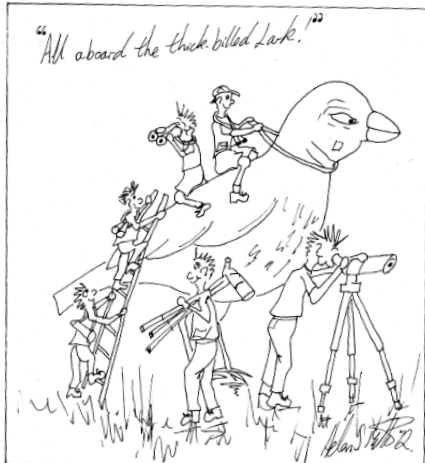


Southern Morocco

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 - 17 March 2012



Cartoon by tour participant Helen Miller



Northern Bald Ibis



Watching Pharaoh Eagle Owl



Almond blossom in Atlas valley

Report and images by Chris Murphy



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Tour Summary

Ten days of perfect weather helped us in finding many of Morocco's special birds including the critically endangered Northern Bald Ibis, Houbara Bustard, Pharaoh's Eagle Owl, Cream-coloured Courser, Black-bellied, Crowned and Spotted Sandgrouse, Red-necked Nightjar, Thick-billed Lark and both African Desert and Tristram's Warblers. Thousands of Short-toed Larks were part of an impressive show of trans-Saharan migrants, which included a good sprinkling of Marsh Sandpipers, Bluethroats, Red-throated Pipits and other scarce migrants.

Intense and rewarding, distinct from anything that Europe has to offer, this action-packed tour saw us negotiating the labyrinth of cool and colourful spice alleys that radiate from Marrakech's Djemaa el Fna before traversing high mountain passes, descending into valleys lined with red mud villages and fortress ruins, and exploring wild and weird gorges and age-old date palm oases. If the Atlas and the Sahara were our gin and tonic, then the Atlantic Ocean and the rivers that flowed into it, brimful with birds, provided the ice and lemon! The images of Morocco should live long in our memory - few more so than those experienced one exceptional day, mid-way through the tour. Having journeyed far beyond the towering tangerine dune, Erg Chebbi, we found ourselves in the middle of nowhere watching a pair of stately Houbara Bustards with their two gorgeously patterned chicks. It was the crowning touch to a day that began with alarm clocks and finished as a dream.

Day 1

Thursday 8th March

Sunny all day

We all met at Gatwick prior to boarding on time, and were soon descending into Marrakech airport where James was quickly into his stride, identifying Lesser Kestrels as we boarded our bus into the Royal city. After freshening up we went for a mid-day stroll via the 12th Century Koutoubia Mosque and on to a restaurant that had been recommended to us by our local guide, Mohammad, for the first of many fabulous tajines.

Mohammad then took us on a tour of the crowded and chaotic medina where we explored a maze of alleys with endless shops purveying carpets, ceramics, leather goods and spices. White Storks, House Buntings and Pallid Swifts were plentiful. Although much less numerous than the Pallids, Little Swifts showed equally well as they flew up to nest sites in the old buildings of medieval courtyards where we watched artisans practising their traditional crafts in woodwork and metalwork.

Later, while exploring the hotel gardens a light-phase Booted Eagle was watched going to roost in a tall eucalyptus allowing us exceptional views. Other birds around the hotel included Common Bulbuls, Serins, Blackcaps, North African Chaffinches and Blackbirds of the subspecies *mauritanicus*; many Moroccan songbirds are represented by clearly distinct subspecies. Some have already been split like African Blue Tit and Atlas Flycatcher, while others such as the Moroccan Magpie and Moroccan Wagtail are good candidates to follow.

