

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED in MOROCCO MARCH 26-APRIL 10, 2019
212 bird species + 4 * distinct subspecies + 4 species [introduced or domesticated]

BIRDS

OSTRICH

[Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*

Though there has been a re-introduction program, the pair in the Zaers were surely farm raised]

DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A couple at Dayet Aoua, at least a 100 Merzouga Lake in the Sahara, 20 at Barrage El Mansour, Ouarzazate and two at Aoulouz

[Muscovy *Cairina moschata*

Four at Sidi Boughaba of these domesticated ducks]

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Four at Merzouga Lake in the Sahara

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

One at Sidi Boughaba, 6 at Merzouga Lake and 4 at Barrage El Mansour, Ouarzazate

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

From a few to 3 dozen scattered in bodies of freshwater

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Two pairs seen at Barrage El Mansour, Ouarzazate

Garganey *Spatula quequedula*

A pair in the Zaers

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

One or two at Sidi Boughaba, Merzouga Lake and at Barrage El Mansour, Ouarzazate

Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

Six at Sidi Boughaba and four in the the Kenitra marsh

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

80 at Sidi Boughaba and 30 in the Kenitra marshes

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

10 at Sidi Boughaba and six in the Kenitra marshes

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

6 at Sidi Boughaba and a dozen in the Zaers

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*

80 at Sidi Boughaba and a couple in the Kenitra marshes

GUINEAFOWL

[Helmeted Guineafowl *Numbia meleagris sabyi*

Several small flocks seen while driving in the Middle Atlas, these being domesticated]

PHEASANTS, GROUSE & ALLIES

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

One showed for an amazing view for half the group in the Zaers. Heard at Merjda Zerga and at the Calandra Lark spot

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*

Heard in the Zaers

Double-spurred Francolin *Francolinus bicalcaratus ayesha*

Up to six of this rare localized game bird seen in the Zaers, with a couple exceptionally well

FLAMINGOS

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

30+ at Sidi Boughaba, 200 at Mejda Zerga and a spectacular sight of 500 at Merzouga Lake in the Sahara with the golden sands of the Erg Chebbi as a backdrop

GREBES

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Six at Sid Boughaba, and singles at Ouarzazte and on the river at Aoulouz

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Between six and a dozen in four spots, Sidi Boughaba, Lac Aguelmalne in the Atlas, Merzouga Lake in the Sahara and El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate, including a displaying pair at the latter

PIGEONS & DOVES

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Feral birds common throughout all towns and seen daily, with from six to several dozen 'real' ones seen in the Atlas and at Todra Gorge

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Up to eight seen on most days away from the desert

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

A few heard in the Sous Valley with several seen at Tiout palmery. Four at Massa

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

From a few to three dozen seen daily

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

A handful scattered throughout the trip with the exception of the Atlas Mountains. They are certainly expanding their range and numbers!

SANDGROUSE

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

Mustapha found five on the Zeida Plain, and we had wonderful views of 3 on the Tagdilt Track

Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus*

Two dozen seen at a small pool of water east of Erg Chebbi in the Sahara on two days, and while looking for Scrub Warbler west of Jorf we had a flock calling as they flew over

Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus*

Twenty or more were at the water with the Spotted in the Sahara

BUSTARDS

Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata undulata*

Imagine our excitement when we came across one wandering the stoney desert and through a wadi in the Sahara. Adrian and Peter also had one spotlighted in flight on the night drive, possibly a different bird given the location

CUCKOO

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

A couple heard with a brief look at one in flight in the Zaers, with our best views being of a migrant in a wadi in the Sahara

NIGHTJARS

Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis*

A adult and two fledglings on the night drive in the Souss Valley

Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

A single roosting bird in a wadi in the Sahara

SWIFTS

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Wonderful views of dozens of birds flying around the ramparts of Fez

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Noted on five days in the north

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Numerous around large towns and cities, away from the Atlas and desert

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Wonderful views of birds checking out the holes in the ramparts of Taroudant. Also a few seen in Agadir

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

One seen briefly crossing an open section between patches of *juncus* at Aoulouz Gorge

Western Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

As many as eight seen in the Kenitra marshes

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Up to a dozen seen in the Zaers and Sidi Boughaba, with four at Aoulouz and one at Souss-Massa NP

