

Tunisia

Naturetrek Tour Report

1st – 10th April 2023



Scops Owl



African Desert Warbler



Scimitar-horned Oryx



Scopoli's Shearwater

Tour report and images by Simon Woolley



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Tour participants: Mohamed-Ali Dakhli and Simon Woolley (leaders) with nine Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 1st April

Travel from London Gatwick to Hammamet was not exactly perfect, with a lengthy delay thanks to the lovely French air traffic controllers, but we finally arrived mid-evening, met up with our local guide and fixer Mohamed-Ali, and ate late at Hotel Flora Park before a very welcome and much-needed sleep!

Day 2

Sunday 2nd April

The group met the two clients who had travelled out the day before, and by 08:00, we were on our way. A brief stop by a White Stork 'colony' along a stretch of roadside pylons also turned up Serin, Spanish Sparrow and a Short-toed Snake-eagle, but the main morning stop was at Oued Essoud, near Sidi Bou Ali. This lovely roadside wetland richly rewarded our time spent, with many waders (including Marsh, Wood, Green and Common Sandpipers, several Ruff and Spotted Redshanks, Black-tailed Godwit and Kentish Plover), a flyover Purple Heron, Reed and Sedge Warblers, Zitting Cisticola and African Blue Tit. A real bonus came in the form of a single Little Swift among the numerous Pallids.

Shortly after leaving, heavy (but predicted) rain suddenly set in, and it was under thunderous, lightning-filled skies that we stopped in the town of El Jem to visit the famous Roman amphitheatre, the third-biggest in the world, which could have held 35,000 blood-crazed spectators in its day. This was a truly magnificent site, which we had virtually to ourselves. Sadly, the heavy rain put paid to our plans to re-enact the scenes from "The Life of Brian" which were filmed here. Next, it was onwards to Sfax for a large and impressive lunch in a hotel. There was no rush, as the rain still poured down!

The good news was that the weather cleared immediately upon arrival at our afternoon site, the saltpans of Thyna, just south of Sfax. While we couldn't reach the very best areas due to the waterlogged tracks, we enjoyed several hours driving and walking about (albeit in an inch deep layer of mud on top of the otherwise rock-solid bunds), and saw a lot of birds! Most numerous were Slender-billed Gulls, with certainly upwards of 2,000 present, but there were also many Greater Flamingoes and Common Shelducks, and a good side selection of Caspian, Common and Black Terns, Little Stints (and a Temminck's), three Stone-curlews, various common waders, Red-throated Pipit, *iberiae* Yellow Wagtails, Marsh Harriers and a bonus of at least six adult Wild Boar, with at least twenty humbug-striped piglets!

A convenient tap and hose by an abandoned building allowed for some serious shoe-cleaning, and we were soon at our hotel, the swanky Les Oliviers Palace back in Sfax, ready for logs, a drink and yet more excellent food. This had been a really good first day, where we largely dodged the rain bullet, and saw a great many excellent species.

Day 3

Monday 3rd April

This morning we headed down the coast from Sfax and made the fairly lengthy drive west to Bou-Hedma National Park, a range of mountains surrounded by a large apron of fenced and well-preserved acacia savannah, a habitat sadly depleted across much of North Africa. We switched from our minibus to three Landcruisers, which would be 'home' on the road for the next three days, and entered the park with anticipation high.

We stopped at the Park administrative centre to inspect the Barbary Sheep breeding programme pens, and scored immediately with some good birds, including Western Orphee Warbler, Woodchat Shrike, Fulvous Babbler, Barbary Partridge, both Western and Eastern Black-eared Wheatears, and best of all a cracking male Common Rock-thrush.

Shortly after starting out on the rocky track, an incongruous party of reintroduced Common Ostriches reminded us that we are very much in Africa! We quickly added the first of several Dorcas Gazelles, and as quickly found a magnificent Scimitar-horned Oryx. Still classified as 'Extinct in the Wild' by the IUCN, Bou-Hedma is one of several sites across the region where small herds are now re-established in protected areas. During the day we saw up to 20 of these superb beasts, including a heart-warming and very encouraging young calf.

