.3 and 6 Ouarzazate 4.3. Common and widespread in the east

**Dippers *Cinclidae*****White-throated Dipper***Cinclus cinclus minor*

(1) 1 Oukaïmeden 22.2.

A single bird seen close to Oukaïmeden





**Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*****House Sparrow***Passer domesticus tingitanus*

(11) 20 Ourika 22.2.

**Spanish Sparrow***Passer hispaniolensis hispaniolensis*

(3) 10 Agadir 24.2, 50 Oued Massa 25.2 and 20 Taroudant 26.2.

Common along the west coast, particularly the agricultural fields.

**Desert Sparrow***Passer simplex saharae*

(1) 4 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

An excellent sighting of two pairs at a known stakeout in Erg Chebbi

**Rock Sparrow***Petronia petronia barbara*

(1) 4 Oukaïmeden 22.2.

**Wagtails and Pipits *Motacillidae*****Western Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava iberiae*

(6) 3 Ourika 22.2, 1 Oued Massa 25.2, 10 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2, 3 Gorges du Dadès 27.2, 200 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 30 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

**Grey Wagtail***Motacilla cinerea cinerea*

(3) 2 Ourika 22.2, 1 Ouirgane area 23.2, 1 Oued Souss 23.2 and 5 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.

Fairly common along higher altitude rivers.

**White Wagtail***Motacilla alba yarrellii*

(11) (5) 10 Ourika 22.2, 6 Oued Souss 25.2, 30 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 100 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 30 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

*subpersonata:*2 Ourika 22.2 (*subpersonata*), 1 Oued Tamri 24.2 (*subpersonata*), 1 Oued Souss 25.2 (*subpersonata*), 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2 (*subpersonata*) and 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3 (*subpersonata*).**Meadow Pipit***Anthus pratensis*

(8) 3 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 2 Oued Souss 23.2, 4 Oued Souss 25.2, 2 Taroudant 26.2, 2 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 2 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 3.3 and 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Water Pipit***Anthus spinoletta spinoletta*

(1) 1 Oukaïmeden 22.2.

A single bird flushed while searching for White-throated Dipper. Only flight views were had of the bird flying up river.

**Finches, Euphonias *Fringillidae*****Common Chaffinch***Fringilla coelebs coelebs*

(1) 20 Oukaïmeden 22.2.

*africana:*

(6) 30 Ourika 22.2, 6 Oued Massa 25.2, 1 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2, 10 Toufliht 4.3 and 10 Tizi n'Tichka 4.3.

**Hawfinch***Coccothraustes coccothraustes buvryi*

(1) 3 Ouirgane area 23.2.

**African Crimson-winged Finch***Rhodopechys alienus*

(1) 120 Oukaïmeden 22.2.

The heavy snows had pushed these birds down the mountains, but the flock of c. 120+ was exceptional



**Trumpeter Finch***Bucanetes githagineus zedlitzi*

(3) 2 Barrage Al-Hassan Addakhil 28.2, 6 Tinejdad 28.2, 1 Erg Chebbi 2.3 and 30 Tinejdad 3.3.  
We struggled initially to find this finch, but attained excellent views of them in the end.

**European Greenfinch***Chloris chloris voousi*

(4) 2 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 10 Ouirgane area 23.2, 5 Oued Massa 25.2 and 25 Taroudant 26.2.  
Common and widespread

**Common Linnet***Linaria cannabina mediterranea*

(5) 20 Oued Massa 25.2, 6 Ouarzazate 26.2, 2 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 4 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2 and 2 heard Zaida 1.3.

**Red Crossbill***Loxia curvirostra polioynga*

(1) 3 Toufliht 4.3.

**European Goldfinch***Carduelis carduelis parva*

(2) 2 Oukaïmeden 22.2 and 15 Oued Souss 25.2.

**European Serin***Serinus serinus*

(6) 2 Ourika 22.2, 20 Ouirgane area 23.2, 20 Oued Massa 25.2, 6 Taroudant 26.2, 1 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 2 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.

Common and widespread

**Buntings, Sparrows and Allies *Emberizidae*****Corn Bunting***Emberiza calandra calandra*

(2) 1 Oued Massa 25.2 and 1 heard Tagdilt Track 27.2.

Rather inconspicuous this year, only small numbers noted

**Rock Bunting***Emberiza cia cia*

(3) 4 Oukaïmeden 22.2, 2 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 2 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.  
Good sightings of this altitude loving species

**Cirl Bunting***Emberiza cirlus*

(3) 2 Ourika 22.2, 1 Oued Massa 25.2, 1 Toufliht 4.3 and 1 Tizi n'Tichka 4.3.

