

Southern Morocco

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 March – 16 March 2019



Thekla Lark



Houbara Bustard



Spotted Sandgrouse



Desert Thumb

Report & images compiled by Martin Pitt,
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Summary

This tour to Southern Morocco was one that threatened to be affected by some unseasonable weather, particularly in the High Atlas, but turned out to successfully show the characteristics of this part of North Africa and its specialties, including Bald Ibis, Houbara Bustard, Egyptian Nightjar, Brown-throated Martin, African Desert Warbler and Desert Sparrow. Migration was a bit slow, no doubt due to the northerly winds which we experienced in the first few days, but a nice mix of recently arrived birds were seen, together with reasonable numbers of Butterflies, Odonata and special plants

Day 1

Thursday 7th March

Marrakech and Oukaimeden

As is the norm, the group arrived in Marrakech from a number of regional airports during the afternoon and evening. The early arrivers were met with rain and a grey and overcast day. Two had chosen the option of a trip to the High Atlas at the ski resort of Oukaimeden, whilst the remainder opted for a walking tour of the medina and historic parts of Marrakech itself.



The trip to Oukaimeden with our guide Mohammed followed the picturesque Ourika valley, but viewing was hampered by low cloud and intermittent rain. However, a few stops brought sightings of some regular species in this part of Morocco, such as Maghreb Magpie, House Buntings, Common Bulbuls, and Spotless Starlings.

Arriving at the ski station, we broke through the cloud and were greeted with the sight of freshly fallen snow and the mountains up to the highest peak, Jebel Toubkal, glistening in the sunshine. There were a few birds to keep us occupied. African Chaffinches were quickly seen, but the majority of the flocks turned out to be Rock Sparrows, with about 150 seen altogether. Horned Larks were common, as were Red-billed Choughs, but as the snow started to fall ever harder, we had to leave the mountains and head back to Marrakech.

The last of the group met up with the rest of us at Hotel Diwane at 9.30pm and we were ready to leave the following day.

Day 2

Friday 8th March

Over the Atlas Mountains to Ouarzazate

An 8am departure enabled us to head south-east across the agricultural area around Marrakech. A roadside stop found us looking at a grounded migrating party of White Stork, whilst Barn and Red-rumped Swallows darted across the fields. Before long we started to climb, heading for the 2,260 metre high col of the Tizi-n-Tichka pass. At a junction, we walked through the pines to a viewpoint. We immediately saw Sparrowhawk and the woods were full of White Asphodel and Yellow Bee Orchids. Calling birds finally materialised into Red Crossbills, the race here having been shown to be genetically distinct and linked to Aleppo Pine. We started to notice raptors, a passage of eight Booted Eagles were watched as they headed north, their presence prompting a local Bonelli's Eagle to start displaying. As we loaded back onto the bus, John C noticed a perched raptor on the ridge opposite which showed enough detail to be confirmed as a Peregrine.

We had a coffee break further up and although a Levillant's Woodpecker was heard from the terrace, searching was cut short as the road improvement works meant too much disturbance locally. As we climbed higher the weather deteriorated, firstly with rain and then with snow. Lunch was at a café below the pass, the first of many tagines, and refreshed we tackled the remaining climb as visibility got progressively worse.

Fortunately, on the southern slopes of the High Atlas, the weather improved. The sun came out and we ran down to Ouarzazate in warmer temperatures. However, the wind was increasing and by the time we reached the city it was gale force from the North. After checking into our hotel and unpacking, we headed out to the Barrage to the east of the city. Unfortunately, the water was distant and we never did reach the edge. However, in the wind a number of raptors were seen. Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier and up to 60 Black Kites were present, and large numbers of White Stork and two Black Storks were seen. On the ground we hunted down our first Desert Wheatears and a couple of Stone Curlews showed well.

We returned to Hotel Le Fint as dusk fell.

Day 3

Saturday 9th March

Ouarzazate to Boulmane Dades am, Gorges de Dades & Tagdilt track pm

After breakfast we returned to the Barrage to another area to see if the wind had grounded any migrants. The sun was out and the wind had dropped, and hirundines and swifts of three species were passing over. Yellow Wagtails were also passing through and we found a single Italian *cinereocapilla* amongst the plentiful *iberiae*. Feral dogs didn't cause us any problems but they did flush three Common Quail which we were able to follow up, seeing two of them on the ground. We noticed that the wind was returning as we headed further east to the area by an aborted golf complex. Here at last we could see some water, and we soon added a few egrets, including a Great Egret – a species that has only recently been found to be regular in Morocco. Desert Larks were also plentiful around our parking spot and these cryptically coloured birds were our first introduction to this group of birds that we were seeking in desert areas.