Day 2

Friday 9th March

Sunny all day, but considerably cooler as we crossed the Atlas Mountains

Leaving the environs of Marrakech we were soon enjoying some quality birding in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains, above the village of Ait Ourir. A flock of more than 200 Red-billed Choughs allowed us exceptionally close views, while other sightings of note included 200 Cattle Egrets, 30 White Storks, a pair of Moussier's Redstarts, an Iberian Grey Shrike – subject to acceptance, possibly the most southerly record for Morocco - Hoopoe, Woodchat and Sardinian Warbler. As we gained altitude we started to see some raptors including resident Long-legged Buzzard and migrant Marsh Harrier, Booted Eagle and Black Kite.

A stop at Toufliert for coffee and Whisky Berber, or mint tea, allowed us access to a rooftop terrace from where we had fine views of displaying Sparrowhawks though not their larger cousin we were also hoping to see. Despite much scanning, a calling Levillant's Woodpecker remained unseen on the verdant hillside below. If only it would have moved into view! Close by, at the 'Forest Lodge' a longer stop was enlivened by woodland birdsong including that of African Blue Tit, Atlas Coal Tit, Firecrest, Short-toed Treecreeper and Crossbill. Brimstones, Commas and Wall Brown butterflies added to the sense of spring.

We then climbed above the tree line, where a walk below snow capped Jebel Toubkhal, North Africa's highest peak, brought more Red-billed Choughs together with a stray Jackdaw, a surprisingly scarce resident in Morocco and the only one we were to see. Several hundred Short-toed Larks, one of the most numerous of Morocco's spring migrants, swept over the ground as endless hairpins took us down from the pass of Tizi n'Tichka to a much more arid landscape, the haunt of Blue Rock Thrush, Black Wheatear, Rock Bunting and the stunning Moussier's Redstart.

After passing Ouarzazate we stopped to look at some tamarisk bushes on the receding shores of Barrage El Mansour Edahabbi. Here on the very southern edge of its winter range we were pleased to find a lingering Dartford Warbler; it was instinctively keeping out of the way of a watchful Southern Grey Shrike of the attractive desert form *elegans*. Here, too, we found a long-billed Maghreb Lark trying to swallow a big caterpillar and our only Stonechats away from the coast. Juxtaposed with the dry-land species were some waterbirds including Great-crested Grebe, Little Plover, Snipe and Green Sandpiper. Dusk was turning to darkness as we pulled into our hotel in El-Kelaa M'Gouna after a long and fascinating journey of 273km.

Day 3

Saturday 10th March

Another bright and sunny day, warm and still

Our first stop was along a newly surfaced road east of Boumalne by a dry pool that might otherwise have attracted sandgrouse. Formerly very rough this road lends its name to the famous Tagdilt Track, which cuts through a vast and seemingly lifeless stony plain. Such impressions are misleading, however, as many sought after desert species were soon located including Desert and Red-rumped Wheatears which liked to flirt their tails from old walls and little piles of rock. Larks are the probably the best represented group of birds of Morocco's many kinds of desert, with migrant Short-toed the most numerous, a thousand or more being on the move this morning. It was some of the resident larks, however, that we were most pleased to find: Desert, Greater Hoopoe and Temminck's, for example. A family of shy but smiling locals did not seem to mind our watching a mixed flock of larks that fed outside the home they had dug in the ground. Another hoped-for species, the delightful Cream-coloured Courser, was also seen here: at first a solitary flyover, then a party of five and before long flock after flock, on the ground and in the air; we counted 80 in all.

We picnicked on a sun-drenched café terrace overlooking the Dades Valley and date palm oasis, before spending the remainder of the day walking in the fabulous Dades Gorge; a complete change of scenery and birdlife. The road leading to the gorge from Boumalne snakes onwards and upwards, becoming steeper and steeper as it climbs above the bed of the canyon where a turbulent river flows over banks of sand and shingle, by impenetrable clumps of prickly pear. Walking slowly down from the top, through numerous hairpins which dissected precipitous rock faces, was sensational. We soon found one of our target species, a Maghreb endemic, the lovely Tristram's Warbler. There were Short-toed Eagles, Crag Martins, Rock Buntings and wild Rock Doves, the latter free from feral infection - real beauties. A small mammal, the Common Gundi, scuttled over rocks; it closely resembled a Pika, although it is a rodent rather than a lagomorph. Two Little Owls were observed on our return to the hotel.