We stopped at a small spring and grove of trees for lunch, but before chowing down, we meticulously searched the leaf litter, with success! We found two Red-necked Nightjars, one of which posed very generously for prolonged views and photos. Also in this grove were a singing African Chaffinch (newly split from Common Chaffinch), at least two Western Subalpine Warblers, a good (but silent) candidate for Moltoni's Warbler, several Pied Flycatchers, and a rather showy Common Nightingale. Some of the group found a Black Wheatear on the rocky scree above, and a very few Alpine Swifts screamed overhead among hundreds of their Common cousins. Three European Bee-eaters provided the colour straight after lunch, and a scorpion under a rock provided the danger factor.

While we were watching the mother and calf Oryxes mid-afternoon, a movement in the scrub caught our attention, and to our astonishment a Golden (or African) Wolf loped across the plain. This mysterious canid was traditionally treated as a subspecies of the Golden Jackal, which has recently spread rapidly into Europe from Asia. However, recent genetic work has shown beyond doubt that this animal is sister to Coyotes and Gray Wolves, and only more distantly related to the Golden Jackal: it really is a wolf!

We completed our circuit of the savannah and emerged highly satisfied at the main gate, but we were not done yet. Just down the road, a few judicious stops and scans produced our final target: not one but four Addaxes! These wonderful spiral-horned antelopes are Critically Endangered in the wild, with just a few hundred in Niger, and possibly Mali and Chad. This is another species benefitting from a reintroduction programme, and the species is now breeding once again in the Tunisian desert. We had achieved the full house of the highly desirable mammals in Bou-Hedma! (And later on, one member of the group saw a very brief North African Gundi on a roadside scree slope.)

The Addax stop turned up a few nice birds, too, notably more Pied Flycatchers, a Whinchat, a female Common Redstart, and a Great Grey Shrike, of the desert subspecies *elegans*.

Crossing increasingly arid and more starkly beautiful terrain, we crossed the dry salt lake of the Chott El Djerid, and reached Hotel Sahara in Douz shortly before dusk. Calling Scops Owls outside provided only fleeting flight views as they called in the palm grove outside. We shall try again for them tomorrow!

Day 4

Tuesday 4th April

A slightly earlier start for the 90-minute drive to Dghoumès National Park, another line of hills surrounded by rather more arid and sandy scrub than yesterday's habitat. We picked up White-crowned Wheatear and Desert Lark

en route, and once inside the park, worked hard to find both desert residents and a few migrants. Best of the latter was a typically skulking Rufous Scrub-robin, supported by another Common Nightingale, a Moltoni's and two unspecific subalpine warblers, plus Woodchat Shrike and a Black Kite. Desert birds included Desert Wheatear, and more White-crowned Wheatears and Desert Larks, plus a very noisy House Bunting at our lunch spot. On the mammal front, some 20 or so Scimitar-horned Oryxes again delighted, and a few Dorcas Gazelles were seen.

Returning south across the Chott El Djerid, we spent the afternoon exploring several saline and fresh wetland sites, finding numerous Little Stints, Kentish Plovers and Black-winged Stilts on the salty flats, plus a pair of Ruddy Shelducks, and fluking a spectacular and locally extremely rare pair of migrating Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters! The freshwater areas held significant numbers of Sedge Warblers, plus Red-throated Pipits, Yellow Wagtails of no fewer than five forms (British, Blue-headed, Ashy-headed, Iberian and Black-headed), and very rapid male Ferruginous Duck flashed overhead. The very last pool, back near Douz, was easily the best, with a showy Wryneck, a slightly less-showy Spotted Crake, 13 Marbled Ducks, Ruff, Marsh Sandpiper, Avocet and both Wood and Green Sandpipers, plus Whinchat and more "Yellow" Wagtails. This was a spectacular end to a busy and rather warm day!

Except it wasn't the end! After doing our log, we stepped outside the hotel with torches and optics, and rapidly had cracking views of the pair of Scops Owls, which were evidently nesting in the very first palm by the carpark. We had thoroughly unblocked last night's slightly disappointing encounter!

Day 5

Wednesday 5th April

Today was an absolutely superb day exploring the deserts to the south and east of Douz! We made perhaps a dozen extended stops at various "middle of nowhere" locations, and racked up a simply excellent list of both resident desert birds, and another great selection of migrants.

The latter comprised such gems as two Wood Warblers, two Tree Pipits, Red-throated Pipit, two Western Orphean Warblers, several Western Subalpine Warblers, Whitethroat, Common Redstart, a stunning male Collared Flycatcher, yet another Common Nightingale (the third in three days), and a male Golden Oriole. Pretty good given there were hardly any trees whatsoever!

