

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Southern Morocco 2023



Morocco, species list and trip report, 23rd March to 4th April 2023

#	DATE	LOCATIONS AND NOTES
1	23 rd March	Evening arrival in Marrakech, transfer to Oukaïmeden.
2	24 th March	Oukaïmeden.
3	25 th March	Tizi n'Tichka, Ouarzazate.
4	26 th March	Ouarzazate Reservoir, transfer to Boumalne Dades, Tagdilt Track.
5	27 th March	Dadès Gorge, Imiter area, Boumalne Dades.
6	28 th March	Imiter area, Errachidia area, Merzouga.
7	29 th March	Merzouga area.
8	30 th March	Merzouga area.
9	31 st March	Tamnougalt, Tizi'n Tinifift, Ouarzazate.
10	1 st April	Ouarzazate, Taliouine, Asif Tifnout, Oulad Berhil.
11	2 nd April	Oued Massa, Oued Souss.
12	3 rd April	Cap Rhir, Oued Tamri.
13	4 th April	Tighanimine El Baz, transfer to Agadir for evening flight back to UK.

Leaders

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A gallery of photos from the trip is at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72177720307736345>

Front cover: Barbary Partridge

Day One: 23rd March. Evening arrival in Marrakech, transfer to Oukaïmeden.

The trip began with a late afternoon flight to Marrakech, where we met up with our driver and local guide Mohamed, who would prove to be an invaluable asset over the course of the next two weeks. After leaving the outskirts of the city we started to climb up into the northern slopes of the High Atlas to our hotel near Oukaïmeden. There was time for a late dinner and a brief introduction to the holiday, before we retired to bed in readiness for our Moroccan adventure to start in earnest tomorrow.

Day Two: 24th March. Oukaïmeden.

We awoke to a clear blue sky and warm temperatures as we enjoyed the pleasant surroundings of the hotel. Blackbird, Greenfinch, Grey Wagtail, Woodpigeon and Cetti's Warbler provided a flavour of home, alongside more exotic fare in the form of Nightingale, Red-rumped Swallow, African Blue Tit, Serin and a skulking Western Olivaceous Warbler which showed well eventually.

After a first Moroccan breakfast of delicious fresh bread and pancakes, sweetened with a choice of honey, jam or the local speciality amlou (a spread made from roasted almonds, honey and argan oil), we boarded the bus for a short drive higher into the mountains to the ski station at Oukaïmeden. Flocks of Red-billed and Alpine Chough were noted along the way, before we took a short stroll to a scenic viewpoint overlooking Mount Toubkal in the distance, Morocco's highest peak at 4,167m.

Several Black Redstarts and Rock Sparrows flitted around the buildings as we began our walk, and we also saw Black Wheatear, Rock Bunting, Blue Rock Thrush and African Chaffinch (a recent 'split', previously considered to be the North African sub-species of 'our' Chaffinch), looking quite different from the colouration we are so familiar with back home. A little further on we found our first Moussier's Redstart, a gorgeous little species that has been declared Morocco's national bird; it is typically found in rocky areas and open woodlands and is endemic to north-west Africa. A barking alarm call from high up the slope alerted us to the presence of a small group of Barbary Ground Squirrels, which showed great agility as they chased each other and scampered amongst the rocks.

Higher still we encountered a small flock of Atlas Horned Larks, looking very smart with their yellow and black faces, which proceeded to come very close, to the delight of the photographers in the group. At our feet we also found a few flowering *Romulea bulbocodium* plants dotted amongst the short turf. After taking a few moments to appreciate the stunning High Atlas scenery and wonderful views across to Mount Toubkal, we decided to explore another area and although it was fairly quiet, we did find a fine Seebohm's Wheatear, freshly arrived back at its breeding grounds, which made the walk more than worthwhile.

It was time now for a sit down so we had lunch at the nearby hotel, which would be our night's accommodation for some of the group, before taking some time to relax and enjoy the local area. In the evening we assembled again for dinner and took the opportunity to go through our sightings from the day's excursion into the mountains.



Top to bottom: Alpine Chough; Atlas horned Lark; *Romulea bulbocodium*.

Day Three: 25th March. Tizi n'Tichka, Ouarzazate.