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

50+ on Merzouga Lake in the Sahara, with a few other scatters in various freshwater ponds on 4 days

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

Up to 40 seen at Sidi Boughaba and in the Zaers, with six on Dayet Aoua in the Middle Atlas

THICK-KNEES

Eurasian Thick-knee (Stone-curlew) *Burhinus oediconemus*

Good views of up to three on four days including a mating pair at Massa, one with a hours-old chick at Tamri and one on the night drive in the Souss Valley

STILTS & AVOCETS

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

From 10 -30 seen at Sidi Boughaba, a roadside pool near Casablanca airport, in the Zaers, with a few at Merjda Zerga, Lake Merzouga in the Sahara and El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Only two seen at Merjda Zerga

OYSTERCATCHERS

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Two at Medhya estuary and six at Merjda Zerga

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

One at Medhya and one El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Four at Merjda Zerga, and singles at Medhya beach and El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

The most numerous *Charadrius* with several dozen at El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate, and a half dozen at Merjda Zerga and Lake Merzouga in the Sahara

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

As many as a 100 on the mudflats at Merjda Zerga

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Seven on the beach at Medhya, and a dozen sleeping in shallow water at Merjda Zerga

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Just one bird at El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Two birds at El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate was a good find, and we were able to compare them to the nearby Little Stint

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Two small groups totaling ten birds feeding on the mudflats at Merjda Zerga

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

2 seen at a distance in a pool in the Zaers

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

One along the Medhya estuary and three at Merjda Zerga

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

15 at Merjda Zerga

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Three at a distance in a pool in the Zaers

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Numerous at Merjda Zerga with at least a hundred

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Two at Medhya estuary, one El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate, and 20 at Merjda Zerga

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Three in a roadside pool shortly after leaving Casablanca airport

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Only single birds in the Zaers and at El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Individuals at Medhya estuary, Merjda Zerga and Souss-Massa NP

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Eight at Merjda Zerga

PRATINCOLES & COURSERS

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

Up to eight seen daily in the Sahara including a pair on the night drive

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMER

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

Wonderful looks at 15 individuals of various ages at Merjda Zerga

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Up to a dozen scattered along the coast on five days

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Excellent views of adults and 2nd-cycle birds numbering over a dozen at Merjda Zerga

Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii*

A couple seen in the Medhya estuary, 30 at Merjda Zerga and at least that number on the beaches south of Tamri

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Martin spotted one amongst Yellow-legged and Lesser-blacked Gulls in a car park at Medhya, noting the longer lighter coloured legs, more upright posture, protruding chest and drooping wings.

Unfortunately it was flushed by walkers before a picture could be taken

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Commonly seen along the coast on four days

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

More numerous than Yellow-legged, with the two main subspecies *graellsii* and *intermedius* seen, and a few *fuscus* **Baltic Gull** in the Medhya estuary

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Over a dozen at Medhya estuary with singles amongst the roosting tern flock at Merjda Zerga and Souss-Massa NP

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

One in the Medhya estuary, up to 20 at Merjda Zerga and Souss-Massa NP

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Eight at Merjda Zerga and two at Souss-Massa NP

Whiskered Tern *Chlionias hybrida*

Twenty in various plumages from non-breeding to almost full adult at Merjda Zerga

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Common over the surf along the coast over 100 at Merjda Zerga

SHEARWATERS & PETRELS

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Three showed very well as they flew back and forth just beyond the surf at Medhya

STORKS

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Seen on all days with the exception of in the Sahara, with up to a hundred in and around larger cities

BOBBIES & GANNETS

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Thirty, mostly adults offshore at Cape Rhir

CORMORANTS

'Continental' Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

Numerous along in freshwater lakes, along and near the coast

* **'Moroccan White-breasted' Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

White-throated immatures with dark bellies of this subspecies were observed at Merjda Zerga and at Tamri

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNES

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

One seen briefly in flight as it crossed a channel at the dam adjacent to the Tiznit bridge along the Massa River

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Four in the Kenitra marshes

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Large numbers seen on most days with the exception of the Sahara and surprisingly the Souss Valley and Souss-Massa Np, the latter an indication of just how dry it has been this winter and spring. At Kenitra marshes the roost topped a 1000 birds!