We continued east, stopping for coffee in the Vallee de Roses and then arriving at our Hotel at Boulmane Dades in time for a picnic lunch. With the wind continuing to build, we decided to head up to the Dades Gorge that would at least give some shelter. After driving to the top with its Blue Rock Thrushes, we walked down the series of switch-backs to the river level, picking up a Barbary Ground Squirrel below the hotel and then a pair of wonderfully marked Barbary Partridges. Geoff found a species of Parasitic Dodder, a plant he was interested in since his childhood but this was the first time he had seen it. Back at river level, we were preparing to head back into the bus, when first a Golden Eagle and then a Bonelli's Eagle flew over.

Back at the hotel, we tried the town end of the Tagdilt track, despite the wind, until dusk. Conditions were poor and this area is still rubbish strewn. However, with patience and tenacity, we managed to find a number of the species for which this area is noted, key amongst these being the charismatic Thick-billed Lark. We all felt we had earned our traditional fare in the characterful surroundings of the Tizzarouine Kasbah hotel.

Day 4

Sunday 10th March

Boulmane Dades to Erfoud, including Tagdilt track am

After breakfast we headed out to the same gravel plains to the east of town, but this time along the new Tagdilt track. Our first stop was at a natural bowl of more verdant vegetation that enabled us to see a number of Temminck's Larks. We soon realised that one pair was feeding well grown young, that they hid in the taller bushes whilst hunting for insects. A few wheatears were also present and a single Pin-tailed Sandgrouse flew in calling.

Moving south, we joined the far end of the old Tagdilt track and walked out into the scrubby desert. Immediately birds were around us. A party of Thick-billed Larks flew past, a pair of Hoopoe Larks were found and the first of many Greater Short-toed Larks called from the plain. Walking out a little further gave us clear views of the Hoopoe Larks and Red-rumped Wheatears and shortly afterwards three Cream-coloured Coursers flew over and landed on the brow of the nearby rise. We also watched a colony of Fat Sand Rats on the sandy edge to a wash out before returning to the bus to move on.

A further stop at a nearby gorge enable the whole group firstly to closely watch a Trumpeter Finch and then our first Moussier's Redstart, a gorgeous male which perched and sang on top of one of the few bushes. Whilst a Long-legged Buzzard showed well, a dashing falcon did not hang around long enough to confirm if it was indeed a Lanner.

We enjoyed a picnic near Tinejdad in the shaded garden of almost abandoned Auberge. It seemed incongruous that the birds here including Greenfinch, Serin and Linnet were familiar to us from more northern climes, yet here the small garden was entirely surrounded by stony desert.

We then stopped at a well north-west of Jorf. A White-crowned Wheatear was found to be feeding young inside the well itself, and the surrounding scrub was full of Spectacled Warblers. A Brown-necked Raven flew in and was seen well enough that the shorter nasal bristles and brownish hue to the neck and head could be seen.

We headed the short distance to our hotel near Erfoud and were given a traditional welcome to our base for two nights.

Day 5

Monday 11th March

Dawn to dusk in the Desert

We departed just before dawn in three jeeps in the competent hands of brothers Mohammed and Lahcen Taouchikht and witnessed the sun rising over the desert and Algeria just to the east. This was to be one of, if not the, special days of the trip and the day dawned sunny and calm. Our first stop in a sandy area with grasses soon brought the expected African Desert Warbler, and we marvelled at the tiny nest that was occupied by a pair. We were shown the different types of desert even in this small area and soon were looking at the first of many Hoopoe Larks that gave us a brief demonstration of their crazy somersault of a display flight. Next up was a party of Cream-coloured Coursers and one sprinted to the top of a dwarf sand dune, giving perfect views.

