Birding Southern Morocco

Naturetrek Tour Report

22nd September – 1st October 2025



American Golden Plover



Greater Hoopoe-Lark



Pharaoh Eagle-Owl



Desert Wheatear

Tour report by Martin Pitt Photos by Martin Pitt and Dennis Alden



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Summary

Naturetrek's trip to Southern Morocco 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, recording a total of 162 species of birds (plus four distinctive subspecies), together with five species of mammal, thirteen butterflies, ten reptiles, and nine damselflies and dragonflies. The weather was fine, and after the 40°C of the previous week, the temperature had dropped to a much more manageable level in the low 30s or below. Oddly for this time of year, there was little wind, but in general the fair conditions for us were also good flying conditions for migrants; consequently most were not hanging around for us to find them!

Northern Bald Ibis, Pharaoh Eagle Owl, Moussier's Redstart, Egyptian Nightjar, African Desert Warbler and Desert Sparrow. We found a bewildering mix of nine species of larks (including the much sought after Atlas, Redrumped, Desert and Maghreb) and eight species of wheatears, together with Greater Hoopoe, Bar-tailed, Desert and Thick-billed Larks. With the easy passage conditions, we struggled to connect with southbound birds; however, who can forget the thermal where two Black Storks were harried by a Long-legged Buzzard, and then joined by two Short-toed Snake Eagles, the wave after wave of chuckling and gurgling Sandgrouse flying in to drink at Erg Chebbi, or the flock of Bald Ibises within sight of the Atlantic, made more poignant after two days of searching and representing about 25% of the world's wild population.

Perhaps more than at other times of the year, early autumn is a time for surprises, and three national rarities were found: a stunning male Moltoni's Warbler at Tizzarine, a Plain Swift at Oued Massa, and Morocco's ninth American Golden Plover. Although in lower numbers than usual, more regular migrants included Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters and many European breeding chats, flycatchers and warblers. At the coast, these were supplemented by a host of waders. The diversity of landscapes and wildlife made this a truly special tour.



Escarpment west of Rissani

Day 1

Monday 22nd September

Marrakech and Oukaïmeden

The group arrived early and soon cleared passport control, met up with our driver Said and headed south out of Marrakech. Our target was the ski station at Oukaïmeden, but we stopped just short at an Atlas Cedar grove to have our picnic lunch. The wood here is normally quite productive, and we were soon surrounded by a number of singing Firecrests. Short-toed Treecreeper, African Chaffinch, Atlas Coal Tit and African Blue Tits. A Levaillant's Woodpecker was a welcome find as it hunted for ants among the boulders.

After lunch, we headed higher into Oukaïmeden valley, in the alpine zone. This area is used by seasonal pastoralists, and their flocks were grazing the hillsides. As we left the bus to walk higher, a Black Redstart was a welcome find, but it was very windy at this altitude and finding birds was tricky. A couple of Common Kestrels were playing on the wind, but a smart Atlas Wheatear was some consolation to a relatively birdless landscape. A few Atlas Day Geckos gave a reminder that other endemics were in this habitat. At the man-made forest of ski lifts, we found a Pied Flycatcher and a mix of Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs. We tried another area with views of Jebel Toubkal (Morocco's highest mountain), and in the surrounding area found more Atlas Wheatears, and a family party of Black Wheatears feeding close to the road. We loaded the bus and drove back to the lake, adding the expected Coot and a Grey Wagtail before, heading back downhill, with the clouds building.

Back at our Marrakech hotel, we were all able to meet up with the balance of the group and to enjoy our first meal together, before the early start caught up with us and we retired to prepare for the journey south the following morning.



Levaillant's Woodpecker



Orange-winged Dropwing

Day 2

Tuesday 23rd September

Over the Atlas Mountains to Ouarzazate

We left the hotel at 8.30am in our minibus, and headed south-east across the agricultural area around Marrakech. The overnight rain had flooded some of the roads, and we needed to backtrack before we could begin the climb along the N9, which traverses the High Atlas via the Tizi-n'Tichka pass at 2260m.

We started to climb, and stopped at the pine woods of Escale Forest. Here, African Chaffinch was by far the most plentiful species, but we starting searching for others. A Long-legged Buzzard soared over the nearby ridges and calling Crossbills gave only the briefest of flybys. We found plenty of African Chaffinches and noisy Atlas Coal Tits, which eventually showed well. Things were quiet on the migrant front, but still we managed to find Western Subalpine Warbler, Western Bonelli's Warbler and a Pied Flycatcher. Before we left, one of the local pair of Bonelli's Eagles showed over the ridge opposite us. We climbed further up the mountains, stopping at a café for welcome drinks and close views of African Blue Tits and (heard only) Jays.