On the "arid specials" front, we very nearly cleared up. Larks were the particular stars, with no fewer than eight species: Crested, Thekla's, Desert, Bar-tailed, Greater short-toed, and the "big three" - Temminck's (50), Hoopoe Lark (4) and Thick-billed (a magnificent flock of 17). Wheatears followed close behind, with four species: Northern, Black, White-crowned and Red-rumped. At least four Cream-coloured Coursers gave close flight views, Brown-necked Ravens were thinly distributed throughout, and we saw several Trumpeter Finches. But perhaps the best two birds of the day appropriately had desert in their name: a superb singing male African Desert Warbler which approached us extremely closely, and a brief but very well seen male Desert Sparrow at an apparently new breeding site. We thought we had missed out at a previously regular spot, where hybrid House x Spanish Sparrows have now taken over, but were delighted when this ultra-pallid ghost of a bird flew across to us from a sheep pen and showed well on a fence.

Via a slap-up lunch at a lovely mountain village restaurant, we crossed the mountains and descended towards the Mediterranean in the east, picking up a few waders and Slender-billed Gulls along the coast, and many Great Grey Shrikes. We reached the island of Djerba via a causeway at about 18:30 and checked in to the Hotel Bougainviller

in good time for yet more mountains of excellent Tunisian food. It was time to say goodbye to our three 4x4 drivers this evening: tomorrow would bring an early start for an 08:00 flight north to Tunis, and new adventures along the northern littoral. Can't wait!

Day 6

Thursday 6th April

An unearthly 05:00 wake-up call was followed by a seamless check-in at Djerba airport, and an hour's flight north to Tunis, with views of Sfax and El Jem on the way. We reconnected with our driver, Hazem, and headed off through the capital and north-west to Lake Ichkeul National Park, where we spent much of the day enjoying the lake, the lakeside meadows, and especially the rocky, wooded hillsides on a mountain ridge overlooking the lake. Also featured was an especially excellent picnic lunch in a shady spot by the park entrance.

It was a real "natural history" day today, with perhaps lower bird diversity than of late, but with masses else to see. We connected with our first Moussier's Redstarts (very briefly, and 'only' females), but also saw Blue Rock Thrush, numerous Sardinian Warblers, 'Maghreb' Buzzard, a distant Black-necked Grebe, Linnets and Corn Buntings. A disused quarry turned up prospecting European Bee-eaters and about a dozen Lesser Kestrels, plus perhaps the avian highlight of the day, a stunning Lanner Falcon soaring high over the mountain tops. The only feral herd of Water Buffaloes in the Western Palearctic also entertained us! A Western Swamphen was flushed from a reedy ditch, which also produced our first Wren, Stonechat and Cetti's Warbler of the trip.

Butterflies featured prominently, with many Painted Ladies and Clouded Yellows, plus Red Admiral, Large and Bath Whites and a lovely Green Hairstreak. We also found *Gladiolus illyricus*, the delightful Yellow Bee Orchid (*Ophrys lutea*), Mirror Orchid (*Ophrys speculum*), as well as many other wildflowers.

Mid-afternoon, it was time to hit the road once more, back to Tunis, and then north-east towards Cap Bon, and our lovely, bright and breezy hotel just a stone's throw from the sea. We arrived just in time for sunset (with a firm sighting of the near-mythical 'green flash'), and enjoyed yet another huge meal, featuring locally-caught Dorada fish and the most chocolatey fondant mousse known to humanity.

Day 7

Friday 7th April

Mercifully, we covered just 15km today: having one of the country's premier migration sites right on hand in the form of Cap Bon was a real blessing! After a leisurely breakfast (and a pre-breakfast scan, producing a flock of 13 Purple Herons and a Montagu's Harrier as a taster of the hoped-for spectacular to come), we ascended to the very top of Cap Bon, where we immediately connected with Moussier's Redstarts, Sardinian Warblers and Blue Rock Thrushes, and saw the first few migrant raptors of the day.