Those of the group staying at the 'higher' hotel woke up to the sight and sound of large flocks of Alpine Chough and Red-billed Chough on the surrounding buildings, whilst those lower down the valley enjoyed sightings of Hawfinch and a Bonelli's Eagle drifting overhead. After loading up the bus we descended from the mountains and started to head eastwards, before then travelling to the south. Along the way we stopped briefly to enjoy views of European Bee-eaters and Woodchat Shrike on roadside wires, and also Cattle Egret, White Stork and Black Kite, which were seen nearby.

After a coffee stop, we once again started to climb up into the mountains, which were impressively rugged and sun-beaten. For lunch we stopped at a café near the Tizi n Tichka pass, where we tucked into pizzas and omelettes in the company of some very chilled out resident dogs, as Chiffchaff, African Chaffinch and African Blue Tit flitted around the trees outside.

We continued over the pass and down the other side, and the landscape became increasingly arid as we neared Ouarzazate. Before we reached the town we took a short detour to a stony desert area and tree-lined river, which proved to be very productive. Desert Wheatear, Thekla Lark, Rock Bunting and Black Wheatear were seen, as were a pair of Trumpeter Finches, a skulking Whitethroat and a Long-legged Buzzard, which surveyed its domain from the top of a pylon.

By the bridge over the river we noted Nightingale, Common Redstart, Common Bulbul and a pair of Little Ringed Plovers, which were remarkably well camouflaged when standing motionless on the stony river bank. North African Water Frogs and Stripeless Tree Frogs adorned the margins of the watercourse, whilst striking Bibron's Agama lizards basked in the afternoon sunshine on the rocky slopes.

Reluctantly we pulled ourselves away from this great spot and continued towards Ouarzazate, pausing briefly to watch an Osprey perched atop a roadside pylon - the sight of such a bird in this parched landscape really brought home the challenges faced by birds on migration, as they must travel across hostile environments on the way to their breeding grounds.

On the outskirts of the town we passed the site of Atlas Studios, the largest film studios in the world by area, where many big budget Hollywood movies have been filmed over the years, before we meandered through narrowing streets to reach our hotel overlooking an extensive area of farmland. We were welcomed with sweet mint tea on the terrace as we enjoyed sightings of House Bunting, Kestrel and a swirling mixed flock of Red-rumped Swallows, Swifts and Little Swifts, before taking some time to freshen up before our evening meal.

Day Four: 26th March. Ouarzazate Reservoir, transfer to Boumalne Dades, Tagdilt Track.

Night Heron, Common Quail and Blue-headed Wagtail were the pick of the early morning birds, before we breakfasted in the company of a pair of bold House Buntings, which momentarily joined us in the dining area. Once we'd checked out of our rooms, we set off in the minibus to explore a scrubby area at the eastern edge of town. Here we briefly saw a Sardinian Warbler, before enjoying better views of Crested Lark and a flock of European Bee-eaters which passed through with their rippling calls alerting us to their presence.

A Little Owl stood sentinel on the wall of an old shepherd compound, sharing the stonework with White-crowned Wheatear, whilst overhead a different call made us look skyward where we were thrilled to see a small group of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters; they briefly landed in a bush allowing us to fully appreciate their colourful green plumage and compare them to their commoner European counterparts.

After this great start to the day we drove on for a short distance to a reservoir just outside of Ouarzazate. Upon arrival an impressively sturdy Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizard was spotted basking on a rock quite close to the bus, though unfortunately the sight of a fearsome group of Wildlife Travellers was clearly too much for the reptile, which quickly disappeared from view into a hole in the ground.

We decided to walk towards the water's edge, and birds in the surrounding scrub included Woodchat Shrike, more Crested Larks, Desert Wheatear and a lovely male Western Subalpine Warbler. Mallard, Moroccan Cormorant and Great Crested Grebes were on the water, and Little Egret, Black-winged Stilt, Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover and Kentish Plover were all noted around the margins of the reservoir. A single Gull-billed Tern dropped in, and numerous Vagrant Emperor dragonflies were seen, the males with their prominent blue patch at the top of their abdomen conspicuous even in flight when seen well.

Feeling content with our morning's birding, we continued eastwards towards Boumalne Dades, stopping for lunch at a roadside café before we reached our hotel, which was surrounded by stony semi-desert habitat. After taking some time to check in and relax, we ventured out again later in the day, when the temperature had dropped a little, to visit the Tagdilt track - a sprawling rubbish tip, but great for birds!