We stopped at Taddart for a traditional tagine lunch at a café below the pass, and our last stop below the col was at the Source de Tichka. A short walk across the short turf yielded little save a few migrating Yellow Wagtails, a Vaucher's Wall Lizard and Rosy Grizzled Skipper. We crossed the col and headed down the southern slope. In the next hour, we dropped to the high arid steppe, and our next stop was just outside the town of Amerzgane. Here, our first desert search appropriately yielded Desert Lark, and with a bit more hunting we also found Western Bonelli's Warbler, Western Subalpine Warbler and (perhaps more surprisingly) a Melodious Warbler. Dragonflies were also present, and an Orange-winged Dropwing perched up, giving good views.

We then headed to Ouarzazate, making a short stop to overlook the dry reservoir. Hirundines were active and we found our first Sand Martins; however, it was the Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters that stole the show. A few raptors showed, albeit a bit distantly: we added Booted Eagle, Marsh Harrier and Montagu's Harrier to our growing list before we headed to the Hotel Karam Palace for the night.

Day 3

Wednesday 24th September

Ouarzazate to Boumaine Dades am, Gorges de Dadès & Tagdilt track pm

After breakfast, we headed to the barrage and an area of agricultural fields on the reservoir floor to see if we could find any migrants. We were immediately welcomed by three Reed Warblers, wheeling hirundines and a flyover by four Gadwalls. That mix set the tone for the morning, with a mix of migrants and resident birds. The Yellow Wagtails were definitely migrants, but a Hoopoe was probably a local breeder, as was a Zitting Cisticola. We had better views of the Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters this morning, and tracking these flyover birds led us to our first Redrumped Swallow. The stream and irrigated areas were attractive to waders, and we built a list of species including parties of Snipe and Wood Sandpipers. We also found some non-avian treats, with Moroccan Jird and Bosc's Fringe-toed Lizard both being additions.

We headed further east, to the area by the aborted golf complex. Here, at last, we could see some water, and certainly more than in recent years. We added a range of new species, including Great Crested Grebe with a couple of young, and a few herons including Grey and Little Egrets. However, pride of place went to a lone Osprey which appeared to be bathing, and to a party of Black Terns flying low over the reservoir, many settling on the surface. We didn't ignore the dry rocky area around us, and here we found more Desert Larks, of a noticeably different colour morph compared to those seen yesterday, and a Northern Banded Groundling dragonfly.

We continued east: the Dadès valley here is known as the Vallée de Roses, for the growing of Damask Roses and the production of rosewater and other related products. We had our picnic at a café before heading on to the Dadès Gorge, stopping at the last section to view the strange rock formations known as Les Pattes de Singe (The

Monkey's Paws). In the gorge, we headed straight to the head of the road and then walked down the series of switchbacks towards the river. The gorge was very quiet, with only Black Wheatears showing, while Crag Martins wheeled overhead. We also found a new butterfly, namely North African Orange-tip, and some Barbary Ground Squirrels.

Our final stop of the day was on the famous Tagdilt track, just to the east of Boumalne Dades. The plain itself was relatively quiet, but diligent searching added Thekla's Lark and reasonable numbers of Red-rumped Wheatears perching on the piles of building waste. Night was at the characterful surroundings of the Kasbah Didis in the Dades valley.

Day 4

Thursday 25th September

Boumaine Dades to Erfoud, including Tagdilt track am

We breakfasted and left at 8.30am to return to the same gravel plains to the east of town, but this time along the new Tagdilt track. Our first stop on the steppe was at a natural bowl where, despite no water remaining, the vegetation was comparatively lush and attracted a number of birds. As expected, Temminck's Larks were the most numerous of the residents, but we noticed the first of migrating parties of Greater Short-toed Larks, a feature that set the tone for the whole day. Wheatears are often a feature of these plains, and we soon found a number of Desert Wheatears to add to our list. A flyby Thick-billed Lark showed that at least this most-wanted species was present.

We moved up the southern end of the old Tagdilt Track and walked a loop around the steppe. Birds were again at a premium, but we found party after party of migrating Greater Short-toed Larks, and more Temminck's Larks. Overhead, two Black Storks rose on a thermal heading southwards, annoying a local Long-legged Buzzard that rose to chase them away. The storks were soon joined by two Short-toed Snake Eagles, companions on the Saharabound migrants.

