# **Southern Morocco**

## Naturetrek Tour Report

## 24 March - 2 April 2011



Moussier's Redstart



Cream-coloured Course



Tristram's Warbler



Bald Ibis



Crowned Sandgrouse



Levaillant's Woodpecker

Report and images compiled by Dave Suddaby & Reg Thorpe



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Tour Report Southern Morocco

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### Day 1

## Thursday 24th March

#### Marrakech

With two flights out per day to Marrakech courtesy of EasyJet airlines the whole group met that evening in our Marrakesh hotel. The majority of the group opted for the morning flight out of Gatwick Airport; which departed on time and arrived at Marrakesh in the late morning. After clearing passport control/customs and changing money we headed for our hotel. After freshening up we were escorted into the old part of Marrakesh and after lunch enjoyed a guided tour with Mohamed of the fascinating medina; whilst Little and Pallid Swifts vied for our attention with Bee-eaters overhead and Spotless Starlings and House Buntings at close quarters.

Other group members departed Gatwick Airport on the afternoon flight and after clearing passport control/customs and money changing arrived at the hotel for an evening meal before a relatively early night, in anticipation of the High Atlas Mountains the following day.

### Day 2

### Friday 25th March

#### Marrakech to El-Kelaa M'Gouna 273km

Several of us met before breakfast to look around the garden of the hotel; this provided views of Blackbirds of the Moroccan race, and evidence of a few migrants which included Sardinian and Isabelline Warblers, Chiffchaffs and a perched migrating pale phase Booted Eagle as well as the 'usual' Pallid and Little Swifts overhead. However, the Maghreb Tawny Owl heard overnight could not be found.

After breakfast, we loaded the buses and were on the road at 08.30, working our way through Marrakesh and south towards the mountains. This is a day of travel, during which we would cross the High Atlas Mountains and descend into the more arid conditions of sub-Saharan landscapes. We began our ascent into the mountains and our first stop before Toufliat included a short walk through an area of open pine trees which offered our first good views of the North African race of Chaffinch, singing Serins, Crossbills and several migrating Booted Eagles, Long-legged Buzzard and a perched Lanner Falcon. A little further along we were soon out of the buses again for a pair of resplendent Levaillant's Woodpecker by the roadside! Those that missed this display were soon rewarded after coffee with a pair of them at a nest hole further along the road. A short walk into the forest here produced also good views of 'Atlas' Coal Tit and *ultramarinus* Blue Tits.

Back at the buses we continued on our ascent and, with our first views of the magnificent snow-covered peaks of the High Atlas, we stopped at the mountain village of Taddart for lunch. This produced our first views of Blue Rock Thrushes, Nightingales, Rock Bunting and best of all, a pair of Moussier's Redstarts. Continuing on after lunch in glorious sunshine we stopped for a walk in the high 'meadows' just before the pass of the Tizin-Tichka. Here we had excellent views of a large feeding group of Alpine and Red-billed Choughs, whilst overhead a Golden Eagle drifted by.

On our descent, Black Wheatears were evident before stopping at the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi for the last of the daylight. The highlights at the Barrage were our first good views of Desert and Black-eared Wheatears, along with a small group of Greater Short-toed Larks and 3 Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters whilst Iberian Wagtails and a male Marsh Harrier flew over towards their roosting site. The journey to the Ksar Kaissar in El-Kelaa M'Gouna was under the cover of darkness. On arrival at 19.00 we checked in; this was then followed by our evening meal before retiring.

#### Day 3

### Saturday 26th March

#### El-Kelaa M'Gouna – Tagdilt and Dadés Gorge 158km

A walk through the hotel rose gardens pre-breakfast produced a nice selection of new birds including Bonelli's and Subalpine Warblers and a pair of obliging Southern Grey Shrikes. After breakfast we headed off at 08.00 to the famous Tagdilt Track and the open 'Hamada' to look for the larks, wheatears and other desert species. From the main road we turned off along a tarmac track where we soon stopped for excellent views of Red-rumped Wheatears, Temminck's Horned Larks and Greater Short-toed Larks. Stopping at a 'water-hole' we were rewarded with excellent views of a Lanner Falcon but not the hoped for sandgrouse however Fat Sand Rats entertained! On a walk out onto the gravel plain, we had further excellent views of Red-rumped and Desert Wheatears, and large numbers of Greater Short-toed, several Lesser Short-toed, Temminck's Horned and singing Hoopoe Larks, although only fly-bye Cream-coloured Coursers.