And what a spectacular day of raw migration it was! Extraordinarily, we managed to see no fewer than sixteen (16) species of raptor, a total rarely bettered in the Western Palearctic. While the total numbers were lower than might be found at Gibraltar, Istanbul, Batumi or Eilat, the sheer diversity was nothing short of extraordinary. The commonest species was (by some margin) Marsh Harrier, with an estimate of 120 being probably conservative. We completed the entire set of Western Palearctic breeding harriers, with eight Montagu's, an adult male Pallid and a ringtail Hen Harrier: a rare feat indeed. Black Kites were also a feature all day, along with both 'Maghreb' Buzzards (formerly treated as a subspecies of Long-legged Buzzard but now perhaps best seen as a Maghreb endemic species) and Common Buzzards, 30 or so Booted Eagles and a few Short-toed Snake-eagles, several

Sparrowhawks and a single Osprey. To these we also added no fewer than *five* species of falcon: Common and Lesser Kestrel, Hobby, Peregrine, and the sighting of the day, a sub-adult Saker Falcon (carefully separated from the North African *erlangeri* subspecies of Lanner). Sakers are a true rarity here, and this really was the icing on the cake.

In addition to the raptors, other migrants included about 100 White and three Black Storks, Alpine and hundreds of Common Swifts, and numerous hirundines (including two Red-rumped Swallows). All this with hot coffee and biscuits to hand while we enjoyed the show!

After lunch back at the hotel, we headed back out to the lower slopes and farmed areas of Cap Bon, enjoying more overhead soaring migrants, Corn Buntings, more swifts and hirundines, African Chaffinch, Linnets and a few migrant passerines. We also searched for and found Pink Butterfly Orchid, and a wealth of other Mediterranean flora, plus various insects, lizards, and other items of natural history interest. This was an absolutely brilliant day, with lovely weather, masses of great wildlife, and above all the sheer spectacle of full-on spring migration across the Mediterranean - one which will last long in the memory!

Day 8

Saturday 8th April

Boat trip day! After another leisurely breakfast, we made our way down to the harbour at Haouaria for our 09:00 departure. We soon had excellent close-up views of many (mostly adult) Audouin's Gulls, and found a small Ocean Sunfish ridiculously close in under the towering cliffs. Very soon, we found large rafts of feeding Scopoli's Shearwaters associating with feeding Bluefin Tuna, and spent plenty of time very close to these wonderful tubenoses, feeding them sardines at just a couple of metres range! Smaller numbers of Yelkouan Shearwaters were also seen, but they were much more shy of the boat. A couple of Gannets added a small bit of variety to our "non-pelagic pelagic" list, and three small pods of Bottlenose Dolphins added extra fun too. Once we had rounded Zembretta Island (the location of the small Yelkouan Shearwater colony, and now happily rat-free), we trundled back in warm sunshine, thoroughly enjoying the end of a very gentle morning at sea.

We drove back up to the 'observatory' at the summit of Cap Bon for lunch and a leisurely (there was a theme here today....) migration watch all afternoon, via a medium-sized Spur-thighed Tortoise rescued from a perilous road crossing. In lighter and more variable winds and a cloudless sky, we saw far fewer birds than yesterday, showing just how lucky we had been: there had obviously been a major "clear out" of migrants after a spell of disturbed weather, and we had caught it just right. But a relatively quiet afternoon at Cap Bon still turned up lots of excellent birds: all four harriers *again*, a sixth falcon for our list (Lanner), Black Kite, Booted Eagle, Buzzard and both kestrel species, plus Sparrowhawks aplenty. We drew stumps a little early this afternoon, and enjoyed a gentle early evening at the hotel before yet another excellent Tunisian meal.

Day 9

Sunday 9th April

After an early morning session with a nesting pair of African Blue Tits and a pair of Little Owls, plus Moussier's Redstart, we today visited three wetland sites on the way back to Hammamet, ahead of tomorrow's departure. Windy but clear weather made things a little challenging at times, but the last of three sites provided an absolute bonanza of great birding!

The first spot was Bini Hammed lake, a small reservoir in the middle of low intensity agricultural land. Amid a chorus of Corn Buntings and a single Quail, we had Short-toed Snake Eagle and Booted Eagle cruising overhead, a Western Swamphen in the reeds, a single Ferruginous Duck and a scattering of waders and wildfowl, including our first Gadwall.