Heading only a few kilometres further east, we entered a dry gorge that is always a highlight of these trips. We met up with Hassan, the local guardian of the site. The expected Long- legged Buzzard was perched on a nearby pylon, and Trumpeter Finches were found to be plentiful. As promised, we found a Maghreb Wheatear, this time a female of the pale-throated form rarely found here. Soon, we set up the scopes for the Pharaoh Eagle Owl, the female perching out in full view, while one of its young still hid in the cave behind.

We moved on for our picnic near Tinejdad, before dropping down to the Sahara's edge and a short stop at a well north-west of Jorf. Overgrazing had decimated the vegetation that had been so vibrant in the spring; however, we found the sought after Maghreb Lark among the mix of Desert Larks and the now ubiquitous Greater Short-toed Larks. After pausing to photograph Spotted Fringe-toed Lizard, we headed on to Erfoud and our hotel, the Palm Club, for our two-night stay.

Day 5

Friday 26th September

Dawn to dusk in the desert

It was 6.30am when the four jeeps, headed by our guide Lahcen, departed for the desert. As we headed south, dawn broke over Algeria and we headed for our first stop to search for African Desert Warbler. Although there we some snatches of song, the bird didn't show and we made do with our first Greater Hoopoe-Lark, a species much-wanted by all. We also traced the many tracks in the sand, including Fennec Fox and many lizards, and one of the drivers gently extracted a Lesser Egyptian Gerbil from is burrow to show the group.

The next major target was Egyptian Nightjar, and we headed to a sandy river bed, where we met Mubarak, the local 'Mr Nightjar'. The bird was roosting under a small bush and was all but invisible, even if you knew it was there. A Bar-tailed Lark was also in view, apparently oblivious to the nightjar at the base of the same bush. We moved on 200m or so, and with Mubarak's assistance we tracked down an African Desert Warbler, which gave good views as it foraged on the ground. From the same spot we could hear a family party of Fulvous Babblers, and we crossed the dry river bed to the bank opposite to watch them playing tag through the tamarisks and palms.

By now it was getting close to the magic time of two hours after sunrise, so we chased across the gravel plains to head back towards the Erg Chebbi and the drinking pools. It was clear that good numbers of sandgrouse were drinking today, with birds flying in, waiting in flocks on the surrounding plains, or queuing to drink at the pool itself. Both Crowned and Spotted were present, and we spent some time watching their comings and goings.



Spotted Sandgrouse

The next site was a smallholding where the family was busy harvesting their dates. The combination of ripe dates and market gardens are attractive in the arid landscape. Migrants included an incongruous Reed and many Western Subalpine Warblers. Local species included another family party of Fulvous Babblers and a wonderful male Desert Sparrow, which fed on the ripe dates. Other birds were attracted by the dates; however, it was still a surprise to see a Greater Hoopoe-Lark tucking into the fallen fruit. The irrigation channels were attractive to odonates, including Epaulet Skimmer and Saharan Bluetail. A few butterflies were also present, including our first Painted Lady and a Mediterranean Skipper.

We then had a comfort stop at Lahcen's tented camp overlooking Erg Chebbi, and after some refreshing mint tea we headed off to our final stop before lunch, at the palmerie at Igrane, to see if any migrants dropped in. There

were very few birds around, but a confiding Turtle Dove was some consolation. The central runnel was attractive to dragonflies, and we added Violet and Orange-winged Dropwing to the day's finds. In the palmerie, we discussed this community resource that is the foundation of the local agricultural system, with crops grown in the shade of the palms.

Over lunch we learnt about Berber carpets, before we headed back out into the desert. Crossing the gravel plain, we headed north back towards Erfoud. Our first stop was for two wheatears sheltering in the shade of a bush. One resolved itself into a migrant Western Black-eared Wheatear. The route to Erfoud was far from direct as we crisscrossed the plain, following the break between gravel and sand in a search for Cream-colored Courser: luck was not on our side. More larks were seen, but the only other bird was another Western Black-eared Wheatear; we also found a Böhme's Agama.

Our final stop of the day was at Oued Erfoud, the river valley within sight of our hotel. The remaining water had attracted a few waterbirds, notably half a dozen Ruddy Shelducks and a few Black-winged Stilts.