Day 4

Sunday 11th March

Windy first thing on the Tagdilt Plain, otherwise hot and sunny!

After some pre-breakfast birding in the extensive hotel grounds we set off at 8:30 stopping first in Boumalne for freshly baked bread before returning to the 'Tagdilt Track' for another taste of stony Hamada birding. Having encountered most if not all of the likely specialities yesterday and with the wind surprisingly strong we did not linger much once we'd all had good views again of Trumpeter Finches, Hoopoe and Temminck's Larks, CCC and Desert and Red-rumped Wheatears. We were not long on our way before the need to have a second look at two larks flying across the road led us to a pair of Lesser Short-toed Larks which in turn led us to a pair of Bar-tailed; two for the price of one!

We continued eastwards through increasingly arid but spectacular landscapes of tortured and eroded hills. Any one of countless rocky outcrops could have held the bird everyone wants to see along this road, Western Mourning Wheatear. We finally settled on a promising-looking hillside and after much searching were rewarded with stunning views of not one but three, of these beautiful wheatears. Alternative distraction was provided by a group of ill-equipped but very determined young lads trying to unearth a big Changeable Agama Lizard from beneath a boulder. We left them to it, stopping next to picnic beside a dried out wadi. As it is more than a year since there was any significant rainfall in this part of Morocco all the wadis were dry. When we stopped again to search a patch of thorn-bushes that looked good for Scrub Warblers all we found was a scantily clad couple beside a flash car blasting out music! A flock of 70 unidentified sandgrouse, perhaps Spotted, was our last observation before arriving in Erfoud for a two-night stay in the well-appointed Belere Hotel.

Day 5

Monday 12th March

Hot and sunny again, after a typically cool night in the desert

We rose early, breakfasting at 5am before boarding comfortable jeeps driven by four charming Berbers who proved to be knowledgeable about desert wildlife. Chris and James did their best to keep everyone together in the dark with their walkie-talkies as a Stone Curlew and a Jerboa, probably Lesser Egyptian, were picked out in the jeeps' headlights. To see the sun rising over the desert would have been worth the slight discomfort of being woken by alarm clocks. Desert life was now stirring and so were we, finding birds wherever we looked. Up and down and in and out where only jeeps could go we watched such desert beauties as Cream-coloured Courser, Bar-tailed, Desert, Hoopoe, Temminck's, Thekla, Thick-billed and hundreds more Short-toed Larks - two distinct races here, one passing through, the other breeding - Desert Grey Shrike, White-crowned and Desert Wheatear, Brown-necked Raven, Desert Sparrow (and a melanistic House Sparrow!), Goshawk, Lanner Falcon, strange desert flora, field signs of Fennec Fox and Houbara Bustard, all before the day's first mint tea!

This was at Café Yasmina, a welcoming Berber encampment in the shadow of Erg Chebbi, the highest dune in Morocco. For a number of years volunteer bird ringers from Spain have based themselves here as part of a long-term study of migration and the effects of crossing the Sahara desert. Very kindly they allowed us to watch them at their work, carefully identifying, ageing, sexing, measuring and weighing the various warblers, chats and larks that had been mist-netted that morning.

Then word filtered through of a nomadic Berber who knew of the whereabouts of a family of Houbara Bustards close to the border with Algeria. It was a long and thrilling drive as we splashed up desert rains, circumnavigated ergs, rumbled over fossil fragments and Hamada stones through depressions filled with tamarisks and acacias and along tracks known only to nomads and our brilliant Berber drivers. Eventually we rendezvoused with a solitary man standing beside his ancient Honda 50cc, with binoculars! This was M'hammad the nomad, guardian of Houbara Bustards. Without so much as a whisper M'hammad led us to the precise pixel of desert that sheltered a male and female Houbara chick - the ornithological equivalent of 'spot the ball'. Despite their tender age the dear little birds already possessed the sturdy legs characteristic of birds more at ease walking than flying. Despite their considerable size the adults' cryptic plumage and purposeful, stately gait, enabled them to remain uncannily indiscernible. With muffled high fives we made a hasty retreat, leaving M'hammad alone to watch over his bustards; we were all the richer for this rare encounter.

