

Birding Southern Morocco

Naturetrek Tour Report

25th September – 4th October 2023



Desert Sparrow



Pharaoh Eagle Owl



Thick-billed Lark



Black-crowned Tchagra

Tour report and photos by Martin Pitt



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Introduction

Naturetrek's trip to Southern Morocco was one that covered all of the major habitats across the area from the High Atlas, through the Southern deserts to the coast and introduced the group to the culture and wildlife of this part of North Africa. We connected with many of specialties including 162 species of birds plus three distinctive subspecies, together with four species of mammal, 17 species of butterfly, nine reptiles, and eight dragonflies. The weather was hot and sunny throughout, with southerly winds that aided migration and probably aided the birds to move through rather than linger. We had also found the landscape desiccated from the fifth year of drought and this no doubt impacted the fewer birds by number and diversity than normal. Despite tricky conditions we had great viewed of the key species including Bald Ibis, African Crimson-winged Finch, Lanner Falcon, Pharaoh Eagle Owl, Black-crowned Tchagra, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Moussier's Redstart and Desert Sparrow. As always being in such a biodiverse area, other species were found; a High Atlas Day Gecko, plenty of Bohme's Agama and a Black Pennant dragonfly, even some endemic plants illustrated the diversity of landscapes and wildlife makes this a such special tour.

Day 1

Monday 25th September

Marrakech and Oukaïmeden

The Gatwick group arrived at 10.40 and cleared customs quickly, meeting up with those who had earlier arrived from Manchester and confirming the itinerary for the remainder of the day. Those for the city tour headed to the hotel, whilst the remainder prepared themselves for the trip to the alpine zone of the High Atlas Mountains. We stopped for a soon to be familiar tagine lunch and then headed up the picturesque Ourika valley and onward to the somewhat dilapidated ski station at Oukaïmeden.

The recent earthquake had barely affected this area, but many of the people who normally run the stalls and cafes had gone home to help in their mountain villages so the place was deserted. A brief stop at the lake offered our first views of Red-billed Chough and a migrant Green Sandpiper. We headed up to the market area and new species came at a rush. Atlas and Black-eared Wheatears, Moussier's and Black Redstarts, Whinchat, Woodlark and Pied Flycatchers. The discarded ski lift machinery held both flycatchers, Iberian Chiffchaff, and more chats. We then

settled on the main target of Crimson-winged Finch. Large flocks of Linnets and Serins made this task tricky, but the first bulky birds turned out to be Shore Larks however the finches' distinctive calls were soon heard and about 15 fed in front of us for a while before flying off. Mission accomplished, we headed back to the bus and then stopped at the cedar plantation where African Blue Tit, Atlas Coal Tit and Firecrest added to the day list. Arriving back at the hotel by 7pm we checked in and met up with the souk tour group and enjoyed the first group meal before preparing for the journey south the following morning.

Day 2

Tuesday 26th September

Over the Atlas Mountains to Ouarzazate

We left the hotel at 8.30 am in our two minibuses and headed south-east across the agricultural area around Marrakech. The only road to cross the High Atlas is the N9 which traverses via Tizi-n-Tichka pass at 2,260m. Although it is the main road progress is always slow, it has been improved by the efforts to upgrade the road over the last seven years, a process that is approaching completion.

We had a brief stop at the Escale Forest, we walked through the pines to the look out. Although African Chaffinch were common, most other species took a lot of finding with Atlas Coal Tit, Great Grey Shrike and Western Olivaceous warbler making it onto our lists. Within the pine forest we found the local Thuja & many of the wild pistachios were in flower. We headed further on up the mountains, stopping at a café for welcome teas & coffees. A migrating flock of Bee-eaters passed over head and from the roof-top terrace, we watched African Blue Tits and a party of Jays, the latter a remarkable scarce bird of these forests.



Lunch was at a café below the pass, and suitably replete we moved on to the Source du Tichka. Here more Atlas Wheatears were the only plentiful species, although a second Whinchat was found. We took stock of other species, butterflies such as Clouded Yellow & Rosy Grizzled Skipper shot through and the seldom seen Jebel Sirwa Fringe-fingered Lizard was a good find. Most of the plants were desiccated, although a Moroccan Sea Holly was still flowering.