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Numerous at Merjda Zerga, with a few scattered in various freshwater pools on six days

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One standing on the edge of the cattails at Kenitra marsh

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate held 10 birds, with one or two seen on five other days

IBIS & SPOONBILLS

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Up to 80 seen daily along the north west coast between the Bouregreg River at Chellah and Merjda Zerga

Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*

Wonderful views of small groups feeding near the road north of Tamri, with a total of almost 50 birds (that's about 10 % of the world's wild population, nearly all being in Morocco) once they all got up in flight and flew out of view over the cliffs

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Up to 60 birds at Sidi Boughaba, Kenitra marshes and at Merjda Zerga with a few at El Mansour Reservoir and at Souss-Massa NP

OSPREY

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Singles seen on the first three days of the trip near the coast

HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES

Black-winged Kite *Elanus careuleus*

A couple in the Zaers, as well as singles at Volubilis and in the Souss Valley

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

We certainly hit many migrants with huge numbers, 300+, moving over Merjda Zerga and half that taking off having roosted at Boumalne, and at El Mansour Reservoir in Ouarzazate. Also seen on seven other days

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Surprisingly only one at a distance at Volubilis. Had they all gone through early?

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

The most common 'eagle', seen on eight days with as many as seven on the day we drove from Kenitra to Fez. All but one were light birds

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Three birds at Merjda Zerga including a pair perched on posts, and one moving through the Sahara

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Seen on five days, mainly around the north west coast at the beginning of the trip, as well as a couple migrating through the Sahara

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

One in the Zaers, was seen several times

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

Surprisingly few, with only singles seen on three days, Middle Atlas, Ouarzazate, and north of Agadir, and two at Aoulouz in the Souss Valley

OWLS

Pharaoh Eagle Owl *Bubo ascalaphus*

One at the traditional roosting/nesting site near Rissani in the Sahara. What a setting!

'Desert' Little Owl *Athene noctua saharae*

A pair on the stone wall at Souss-Massa NP showed well. Individuals seen on three other days

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis tingitanus*

An isolated localized population only found around Merjda Zerga. We could not have asked for a more stunning look at this species, perched and in flight. Surely one of the birds of the trip!

HOOPOE

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Widespread with two seen on eight days

KINGFISHERS

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

One seen in flight twice at Aoulouz Gorge, once carrying a fish

BEE-EATERS

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus chrysocercus*

A breeding migrant that just reaches the northern edge of its range south of the Atlas Mountains.

Stunning views, perched and in flight, of ten birds at several stops between Frezna and Tinejdad, where they will be breeding in the sandy banks of the wadis

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Large numbers migrating, with some settling in to breed. Seen on all but three days

WOODPECKERS

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One at Merjda Zegra showed well perched on a shrub and Ann saw another at our lunch stop going over the Tiz n' Tichka in the Atlas Mountains

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major mauritanus*

Seen on two days with good views in the Zaers and at Dayet Aoua

Levaillant's Woodpecker *Picus vaillantii*

One was a bit of a surprise near the Zaers while the cooperative female at Dayet Aoua was not

FALCONS

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

A few seen on three days, in Rabat, Fez and Ouarzazate

Common (Eurasian) Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Up to six seen daily

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

Good views of three individuals on two days in the Sahara

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*

Two separate sightings, a single followed later by a pair as we drove the Tiz n' Test over the Atlas Mts

PARROTS

[Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

A blue male sitting on the top floor ledge of the house next to us in Taroudant. This is third most common pet in the world, so it was no surprise when Ann pointed out a shop with budgies for sale as we drove through Taroudant!]

BUSHSHRIKES & ALLIES

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

A spectacular view of one at Freija and heard at Aoulouz, in the Souss, as well as at Souss-Massa NP

SHRIKES

'Maghreb' Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor algeriensis*

The darker backed of these two subspecies, seen each day in the Souss Valley and along the coast between the Souss-Massa and Tamri, often perched atop *argana*

* **'Desert' Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor elegans*

Up to four of this lighter subspecies seen on two days in the Sahara, and one near Ouarzazate

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

One to two individuals of this striking shrike were seen on eight days, including migrants in the Sahara

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES

'North African' Raven *Corvus corax tingitanus*

Most numerous on our day through the Middle Atlas with two dozen. With a few seen on four other days

Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*

One to three seen daily in the Sahara

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula spermologus*

Between one and two dozen on the first five days of the trip, this being the north west from Rabat to Fez

Maghreb Magpie *Pica (pica) mauritanica*

This beautiful 'black-billed' magpie was seen in small numbers on six days, along the north west coast, in the Souss Valley to the coast around Agadir, with as many as 18 on the day we visited the Souss-Massa NP

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Three calling birds at Dayet Aoua eventually showed!