Day 6

Saturday 27th September

Erfoud to Ouarzazate via the Tizi-n-Tinifift Pass

Today was another transfer day, returning to Ouarzazate along the southern route. Early stops at an escarpment near Rissani offered few birds except for the resident Maghreb Larks, White-crowned Wheatears and Brownnecked Ravens. However, a passing migrant European Honey Buzzard was a big surprise. We moved on to our normal fossil stop, where a few minutes wandering showed the richness of the strata, which contained many fossil Belemnites (a prehistoric squid) and ferns.

We headed west, and were soon heading across the empty gravel plains. Unlike the northernly route, these were marked with flat-topped acacias, giving the impression of African savannah. After tea and coffee at Alnif, we stopped a couple of times around Tazzarine. The palmerie here is a noted migrant hotspot, and it hosted a few species, including our first Western Orphean Warblers and some tiny Desert Babul Blue butterflies, attracted to the acacia flowers. A few kilometres to the west, under some acacias, our picnic stop gave us views of another family party of Fulvous Babblers and a Great Grey Shrike. The migrant theme continued, with Northern Wheatear, both flycatchers and a calling male Moltoni's Warbler among the numerous Western Subalpine Warblers.

On reaching Oued Drâa, we found ourselves back in a landscape of palmeries and kasbahs. We stopped by the river which held a bit of water; there were few birds, although our second flyover Honey Buzzard of the day was a surprise. We crossed the Anti Atlas Mountains via the Tizi-n'Tinifift pass, stopping briefly to admire this stark landscape, and then dropped down into Ouarzazate. We arrived back at Karam Place hotel around 6.00pm.

Day 7

Sunday 28th September

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, although we could barely see the peaks in the murky light. About thirty minutes

after leaving the hotel we arrived 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 good migrant trap. As on all our previous days, the skies were clear and there was barely any wind. Consequently, migrant numbers were low, but we found both flycatcher species and a mix of other passage migrants. Of interest were a few Iberian Chiffchaffs, one perching close to a Willow Warbler and demonstrating the differences. Overhead, a few Red-rumped Swallows drifted by, and the river's edge held Reed Warblers, Moorhen and a single Squacco Heron.

After a tea/coffee and comfort stop, we reached Tinfat for lunch, where we enjoyed a refreshing glass of saffron-infused tea and learned about saffron production. As the autumn crocuses flower in November, there was still nothing to be seen of the plants themselves. The surrounding small holdings were also quiet birdwise; however, we did see our first Moussier's Redstart, albeit a dull female. Continuing west, we stopped a couple of times, firstly at the Argan trees near Aoulouz, and then on the bridge overlooking the Souss river. Birds were still scarce, but a Blue Rock Thrush was a welcome sighting, and a Blue Emperor dragonfly was another addition. Our final run into Taroudant was uneventful, and we checked into the charming surroundings of the Dar Tourkia hotel, where we enjoyed a very pleasant meal in the open air. Just before midnight, one of the group heard a calling Maghreb Owl.

Day 8

Monday 29th September

Taroudant, Tamri, Agadir

For the first time, the day started dull and cool, with low cloud lying over the agricultural plain between Taroudant and Agadir. Here, the land has increasingly been taken over by commercial growing of fruit and vegetable. We were back in the land of Spotless Starlings, and a roadside Great Grey Shrike was the first of the coastal subspecies *algeriensis*. We had a beach stop at Imi Ouaddar and scanned from the beach, picking out Cory's Shearwaters and Audouin's Gulls, plus a steady stream of Sandwich Terns. With few inshore fishing boats, the local gull flock was small, but a bullying juvenile Great Black-backed Gull was among the more usual Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

We rounded Cap Rhir, and headed to the estuary of Asif N'Srou, where over 300 Audouin's Gulls were loafing on the beach. The estuary held a good mix of waders and water birds, including a flock of Spoonbills and Avocets, Curlew Sandpipers and Redshanks. The dunes were home to our fourth Fringe-toed Lizard, in this case Margarita's. After a picnic lunch, we drove beyond Tamri, crossing the northern field to the Bald Ibis breeding cliffs at SIBE, but not finding any birds. The drive back to Agadir was uneventful, and we spent the night at the Al Moggar Hotel, Agadir.

Day 9

Tuesday 30th September

Agadir and Souss-Massa National Park

Today we headed south from Agadir; the weather was cool and overcast. We stopped on the arid plain outside Sidi R'bat, but the hoped-for larks were quiet; we did have good views of Spectacled Warbler. At the village itself, "the Stone-curlew field" lived up to its name with a minimum of 206 present. A brief look at the sea offered North African Cormorants, the usual gulls, and our first Turnstone and Oystercatchers.