We headed down the southern slope, losing the snow and stopping outside Amerzgane. The abandoned fields had Thekla's lark and Western Black-eared Wheatears and our first 'desert' search appropriately yielded Desert Lark. We also started our mammal list with Barbary Ground Squirrel. In a field of lucerne, we watched an Epaulet

Skimmer and a mix of blues, including Lang's Short-tailed, False Baton and African Grass before re-joining our buses and heading to Ouarzazate.

The wind was picking up, so we continued on to the edge of the reservoir and, as expected, there was no water in sight. We found Marsh & Montagu's Harriers and hirundines shooting through. Pride of place was grabbed by a flock of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters with both adults and juveniles entertaining us. We took the hint and headed on to the Hotel Kenzi for the night.

Day 3

Wednesday 27th September

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

After breakfast we returned to the Barrage to another area to see if we could find any grounded migrants. We spent just over an hour in the agricultural area that has been established on the bottom of the dry reservoir bed, finding our first migrant waders including a party of Little Ringed Plovers, Wheatears and both Reed & Sedge Warbler. Yellow Wagtails were common place and we found a Woodchat Shrike, overhead European & Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters chased insects with a mix of hirundines. We also found some raptors, the same harriers as the previous evening and finished with five separate Short-toed Eagles. We headed further east to the area by the aborted golf complex. Here at last, we could see some water, but even here with was very distant but included Great Crested Grebes, Ruddy Shelduck and a mix of herons, Grey, Purple, plus Little and Great White egrets. An Osprey was seen paddling! Land birds were scarce in the desiccated landscape, with Thekla's and the ubiquitous Crested Larks the most visible. A brief flyby calling Trumpeter finch escaped most, and the calling Desert Larks stayed out of sight.



We continued east, the Dadès valley here being known as the Vallee de Roses, for the growing of Damask Roses and production of rosewater and other products. We had our picnic at a café before heading on to the Dadès Gorge, the last section stopping to view the strange rock formations at the 'Pattes de Singe'. In the gorge we headed straight to the head of the road and then walked down the series of switch-back to the river level. The gorge was relatively subdued, but we found Black Wheatears and found both Desert Orange-tip and Austaut's Grayling.

Our final stop of the day was on the famous Tagdilt track, just to the east of Boumalne Dades. As the sun dropped, we crossed the rubbish strewn steppe around the town dump. Desert and Red-rumped Wheatears were tracked down, but the Tawny Pipit was flighty. The final birds were a party of eleven Crowned Sandgrouse that flew in and landed close by, even if their cryptic plumage made watching them on the ground a far from simple task. Night was at the characterful surroundings of the Kasbah Tizzarouine hotel.

Day 4

Thursday 28th September

Boumalne 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. It was clear that little, if any, rain had fallen the natural bowl that was our first stop was now totally dry. Immediately we left the buses, we saw a distant Thick-billed Lark and with careful approach we had wonderfully close views of a pair. The bowl is attractive to Temminck's Larks, and today was no different with pairs feeding quietly on the spring growth. A flock of Trumpeter Finch's joined them. There was little sign of migration, but the single Greater Short-toed Lark was probably not a local breeder.

We moved up to the southern end of the old Tagdilt Track and walked a loop around the steppe, this time in the shadow of the Anti-Atlas Mountains, Birds were again at a premium, but we found more Temminck's. Larks and distant Long-legged Buzzard. A Bohme Agama showed well, whilst other lizards shot past.

Heading only a few kilometres further east, we entered a dry gorge that is always a highlight of these trips. Surprisingly, we immediately found a Lanner near its nest site from the spring and then a couple of Pharaoh Eagle Owls at their day roost. Other birds were tricky, however we found a migrant Western Subalpine Warbler and some Desert Larks before we returned to the buses to continue our journey eastwards.



We moved on for our picnic near Tinejdad in the shaded garden of a café and then as we dropped in altitude from the plains towards the desert edge, we had short stop at a well, north-west of Jorf. The surrounding area was drier than ever, but perseverance gave us views of both Hoopoe and Bar-tailed Larks and we added another lizard to add to our list with a Dumeril's Fringe-fingered Lizard. We then went directly the short distance to our hotel, the Palm Club near Erfoud, arriving at 17.30 for our two-night stay, with enough time for a few of us to sample the swimming pool.