It didn't take us long to find our first Red-rumped Wheatear, one of our key targets, though the sighting was overshadowed somewhat by the discovery a few minutes later of a Thick-billed Lark at close range - this species is notoriously difficult to find, so fortune must have been smiling on us! A little further on we saw Thekla Lark and Desert Wheatear, before being treated to great views of Temminck's Larks, which proved to be fairly numerous in the area, including a male displaying to an unimpressed potential mate.

More top quality birds included a couple of pairs of beautiful Cream-coloured Coursers, fly-past Black-bellied Sandgrouse and a displaying Hoopoe Lark. Very satisfied with our haul, we returned to the hotel for dinner and to reflect on a great day's birdwatching.



Top to bottom: Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizard; Bibron's Agama.



Top to bottom: Thick-billed Lark; Temminck's Lark; Cream-coloured Courser; Red-rumped Wheatear.

Day Five: 27th March. Dadès Gorge, Imiter area, Boumalne Dades.

Today we took a drive up into the Dadès Gorge, an area of spectacular scenery and rugged towering cliffs. Towards the top of the gorge we found Black Wheatear, Grey Wagtail, House Bunting and had great views of a singing male Blue Rock Thrush atop a café roof. Our main target however was the scarce Tristram's Warbler, and we spent time scanning the low scrub that punctuated the rocky hillside for any signs of movement. At first we drew a blank, but the ever-helpful and knowledgeable Mohamed suggested trying a different area and here we were in luck, as a singing male was spotted quite high up the slope, before it proceeded to come closer and eventually gave good views to its appreciative audience - success!

After a restorative coffee we drove back to Boumalne Dades for lunch, pausing for a few moments en route to rescue a Berber Toad that had unwisely decided to cross the main road, before setting off again to a site near Imiter, where we met up with a couple of local guides who took us to look for a very special resident of these stony deserts.

We searched the rocky escarpment across a dry river valley, and with the guides' assistance could just about make out the form of a large owl in a shadowy recess - this was the magnificent Pharaoh Eagle Owl, the smaller, southern counterpart to the Eagle Owl found across Eurasia. The guides then took us to another location close by with views across to a nest site, and here we were treated to the magical sight of this beautiful owl sitting on its nest in a crevice on the rock face.

Along the same cliff face was another nest, this time occupied by a Long-legged Buzzard, and other notable birds seen in the area included White-crowned Wheatear, Desert Wheatear and Trumpeter Finch. We also found a single specimen of the interesting plant *Cistanche violacea*, which was still in bud with its purple flowers just starting to show. This plant, together with the other species of the genus *Cistanche*, are sometimes known as desert hyacinths; these plants are parasitic, lacking chlorophyll and instead tapping into the root systems of their host plants to obtain all the water and nutrients they need.

We picked our way through the rocky terrain and retraced our steps to the bus, where we then drove the short distance back to Boumalne Dades to take some time to relax or go for a local wander, where European Bee-eater, Woodchat Shrike and African Blue Tit were all seen in the vicinity of the hotel grounds. We met up again in the evening for dinner and to relive our great sightings of two north African specialties: Tristram's Warbler and Pharaoh Eagle Owl...

Day Six: 28th March. Imiter area, Errachidia area, Merzouga.

It was time to continue our journey eastwards towards the desert proper, so we loaded up the minibus and Mohamed got us on our way. We decided to make a stop at Imiter, and took a short stroll along another part of the dry river valley we visited in yesterday's search for owls. Almost immediately we saw a Hoopoe, quickly followed by Black Wheatear, Kestrel, Trumpeter Finch, Woodchat Shrike and Spanish Sparrow. We also found a female Maghreb Wheatear, quite a localised species and one we were very keen to see as the surrounding area is a known hotspot for this striking wheatear.

A flock of European Bee-eaters passed high overhead, and a soaring Black Kite drifted towards us from the distant ridge. We walked a little further and located a smart male Maghreb Wheatear, in its dapper black and white plumage, before it was time to continue onwards to grab a coffee at a nearby café. We then needed to get some miles under our belt so we progressed through ever more arid landscapes before stopping for lunch at a roadside restaurant, where we were served by an irrepressible young waiter who was keen to show off his impressive knowledge of English phrases - it was rather surreal having our meals placed in front of us followed by an enthusiastic utterance of “lovely jubbly”!