We drove back to Massa and walked the entrance road to the National Park. As usual, this section was full of birds, and at times it was difficult to know where to look. The river was full of waders, the bankside vegetation held warblers and Moussier's Redstarts, and hirundines darted overhead. Ruffs were plentiful, and with Greenshanks, which were new for the trip, but it was a long-winged plover complete with a broad white supercilium that grabbed our attention. Amazingly, it was a vagrant American Golden Plover, only the ninth recorded in Morocco. Among the swallows an all-dark, attenuated swift dashed by: a Plain Swift, another scarcity, albeit closer to its normal home range of the Canary Islands.

The riverside tamarisks held plenty of birds, including the new-to-us Western Olivaceous Warbler; however, we had to make do only with the calls of Black-crowned Tchagras, as they stayed out of sight on the far bank. The small agricultural area held more Moussier's Redstarts, both flycatchers and quite a few butterflies, but nothing new. A Red Fox climbed the rocky slopes in front of us, before resting in the shade.

We walked to the grounds of the eco-museum and took our picnic lunch, then walked towards the sea. The river was the main attraction and a couple of Ospreys hunted the shallows. The large parties of Glossy Ibis, Spoonbills and Ruddy Shelduck were distant and blurry in the heat haze. Fortunately, a party of Black tailed Godwits was closer and therefore identifiable. We moved on to try another couple of places in the valley. At the first, we found Brown-throated Martin and Spotted Redshank. At the second, we walked along the river further inland; however, the wind had picked up, making viewing tricky. We moved on to try to fill the major omission on our list. We headed to the Water Treatment works at Iferiane, and at last we found the Northern Bald Ibises: over 160 were loafing on the cliff top. Just inland, we stopped at a field where a flock of 280 or so Turtle Doves was foraging. It was a welcome sighting of such a threatened species; however, the concentration attracted the attention of a couple of young Bonelli's Eagles!



Northern Bald Ibises

On our return to Agadir, we dropped into the Souss Estuary where the tide was quite low. Lots of waders were along the edge, mixing with Greater Flamingoes, White Storks and Spoonbills. Again, new species were found, including Curlew, Grey Plover and Caspian Tern. We tore ourselves away, and headed back to the hotel for our final night at the Al Moggar Hotel.

Day 10

Wednesday 1st October

Agadir, Oued Souss, UK

Our final morning dawned cool and cloudy, marking a change in the weather. However, with a morning flight, we were packed and breakfasted by 8.00am for the short journey to the airport, made simpler by the completion of the new ring road. The flight left promptly, and made good time back to the Gatwick, where we said our goodbyes before our final journeys home, with great memories of a diverse and interesting country.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

E=Endemic, N=Near- endemic				S	epten	nber-0	Octob	er 20	25		
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea					√				✓	
Gadwall	Mareca strepera			√							
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos			√							
Eurasian Teal	Anas crecc			√							
Egyptian Nightjar	Caprimulgus aegyptius					√					
Plain Swift	Apus unicolor									√	
Little Swift	Apus affinis							√			
Spotted Sandgrouse	Pterocles senegallus					√	√				
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	Pterocles orientalis			√	√						
Crowned Sandgrouse	Pterocles coronatus					√					
Feral Pigeon	Columba livia dom.	✓	√								
Rock Dove	Columba livia	✓	√	√			√				
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	√	√							√	√
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia turtur	√									
European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia decaocto					√	√			√	
Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis		√	V							
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus							√		√	
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	✓		√						√	
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis									√	
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus			√							
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus					√				√	
Eurasian Stone-curlew	Burhinus oedicnemus									√	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus									√	
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus					√				√	
Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta								√		
Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola									√	
American Golden Plover	Pluvialis dominica									√	
Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula								✓	✓	
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius			√		√				√	
Eurasian Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus								√	✓	
Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata									√	
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica									√	
Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa									√	
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago			√							
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos			√		√	√			√	
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus			√		√				√	
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola			√						√	
Common Redshank	Tringa totanus								√	√	
Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus									√	
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia									√	
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres									✓	
Red Knot	Calidris canutus									✓	
Ruff	Calidris pugnax									✓	
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea								√	√	
Sanderling	Calidris alba								√	√	