Red-billed Chough *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax barbarus*

Surprisingly low numbers but very good views at Oukaimeden

Alpine Chough *Pyrhocorax graculus*

As with Red-billed the numbers were low but a flock of 40 did show at Oukaimeden as we were leaving

LARKS

Greater Hoopoe Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*

A common sight in the Sahara with as many as a dozen seen, including their wonderful song followed by spectacular vertical display flight

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

Brilliant views of several displaying birds in the wheat fields on the way to Fez

Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*

Up to four seen daily in the Sahara, along sandy wadis and adjacent stoney flats

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti payni*

Seen on three days along rocky slopes before and after our visit in to the Sahara, including a pair with nesting material west of Jorf

(Greater) Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Seen on 6 days with small flocks of 10-20 at Zeida Plain, in the Sahara, Tagdilt Track and Ouarzazate

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*

One spotted by Martin in flight at Zeida Plain

Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti*

An amazingly cooperative singing individual at sunrise in the Zeida Plain. The setting on a clear cool morning with the snow covered peaks of the High Atlas in the background is surely on the major highlights of our trip.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

With numerous races and similar features to those of Thekla, this is often a challenge. The rusty underwing being a good indicator, these were seen along the north west coast and at Massa

Maghreb Lark *Galerida macrorhyncha*

A few of this large-billed variant split from Crested Lark was seen in the Sahara and heading west to Ouarzazate

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

A few seen in the Middle Atlas, in the Souss Valley at Freija, and while watching Bald Ibis at Tamri. The rusty upper-tail helping to clinch the ID

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

A single bird in the Zaers and in the cedar forest in the Middle Atlas

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Three birds on the ground and in flight in the arable fields at Merjda Zegra while looking for Marsh Owl

Atlas Horned Lark *Eremophila (alpestris) atlas*

We enjoyed as many as 40 feeding in the ski lift car park as the snow was falling at Oukaimeden, and the following morning around the edge of the stream and lake

Temminck's Lark *Eremophila bilopha*

A dozen at the Tagdilt Track including wonderful views of several close feeding birds

SWALLOWS & MARTINS

Brown-throated (Plain) Martin *Riparia paludicola mauritanica*

A sedentary population in Morocco (more numerous south of the Sahara) with ten birds seen well near the Tiznit bridge over the Massa River

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

A few migrants moving over water at Sidi Boughaba and El Mansour Barrage in Ouarzazate

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Seen in small numbers around the coast, in the Souss Valley and at Ait Ben Haddou

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Fewer than expected at Todra Gorge and in the High Atlas

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Seen daily in variable numbers

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Seen on eight days with double digits around Fez and Midelt

TITS

'Maghreb' Great Tit *Parus major excelus*

A few scattered, mostly near the coast

Atlas Coal Tit *Periparus ater atlas*

Three birds at Dayet Aoua in the Middle Atlas

African Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus*

Seen well and common at Chellah and Sid Boughaba, with a few seen at Volubilis, Dayet Aoua and in the High Atlas

NUTHATCHES

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea hispaniensis*

Exceptional view of one at Dayet Aoua, and one at our picnic stop near Azrou in the Middle Atlas

TREECREEPERS

'Maghreb' Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla mauritanica*

Three individuals showed well at Dayet Aoua in the Middle Atlas

WRENS

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes kabyloorum*

Two seen at Sid Boughaba and heard a few times in the cedar forest in the Middle Atlas

DIPPERS

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus minor*

One foraging along the lake at the Oukaïmeden dam

BULBULS

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Common with up to a dozen heard and seen every day

KINGLETS

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus balearicus*

Two seen well at Dayet Aoua in the Middle Atlas

BUSH WARBLERS & allies

(Western) Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquiteta saharae*

Brilliant views of a family party of seven including juveniles in a wadi west of Jorf

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Heard often including at Volubilis, the Souss Valley and Souss-Massa NP, with brief views at Sidi Boughaba.