It was time to move to a nightjar location, but there was one more surprise before we got there. Suddenly a male Houbara Bustard appeared by the lead jeep and not only did it not appear wary but it started to display, puffing up its head and neck feathers. At the same instance that the Houbara had appeared, a couple of sandgrouse had flown by, and with time now to follow up we found a flock of nearly 50 Spotted Sandgrouse waiting to drink. Mubarak, a local nomad, then joined us and pointed out two Egyptian Nightjars. Perfectly camouflaged, the group had difficulty spotting them even when we knew where they were.



We headed closer to Erg Chebbi – the main dune system that is c 20km long and up to 200m high. In the sandy area were searched out the elusive Desert Sparrow, which was made simpler by finding its untidy nest in a date palm. In addition, a Wryneck and Subalpine Warbler showed that at least some migration was in progress.

We therefore tried the Palmerie at Merzouga to see if anything else had dropped in. We struggled with birds but many Plain Tigers and a Desert Swallowtail were recompense for some. Over lunch we learnt about Berber carpets before heading back out into the desert. Surprisingly there is a permanent body of water, Dayet Srij, to

the west of town and this was our immediate target. It is famous for almost anything turning up and today it was busy with over 60 Ruddy Shelduck and an impressive 550 Greater Flamingos.

After leaving we tried to find the remaining species before stopping off at Oued Erfoud. Fortunately, there was some water still in the river bed and this attracted migrants in this parched land. Waders such as Green Sandpiper, Snipe and Little Ringed Plover seemed common, and a few warblers were moving with both Iberian and Common Chiffchaffs seen. However, it was the local species that caught our eye, with our first *subpersonata* Moroccan Wagtails, a Pale Crag Martin and also one Saharan Green Frog. A tired, but elated group returned to the hotel and got ready for dinner.

Day 6

Tuesday 12th March

Erfoud to Ouarzazate via the Tizi-n-Tinifift Pass

Another transfer day, returning to Ouarzazate by heading along the southern route. An early stop near Rissani offered little in the way of birds, but there was a selection of fossils which could be picked from the desert floor. A few minutes gave a few Belemnites (Squid) bits and also bits of trilobites. A nomad approached and soon they were offering to sell us complete ammonites and trilobites. We headed off, and we soon heading west across the empty gravel plains. Unlike the northernly route, these were marked with Flat-topped Acacias, giving the impression of African savannah – a vision that was reinforced when we passed an Ostrich farm!

A fly-over bird encouraged us to stop and shortly we were enjoying a distant Fulvous Babbler. Oddly this one was alone, but it made up for missing them entirely the previous day. After coffee at Alnif, we stopped a couple of times around Tazzarine, with another Barbary Partridge and Pale Crag Martins at the first. At the second we found lots of Plain Tigers, a few Camel Thorns, and a family of Fulvous Babbler feeding young.



On reaching Oued Draa, we found ourselves back in a landscape of palmeries and Kasbahs. We stopped by the river and quickly heard Cetti's Warbler and a singing Nightingale. In addition, the roadside trees had attracted a large number of the attractively marked Wasp Moths. Then it was up and over the moonscape of the Anti-Atlas Mountains via Tizi-n-Tinifift pass and down into Ouarzazate where we arrived at 6pm.

Day 7

Wednesday 13th March

Ouarzazate, Aoulouz Gorge and Taroudant

The journey to Taroudant is one of transition from the desert to the fertile Souss valley. Arriving at Oued Iriri, we saw an eagle perched on the telegraph poles by the side of the road. As we stopped, it flew a short distance

but later we were able to have unsurpassed views of an adult Bonelli's Eagle. We wandered amongst the fields and found typical lowland species including Corn Buntings, Robin and Meadow Pipit and typical upland species such as Crag Martins and the eagle.

We had reached Tinfat for lunch, where we enjoyed a refreshing glass of Saffron infused tea and learnt about Saffron production, although as it comes from autumn flowering crocus there was nothing to see of the flowers themselves. However, a walk through the fields and orchards gave us good views of Moussier's Redstart, African Chaffinch and Great Spotted Woodpecker. There had obviously been a fall of migrants and the orchard was full of Blackcaps but we couldn't coax out anything more exciting. We did however manage to find a few more butterflies and Scarce Swallowtail, Spanish Festoon and Scarce Green-striped White were added to our burgeoning "others" list.