Second, we took in Barrage Lebna, where a few Greater Flamingoes shared the water with Common Shelducks, Wood Sandpipers and a few other bits and bobs. So far, so fair ... but unspectacular. All that changed with our arrival at Sabkha Sulayman, a saline coastal lagoon, where we spent a simply superb four hours drinking in the spectacle of thousands of waterbirds. Greater Flamingoes dominated the scene, with perhaps 3,000 birds present, plus maybe 400 Black-winged Stilts, 150+ Ruff and several hundred Slender-billed Gulls. Wood Sandpipers were also common, along with numerous Little Stints, and smaller numbers of a range of other waders were on offer: Spotted and Common Redshanks, Dunlin, Kentish Plover, Green Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwits, a very few Marsh Sandpipers and two superb Curlew Sandpipers coming into summer plumage. Another wader, but a species behaving very differently, was Collared Pratincole, of which we saw perhaps 30.

Hordes of Yellow Wagtails of at least three forms (including the Scandinavian Grey-headed form *thunbergi*) swarmed about in the reeds, and Great Grey Shrikes (of the coastal form *algeriensis*), Zitting Cisticolas and Sardinian Warblers hopped about in the bushes. Wildfowl were also well-represented with four Marbled Ducks, three Ferruginous Ducks, many Common Shelducks and about 20 (distant) White-headed Ducks. Up to 80 Sandwich Terns 'dreaded' regularly, with a few Common Terns for good measure, and about 20 Whiskered Terns feeding with the Collared Pratincoles. Sabkha Sulayman is a little-known, under-watched and absolutely scintillating gem of a site: it provided one of the nailed-on highlights of the entire tour.

Day 10

Monday 10th April

A very civilised departure time for our flight home meant we had time for a slow breakfast, and to reflect on the tour as a whole: a Roman amphitheatre, squelchy wader-filled saltpans, ultra-rare mammals and migrant passerines at Bou-Hedma, the majesty of the 'empty' Tunisian desert (actually rammed full of larks, wheaters and other desert specials), the famed Lake Ichkeul and its unique (and threatened) ecosystem, the excitement of raptor migration over Cap Bon, a fabulous 'inshore pelagic' boat trip, and a final highlight of perhaps 10,000 waterbirds at an unspoilt, glorious coastal wetland. Who could pick a single highlight? A Eurovision-style panel was convened, and it became clear that everyone had both their own favourite bird, and agreed with everyone else's choice as a close second! By the narrowest of margins and with the necessity of a leader's casting vote, the late night encounter with the pair of Scops Owls in Douz emerged as the winner. But on this marvellous trip, with an excellent group of clients, everyone was a winner. Thank you Tunisia, for a brilliant ten-day adventure!

We said our goodbyes to Mohammed-Ali and our excellent driver Hazem, negotiated Tunisian customs with only minor hassles over binoculars, and enjoyed the 2.5 hour flight home to London Gatwick, where rain inevitably awaited us!

Some taxonomic notes, for the very keen!

The taxonomy of several North African species is in a state of some flux, and in addition we saw multiple subspecies of certain species. The following is an attempt to provide some clarification!

Red-necked Nightjar: the North African form *desertorum* has been suggested as a split from the Iberian-breeding nominate *ruficollis*, but no formal decision appears imminent.

Yelkouan Shearwater: Yelkouan was split from Balearic Shearwater some twenty years ago, but very recent research has strongly suggested that they should be re-lumped as two very distinctive forms of the same species. Apparently intermediate birds breed on Menorca, and while this is not proof positive, genetic evidence strongly recommends treating the two forms as a single species ("Mediterranean Shearwater") once more.

Scopoli's Shearwater: Scopoli's Shearwater was split from Cory's Shearwater (which breeds on the Atlantic islands) some years ago. It appears to leave the Mediterranean only quite rarely, and disperses just a short distance north into the southern Bay of Biscay, in very small numbers.

Long-legged/Maghreb Buzzard: the rather pale, rangy, dark-carpal patched and rufous-tailed *Buteos* of North Africa have long been attributed to the subspecies *cirtensis* of Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*). But long-term observations and very recent genetic research suggest that they are in fact morphologically and genetically much closer to Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), which confusingly also occurs in North Africa, at least in autumn/winter/spring. They are fairly easily diagnosable in the field, and probably differ sufficiently to be treated as a separate species, perhaps to be called "North African Buzzard" or "Maghreb Buzzard". This one is in a state of flux!