Back at the buses, we drove a little further and soon stopping again for a Short-toed Eagle. Contented and with the increasing heat haze we retired for coffee before we headed for lunch in the oasis of the Dadés Gorge. The gorge is spectacular with unique red sandstone rock formations. From our lunch spot, singing Nightingales and 'exploding' Cetti's Warblers vied for our attention however looking beyond these we soon found Bonelli's Warblers, Chiffchaffs (including Iberian), Willow Warblers, Blackcaps and Redstarts busily feeding whilst on migration.

After lunch we drove further up the gorge to the panoramic view point from where we walked back down to the buses parked at La Kasbah de la Vallée. This produced excellent views of 5 Tristram's Warbler, along with Rock Buntings and the usual Crag Martins, Blue Rock Thrushes, Black Redstarts and Black Wheatears. Also, Barbary Ground Squirrels were found sunning themselves on the rocks. Back at the buses a small covey of Barbary Partridges performed well along with an obliging Wryneck. Further back down the gorge Laughing Doves and a Little Owl entertained us before we returned to our hotel for our evening meal.

### Day 4

### Sunday 27th March

#### El-Kelaa M'Gouna to Erfoud 273km

Pre-breakfast, the hotel rose gardens produced a similar array of species as the previous morning, however a singing male Black-eared Wheatear gave excellent views. After breakfast, we loaded up the buses to continue our journey into the desert. Our first stop was a return visit to the Tagdilt area. This produced the sought after Crowned Sandgrouse with 16 at the 'water-hole' and further views of Hoopoe Lark. Moving on we stopped and had another walk over the gravel plain towards a small cultivated area which produced good views of Blackbellied Sandgrouse, Trumpeter Finches and a smart male Seebohm's Wheatear. Thereafter we returned to the buses, having found Scorpions and watched Fat Sand Rats, and made our way towards the spectacular 300m deep Todra Gorge.

Arriving at Todra Gorge we drove through the tourist area and prepared lunch further up the gorge under a lone Date Palm from where a pair of breeding Bonelli's Eagle could be seen. After lunch we left the Todra Gorge and continued our journey further eastwards. Heading into the Marrha plain we soon stopped for a small group of Cream-coloured Coursers running around close to the buses. Here we also had our first good views of White-crowned Black Wheatears. Before Erfoud we stopped to have a short walk over the plain which produced a performing pair of Streaked Scrub Warblers, as well as a Bar-tailed Desert Lark, Spectacled Warblers and fly-over Thick-billed Larks. After watching Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters and Moroccan Wagtails we arrived at the excellent Hotel Kenzi Belere in Erfoud at 6pm. Freshening up and after the lavish buffet dinner a reasonably early night was called for after negotiating an itinerary for the morning.

### Day 5

### Monday 28th March

#### Erfourd to Merzouga and the desert 80km

This day remains one of the highlights of birding in North Africa – alarm calls at 04.30, breakfast at 05.00 and into the Land Rovers at 05.30. With Lechan and his team of drivers, we headed out on bumpy tracks over stony featureless desert to our first stop – the deep desert! As the first rays of light started to appear, we had our first views of Cream-coloured Courser, Bar-tailed Desert and Hoopoe Larks.

Then we were entertained by a pair of Desert Warblers (the first of several). Houbara Bustard was a target bird but despite searching for most of the day none were seen but we were treated to excellent views of Crowned Sandgrouse at close quarters. Further searching produced lots of Bar-tailed, Desert, Hoopoe and Greater Short-toed Larks before we were treated to excellent views of other Desert Warblers. Superb! Moving on we found another of our target birds in a group of Brown-necked Ravens. After soaking up the atmosphere we moved on; next stopping at a nomadic camp which held another of our target birds – 2 pairs of Desert Sparrows! Elated it was time to move on, and with the increasing temperatures (and being late-morning) we headed for Café Yasmina and coffee. A Spanish ringing group was studying and catching migrating birds within the tamarisk bushes at Yasmina, so all we had to do was relax with our coffee. Within the tamarisk bushes were, amongst others, Iberian Chiffchaffs, Sardinian and Subalpine Warblers.

Refreshed, it was time to head for the oasis at Merzouga with the surreal backdrop of the Erg Chebbi; en route we had further views of Greater Short-toed and Hoopoe Larks, as well as Brown-necked Ravens. We walked through the oasis, which for some produced Fulvous Babblers, towards our lunch spot within the Berber Depot in Merzouga (a tea cum carpet shop). This was a wonderful experience, giving us all an insight into the Berber way of life. On leaving, we headed for the vast Merzouga Lake but this year it was 'bone-dry' so instead of large numbers of waterfowl we found further Desert Warblers and a stunning male Bluethroat. After a hugely successful day we headed back to Erfoud where we arrived back at 17.30 to freshen up and relax before the evening meal.