Day 5

Friday 29th September

Dawn to dusk in the Desert

It was 6.30am when the five jeeps headed by our guide Lahcen departed for the desert. As we headed South, we witnessed the sun rising over the desert and Algeria just to the east. This was to be one of, if not the special day of

the trip and the day dawned clear and calm. We headed into the gravel plains, and a sandy wadi. Our target pair of Streaked Scrub Warbler soon put on a show 'bouncing' around the scrubby bushes. A Maghreb & a Desert Lark were also found close by.

We moved on to a line of acacias in the middle of the gravel plain. Although initially stopping for a party of Cream-colored Coursers, we soon realised that this was a little hotspot. Three species of wheatear, Desert, Western Black-eared, and Northern were annoying a Great Grey Shrike. The Acacia themselves were home to half a dozen Desert Sparrows, another of our most wanted species. Also a few migrant warblers were in the canopies, and we added Western Orphean and Western Bonelli's to our list, although Western Subalpine remained the commonest species.

We tried the Sandgrouse pools but these have been less than regular recently, so we cut our losses and headed to small holding and palmerie where we tracked down a party of Fulvous Babblers before finding Hoopoe and Bar-tailed Larks nearby.



After a comfort break in the shadow of the Erg Chebbi dunes, we headed around the northern edge of Erg Chebbi dunes to the palmeries at Igrane to see if anything had dropped in. Migrants seemed to be limited to a Western Subalpine Warbler, however the walk illustrated the local agricultural system, with crops grown in the shade of the palms themselves and the main water runnel attracted both Epaulet Skimmer and Orange-winged Dropwing

Over lunch we learnt about Berber carpets before heading back out into the desert., stopping for a party of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters We headed for our planned meeting with Mubarak, also known as 'Mr Nightjar'. In keeping with his reputation, he had found a roosting bird and we soon had views of an Egyptian Nightjar superbly camouflaged at its day roost. Despite efforts we failed to add anything more on our trip back to Erfoud. Night at Palm Club, Erfoud where Kuhl's Pipestrelles hunted amongst the bedroom blocks.

Day 6

Saturday 30th September

Erfoud to Ouarzazate via the Tizi-n-Tiniff Pass

Another transfer day, returning to Ouarzazate by heading along the southern route. Early stops at an escarpment near Rissani offered few birds except what was now the ubiquitous Western Subalpine Warblers but also our first *reisseri* Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. In addition, more White-crowned Wheatears, a Maghreb Lark and lots of Brown-necked Ravens were in the area. A selection of fossils which could be picked off the desert floor however the calling sandgrouse couldn't be picked out from the dramatic vista.

We headed off, and we soon heading west across the empty gravel plains. Unlike the northerly route, these were marked with Flat-topped acacias, giving the impression of African savannah. After teas & coffee at Alnif, we stopped a couple of times around Tazzarine, In the old Palmerie a family of Fulvous Babblers were present and

some were lucky with a rapidly disappearing Barbary Partridge. Our picnic stop, under some acacias, gave more chances to catch up with migrants, including Black-eared Wheatear and both Olivaceous Warblers. The Halfa grass here is in far better condition than further east, but although tracking a couple of Desert Wheatears we couldn't find their regular feeding companions, the African Desert Warbler.

On reaching Oued Drâa, we found ourselves back in a landscape of palmeries and Kasbahs. We stopped by the river and despite the return of water there were few birds. A Purple Heron, a couple of Green Sandpipers and Yellow Wagtails showed the potential, even if it wasn't realised. We drove down to Ouarzazate and then back into the mountains above Fint for a night at the characterful hotel in Oued Noujoum. On the way in, we saw Trumpeter Finches and at the hotel itself, we were serenaded by a pair of Blue Rock Thrushes.