We had a late lunch in Merzouga in a lavish Berber depot as cool as the carpet salesman's patter to which Chris alone succumbed, purchasing a beautiful rug as a souvenir of our day in the desert. Suitably refreshed birding then resumed with much of the remainder of the day absorbed in watching sandgrouse, Crowned and Spotted. Interestingly these two lived side-by-side though the former, and least shy of the two, was most attached to Hamada plateaus, while the latter we saw only in an adjacent sandy hollow. Before we knew it we were back in Erfoud; time for a beer.

Day 6

Tuesday 13th March

Sunny, not too hot

Before breakfast some of us walked the short distance from the hotel to the River Ziz, which despite wind-blown plastic bags was remarkably rich in birdlife and giving good photographic opportunities; lots of Little Grebes, Ruddy Shelducks, White-crowned Wheatears and Trumpeter Finches as well as various waders, wagtails and warblers.

Leaving Erfoud our first stop was on the outskirts of Rissani to pick up Lahcen, an enterprising young man who makes a living selling fossils and guiding visiting birdwatchers. With Lahcen's help we were able to watch a Pharaoh's Eagle Owl partially hidden within a crevice of a curtain of cliffs inside a natural amphitheatre, a splendid location rich in fossils and graced by a ringtail Montagu's Harrier and 18 'kwitt-o'ing Spotted Sandgrouse. With few previous records in this part of Morocco we were pleasantly surprised to find three Great Egrets on the nearby Oued Rheris where, in addition, everyone finally caught up with the distinctive Moroccan Wagtail.

There was a short detour to look for Barbary and Lanner Falcons without any luck before continuing our journey through the anti-Atlas, a landscape of dramatic and austere, mountainous semi-desert. Elevenses in Alnif, 90kms west of Rissani, then onto an attractive wadi at Tazzerine for our picnic lunch, diligently prepared as ever by Halim and Mohammad. While they set it up we enjoyed watching migrant Redstarts and Subalpine Warblers alongside Barbary Partridges and inquisitive Fulvous Babblers. We crossed the Anti-Atlas via the funnily-named, moon-like pass, Tizi-n-Tiniffit, encountering more Rock Doves, Crag Martins, Blue Rock Thrushes, Rock Buntings and a migrant Hoopoe along the way and reaching Ouarzazate and our hotel for the night at 6pm.

Day 7

Wednesday 14th March

Sunny all day, light breeze in the Aoulouz Gorge, feeling warmer in Taroudannt

The day began with a visit to the west end of tBarrage where low water levels resulted in an extensive, oozy shore thronged with birds. Pintail, Marbled Duck, Garganey, Spoonbill, Marsh Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Red-throated Pipit and Bluethroat being among 20 or so species that were new to us.

After a later than usual breakfast we continued westward against a backdrop of the snowy High Atlas, stopping to look in Oued Iriri: Sardinian, Spectacled and Western Orphean Warblers and Pleasant Gerbil. We lunched at the Tinfat saffron shop: finest quality, 1gramme = 50 Dhiram. Two coursers were a surprise here but it was John and Susan who made the star find, an Allard's Silver-Line, one of a number of butterflies largely restricted to the High Atlas region.

The countryside was now becoming gradually more vegetated especially as we dropped further into the Arganier Plain. Not so much a forest, as it is sometimes described, this is the world's only extensive covering of the thorny argan tree, prized for its oil and remorselessly browsed by agile, tree-climbing goats. A short walk up the splendid Aoulouz Gorge was much enlivened by the playful antics of children, fishing and swimming in the many rock pools, while overhead soared Black Stork, Booted Eagle, Long-legged Buzzard and Marsh Harrier. A rufous-tinged Peregrine of the *brookei* race showed well but what was almost certainly a Bonelli's Eagle proved too far or just too hard for us to be sure. Our first Bee-eaters, a flock of 60, which drifted across the road near the junction with the R203 called for another stop which proved fortuitous as here we also found our first Black-shouldered Kite, Spanish Sparrow and Cirl Bunting.