### Day 6

### **Tuesday 29th March**

Erfoud to Ouarzazate - the Anti-Atlas 334km

A pre-breakfast amble across to the Oued Ziz produced nice views of Moroccan and Yellow Wagtails, Wood & Green Sandpipers and several migrating Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters along with a pair of Long-billed Crested Larks.

After breakfast, we loaded up the bus and commenced our journey back westwards through the arid and sparsely populated Anti-Atlas to Ouarzazate. Near Rissani we turned off the main road and after a short while stopped to look for Pharaoh Eagle Owl but due to the dry conditions they were not breeding this year. However a breeding pair of Lanner Falcons put on an excellent display! A short walk in the oued produced good views of a Reed Warbler and a few more Long-billed Crested Larks, whilst numbers of Crowned Sandgrouse called overhead. Back in the buses we continued onto coffee (and to purchase fossils) at Alnif. After which we headed for our lunch stop in an oued near Tazzanine before which Fulvous Babblers were seen by all. Over lunch Whitecrowned Black Wheatears and Desert Larks entertained.

By mid afternoon we had descended into the lush valley bottom of the Draa which prompted a leg-stretch over the road bridge; this area produced further views of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters along with a Saharan Olivaceous Warbler seen with an Isabelline Warbler for comparison! With us still having a fair distance to travel, we continued on and soon made our way over the dramatic Tizi-n-Tinififft pass before descending towards Ouarzazate. Before checking into our hotel we had a visit to the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi again where we found lots of Squacco & Night Herons, some Spoonbills, a couple of migrating Ospreys and good numbers of Marbled Teal. With darkness falling we checked into our hotel where after freshening up we settled down to dinner.

### Day 7

### Wednesday 30th March

#### Ouarzazate to Taroudant 305km

A pre-breakfast amble through the gardens of the hotel produced a few migrants including Chiffchaffs and Subalpine Warblers, and a flock of Night Herons heading out to the Barrage. After breakfast, we loaded up the bus again and headed down to the shores of the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi. This produced good views of Collared Pratincoles on the ground along with Long-billed Crested Larks, as well as Spoonbills, Ospreys and amongst the throngs of Coot a lone Red-knobbed Coot was found. In the 'roost' were numerous White Storks, several Avocets and numerous Squacco Herons, whilst Gull-billed Terns flew overhead. After an hour we continued our journey westwards. The next stop was another leg-stretch along the Oued Irriri before ascending the Tizi-n-Bachkoum pass. The oued contained a nice selection of migrants, including our first Melodious Warblers along with Western Orphean, Bonelli's, Isabelline and Subalpine Warblers and Iberian Chiffchaffs along with Redstarts. Before Tazenakht we stopped again and were rewarded with a pair of Thick-billed Larks.

Moving on, our next stop was at the Tinfat Saffron 'café' near Taliouine for lunch. Whilst lunch was being prepared we had an amble through the Almond trees which produced singing Quail for the trip list. After lunch and purchasing quality saffron we continued on and descended through the arid hills into the remnant Argan forests, a threatened habitat found only in Morocco. At the head of the Souss Valley, we stopped for a walk through the Argan forest but with increasing temperatures very little were noted. Then at the bridge at Aoulouz, a former breeding site for Northern Bald Ibis, a few migrating raptors were noted such as 2 Short-toed Eagles, a Black Kite, Long-legged Buzzard and Booted Eagle. After changing a flat tyre we continued on into the Souss Valley. The drive through provided views of Cirl Buntings and Fan-tailed Warblers in the surrounding fields and 2 Black-winged Kites before we arrived at the Hotel Palais Salame, in the ancient walled town of Taroudant at 18.00. After checking in and freshening up we relaxed and took in the atmosphere of our remarkable and unique hotel either side of dinner.