Continuing west, we stopped at the Oued Aoulouz on the bridge overlooking the river. Despite the local school cooling off in the waters closer to the Barrage, we found that the water was an attractive lure to some birds and in short order added both a Purple and a Squacco Heron. We also could see Emperor and Broad Scarlet dragonflies and lots of the *sabarica* form of the Spanish Pond Turtle.

The final run down into Taroudant is marked by entering the Argan growing area and the scenery changes to being reminiscent of the *debesa* regions of the Iberian peninsular. Argan production and its importance has exploded in the last fifteen years and this unique product is now familiar not only in the cooperatives of Southern Morocco but across the globe, be it in foods or in cosmetics.

We arrived at the Riad Dar Tourkia, within the city walls, in sufficient time for some of the party to tour the ancient medina of this charming city before sitting down to a wonderful traditional Tagine supper.

Day 8

Thursday 14th March

Taroudant, Tamri, Agadir

Another odd weather day with fog refusing to clear as we headed from Taroudant to Agadir. We crossed the Souss Oued where the commercial growing of fruit and vegetables has increased markedly in the last decade and then headed to the coast above Agadir. We had a coffee stop at the beach at Imi Ouaddar, where at least we could see the sea. However, only a motley collection of Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls were present, attracted by the fishing boats arriving with their catches.

We rounded Cap Rhir, and stopped at the Asif n'Srou estuary near Tamri, a well-known hotspot especially for Bald Ibis, and as hoped a flock of 35 or so were there, albeit distant for the duration of our visit. The estuary is also a well-known site for Audouin's Gull and a flock of 40 or so were bathing there, but more surprisingly the fresh water lagoon also held eight Garganey. We bumped into some Polish and Swedish birders, showing the cosmopolitan nature of birding in Morocco. We stayed for a picnic but the fog returned and we left to head back to Agadir.

After checking into the Tildi hotel in Agadir, we left at 4pm and headed to the south of the city to the estuary at the mouth of the Oued Souss. The sky had cleared and the sun was out when we arrived and both banks of the

estuary were lined with waders, gulls and terns. Most were familiar from home; Oystercatcher, Curlew, Redshank, Dunlin, Ruff and Avocet, however the taste of the exotic was present with a single Spoonbill and a small party of Flamingos.

Day 9

Friday 15th March

Agadir and Souss-Massa National Park

We again headed south from Agadir and our initial optimism changed when the fog rolled in again. By the time we stopped at the infamous tip, we could barely see beyond the road edge, but we persevered and a Tawny Pipit and Stone Curlew were our immediate reward. Fortunately, the fog started lifting and we realised that some migrants were moving through the area. These mainly turned out to be Northern Wheatear and hirundines, but they added to the Little Owls and Moussier's Redstarts that were obviously resident, as was the Red Fox hunting the field edges.

We headed onwards to the river and immediately we had a fly-by of a flock of European Bee-eaters. This was better and buoyed by this we started to concentrate on the Tamarisk's that lined the river itself. A cracking male Stonechat was a welcome distraction, but finally some fluty calls were heard and a male Black-crowned Tchagra serenaded us for the next ten minutes.

We tried two other areas along the river and picked up a nice range of species. Key amongst these was the Brown-throated Martin, for which Oued Massa is the most regular spot in the Western Palearctic. We found a flock of around ten in the first location, but later we found a riverside branch upon which were perching not only the martin but also Sand Martin and Barn Swallow. This gave an unparalleled opportunity to compare not only the plumage but the structural differences of the three species.

Our final sighting was an Osprey that circled above us and then retreated as the fog rolled in again. We took that as the signal to leave the area and head back to Agadir. We called in to the estuary of Oued Souss on the way and mercifully this was clear of fog. There was little new at the estuary, but our second Osprey of the day was found on the highest pylon overlooking the marsh.

We headed back to the hotel and prepared for our last supper together.

Day 10

Saturday 16th March

Agadir, Tamri, London

For our final morning, we decided to head back to Tamri in an attempt to get better views of the Bald Ibis. This iconic species has only recently been down-graded from Critically Endangered to Endangered, in part due to the expansion of the population around Agadir. However, it still remains a rare bird and with the sun out, we were determined to improve on the views we had had previously. Fortunately, the birds were with us and just north of Tamri we came across a flock that allowed us a close approach and the sort of views we had been missing to date. We had been told that this Tamri group was starting to show signs of running out of space, as the fledging success was dropping and more of its preferred habitat was being put under the plough, however this party seemed happy enough devouring snails.