Day 7

Sunday 1st October

Ouarzazate, Aoulouz Gorge and Taroudant

The journey to Taroudant is one of transition from the desert to the fertile Souss valley. We were following the edge of the High Atlas Mountains and the ridges to the north were our companion for the journey. We welcomed in the dawn on our terrace finding the local species from the night before including Blue Rock Thrushes were seen well. A party of eight Barbary Partridge were spied and gave good views. We transferred out of the Oued and headed west for 40 minutes or so to our first stop at Iriri fields. This area of low intensity agricultural fields on the banks of the Asif Tilidi (a tributary of the Drâa) is always a migrant trap. A Woodchat Shrike, Common Redstart, Willow warblers seemed to suggest this was again the case, but numbers were low but we did add some Yellow Wagtails and a couple of Tree Pipits. The flowers attracted lots of lepidoptera, commonest being the Crimson Speckled, but with lots of blues and so very bright Clouded Yellows. Along the river, Purple Heron and Reed Warbler were found, and both Moorhen and Water Rail were heard from the dense reed bed but didn't show. Local amphibians Saharan Pond Frog and Spanish Pond Turtle were easier to see

We reached Tinfat for lunch, where we enjoyed a refreshing glass of Saffron infused tea and learnt about the Saffron production. The Autumn Crocus flowers in late October so there is nothing to be seen in the fields, but a wander in the wooded fields did give close views of the local form of Great Spotted Woodpecker together with a few migrants.

Continuing west, we stopped a couple of times firstly at the Argan Trees near Aoulouz and then on to the bridge overlooking the Souss river. Birds were still scarce, but more Moorhens and our first Turtle Dove meant that we were not totally empty handed. Our final run down into Taroudant showed us roadside Marsh and Montagu's Harriers and we checked into the charming surroundings of Dar Tourkia. A city tour through the historic Medina was popular, where a flock of Little Swifts wheeled overhead, before finally sitting down to a tasty supper.

Day 8

Monday 2nd October

Taroudant, Tamri, Agadir

We headed from Taroudant to Agadir, crossing the area where commercial growing of fruit and vegetables has increased markedly in the last decade and then headed to the coast above Agadir. We had a tea & coffee stop at the beach café at Imi Ouaddar. From the beach we watched the gulls loafing around the incoming fishing boats, a few Audouin's being found amongst the myriad of Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed gulls. Our impromptu sea-watch added a few Cory's Shearwaters and more surprisingly, a couple of European Storm Petrels.

We rounded Cap Rhir, and stopped at the Asif n'Srou estuary near Tamri, a well-known hotspot. The water level was surprisingly low on the freshwater side of the sand bar, however in the most distant pool, a number of waders had congregated including Curlew Sandpiper and Kentish Plover. Returning to the beach, we scanned the gull flock finding a lone Spoonbill amongst them. More scanning yielded plenty of terns. Although mainly Sandwich and Common, careful checking yielded a couple of Lesser Crested, their orange beaks an obvious feature.

During our picnic lunch, a single Bald Ibis flew over us. We headed to the 'north fields' in an attempt to find the remainder of the flock, however this was in vain. We retraced our steps to the newly built villas above the estuary and eventually we found three birds feeding on the coastal 'heath'. Few other birds were found although a Barbary Falcon was perched on a nearby pylon and the coastal form of Great Grey Shrike, *algeriensis*, showed well enabling us to compare with the inland form we had seen earlier in the trip. We stayed with the birds until was time to head back to Agadir and check into our hotel. Night at Tildi Hotel.

Day 9

Tuesday 3rd October

Agadir and Souss-Massa National Park

We again headed south from Agadir and it was calm and sunny. We immediately headed to Sidi R'bat on the coast and our first target were the larks that breed close to the road. Thekla's were plentiful but no sign of the Short-toed Larks. A pair of Spectacled Warblers was some consolation though. We moved on the coast and we found the usual field was full of Stone Curlew. At least 223 were counted and probably more were missed. Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, we found a flock of Audouin's Gull, a Whimbrel and offshore a few Northern Gannets were passing.

We drove back to the National Park entrance, and tried for migrants along the Massa River itself. The water level was good and a mix of waders were seen, including Ruff, Greenshank and Black-winged Stilt. Of the passerines there appeared to be little activity, but we soon had great views of a Black-crowned Tchagra and a Brown-throated Martin, both relict species from sub-Saharan Africa that are special birds of the area. The small fields by the

roadside had few migrants, but a pair of Barbary Partridges was some consolation. The last surprise here was a hunting Eleonora's Falcon overhead.