#### Day 8

### **Thursday 31st March**

#### Taroudant to Tamri and Agadir 190km

After breakfast we loaded up the bus and set off to our first destination of the day - Tamri. The drive through the Souss Valley provided brief views of a Black-winged Kite but little else of note. As we drove along the coast, gulls were evident on the beaches however we didn't stop as the aim was to reach Tamri. But just after Cap Ghri we did stop as we could see a large group of ibis along the coast. Making our way down to them we were treated to excellent views of 33 Northern Bald Ibis relaxing allowing extended views of one of the world's rarest birds. On our way back to the buses we also had excellent views of Spectacled Warblers. Satisfied and moving onto the estuary mouth at Tamri we were rewarded with further views of Northern Bald Ibis which were cooling off by bathing which tempted many of us to go 'paddling' in the sea in the increasing hot and humid heat. In the heat haze, a selection of Audouins, Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls could be seen along the shore.

Fulfilled, we headed back towards Tamri for our tagine lunch. Thereafter we headed back to Agadir and checked in at the Hotel Argana, had a 'wash & brush up' and relaxed for a couple of hours before heading to the Oued Souss. Arriving at the Oued Souss at 18.00 we were diverted due to a golf competition which was fortuitous as we found a colony of Plain Martins along the river bank.

Looking over the oued a good selection of waterbirds were noted including a large groups of White Storks and Gull-billed Terns plus several Stone Curlews and Collared Pratincoles flew overhead. Unable to drive further down we walked along the edge of the oued and as dusk fell we waited near the walls of the Royal Palace (under tight security!) and were rewarded with a Red-necked Nightjar singing and 2 silhouette views. We then returned to Agadir and our hotel where, after freshening up, we settled down to dinner and made plans.

Day 9 Friday 1st April

#### Agadir to Oued Massa 112km

After breakfast we headed along the coast to Oued Massa. Arriving at the track overlooking the oued we stopped and then gently walked towards the reserve entrance; from our vantage point we had excellent views of Plain Martin, along with migrants such as Pied Flycatcher and various warblers and superb views of a Mongoose hunting along the waters edge. A few Quail where singing from within the adjoining fields. Walking further down, we managed close views of several Moussier's Redstarts, Black-eared Wheatears, Fan-tailed and Isabelline Warblers. Continuing to walk further down the track towards the mouth of the oued produced views of some returning migrants such as Subalpine Warblers, along with further views of Moussier's Redstarts, Chiffchaffs and Sardinian Warblers and our first good views of Black-crowned Tchagras. Whilst in the trees back at our picnic spot were a selection of warblers including Isabelline, Bonelli's, Willow and Chiffchaffs.

After lunch at the reserve entrance we moved up the oued to search for further Plain Martins. At the bridge we were treated to views of an obliging Little Bittern and Kingfisher along with the usual array of Fan-tailed Warblers, Yellow Wagtails and Stonechats. In the 40+oC heat it was time to leave after another fulfilling day; we returned to the hotel in plenty of time to freshen up before our final evening meal.

**Day 10** 

Saturday 2nd April

#### Agadir to London

After breakfast we headed back to the Oued Souss for a further look at the waterbirds of the area and several new birds for the trip were found including a resplendent Roller perched high in a tree and a reeling Grasshopper Warbler singing from the top of a tamarisk bush. Along the oued we found a small group of Curlew Sandpipers moulting into their summer plumage and a few Little Stints; both using the oued to re-fuel on their long journey north. As the heat started to increase we made our way back to the hotel giving us plenty of time to re-fresh, pack and vacate our rooms before transferring to the airport at 16.00. At the airport, we said our goodbyes to our drivers and thanked them for their impeccable driving and patience, delicious lunches and helpfulness throughout. Thereafter, we checked in and boarded our flight to Gatwick which arrived on time. After retrieving our luggage, we bid our farewells, reflecting on what a thoroughly enjoyable time we'd had.

### Acknowledgements

We managed to find some of the birds for which Southern Morocco is justly renowned – including Northern Bald Ibis, Desert Sparrow, Desert Warbler etc which provided some wonderful memories to take away; we also stayed in some fantastic hotels, ate some superb authentic food, and most importantly had a good laugh and made good friends on the way. Thanks to all for contributing to a great holiday.