We then returned to the Estuary at Asif n'Srou, and were surprised that almost the first bird we saw was an Isabelline Shrike. Although it was known to have been present since early January, it had not been seen for over a week and was assumed to have gone, but here it perched in full view. We also had views of a Leopard Fringe-fingered Lizard munching on a Giant Striped Earwig.

With fog returning again, we headed back for coffee at Imi Ouaddar. More careful scanning out to sea added a few Gannets as the last species on the trip list and then it was time to head south towards the airport. Our adventure was not quite at an end as a Tagine lunch gave the perfect send off for the trip and we were then suitably refreshed to join the bustle of the flights out of Agadir Airport, heading for home with many memories of an exciting holiday.

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	March												
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
1	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		10				60		3					
2	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>									8				
3	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>						✓							
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		3						1	7	2			
5	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>			2				2				1		
6	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>			3										
7	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>								2	1	1			
8	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			7			2							
9	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		20				550			9				
10	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		2											
11	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		100	✓			6	10	50	22	10			
12	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>									25		30		
13	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>									1	1			
14	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>										2	20		
15	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>							1						
16	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	10	50	✓	25	25	3	6	10	✓	✓			
17	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			2		1	2	3	4	4				
18	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>							1						
19	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			1										
20	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			1					3	1	1			
21	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>												3	
22	Continental Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>			20				12	4	20	10			
23	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>										2			
24	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		8											
25	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			1										
26	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>		1	1					1					
27	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		4	2	1						1			
28	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		2	1		2	1		2		2		2	
29	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		1											
30	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		60						1					
31	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1	1								
32	Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>					1								
33	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					1	4	6	4	3				
34	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			1		2			30		28			
35	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>		2								1			
36	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								30	10				
37	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		1			10					1			
38	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>								25					
39	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									2	1			
40	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		1			4		1	2	1				
41	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>								2	12	4			
42	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					2	2	2						
43	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>									1		1		
44	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								12	8				
45	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								✓	✓				
46	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		1							5	2			
47	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1			6					1			

	Common name	Scientific name	March										
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
48	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>									8	6	
49	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>									4		
50	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>									4		
51	Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>				3	8						
52	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>									✓	✓	
53	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>									✓		
54	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>									4		1
55	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>									✓	✓	✓
56	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>									✓	✓	✓
57	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>									80	3	
58	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>						2					
59	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>				1							
60	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>						80					
61	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>				2							
62	Feral Pigeon - I	<i>Columba livia 'feral@</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>			8	12							
64	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	10	50						3	10	✓	
65	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		3	2	2	2	6	✓	2	6		
67	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>										2	
68	Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>					2						
69	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	15					✓	✓	✓	6
70	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>			3								2
71	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>			2						2		
72	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>									1		
73	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>										12	
74	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		2	5	1	1		1	1	2		
75	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					1						
76	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	H			H				2			
77	Levaillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>		H									
78	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>			1								
79	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	3	✓	✓	✓	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1									
81	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>										1	
82	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor algeriensis</i>									2		2
83	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor elegans</i>	2	2	2	4	1	1	2				
84	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>					1				1		
85	Maghreb Magpie	<i>Pica mauritanica</i>	10	4							✓	✓	✓
86	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	80										
87	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	5										
88	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>				1	3	4					
89	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax tingitanus</i>		2									
90	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>	4	1							2		
91	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>								2			
92	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>				2	20						
93	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>			6	4							
94	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>			2	1		6	✓				
95	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>			3		6						
96	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			3	✓			✓		6		
97	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	2	12	10	2					✓	✓	3