"C'est magnifique!" exclaimed a fellow guest on entering the dining room of the Hotel Palais Salam, where we spent the night in the walled town of Taroudannt, film set for Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves! In fact our hotel is a part of the walls, and a more tasteful and thoughtful restoration of a Kasbah would be hard to envisage. Set in luxuriant gardens with two pools, everything about this old hotel is magnificent, even its modesty.

Day 8

Thursday 15th March

Warm and sunny with a light, on-shore wind mid-afternoon

From the roof of the hotel we began the day leisurely watching the people of Taroudannt go about their business as Bee-eaters, Kestrels and swifts flew all around us. Two of the most elegant of raptors, a male Montagu's Harrier and a Black-shouldered Kite, were among initial sightings as we travelled down the Sous Valley. The little kite was perched so contentedly on a telegraph pole we were able to see its short yellow legs and large amber eye.

On reaching the coast overlooking the port of Agadir we drove on north to Cap Rhir, a promontory immediately south of Tamri, a small town famous throughout Morocco for its sweet bananas. Our mission was to find one of the world's rarest birds - the Northern Bald Ibis, which breeds on high, storm-battered sea-cliffs and forages for beetles and small lizards in the dry, coastal hills. As recently as the 1970s there were 33 colonies scattered across southern and central Morocco, now there are just two, one here and another to the south of Massa. There are years when the ibises can be hard if not impossible to find. Not today! Our arrival at the roadside lighthouse coincided precisely with that of 14 of these unusual and charismatic birds. It was good to see they had no fear of man as they stalked the sparse vegetation picking and probing with their sickle-shaped bills, always on the move. The subject of a multi-national effort to bring it back from the brink of extinction, we were privileged to see in total perhaps as many as 54 birds, including a flight of 37. Although we couldn't rule out some duplication this is between 10 and 20 per cent of the world population and enjoying such brilliant views of these ancient-looking birds was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip.

While scanning the hillsides for ibises we also picked up a Barbary Falcon, possibly the one which earlier in the day had put on a display of dashing speed and agility, only narrowly missing out on taking a Kentish Plover from right beneath our noses! In this way we also chanced upon a family of Common Cranes high in the blue sky, northward bound, perhaps having overwintered at Oued Massa, tomorrow's destination. Before lunch we took a closer look at the gulls and terns on the beach, among which were c.500 migrant Lesser Black-backs including two that showed the characters of Baltic Gull, *Larus fuscus fuscus*, plus 50 Audouin's and 20 Yellow-legged Gulls.

Once in Agadir we had the best part of 3 hours to do as much or as little as we liked, most of us opting for some poolside relaxation. Then it was back into the field to take a look at the Sous Estuary before dusk, our attention then turning to the business of finding Stone-curlews and Red-necked Nightjars, both of which we saw without difficulty.

Day 9

Friday 16th March

Sunny...it's always sunny!

The whole day was spent in the vicinity of Oued Massa, northern-most of the Saharan rivers. Before reaching the river we spent some time exploring an area of semi-desert on the northern outskirts of the town of Massa. The highlight here was a male Black-bellied Sandgrouse that allowed us an unusually close approach. Eighteen Cream-coloured Coursers, ten Lesser Short-toed Larks, a Tawny Pipit and three species of swift: Alpine, Common and Pallid were also watched here.