LEAF WARBLERS

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Over a dozen in the Merzouga palmery, and also seen one other day in the Sahara, and one at Dayet Aoua

(Common) Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Surprisingly few with only a couple seen on three days, including at Sid Boughaba, Chellah and Ait Ben Haddou

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

A few in the Zaers, and Merdja Zerga, with singles in the Sahara, west of Jorf and at Ait Ben Haddou

REED WARBLERS & allies

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One at Aoulouz Gorge

African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus ambiguus*

Singing birds at Aoulouz Gorge likely this ambiguous species

'Saharan' Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida reiseri*

Two in the tamarisks at Mezane in the Sahara

Western (Isabelline) Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*

Good views of a singing pair at Chellah, and singles seen Tinejdad and Ait Ben Haddou. Heard in several spots at Souss-Massa NP. These birds are slightly larger and broader-billed than Saharan Olivaceous

CISTICOLAS & allies

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Recorded on six days, often heard and seen well at Merdja Zerga and Souss-Massa NP

SYLVID WARBLERS

Western Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis*

Good views of one at Aoulouz Gorge

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One passage migrant in the Merzouga palmery in the Sahara, and three at our lunch stop over the Tiz n' Ticha in the Atlas Mountains

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Over a dozen followed each other out a shrub at Sid Boughaba was an unusual sight. A few seen on four other days include a couple in the Sahara

African Desert Warbler *Sylvia deserti*

A single bird seen on two days in a wadi in the Sahara

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Seen on six days, with breeders already on territory along the coast, in the Souss Valley, at Souss-Massa NP

Western Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia inornata*

Wonderful views of these birds, in particular the striking males, with many seen in the Sahara and on five other days

Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Two seen on separate days in the Sahara including side by side views with a Western for comparison

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

One or two seen on three days, at Volubilis, in the Sahara and west of Jorf

Tristram's Warbler *Sylvia deserticola*

A breeding pair on territory in Todra Gorge

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES & ALLIES

Fulvous Babbler *Turdoides fulva*

Three seen just outside Taroudant, with one feeding a juvenile

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS

Atlas Flycatcher *Ficedula speculigera*

An early returning female at our lunch stop over the Tiz n' Tichka. Broad triangular wing patch, greyish nape and back, black uppertail contrasts with lighter grey rump. For more information on separating *Ficedula* flycatchers, see Andrea Corso's paper

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280622466)

[280622466 Atlas Pied Flycatcher variability of identification characters](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280622466)

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Only a couple, seen and heard at Chellah and in the Zaers

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Heard on nine days, with brief sightings at Merzouga palmery and Massa

Rufous Bush Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

Seen on the ground at Freija, and singing from the top of a palm at Tiout, both in the Souss Valley

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*

A female at near our Casablanca Airport hotel, and six at Oukaimeden in the High Atlas

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A few seen on four days, mostly males, with our best views in the Sahara

Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*

Two in the Middle Atlas, one at Oukaimeden with our best views being at Souss-Massa with as many as eight seen

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Six seen around Volubilis and 3 at Souss-Massa NP

White-crowned Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*

The common wheatear of the desert, south and west of the Atlas. Up to ten seen on six days

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*

A couple as we descended the High Atlas towards Er Rachida, and again over the Tiz n' Test, as well as at Aoulouz Gorge

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Individuals at Merjda Zerga and Tagdilt track, with as many as five seen each day in the Sahara including one of the Greenland race

Seebohm's Wheatear *Oenanthe seebohmi*

As many as six as we traversed the Middle Atlas, one in the Sahara, two over the Tiz n' Tichka and five at Oukaimeden in the High Atlas

Western Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica hispanica*

A female in the Sahara, with a couple seen in the Souss Valley, with our best views coming at Souss-Massa NP where four were seen

Maghreb Wheatear *Oenanthe halophila*

A female in a stoney wadi on the north side of the Tagdilt Track

Red-rumped Wheatear *Oenanthe moesta*

Half a dozen pairs on the Tagdilt Track

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

Up to three seen on five days in the Sahara and dry areas south of the Atlas

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

A pair at Todra Gorge, three between Oukaimeden and the Tiz n' Test in the High Atlas and one at Aoulouz Gorge in the Souss Valley