We had lunch in the grounds of the eco-Museum, with the estuary overview giving sighting of Osprey, Ruddy Shelduck and Glossy Ibis. We moved on to try another couple of places in the valley. At the first we found Little Grebe, and a mix of waders. At the second, we walked along the river further inland, along an area bordered by agricultural fields. The wind was picking up and few birds were found.

On our return to Agadir, we dropped into the Souss Estuary and the high tide impacted the birds that could be found. Nonetheless, as expected it was full of birds. A mix of waders, gulls and terns included both Caspian and Black Terns. The large flock of Greater Flamingos were really too distant, so we called it a day. Night at Tildi Hotel.

Day 10

Wednesday 4th October

Agadir, Oued Souss, UK

For our final morning, the Gatwick flight group left at 8.30am. For those on the evening Manchester flight, there could be a more leisurely start, so we checked out at 9.00 and headed back to Souss Estuary, planning to walk further to towards the sea now that the tide would be out. With activity further inland we started in the same area as the night before, however this time on a rising tide. The waders were closer and although most we as the night before we immediately found new species including Black-tailed Godwit and Red Knot. By walking along the river's edge, we added Cormorant, Little Tern and then three Shoveler. The flamingo flocks were also more active, the flocks relocating as the water level dropped and giving great fly by views.



We also noticed that a number of the species were ringed with high visibility colour rings and flags, something that can be reported and usually indicative of European research projects. After a couple of hours, we called it quits and returned to the hotel to collect our baggage. We then headed off for lunch, our last tagine giving us the perfect send off for the trip. Suitably refreshed, we joined the bustle of the flights out of Agadir Airport.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

N=Near-endemic		September – October 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			✓						✓	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>										✓
Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>						✓	✓		✓	
Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>					✓					
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>									✓	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>							✓	✓		
Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>					✓					
Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>			✓							
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓				✓			
Feral Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia dom.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>							✓			
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							H			
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>							✓			
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓								✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>									✓	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓							
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>									✓	✓
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>									✓	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>									✓	✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓						✓	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									✓	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								✓	✓	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓						✓	

N=Near-endemic		September – October 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>								✓		✓
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>									✓	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>									✓	✓
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>									✓	✓
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>										✓
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>										✓
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>									✓	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								✓	✓	✓
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>								✓	✓	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								✓	✓	✓
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>										✓
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>									✓	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>								✓	✓	✓
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>									✓	✓
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓
Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>					✓					
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>									✓	✓
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓						✓	✓
Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus audouinii</i>								✓	✓	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>									✓	✓
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>								✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>								✓	✓	✓
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>			✓							
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>									✓	✓
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>								✓		
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								✓		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>										✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>								✓		✓
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>									✓	✓
European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>								✓		
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>								✓		
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>									✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>										✓
Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>								✓		
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>									✓	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>								✓	✓	✓
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓				✓		✓	✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓			✓	✓			
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓							
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓						✓	✓
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓						✓	✓
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓							
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓				✓		✓	✓	✓
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓			
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		✓	✓				✓			
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		✓		✓			✓		✓	

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		25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Common name	Scientific name										
Pharaoh Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>				✓						
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>									✓	
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>		✓	✓		✓					
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>							✓			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>				✓						
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓									
Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus peregrinoides</i>								✓		
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>									✓	
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>									✓	
Desert [Great] Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor elegans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Southern [Great] Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor algeriensis</i>								✓	✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			✓				✓	✓		
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓								
Maghreb Magpie - N	<i>Pica mauritanica</i>		✓						✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Cough	<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	✓									
Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>					✓	✓				
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax tingitanus</i>	✓	✓								
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	✓	✓								
African Blue Tit - N	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>	✓	✓						✓		✓
Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>				✓	✓					
Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>				✓						
Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>		✓		✓	✓					
Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>				✓	✓					
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborae</i>	✓									
Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Maghreb Lark	<i>Galerida macrorhyncha</i>					✓	✓				
Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>				✓						
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>				✓				✓		
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>									✓	
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓								
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H	H			H		H	
Streaked Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>					✓					
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>					✓				✓	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							✓	✓	✓	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>								✓	✓	
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	✓									
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida reiseri</i>						✓				
Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓		
Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca hortensis</i>					✓					