Parking up, we strolled beside the river for a few kilometres to the entrance to the reserve proper where we would later have lunch. There was great many birds, both resident and migrant, among them Montagu's Harrier, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Wryneck, Isabelline Warbler, a bird we confidently identified as an Iberian Chiffchaff (though it would have been nice to hear it call), Pied Flycatcher, Tree Pipit, Glossy Ibis and Night Heron. Lindsay alone spotted a Plain Martin, likewise James was the only one to glimpse a Little Bittern while "Lucky Helen" saw and photographed a European Chameleon which materialised in front of her lens as she focussed on a Black-crowned Tchagra! Thankfully, all of us at had good views of tchagra and enjoyed the experience of walking through a welcoming and virtually traffic-free African village. After another hearty picnic Chris made a presentation to our two wonderful drivers Halim and Mohammad without whose hard work and helpfulness the tour could never have run so seamlessly. Some of us then opted for a little more birding while the rest returned to the hotel.

Day 10

Saturday 17th March

St Patrick's Day and the end of the tour in sunshine, of course!

A leisurely breakfast then it was back to the mouth of the Oued Sous to see what's new. The sandbanks held roosting gulls and terns including Audouin's, Mediterranean and a pair of Slender-billed Gulls, the latter showing a beautiful pink flush, while among the many Gull-billed and Sandwich Terns an adult Caspian stood out with its very large, red bill. Some more butterflies and a Spur-thighed Tortoise were in the grounds of the hotel as we boarded the buses for our final outing before our late afternoon flight home.

We drove a short distance to the old part of Agadir which was turned to rubble in the 1960 earthquake. There was little here to see but much to ponder. Beside one of the ruins we enjoyed our last picnic with Thekla Larks, Barbary Partridges and, surprisingly, the unmistakable flutey song of a Black-crowned Tchagra to keep us sufficiently interested as we were finally able to catch our breath after such an action-packed tour.

Thanks to one and all for helping it run so smoothly. You were fun to be on holiday with and James and I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you all again soon.

Species List

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

	Common name	Scientific name	March									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						5	4	1	5	
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		3								
3	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>								2		
4	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		30				160	100	12	2	18
	North African Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus</i>								2	2	
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		34	1			40	20	50	15	15
6	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						9				
7	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1				80	40	30	30	20
8	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		200	80	100	2	2	3	20	4	
9	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>							1		2	
10	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>									4	
11	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>									1	
12	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							1			
13	Eurasian White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	250	30	20				100	250	278	200
14	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>									46	
15	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>									220	
16	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						30	30	5	6	12
17	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>							2	2	250	300
18	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		2				90	200			
19	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>							2			
20	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>							20			
21	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>							4			
22	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		6				50	14			
23	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>							4			
24	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>						160	24			
25	Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>						40	60	6		
26	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						1		1		1
27	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	2		1		2	100				
28	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>							1	2		1

	Common name	Scientific name	March									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
29	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			3		3					
30	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		5		4	1	5	4			
31	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>										
32	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>					1			1	1	
33	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	4	1	2		1				
34	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>						1				
35	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		1	3	2			2	1		
36	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	1	2			1		5			
37	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	2									
38	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	6	10	12	15	8	10	10	20	8	
39	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>			1		1					
40	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>								2		
41	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>							1			
42	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>						12		5		
43	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>								3		
44	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>							3		7	
45	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						500	100	24	22	
46	Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>					4					
47	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								1		20
48	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						100	80	60		90
49	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>							4	3	3	2
50	Eurasian Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>					1			2	2	2
51	Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>			80	13	30	1	2		18	
52	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>								20		20
53	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							1	40		10
54	Little Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		1				10	30		1	
55	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>						5	20	100		
56	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		7					20			
57	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>								4		4
58	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>								20		12
59	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								10		8
60	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							1	5		1

	Common name	Scientific name	March										
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
61	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1	1				4	5	1	3	
62	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>								1			
63	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>							1	5	3	2	2
64	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>								2			
65	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>								40			
66	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								1	15		8
67	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>											2
68	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>											1
69	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>							15	150	20		18
70	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>									30		7
71	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>							1	50	2		
72	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>									1		2
73	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>							10	10	20	6	
74	Western Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis michahellis</i>									30		10
75	Western Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>									300	40	106
76	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>									20	2	3
77	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>									3		
78	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>									36		30
79	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>											1
80	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>									1		1
81	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>											
82	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>									1		100
83	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>									1		
	Sandgrouse sp.	<i>Pterocles sp.</i>				70							
84	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>					16	18					
85	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>										1	
86	Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>					7						
87	Rock/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	10		✓	30	20	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	20	60					1			20	4
89	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>			3	5		6	8	6		30	
91	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>										1	