## **Species Lists**

### Birds

		March/April 2011											
	Common name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2		
1	Little Grebe						20	1		6			
2	Great Crested Grebe		10				30	15					
3	Northern Gannet								70				
4	Great Cormorant		30				60	50	6	5	6		
5	Grey Heron		1		1		16	10	20	12	8		
6	Purple Heron									2			
7	Little Egret		1	6			6	4	25	10	15		
8	Cattle Egret	1	6	30	100		25	12	10	6	6		
9	Squacco Heron						22	12	1				
10	Black-crowned Night Heron						5	26	3				
11	Little Bittern									1			
12	Eurasian White Stork	15	40	5	1		220	250	55		1		
13	Northern Bald Ibis								45				
14	Eurasian Spoonbill						1	9		6	40		
15	Ruddy Shelduck						80	40					
16	Common Teal						25	6	4				
17	Mallard		6				20	20		2			
18	Marbled Teal						8	44					
19	Common Scoter								11				
20	Osprey						1		2	2	4		
21	Black-shouldered Kite							3					
22	Black Kite		1		3			1	19	5			
23	Short-toed Eagle			1				2					
24	Eurasian Marsh Harrier		1	3			3	2		6	4		
25	Montagu's Harrier			1						2			
26	Eurasian Sparrowhawk		6										
27	Long-legged Buzzard		1	3	1		3	1					
28	Golden Eagle		1										
29	Bonelli's Eagle				2								
30	Booted Eagle	1	30				1	2		1			
31	Common Kestrel	8	12	10	12		15	12	15	16	8		
32	Lanner Falcon		1	1	1		2						
33	Peregrine Falcon							2					
34	Barbary Partridge			6									
35	Common Quail							(1)		(1)			
36	Common Moorhen						1	1		20			
37	Red-knobbed Coot							1					
38	Common Coot						250	80		3			

		March/April 2011											
	Common name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2		
39	Eurasian Oystercatcher								1				
40	Black-winged Stilt						8	6	3		3		
41	Pied Avocet							20	10				
42	Eurasian Stone Curlew								1	1	3		
43	Cream-coloured Courser			2	3	1							
44	Collared Pratincole							40	80		1		
45	Ringed Plover										5		
46	Little Plover		2		2		14	6			1		
47	Kentish Plover				1		2		10		16		
48	Bar-tailed Godwit								5				
49	Common Sandpiper								5	2	4		
50	Green Sandpiper				1		4	1	2	2	1		
51	Common Greenshank						2	1	2	3	1		
52	Wood Sandpiper						1						
53	Common Redshank								3		1		
54	Little Stint										3		
55	Dunlin										5		
56	Curlew Sandpiper										5		
57	Black-headed Gull						15		15	6	10		
58	Yellow-legged Gull								200	3000	80		
59	Lesser Black-backed Gull								12		10		
60	Audouin's Gull								12				
61	Gull-billed Tern							6	25	3	10		
62	Sandwich Tern								4	4	30		
63	Black-bellied Sandgrouse				60								
64	Crowned Sandgrouse				32	12	84						
65	Rock/Feral Pigeon	50	45	5-	80	50	25	30	50	45	40		
66	Common Wood Pigeon	12	20	4				2	6	4	4		
67	European Turtle Dove					4	1	1	6	12	4		
68	Eurasian Collared Dove	20	15	20	30	12	25	20	25	20	12		
69	Laughing Dove				3	20	2	12		15			
70	Common Cuckoo		(2)										
71	Tawny Owl		(1)										
72	Little Owl			1					1	6			
73	Red-necked Nightjar								2				
74	Common Swift			12					10	4	2		
75	Pallid Swift	250	150	8	10	2	1	120	140	50	150		
76	Little Swift	30		6				8	10	10	2		
77	Common Kingfisher									2			
78	Roller										1		

			March/April 2011											
	Common name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2			
79	Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater			3		8	60	100	2					
80	European Bee-Eater	50	20	70	6	1	20	40	125	240	25			
81	Ноорое		1	4				2	1	1				
82	Eurasian Wryneck			1				1		1				
83	Levaillant's Woodpecker		4											
84	Greater Hoopoe-Lark			6	1	20								
85	Bar-tailed Lark				2	40								
86	Desert Lark				1	4	10	15						
87	Thick-billed Lark							2						
88	Greater Short-toed Lark		8	30	40	60		6	20		65			
89	Lesser Short-toed Lark			12	4									
90	Temminck's Lark			20	6									
91	Crested Lark		2					5						
92	Thekla Lark			12	15			6	20	6	12			
	Crested/Thekla lark						12	10	30	30	2			
	Maghreb Lark		2		1		2							
93	Plain Martin								3	6				
94	Sand Martin		1				15	6	6	8	2			
95	Barn Swallow	15	60	25	30	25	80	120	60	75	150			
96	Eurasian Crag Martin			30	40			3	25					
97	Northern House Martin			6			10	10	6	20	2			
98	Red-rumped Swallow	4	10			1		6		12	2			
99	Tawny Pipit			2										
100	Tree Pipit							1	2	1				
101	White Wagtail				2		4	2	8	2	3			
	Moroccan Wagtail				2		3				1			
102	Blue-headed Wagtail						3	6			1			
	Spanish Yellow Wagtail		10	2	8		35	20	20	12				
103	Grey Wagtail		8	5	3									
104	Common Bulbul	40	65	45	30	15	20	30	25	50	20			
105	Northern Wren		2											
106	Common Blackbird	12	20	15	6	10	8	12	6	8	2			
107	Blue Rock Thrush		1	4	4									
108	Common Nightingale			8			1	8		1	1			
109	Bluethroat					1								
110	Black Redstart			2										
111	Common Redstart			2	1	3	2	12	1	2	1			
112	Moussier's Redstart		2							6				
113	Whinchat									1				
114	Common Stonechat									3				