E=Endemic, N=Near- endemic				S	epten	nber-C	Jctob	er 20	2 5		
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Dunlin	Calidris alpina								✓	✓	
Little Stint	Calidris minuta								✓		
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia									✓	
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger			✓						✓	
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo									✓	
Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis								✓		
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus			✓						✓	
Audouin's Gull	Ichthyaetus audouinii								√	√	
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis			√		√			√	√	,
Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus								√		
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus								√	√	,
Cory's Shearwater	Calonectris borealis									√	
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra				√						
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	√	√	√	√					√	
(North African)	Phalacrocorax carbo	•	·	Ť	Ė						
Great Cormorant	maroccanus									√	
Northern Bald Ibis - E	Geronticus eremita									✓	
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus									✓	
Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia								✓	✓	
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides							✓			
Great Egret	Ardea alba									√	
Western Cattle Egret	Ardea ibis		√	√	√		√		√		
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea			√		√	✓	√	√	√	,
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus			√						√	
European Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus						√				
Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus				√						
Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus		√	√							
Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciata		√							√	
Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus		✓								
Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus		√		√	√				√	
Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus		√		√	√				•	
Little Owl	Athene noctua		V		, v	V				√	
Pharaoh Eagle-Owl	Bubo ascalaphus				√					V	
Maghreb Owl	Strix mauritanica				V			Н			
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops		√	√			√				
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops persicus		V	√	√	√	V				
Levaillant's Woodpecker - N	Picus vaillantii	√		V	V	V					
Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni	V					√				
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	√	√	√	√	√	V	√	√	√	
Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	H	
			,		/	,	,	,		רו	
(Desert) Great Grey Shrike (Southern) Great	Lanius excubitor elegans		✓		✓	√	✓	✓			
Grey Shrike	Lanius excubitor algeriensis								✓	✓	
Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator									√	
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius		Н								
Maghreb Magpie - N	Pica mauritanica	√	√						√	√	
Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	√									
Brown-necked Raven	Corvus ruficollis	1				√	√				
(Atlas) Coal Tit	Periparus ater atlas	√	√			· V	· V				