Best views were of a gorgeous singing male in the Ourika Valley

**House Bunting***Emberiza sahari sahari*

(11) 1 Ourika 22.2, 1 Tinmel Mosque 23.2, 2 Agadir 24.2, 3 Oued Massa 25.2, 4 Ouarzazate 26.2, 4 Gorges du Dadès 27.2, 2 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2, 2 Midelt 1.3, 1 heard Rissani 2.3, 1 Erfoud 3.3 and 2 Marrakech 4.3.

Common and widespread

**Mammals (6 in total: 6 seen)**

**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

**True Mice and Rats, Gerbils, Spiny Mice, Crested Rat *Muridae*****Fat Sand Rat***Psammomys obesus*

(3) 10 Tagdilt Track 27.2, 1 Tinejdad 28.2 and 4 Tinejdad 3.3.

A number of sightings of this rodent at Tagdilt and Tinejdad

**Squirrels *Sciuridae*****Barbary Ground Squirrel***Atlantoxerus getulus*

(5) 1 Ourika 22.2, 1 Tizi-n-Test 23.2, 10 Ouarzazate 26.2, 2 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 1 Gorges du Todgha, N of Tinerhir 28.2.

Small number initially, but became commoner en route to Ouarzazate and within the Gorges du Dadès



**Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals *Canidae*****Red Fox***Vulpes vulpes*

(1) 1 Rissani 2.3.

A single adult went scurrying across a rock and scree face where we were searching for Lanner Falcon near Rissani.

**Oceanic Dolphins *Delphinidae*****Short-beaked Common Dolphin***Delphinus delphis*

(1) 2 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2.

**Common Bottlenose Dolphin***Tursiops truncatus*

(1) 20 Pelagic - Atlantic Ocean out of Agadir 24.2.

Large pod that followed our pelagic boat

**Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats *Bovidae*****Aoudad (Barbary Sheep)***Ammotragus lervia*

(1) 15 Tizi-n-Test 23.2.

This near mythical species was found much to everyone's surprise by Erling - just as he said he hoped to do. At least 15 individuals were found browsing and grazing near Tizi 'n-Test Pass. The recent heavy snows possibly pushed the flock further down the mountains than normal.

**Reptiles (7 in total: 7 seen)**

**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

**Asian River Turtles, Leaf and Roofed Turtles, Asian Box Turtles *Geoemydidae*****Mediterranean Turtle***Mauremys leprosa saharica*

(2) 10 Oued Massa 25.2 and 10 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi, Ouarzazate 26.2.

**Geckos *Gekkonidae*****Spotted House Gecko***Hemidactylus brookii*

(1) 1 Boumalne-Dadès 27.2

**Leaf-toed Geckos *Phyllodactylidae*****Helmethead Gecko***Geckonia chazaliae*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

**Lacertidae****Duméril's Fringe-fingered Lizard***Acanthodactylus dumerilii dumerilii*

(1) 3 Errachidia 1.3.

**European Fringe-fingered Lizard***Acanthodactylus erythrurus*

(1) 5 Tinejdad 28.2.

**Long Fringe-fingered Lizard***Acanthodactylus longipes*

(1) 10 Erg Chebbi 2.3.

**Colubrid snakes *Colubridae*****False Smooth Snake***Macropododon cucullatus*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.





**Amphibians (1 in total: 1 seen)****Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient**True toads *Bufonidae*****Mediterranean toad***Bufo spinosus*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2 (1 single seen by Erling at about the time he flushed the Red-necked Nightjar).

**Butterflies (9 in total: 9 seen)****Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient**Gossamer-wing Butterflies *Lycaenidae*****African Grass Blue***Zizeeria knysna*

(1) 1 Gorges du Dadès 27.2.

**Brush-footed Butterflies *Nymphalidae*****Wall Brown***Lasiommata megera*

(2) 1 Oued Massa 25.2 and 1 Gorges du Dadès 27.2.

**Red Admiral***Vanessa atalanta*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

**Swallowtails and Parnassians *Papilionidae*****Old World Swallowtail***Papilio machaon*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

**Whites and Sulphurs *Pieridae*****Clouded Yellow***Colias croceus*

(2) 1 Oued Massa 25.2 and 1 Midelt 1.3.

**Greenish Black-tip***Euchloe charltonia*

(2) 1 Oued Massa 25.2 and 1 Midelt 1.3.

**Large White***Pieris brassicae*

(3) 1 Oued Massa 25.2, 1 Gorges du Dadès 27.2 and 1 Midelt 1.3.

**Small White***Pieris rapae*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

**Bath White***Pontia daplidice*

(1) 1 Oued Massa 25.2.

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