THRUSHES & ALLIES

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Two heard followed by brief glimpse at Sidi Boughaba, and heard at Volubilis

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

A dozen in the Middle Atlas between Dayet Aoua and the cedar forest neat Azrou, and one at Oukaimeden

'Maghreb' Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula mauritanicus*

Common with up to a dozen seen daily

STARLINGS

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

Very common with several dozen seen daily in all areas away from the desert

WAGTAILS & PIPITS

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

Three at El Mansour Barrage in Ouarzazate

* **Spanish Wagtail** *Motacilla flava iberiae*

The most common of the 'yellow' wagtail complex, with up to eight seen on five days

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Two to three seen on three days, between Ait Ben Haddou, Oukaimeden and Aoulouz Gorge

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Just two seen at Merjda Zegra

* **Moroccan White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba subpersonata*

Wonderful views of one to three at El Mansour Barrage, Aoulouz Gorge and at Souss-Massa NP

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

One seen well in a shallow wadi in the Sahara

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A single bird at Merjda Zegra

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

One foraging along the edge of the lake near the dam at Oukaimeden

FINCHES

African Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs africana*

Seen, with the exception of in the desert, on nine days with up to 50 in the Middle Atlas

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Seen every day except in the desert, with the highest number

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris voousi*

Up to a dozen daily throughout the lowlands, but not in the in the desert or High Atlas, of this bright subspecies

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis parva*

Surprisingly only a few seen, these being two at Freija in the Souss Valley and five at Souss-Massa NP

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Good looks at a dozen at Souss-Massa NP, with a few in the Middle Atlas and at Merjda Zegra

African Crimson-winged Finch *Rhodopechys alienus*

One male at Oukaimeden showed very well but all too briefly

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*

A couple in the Sahara at the Egyptian Nightjar spot, as well as five at the well west of Jorf

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes buvryi*

Two birds in the scope at Dayet Aoua

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS

House Bunting *Emberiza sahari*

Widespread and common in particular away from the Sahara, especially in towns

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

One perch in a glittering ice covered tree at Oukaimeden

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

One or two seen or heard on five days with our view views being in the Souss Valley

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Up to six seen on four days in the north around agricultural fields

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen daily in good numbers

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Several flocks of 20 in the Zaers, and six at the Calandra Lark spot

Desert Sparrow *Passer simplex*

Up to three seen on two days in the Sahara including a male nest building in a palm and another who would greet us when we drove past a wadi!

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

A dozen seen in the Middle Atlas and at Oukaimeden

MAMMALS

Barbary Macaque *Macaca sylvanus*

Half dozen in the Middle Atlas cedar forest

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis*

One on the night game drive in the Sahara

Barbary Ground Squirrel *Atlantocercus getulus*

A few north of Er Rachidia, at Aoulouz in the Souss, and at Massa

Lesser Egyptian (Desert) Jerboa *Jaculus jaculus*

Six of these wonderful 'kangaroo rats' on the night game drive in the Sahara

Lesser Egyptian Gerbil *Gerbillus gerbillus*

Four on the night game drive in the Sahara

Fat-tailed Gerbil *Pachyuromys duprasi*

A surprise find on the night game drive in the Sahara

Moroccan (Shaw's) Jird *Meriones shawi*

One in the wadi near the well west of Jorf

Fat Sand Rat *Psammomys obesus*

Two at the Tagdilt track

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

One in the Fez medina!

Barbary (Mouflon) Sheep *Ammotragus lervia*

Several dozen north of the Tiz n' Test in the High Atlas, part of a re-introduction program

AMPHIBIANS

North African Green Frog *Rana ridibundus saharica*

One large one seen just outside the Skoura wadi, at Tiout and numerous at Aoulouz in the Souss

Mauritanian (Berber) Toad *Bufo mauritanicus*

Two in the Merzouga palmery in the Sahara

African Green Toad *Bufo viridis*

Singles at Derkaoua and Merzouga palmery in the Sahara

Stripeless Tree Frog *Hyla meridionalis*

A brilliant find by Martin in the Aoulouz Gorge

REPTILES

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca*

One spotted by Mustapha on the night drive for Red-necked Nightjar

Spanish Pond Terrapin *Mauremys leprosa*

Many in large freshwater lakes such as Sidi Boughaba and Merzouga

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*

One at Chellah and two at Volubilis

Desert Gecko *Tarentola deserti*

One in the lobby of the Auberge Derkaoua in the Sahara upon our return from the night drive