Scientific name Cyanistes teneriffae Parus major Alaemon alaudipes Ramphocoris clotbey Ammomanes deserti Ammomanes cinctura Galerida theklae Galerida cristata Galerida macrorhyncha Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola	22 √ √	23 ✓ ✓ ✓	24 ✓ ✓ ✓	25 ✓ ✓	26 ✓ ✓ ✓	27	✓	29	30	1
Parus major Alaemon alaudipes Ramphocoris clotbey Ammomanes deserti Ammomanes cinctura Galerida theklae Galerida cristata Galerida macrorhyncha Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola	✓ ————————————————————————————————————	✓	√	√	√	✓	√			
Alaemon alaudipes Ramphocoris clotbey Ammomanes deserti Ammomanes cinctura Galerida theklae Galerida cristata Galerida macrorhyncha Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola			√	√	√	√	√			
Ramphocoris clotbey Ammomanes deserti Ammomanes cinctura Galerida theklae Galerida cristata Galerida macrorhyncha Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola			√	√	√	√				
Ammomanes deserti Ammomanes cinctura Galerida theklae Galerida cristata Galerida macrorhyncha Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola			√	√		√				
Ammomanes cinctura Galerida theklae Galerida cristata Galerida macrorhyncha Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola			√			✓				
Galerida theklae Galerida cristata Galerida macrorhyncha Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola		✓		√	✓					
Galerida cristata Galerida macrorhyncha Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola		√		✓						
Galerida macrorhyncha Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola		√	√					√	√	
Eremophila bilopha Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola						√	√	√	√	
Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola				√		√				
Calandrella brachydactyla Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola				√						
Pycnonotus barbatus Riparia paludicola	,			√	√					
Riparia paludicola	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
· · ·			-	-		-	-	✓	✓	-
Riparia riparia		√	√			√		√	√	
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Cecropis rufula			√		V		√	√		
Cettia cetti			Н				Н		Н	
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		✓				✓	✓		✓	
	✓									
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							✓			
							✓		✓	
Monticola solitarius							✓			
Saxicola rubicola						✓	✓		✓	
Oenanthe oenanthe				✓						
	Cettia cetti Phylloscopus bonelli Phylloscopus trochilus Phylloscopus collybita Phylloscopus ibericus Acrocephalus scirpaceus Iduna opaca Hippolais polyglotta Cisticola juncidis Curruca hortensis Curruca deserti Curruca melanocephala Curruca subalpina Curruca communis Curruca conspicillata Argya fulva Regulus ignicapilla Certhia brachydactyla Sturnus unicolor Turdus merula Muscicapa striata Ficedula hypoleuca Phoenicurus phoenicurus Phoenicurus moussieri Monticola solitarius Saxicola rubicola	Hirundo rustica Delichon urbicum Cecropis rufula Cettia cetti Phylloscopus bonelli Phylloscopus trochilus Phylloscopus ibericus Acrocephalus scirpaceus Iduna opaca Hippolais polyglotta Cisticola juncidis Curruca hortensis Curruca melanocephala Curruca subalpina Curruca communis Curruca conspicillata Argya fulva Regulus ignicapilla Verthia brachydactyla Sturnus unicolor Turdus merula Muscicapa striata Ficedula hypoleuca Phoenicurus moussieri Monticola solitarius Saxicola rubicola Oenanthe oenanthe	Hirundo rustica Delichon urbicum Cecropis rufula Cettia cetti Phylloscopus bonelli Phylloscopus trochilus Phylloscopus ibericus Acrocephalus scirpaceus Iduna opaca Hippolais polyglotta Cisticola juncidis Curruca hortensis Curruca deserti Curruca iberiae Curruca subalpina Curruca communis Curruca conspicillata Argya fulva Regulus ignicapilla Certhia brachydactyla Sturnus unicolor Turdus merula Muscicapa striata Ficedula hypoleuca Phoenicurus moussieri Monticola solitarius Saxicola rubicola Certnia brachydocal Phoenaturus ochruros Phoenaturus moussieri Monticola solitarius Saxicola rubicola Oenanthe oenanthe	Hirundo rustica Delichon urbicum Cecropis rufula Cettia cetti HPhylloscopus bonelli Phylloscopus trochilus Phylloscopus collybita Phylloscopus ibericus Acrocephalus scirpaceus Iduna opaca Hippolais polyglotta Cisticola juncidis Curruca hortensis Curruca deserti Curruca welanocephala Curruca subalpina Curruca communis Curruca conspicillata Argya fulva Regulus ignicapilla Certhia brachydactyla Sturnus unicolor Turdus merula Muscicapa striata Ficedula hypoleuca Phoenicurus moussieri Monticola solitarius Saxicola rubicola Oenanthe oenanthe	Hirundo rustica Delichon urbicum Cecropis rufula Cettia cetti Phylloscopus bonelli Phylloscopus trochilus Phylloscopus ibericus Acrocephalus scirpaceus Iduna opaca Hippolais polyglotta Cisticola juncidis Curruca hortensis Curruca deserti Curruca melanocephala Curruca iberiae Curruca communis Curruca conspicillata Argya fulva Regulus ignicapilla Certhia brachydactyla Sturnus unicolor Turdus merula Muscicapa striata Ficedula hypoleuca Phoenicurus moussieri Monticola solitarius Saxicola rubicola Certnin Liruca iperiae J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J	Hirundo rustica Delichon urbicum Cecropis rufula Cettia cetti Phylloscopus bonelli Phylloscopus trochilus Phylloscopus ibericus Acrocephalus scirpaceus Iduna opaca Hippolais polyglotta Cisticola juncidis Curruca hortensis Curruca deserti Curruca melanocephala Curruca subalpina Curruca communis Curruca conspicillata Argya fulva Regulus ignicapilla Certhia brachydactyla Sturnus unicolor Turdus merula Muscicapa striata Ficedula hypoleuca Phoenicurus moussieri Monticola solitarius Saxicola rubicola Certnica cennanthe A y	Hirundo rustica Delichon urbicum Cecropis rufula Cettia cetti Phylloscopus bonelli Phylloscopus trochilus Phylloscopus ibericus Acrocephalus scirpaceus Iduna opaca Hippolais polyglotta Cisticola juncidis Curruca hortensis Curruca deserti Curruca melanocephala Curruca subalpina Curruca communis Curruca conspicillata Argya fulva Regulus ignicapilla Certhia brachydactyla Sturmus unicolor Turdus meusenicurus Phoenicurus phoenicurus Phoenicurus moussieri Monticola solitarius Saxicola rubicola Certai bericus V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V	Hirundo rustica Delichon urbicum Cecropis rufula Cettia cetti Phylloscopus bonelli Phylloscopus trochilus Phylloscopus ibericus Acrocephalus scirpaceus Iduna opaca Hippolais polyglotta Cisticola juncidis Curruca hortensis Curruca deserti Curruca melanocephala Curruca subalpina Curruca communis Curruca communis Curruca conspicillata Argya fulva Regulus ignicapilla Certhia brachydactyla Sturmus unicolor Turdus merula Phylloscopus trochilus J H H H J H J Chartera J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J	Hirundo rustica J	Hirundo rustica J