	Common name	Scientific name	March												
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
98	Maghreb Lark	<i>Galerida macrorhyncha</i>					1								
99	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	30												
100	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>			1	20									
101	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>				100	80	50							
102	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		✓	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>												20	
104	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		1										4	
105	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	10	5	✓	4	10	10	✓	✓			
106	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	2		66					4					
107	Pale Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta presaharica</i>					1	3							
108	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		2											
109	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		3										2	
110	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H					2	H			1	H		
111	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>					6	4	10	2	✓	2			
112	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>					3					1			
113	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>								4	1	H	1		
114	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>								1					
115	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>									10	20	4		
116	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>							5						
117	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>								20		5			
118	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserti</i>					8								
119	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>										1			
120	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>				6	4	1				1			
121	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>					1								
122	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>			1	1					6	10	4		
123	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H												
124	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
125	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	3	6	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
126	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	3												
127	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1							1		1			
128	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>							H						
129	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	10										1		
130	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					2	1	1			1			
131	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>				1	3		3	1	10				
132	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			4							1			
133	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>										3			
134	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1		1	10					6			
135	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>		3	3	8			4		1				
136	Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>			3	20			1						
137	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	2	3	2				1	2					
138	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>			4	30	✓	75	6						
139	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓	20									4		
141	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>					3								
142	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia barbata</i>	150												
143	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>													1
144	"Spanish" Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>		15	11		1						6		
145	"Italian" Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava cinereocapilla</i>			1										
146	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	2		1										
147	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	2	6	20	30	20	4	4	2	4	2	4	2	

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148	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>					4		1	2		2
149	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>									1	
150	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>							20		4	
151	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>	40	✓					12	1	12	
152	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	2									
153	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>				20						
154	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				1			4	2	4	
155	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		2		2			✓		2	3
156	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra poliolegyna</i>		3								
157	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			1			2	2			
158	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		10	4	2	2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
159	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>							10		20	
160	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>									1	
161	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	4	10	4	6		1	✓	✓	✓	✓

Mammals

1	Barbary Gound Squirrel	<i>Praomys degraaffi</i>			1							
2	Fat Sand Rat	<i>Psammomys obesus</i>				8						1
3	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>									1	

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Saharan Green Frog	<i>Pelophylax saharicus</i>					1		✓			
2	Spanish Pond Turtle	<i>Mauremys leprosa saharica</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓
3	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>									1	
4	Moroccan Wall Lizard	<i>Scelarcis perspicillata</i>							1			
5	Leopard Fringe-fingered Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus pardalis</i>							□			1

Butterflies

1	Desert Swallowtail	<i>Papilio saharae</i>					✓				1	
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>							2			
3	Spanish Festoon	<i>Zerynthia rumina</i>							1			
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>							4			
5	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>					✓	✓	✓			
6	Scarce Green-striped White	<i>Euchloe falloui</i>							1			
7	Green-striped White	<i>Euchloe belemia</i>							2	1	2	1
8	Greenish Black-tip	<i>Elphinstomia charlonia</i>							1			
9	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓							
10	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocca</i>				10	✓	✓	10	✓	✓	✓
11	Cleopatra	<i>Gonoepteryx cleopatra</i>									1	1
12	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>						✓	1			
13	African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysa</i>					✓					
14	Black-eyed Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche melanops</i>							1			1
15	Pain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>					2	✓	✓			
16	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>							1			
17	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>			1							
18	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>									2	
19	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>							6			

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Odonata

1	Sahara Bluetail	<i>Ischnura saharensis</i>												1	
2	Goblet-marked Damselfly	<i>Erythromma lindenii</i>											1		
3	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>								✓					
4	Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>				1	✓								
5	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>					✓	✓							
6	Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>								1					

Other insects

1	Moroccan Locust	<i>Dociopterus maroccanus</i>									2		✓		
2	Mediterranean Mantis	<i>Iris oratoria</i>									1				
3	Wasp Moth	<i>Amita alicia</i>								✓					
4	Striped Hawk Moth	<i>Hyles livornica</i>										1			
5	Striped Earwig	<i>Labidura riparia</i>													1
6	Scarab sp	<i>Tropinota squalida</i>						1							

Interesting Plants

1	Yellow Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys lutea</i>		✓											
2	White Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus alba</i>		✓											
3	Parasitic Dodder	<i>Cuscuta sp</i>				✓									
4	Yellow Broomrape	<i>Cistanche phelypaea</i>				✓	✓	✓							
5	"Desert Squill"	<i>Albuca amoena</i>					✓								
6	Desert Melon	<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i>					✓	✓							
7	Desert Thumb	<i>Cynomorium cocinimum</i>												✓	
8	Barbary Nut,	<i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i>		✓										✓	
9	Pheasant's-eye	<i>Adonis annua</i>									✓				



Northern Bald Ibis