Feeling refreshed we continued our drive until we reached a shallow wadi near Errachidia, where we searched for a very rare bird, the Saharan Scrub Warbler. Alas we were not in luck, though we did see Southern Grey Shrike, Common Redstart, Trumpeter Finch and a pair of Desert Wheatear, the male of which came to investigate us, perching in a small tree and singing at close range - delightful!

The ‘rusty gate’ creaking song of a Bar-tailed Lark could be heard in the distance, a delicate Common Tiger Blue butterfly danced around some low shrubs, and a Boski’s Fringe-toed Lizard darted across the sun-baked ground.

We still had a fair way to travel, so we boarded the bus and continued our drive until we began to see the golden sand dunes near Merzouga, looking stunning in the early evening light. A Brown-necked Raven was noted just outside the town, and the conspicuous yellow flowers of the parasitic *Cistanche phelypaea* were seen by the roadside before we reached our hotel for the next three nights at the Riad Mamouche. We checked in, and there was even time to use the pool before a delicious meal of salad and lamb tagine was served to round off the day.



Above: Blue Rock Thrush; *Cistanche violacea*.

Day Seven: 29th March. Merzouga area.

The sun once again shone brightly as we set off this morning in a convoy of four-wheel drive vehicles to explore the sand dunes and stony deserts of Merzouga. It was a memorable experience to be driven in this way, looking for birds as we traversed through this incredible landscape. Over the course of the next few hours we had several good sightings including Bar-tailed Lark, Whinchat, Brown-necked Raven, Northern, White-crowned and Isabelline Wheatear, and close views of Hoopoe Lark and Spotted Sandgrouse.

We stopped to stretch our legs at a small area of cultivation with associated buildings, and here there were Saharan Olivaceous Warbler (a desert sub-species of Eastern Olivaceous Warbler that breeds here), Western Subalpine Warbler, Southern Grey Shrike, Common Redstart, Trumpeter Finch, and best of all, a pair of nesting Desert Sparrows. Behind, in the distance, we also spotted a pair of circling Lanner Falcons to add to the quality bird list that we were building up. At our feet amongst the clumps of vegetation were one or two Dumeril's Fringe-toed Lizards, and we could also just about make out the spiny shape of an Algerian Hedgehog hiding in its burrow.

We drove on a bit further to where a local guide had located two Egyptian Nightjars; these nocturnal birds were extremely well camouflaged as they rested motionless on the ground, in the partial shade of a small bush, and it took us all a little while to locate them even when given good directions! After spending some time appreciating these marvellous, seldom-seen birds, we were taken to a quiet restaurant on the edge of the desert for lunch and to give the drivers a break, before returning to the vehicles to continue our off-road adventure.

It didn't take us long to locate a trio of Cream-coloured Coursers, with their immaculate sandy plumage, and then another target species, the African Desert Warbler, was glimpsed from one of the vehicles. Just as we had all stopped to try and obtain a better view, the call went up from one of the drivers - "Houbara!". Remarkably, the driver had noticed fresh Houbara Bustard footprints in the sand and saw the bird running away at speed, so we all chased off after it to see if we could relocate it; we saw the bird again running between the dunes in the distance, and when we reached its location we found it hunkered down trying to keep a low profile, affording excellent views to us all.

It's hard to overstate the significance of this sighting, as the Houbara Bustard is now extremely rare in Morocco due to hunting - this bird was the first that any of our drivers had seen in the area this year, so we were very fortunate indeed to have had this great encounter.

We then returned to the spot where we'd seen the African Desert Warbler, and obligingly it was still more or less in the same bush! After we'd all enjoyed good views, it was time to head back to the hotel for a well-deserved beverage and some relaxation before another hearty evening meal and a recap of the day's special bird sightings.

Day Eight: 30th March. Merzouga area.

This morning we walked out from our hotel to visit the oasis gardens of Merzouga, where the lush vegetation and water channels are a magnet to any small birds migrating through the area. Straight away we started to see a good range of passerines including Whitethroat, Western Subalpine Warbler, Saharan Olivaceous Warbler, Chiffchaff, Common Redstart and our first Willow Warbler, Garden Warbler, Tree Pipit and Pied Flycatcher of the trip. We also found Northern and Isabelline Wheatear, Hoopoe, and perhaps best of all, a Wryneck, with its wonderful cryptic patterning.