	Common name	Scientific name	March										
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
92	Pharaoh Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>							1				
93	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			2							2	
94	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>									2		
95	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			1					2		3	
96	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			10						50	20	
97	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	300	40	30						300	150	
98	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	18								5	2	
99	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>								1	1	3	
100	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>								60		20	
101	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1	8	3	1	1	22	10	8		
102	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>										1	
103	Levaillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>		2 h									
104	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>			3		20						
105	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>				2	50						
106	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>			4		2	2	6				
107	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>					2						
108	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>		500	900	1000	500		150			100	
109	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>				2						10	
110	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>			20	4	4						
111	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	3							2			
112	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			3	8	4		2	20	30	2	
113	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>										1	
114	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			1			1	30	1	100		
115	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	8	40	100	80	10	200	280	40	1000		
116	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			40			6	6				
117	Northern House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			4			20	50			30	
118	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>							3			10	
119	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					1					2	
120	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		5					10			17	
121	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>							2				
122	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>										90	
123	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	2	15	2	3		15	8	8	10	2	

	Common name	Scientific name	March									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>				1		3	1			
124	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>									6	
	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>		10				1	10	1	40	
125	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		6					2			
126	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	80	40	15	10		15	3	✓	✓	✓
127	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		2								
128	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		3							1	
129	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓		20		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
130	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		2	2	1			1			
131	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>									2	
132	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>							2			1
133	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		2					2	5		
134	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		1	1				2		1	
135	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>						2	2		10	
136	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>		2			1	1		1	25	
137	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		2							20	
138	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>		3	1	20	20	10	6			
139	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>		2	5	3				1		
140	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1	3	2	2		2			
141	Mourning Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugens</i>				3						
142	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>							2		1	
143	Red(Buff)-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>			10	2						
144	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>			3	3	40	2				
145	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>									1	
146	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		2								
147	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>								1	10	
148	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		1	2	1		1		1	2	
149	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>								6	5	
150	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>									1	
151	Isabelline Warbler	<i>Hippolais opaca</i>									1	
152	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					1		30		80	
153	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		7	5	1	2	50	50	3	250	

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			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
154	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>										1	
155	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	4	30		1					7	15	2
156	Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia nana</i>					2						
157	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>										2	
158	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		1									
159	Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>			3		1						
160	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>				3	10		5				
161	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>					2	2	10			30	
162	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>			10		1		8	3		50	
163	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>						30					
164	Atlas Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater atlas</i>		8									
165	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	2									
166	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus ultramarinus</i>		8	2								
167	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		1									
168	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis elegans</i>		1		4	15	5					
	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis algenensis</i>							10	15			
	Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>		1									
169	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		1	2				2	8		10	
170	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>										20	
171	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1									
172	Moroccan Magpie	<i>Pica pica mauritanica</i>		10						20		30	
173	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		241									
174	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		1									
175	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>					38	4					
176	'North African' Raven	<i>Corvus corax tingitanus</i>		1						1			
177	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>		50						10		80	
178	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
179	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>							2			14	
180	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>					5						
181	'North African' Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>	6	20	1				4	2		2	
182	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		4									
183	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	4	14		2			10	4		5	

	Common name	Scientific name	March									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
184	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	10					2	4	2	10	
185	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		2					10		20	
186	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	6	30	10	20		10	40	2	20	
187	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes c. burryi</i>										
188	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>			3	40	50	12				
189	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>							1		1	
190	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>		6	10			1				
191	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				2						
192	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	100	10	4					4	5	2
193	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>							1		2	

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