E=Endemic, N=Near- endemic				S	epten	nber-0	Octob	er 20	25		
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Desert Wheatear	Oenanthe deserti				✓	√		√			
Western Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica					√					
Red-rumped Wheatear	Oenanthe moesta			✓							
Maghreb Wheatear - N	Oenanthe halophila				✓						
White-crowned Wheatear	Oenanthe leucopyga		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Black Wheatear	Oenanthe leucura	√		√	√		√				
Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis				✓		√				
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	√	√	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Desert Sparrow	Passer simplex					√					
Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava		√	√							
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	√									
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	√						√			
Moroccan White Wagtail	Motacilla alba subpersonata								√		
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis					√					
Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis							Н			
African Chaffinch	Fringilla spodiogenys	√	√								
Trumpeter Finch	Bucanetes githagineus				✓						
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris									Н	
Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina	√								√	
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis							Н			
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra poliogyna		√								
European Serin	Serinus serinus		Н							√	
Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		Н								
House Bunting	Emberiza sahari		√								

Mammals

				S	epten	nber-0	Octob	er 20	r 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1			
Moroccan Jird	Meriones grandis			✓										
Fat Sand Rat	Psammomys obesus				✓									
Lesser Egyptian Gerbil	Gerbillus gerbillus					✓								
Barbary Ground Squirrel	Atlantoxerus getulus	✓		✓						✓				
Kuhl's Pipestrelle	Pipistrellus kuhlii			✓										
Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes									✓				

Amphibians & reptiles

		September-October 2025												
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1			
North African Water Frog	Pelophylax saharicus	✓				√		✓						
Atlas Day Gecko	Quedenfeldtia trachyblepharus	√												
Spotted Fringe-toed Lizard	Acanthodactylus maculatus				✓									
Margarita's Fringe-toed Lizard	Acanthodactylus margaritae								✓					
Bosc's Fringe-toed Lizard	Acanthodactylus boskianus			✓			√							
Dumeril's Fringe-toed Lizard	Acanthodactylus dumerilii						✓							
Small-spotted Lizard	Mesalina guttulata		√		✓		✓							
Vaucher's Wall Lizard	Podarcis vaucheri	✓	✓											
Bibron's Agama	Agama bibronii							√						

				S	epten	nber-(Octob	tober 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30								30	1		
Böhme's Agama	Trapelus boehmei	J J											
Spanish Terrapin	Mauremys leprosa	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \											

Butterflies

				S	epten	nber-0	Octob	er 20	25		
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Mediterranean Skipper	Gegenes nostrodamus			✓							
Rosy Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus onopordi		✓								
Clouded Yellow	Colias croceus	✓	✓					✓		✓	
North African Orange-tip	Colotis evagore										
Western Bath White	Pontia daplidice	✓	✓	✓							
Small White	Pieris rapae									✓	
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	Leptotes pirthous			✓	✓					✓	
Desert Babul Blue	Azanus ubaldus						✓				
Long-tailed Blue	Lampides boeticus			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
African Grass Blue	Zizeeria knysna			✓	✓					✓	
Southern Blue	Polyommatus celina			√				✓			
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui					√				√	
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta					√		√		√	

Moths

Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	Macroglossum stellatarum							✓			
Striped Hawk-moth	Hyles livornica				✓			✓			
Vestal	Rhodometra sacraria							✓			
Crimson Speckled	Utetheisa pulchella					√		✓	✓	✓	

Damselflies & dragonflies

				S	epten	nber-0	Octob	er 20	25		
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Saharan Bluetail	Ischnura saharensis					✓					
Blue Emperor	Anax imperator							✓			
Lesser Emperor	Anax parthenope					√		✓	√	√	
Vagrant Emperor	Anax ephippiger					√					
Epaulet Skimmer	Orthetrum chrysostigma					√					
Red-veined Darter	Sympetrum fonscolombii		√	✓		√	√		√	√	
Violet Dropwing	Trithemis annulata					√		✓			
Orange-winged Dropwing	Trithemis kirbyi		✓		✓	✓				√	
Northern Banded Groundling	Brachythemis impartita			✓							

Grasshoppers

		September-October 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30									1
Moroccan Locust	Dociostaurus maroccanus	√ √									