Great Grey Shrike: two forms of Great Grey Shrike occur in Tunisia. The very pale *elegans* is seen in the arid deserts and semi-arid steppes, while the darker *algeriensis* is to be seen along the Mediterranean littoral. We saw both forms on this trip.

African Blue Tit: treated as distinct from European Blue Tit for some years now, but it seems likely that there are further Blue Tit splits imminent, in which case the birds in Tunisia would become *Cyanistes ultramarinus*.

Desert Lark: various local forms and subspecies have been proposed for this species, one of which (*payni*) is illustrated in the Collins guide and resembles at least one of the birds we saw in the Tunisian desert. But much of the variation is extremely local, probably clinal, and also likely represents local ecotypes driven by geological conditions. There is no likelihood of any splitting here!

Western Orphean Warbler: split into two species some years back, 'Orphean' Warblers are not always easy to identify when silent. Eastern Orphean possibly migrates through Tunisia in small numbers, but most move through the Levant and breed no further west than the eastern Adriatic region. The birds we saw were positively identified as Western.

The 'subalpine warbler' complex: all three species (Western, Eastern and Moltoni's) occur in Tunisia on migration, and Western breeds in the far north. No firm examples of Eastern were identified out of the five males we saw: all strongly resembled Western, and one was a Moltoni's.

Black-eared Wheatears: another species split into Eastern and Western species some years ago now. Identification remains troublesome unless the bird is seen really well, at least in regions where both occur....such as Tunisia! The status of Eastern as a migrant in North Africa is poorly-known: as with Eastern Orphee, it is likely that the very large majority of migrants move through the Levant rather the central Mediterranean. Nonetheless, we identified several examples of apparent eastern birds, as well as some obvious Western ones. In retrospect, I have left some as unidentified to species.

Western Yellow Wagtail: while no splits are suggested at present, a bewildering range of different forms occurs in Tunisia on migration. We saw no fewer than six forms, as follows (in declining order of abundance, with subspecific trinomial name, counts, and rough range in brackets): 'Spanish' (*iberiae*, very numerous, Iberia and NW Africa), nominate Blue-headed (*flava*, 10-20, widespread in Europe), Ashy-headed (*cinereocapilla*, c.5, Italy), British (*flavissima*, 1, Britain), Black-headed (*feldegg*, 1, Balkans/Turkey), Grey-headed (*thunbergi*, 1, Scandinavia).

House / Spanish Sparrows: House Sparrow is reportedly rather rare in Tunisia these days, with significant introgression and hybridisation from and with Spanish Sparrow. We saw lots of good examples of 'pure-looking' Spanish Sparrows, especially in more remote areas, but very few 'pure-looking' House Sparrows. Neither do the hybrids really resemble Italian Sparrows. Rather, this is a truly admixed hybrid population, and one in flux!

African Chaffinch: very recent research has confirmed that the three distinctive North African forms (*africana* in Morocco/Algeria, *spodiogenys* in Algeria/Tunisia, *harterti* in NW Libya) should be treated as distinct from Common Chaffinch of Europe, and indeed from the chaffinches of the Canaries, Azores and Madeira respectively.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	April 2023								
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Common Ostrich - I	<i>Struthio camelus</i>		12	13	3					
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	100+		5		3			50	
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			2						
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>								6	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	4							30	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>								2	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	30		2	1	5			50	
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>								3	
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	2		13					4	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>								12	
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			1					4	
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>								15	
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								h	
Barbary Partridge - R	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>		10				2	2		
Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>		2+							
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>		3			1	10	10		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓	✓			✓		20	✓	✓
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	1								
Rock Dove (feral)	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		4	2	2	2				
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>			1						
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2		1		3				
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	5						4	40	
Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>					1			1	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	2				H			1	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	1							2	
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					1				
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	200			1	150			3000 +	
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	3			H		H		2+h	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	60		300+		250			400	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	5		1					25	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	10								
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	3								