		March/April 2011									
	Common name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
115	White-crowned Wheatear		2		30	12	40	12			
116	Black Wheatear		5	10	6			4			
117	Northern Wheatear		3	1	1	12	8	15	2	2	1
	Seebohm's Wheatear				1						
118	Black-eared Wheatear		6		1			6	2	2	1
119	Red-rumped Wheatear			10	6						
120	Desert Wheatear		2	16	6		2				
121	European Pied Flycatcher					1				1	
122	Zitting Cisticola							2	8	20	6
123	Streaked Scrub Warbler				2						
124	Cetti's Warbler			8						3	
125	Grasshopper Warbler										1
126	Sedge Warbler					1	1	5		2	1
127	Eurasian Reed Warbler					1	1	1		1	
128	Isabelline Warbler		2				1		1	20	1
129	Saharan Olivaceous Warbler						2				
130	Willow Warbler			1	2	16	2	8		4	
131	Common Chiffchaff	1	2	10	6	4	1				
132	Iberian Chiffchaff					2					
	Commom/Iberian Chiffchaff							4		6	
133	Western Bonelli's Warbler			6	1	2	1	10		2	
134	Blackcap	2				1	4			2	
135	Desert Warbler					8					
136	Common Whitethroat							6			
137	Tristram's Warbler			4	1						
138	Spectacled Warbler				2				4		
140	Subalpine Warbler			4	5	40	12	6	2	10	1
141	Sardinian Warbler		6	5	1	1		3	10	20	6
142	Fulvous Babbler					3	6				
143	Atlas Coal Tit		4								
144	Great Tit	4	6					4		6	
145	African Blue Tit		6	10				2			
146	Southern Grey Shrike		1	2	24	8	12	6	2	6	
147	Woodchat Shrike		1	1		10	10	20	1	10	2
148	Black-crowned Tchagra								(1)	5	
149	Moroccan Magpie		12					1	4	20	6
150	Yellow-billed Chough		50								
151	Red-billed Chough		50								
152	Brown-necked Raven					25	2				
153	'North African' Raven		2								

					M	arch/A	pril 2011											
	Common name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2							
154	Spotless Starling	12	40	1				4	6	30	2							
155	House Sparrow	50	60	80	75	100	50	100	40	50	6							
156	Spanish Sparrow	2		4			8											
157	Desert Sparrow					4												
158	'North African' Chaffinch		20	8				1		6								
159	Common Crossbill		3															
160	European Greenfinch	1	4	1				8	6	10	2							
161	European Goldfinch		15	6	8		2	6	4	15	4							
162	Eurasian Linnet								20	6								
163	European Serin	6	45	12	15			12	6	12	2							
164	Trumpeter Finch				30	20	25	50										
165	Cirl Bunting		1							3								
166	Rock Bunting		1	1														
167	House Bunting	6	3	10	9		10	6	8	6	2							
168	Corn Bunting							8	6	8	3							

#### Mammals

Fat Sand Rat (Tagdilt Plain)

Barbary Ground Squirrel (Tizi-n-Tinififft pass, Tizi-n-Bachkoum pass, Massa etc)

Mongoose (Oued Massa)

Bat sp (various places)

Reptiles and Amphibians

Terrapins (Draa River and Oued Massa) and various Lizard sp & Frog/Toad sp

#### **Butterflies and Dragonflies**

Swallowtail Scarce Swallowtail Small White
Moroccan Orange-tip Clouded Yellow Small Copper
Geranium Argus Red Admiral Painted Lady

Plain Tiger Long-tailed Blue

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We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans. Setting up a personal profile at <a href="https://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a> is quick, free and easy. The <a href="https://www.facebook.com">Naturetrek Facebook page</a> is now live; do please pay us a visit!