Moroccan Day Gecko *Quendenfeldia moerens*

A beauty seen near the Tiz n' Test pass, and a pair at Aoulouz Gorge

Bibron's Agama *Agama bibronii*

Two at Volubilis including one with a tail missing, and one in a wadi at Tagdilt track

Coastal Common Fringe-toed Lizard *Acanthodactylus lineomaculatus*

Several scurrying around the sandy steppe north of Tamri while looking at Bald Ibis

Small Fringe-toed Lizard *Acanthodactylus dumerili*

Photographed in the Egyptian Nightjar wadi in the Sahara

Long-footed Fringe-toed Lizard *Acanthodactylus dumerili*

Photographed in the Egyptian Nightjar wadi in the Sahara

Montpellier Snake *Malpolon monspessulanes*

In the Tiout palmery Martin spotted a meter long snake slithering up a palm likely this species

BUTTERFLIES

European Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

One at Chellah

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

The most common 'lep' seen on most days except in the Sahara

Small White *Pieris rapae*

One seen near Rissani

Bath White *Pontia daplidice*

Seen at Volubilis and in the Atlas Mts

Desert Bath White *Pontia glauconome*

A couple seen and photographed in the Sahara

Greenish Black-tip *Elphinstonia charltonia*

Seen at Mezane in the Sahara

Moroccan Orange-tip *Anthocharis belia*

A couple at Volubilis and in the Souss Valley

Desert Orange-tip *Colotis evagore nouna*

A couple at Aoulouz Gorge

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Singles seen on six days

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*

One at Freija in the Souss Valley

Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra*

One at Merjda Zerga and at Tiout

Small Copper *Lycanena phlaeas*

One seen on four days

Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus*

One at Tiout in the Souss Valley

Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Leptotis pirithous*

One in the Zaers and one at Tiout in the Souss Valley

Common Tiger Blue *Tarucus theophrastus*

One at Freija in the Souss Valley

False Baton Blue *Pseudophilotes abencerragus*

Several in the Atlas Mountains

Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*

One at Merzouga palmery in the Sahara

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*

One at Chellah

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

One at Chellah and Sidi Bouhaba

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

A few seen at Chellah, Merjda Zerga and the Atlas Mts

Esper's Heath *Coenonympha lyllus*

Three seen at Volubilis. This has been split from Small Heath

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Common at Chellah and Sid Bouhaba with a few at Volubilis

Mediterranean Skipper *Gaganes notrodamus*

Photographed at Freija in the Souss Valley

MOTHS

Hummingbird Hawk Moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*

One at Volubilis

Crimson Speckled Footman Moth *Utetheisa pulchella*

Two at Freija in the Souss Valley

Heady Maiden *Amata alicia*

A pair mating, spotted by Ann at Freija in the Souss Valley

DRAGONFLIES

Keeled Skimmer *Orthetrum coerulescens*

One at Sidi Boughaba

Epaulet Skimmer *Orthetrum chrysostigma*

Two at Tiout palmery

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonsotobii*

One seen at Aoulouz Gorge in the Souss Valley

Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*

One at Sidi Boughaba

Broad Scarlet Darter *Crocothemis erythraea*

One at Sidi Boughaba

Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*

One at Sidi Boughaba and at Merzouga lake in the Sahara

Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*

A few at Sidi Boughaba and at Aoulouz Gorge, with one at Merjda Zerga and Souss-Massa NP

Vagrant Emperor *Hemianax ephippiger*

Common along the lake at Merzouga in the Sahara

DAMSELFLIES

Copper Demoiselle *Caleoperlyx haemorrhoides*

Four at Aoulouz Gorge in the Souss Valley

Saharan Bluetail *Ischnura saharensis*

A couple seen around the Erb Chebbi in the Sahara

MISCELLANEOUS

Yellow Scorpion

Dung Beetle

Black and Red Oil Beetle

Locust

Grasshopper

Centipede

Snail

'Apricot' Slug

Incheumonid (Wasp)

Sea Hare

European Eel