		April 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	40		150+					10	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	1							10	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	25								
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	20		15					150+	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								2	
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	1								
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	3			20				25	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	50		200+					200+	
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1		25						
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	5		10		1			2	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	10		15					2	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	1			3				20	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	1		1					5	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	20		30					100	
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	12							15	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	15			1					
Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>				4+					
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								30	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	2000 +	✓		50	✓			250	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>								5	
Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus audouinii</i>							100	40	
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	100+	✓		✓	✓	✓	20	✓	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	2+								
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								75	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	5							10	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>								20	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	1								
Scopoli's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>						✓	400	250+	
Mediterranean Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>						10	100	20	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>						3			1
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	60				25	100		50	30
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>							1	1	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	30			1			2		
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>								30	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	5							10	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	8				25	80		2	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	2							1	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1					13		1	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			1						
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	15		15	5	5			20	

Common name	Scientific name	April 2023								
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						1			
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>					1				
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1				1	3+		3	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>					2	30	2	1	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						15	5	1	1
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	20+		3	2	4	120	25	20	
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>						1	1		
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>						1	1		
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						8	5		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		1	1		2	30	6		
'North African' Buzzard - R	<i>Buteo (rufinus) cirtensis</i>		2	5		4	10		1	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>						10	2		
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		1		1	H			5	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1	2	4	1	1		2	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		3		2	4	H			
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>			2+						
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			1						
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>					12	3	2		
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	2	2	2+	5	20	10	20	
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>					1		1		
Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>						1			
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1					1	H	1	
'Desert' Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor elegans</i>		3	1	25	20				
'Algerian' Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor algeriensis</i>	2					1		15	2
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		6	1	10	2			5	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				1					
Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>			1	100	✓				
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>					8			1	1
African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>	2							2+	H
Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>			H	4					
Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>				17					
Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>			10	10					
Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>				1					
Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>				2		2	h	1	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	10	✓	30	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>				50+					
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>				10				1	
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	1	3					3		1
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	20		2	1		5	1+		

		April 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	50	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	20	10	20	5	10	250	50+	20	
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>						2	1+		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					H	H			
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>				2					
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				1				1	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1		1	2	1	1		1	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2		5						
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	10+				H				
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	10		2	H		3	h	10	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>					H				
Western Orphee Warbler	<i>Curruca hortensis</i>		1	1	2					
African Desert Warbler	<i>Curruca deserti</i>				1					
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	H				20	25	5	4	
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>			2+		4		1		
Moltoni's Warbler	<i>Curruca subalpina</i>			1						
subalpine warbler sp.				2	2					
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			1	1					
Fulvous Babbler	<i>Argya fulva</i>		6	1						
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					4				
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	20		30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5	1+		1	5	5		5	
Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>			1						
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		1	1	1					
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		5+							
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>				1					
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1	1	1		1			
Moussier's Redstart - R	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>					3	5	2+	2	
Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>		1		1					
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					2+	3	1	1	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		1	1						
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>					1			1	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		2	1	2	1	1			
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>			10						
Western Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>		1+				1	2	2	
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>		1+							

		April 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
black-eared wheatear sp.			3							
Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>				2					
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>		1		3+					
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>			5	5					
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓								
Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>				1					
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	20		6	2	1	H		150	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				2					
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	2		4	2					
African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla africana spodiogenys</i>		2			10	2		10	2
Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>				4					
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	10	6			3	4		10	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					5	20		25	
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	5	h			10	2		H	2
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>					25	15		30	
House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>			2	3					

Others

		April 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mammals										
African Golden Wolf	<i>Canis lupaster</i>		1							
Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>		1							
Common Gundi	<i>Ctenodactylus gundi</i>		1							
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	30								
Scimitar-horned Oryx	<i>Oryx dammah</i>		20	30						
Addax	<i>Addax nasomaculatus</i>		4							
Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>					38				
Dorcas Gazelle	<i>Gazella dorcas</i>		7+	2						
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>							12		
Reptiles										
(Moorish?) Gecko							1			
Terrapin sp.		8				✓			20	
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>							1	1	

		April 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fishes										
Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>							1		
Bluefin Tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>							✓		
Dragonflies										
Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>		2	5						
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>					1				
Butterflies										
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓		✓		✓	✓	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>						✓			
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>								1	
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>			1						
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>					1				
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					✓	✓		✓	
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>					✓				
Other invertebrates										
Scorpion sp.			1		2					
Locust sp.							1			
Plants										
Algerian Iris	<i>Iris unguicularis</i>						✓			
Wild Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus illyricus</i>					✓			✓	
Mirror Orchid	<i>Ophrys speculum</i>					✓				
Yellow Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys lutea</i>					✓				
Pink Butterfly Orchid	<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i>						✓			