Laughing Doves were heard and then seen several times, and a lone Turtle Dove purred to give away its location, yet still gave us the run around as we tried to get a glimpse of it. A very pale female Desert Sparrow had us confused for a while before we confirmed the bird's identity, whilst overhead Brown-necked Ravens soared and two Booted Eagles drifted over, one pale phase and one dark phase, as the temperatures began to rise. North African Water Frogs croaked from the gardens' main water channel, Vagrant Emperor dragonflies hawked over the vegetation, and migrant Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow butterflies were on the wing.

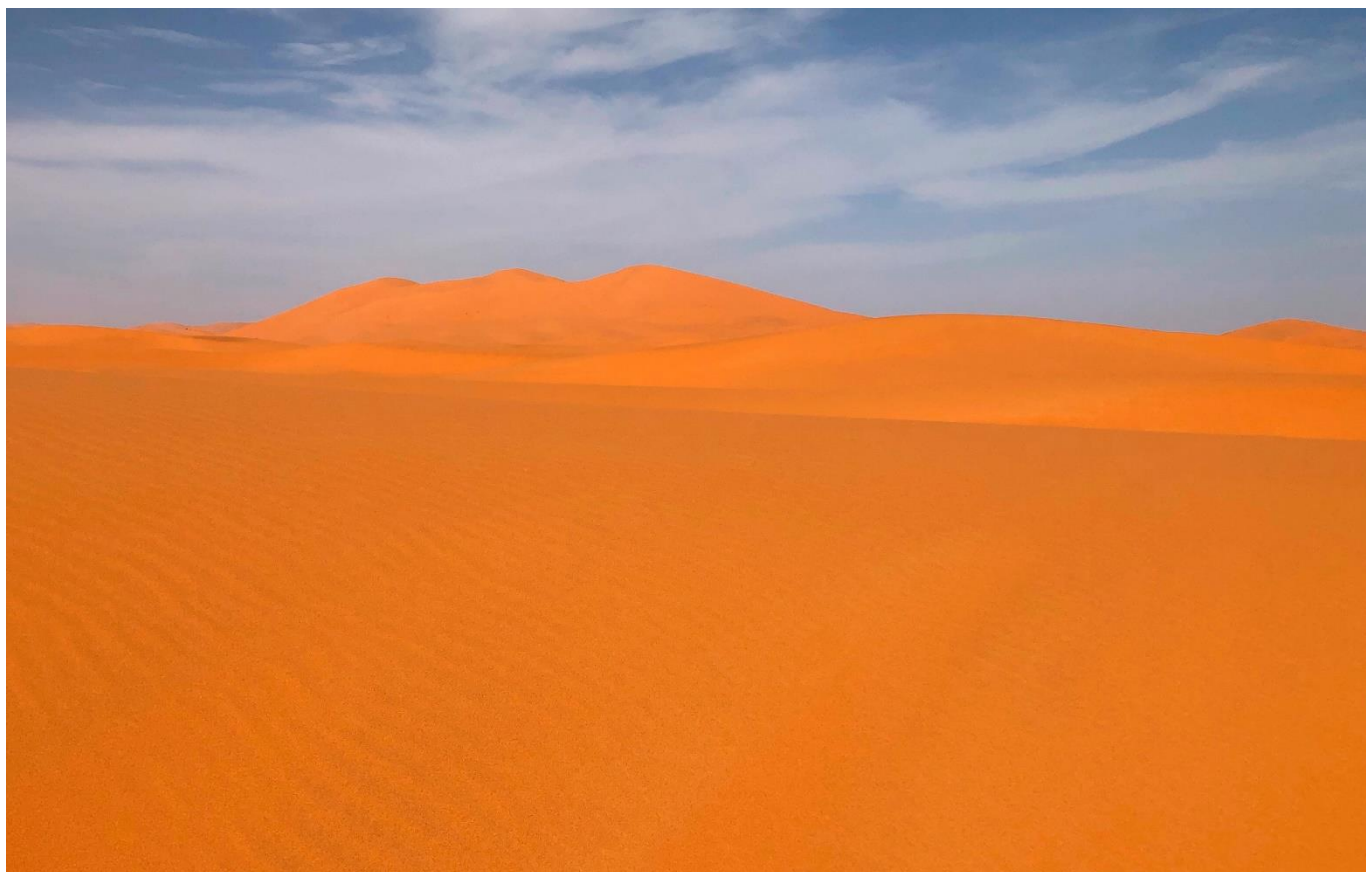
After a good morning's birding we returned to the hotel for lunch, before setting out again to hear some local musicians playing Gnawa music. This is a very rhythmic style of music which has its origins in the 11th century, when slaves from sub-Saharan West Africa (Mali, Senegal, Chad, Nigeria) were brought to Morocco; over the centuries the style of music has been preserved and passed on and it is now popular across much of the country. The hypnotic grooves of the music were rather compelling, and some group members felt emboldened enough to 'dance', though others in our party were less enthusiastic..!