N=Near-endemic		September – October 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Curruca conspicillata</i>									✓	
Fulvous Babbler	<i>Argya fulva</i>					✓	✓				
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	✓									
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicpa striata</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓									
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓		
Moussier's Redstart - N	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	✓								✓	
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>						✓	✓			
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓		
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>								✓	✓	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>					✓			✓	✓	
Atlas Wheatear - N	<i>Oenanthe seebohmii</i>	✓	✓								
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				
Western Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>			✓							
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓			
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia barbata</i>	✓									
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			✓					✓		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>					✓					
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓				✓				
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				✓				✓	✓	
Moroccan White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>			✓			✓				
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>			✓							
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>							✓			
African Chaffinch - N	<i>Fringilla africana</i>	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	
African Crimson-winged Finch - N	<i>Rhodopechys alienus</i>	✓									
Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>			H	✓		✓	✓			
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>							✓	✓		
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	✓	H							✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓						H		✓	
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓	✓				H		✓	
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	✓		✓							
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓								
House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Others

		September – October 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Mammals											
Barbary Ground Squirrel	<i>Atlantoxerus getulus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Fat Sand Rat	<i>Psammomys obesus</i>				✓			✓			
Kuhl's Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Lesser Noctule	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>						✓				
Butterflies											
Iberian Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>		✓								
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>								✓	✓	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓							
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓							
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>		✓					✓	✓		
Green-striped White	<i>Euchloe belemia</i>		✓	✓							
Desert Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cethura</i>			✓							
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓					✓		✓	
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>						✓				
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓		
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>							✓	✓		
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
False Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes abencerragus</i>		✓								
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atlanta</i>							✓	✓		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓	
Austaut's Grayling	<i>Neohipparchia hansii</i>			✓							
Rosy Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>		✓								
Dragonflies											
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>							✓			
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>					✓					
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythrae</i>							✓			
Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>		✓			✓				✓	
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombi</i>		✓						✓		
Violet Dropwing	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>					✓					
Orange-winged Dropwing	<i>Trithemis kirbyi</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Black Pennant	<i>Selysiothemis nigra</i>									✓	
Reptiles											
North African Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax saharicus</i>		H				H	✓			
Spanish Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>			✓				✓		✓	
High Atlas Day Gecko	<i>Quedenfeldtia trachyblepharus</i>	✓									
Bosk's Fringe-fingered Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus boskianus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Margarita's Fringe-fingered Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus margaritae</i>								✓		
Jebel Sirwa Fringe-fingered Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus montanus</i>		✓								
Long-footed Fringe-finged Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus longipes</i>					✓					
Small-spotted Desert Racer	<i>Mesalina guttulatta</i>				✓						

Bohme's Agama	<i>Trapelus boehmei</i>		✓		✓	✓						
Interesting Plants												
Flat-topped Acacia	<i>Valchella tortilis raddiana</i>					✓	✓	✓				
Atlas Cedar	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	✓										
Barbary Thuja	<i>Tetraclinis articulata</i>	✓	✓									
Barbary Gum	<i>Valchella gumifera</i>	✓	✓									
Date Palm	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dwarf Palm	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>		✓									
Desert Poplar	<i>Populus euphratica</i>		✓	✓								
Wild Pistachio	<i>Pistacia atlantica</i>		✓									
Argan Tree	<i>Argania spinosa</i>								✓	✓	✓	
Sodom Apple Milkweed	<i>Calotropis procera</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				
Bitter Desert Melon	<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i>						✓					
Moroccan Sea Holly	<i>Eryngium variifolium</i>		✓									
Daghmus	<i>Euphorbia officinarum</i>									✓	✓	
Swizzle Sticks	<i>Kleinia anteuphorbium</i>									✓	✓	
Others												
Crimson Speckled	<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Silent Slant-faced Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>				✓							
Thistle Mantis	<i>Blepharopsis mendica</i>				✓							