We then briefly explored the nearby Erg Chebbi sand dunes, for the opportunity to get sand in our shoes and get a feel for the iconic sweeping dunes of the Sahara. Although there was not a lot of wildlife to be found in this harsh environment, the fascinating Saharan Silver Ants that we tracked down were definitely worthy of mention. These are the fastest ants in the world, and recent studies have shown that they are able to cover a distance of about 2.8 feet (or 108 times their body length) in a single second - the equivalent of us humans travelling at 400 miles per hour! The ants' silver hairs also help to reflect heat and keep the insects cooler as they forage across the dunes of their desert home.

A few of the group finished off the day with a visit to a dry lake site, which was quiet but did produce Desert Wheatear, Hoopoe Lark, Thekla Lark and Short-toed Lark, before returning to the hotel to meet up for a drink by the pool before dinner.



Top to bottom: Spotted Sandgrouse; African Desert Warbler; Hoopoe Lark.



Top to bottom: Wryneck; Erg Chebbi.

Day Nine: 31st March. Tamnougalt, Tizi'n Tinifift, Ouarzazate.

We had a long drive ahead of us today, so after saying goodbye and thank you to the lovely staff at Riad Mamouche we hit the road, heading westwards. We passed through the historic town of Rissani, the city of the king, where Moulay Ali Cherif established the Alaouite dynasty, which continues to rule Morocco to this day.

Nearby we saw some of the ruins of the ancient settlement of Sijilmasa, which prospered as a key trading area before being consumed by a sandstorm in the 14th Century. This region of Morocco is also known for producing the country's best quality dates, with the most expensive dates often being given to guests at weddings and other ceremonies.

After brief stops for Marsh Harrier and a small flock of Short-toed Larks, and a longer stop for coffee and ice cream, we continued onwards following the mostly dry Draa river valley until we reached the fortified town of Tamnougalt. Here we enjoyed a fine lunch before Mohamed took us on a short walking tour of the old town, exploring the narrow passageways and admiring the impressive 16th Century architecture. Mohamed also gave us a brief history of the different Moroccan dynasties that have ruled the country over the centuries, providing us with a fascinating background to the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Birds were not entirely forgotten though, as we watched House Buntings and Kestrels at close range and could hear Turtle Dove, Laughing Dove, Common Bulbul and European Bee-eater in the oasis below the town. The showy day-flying moth *Amata mogadorensis* lazily drifted past one or two of us, but unfortunately it didn't hang around for long and could not be relocated.

Upon leaving Tamnougalt we climbed our way up to the Tizi'n Tinifift pass, where we paused for surprisingly tasty coffee and to take in the spectacular view and interesting rock formations. Our first Tawny Pipit of the trip was busy establishing its territory on the adjacent hillside, and a Barbary Ground Squirrel leaped across the rocks next to the road. Finally, we returned to Ouarzazate, and checked into our hotel with time to freshen up before dinner.



Above: House Bunting.

Day Ten: 1st April. Ouarzazate, Taliouine, Asif Tifnout, Oulad Berhil.

The early morning birders were rewarded with sightings of Ruddy Shelduck, Night Heron, Whinchat, Tawny Pipit and Blue-headed Wagtail from the hotel terrace, before it was time to board the bus and continue our journey westwards towards the more fertile soils of the Souss Valley, with a few stops along the way to break up the journey.

Our first stop was by a bridge over a river where a good range of wildlife was seen in a short period of time. Green Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plover were noted, several Swallows and European Bee-eaters passed overhead, and a Bonelli's Eagle soared high in the distance.

A handsome male Seeborn's Wheatear showed well, presumably on its way north to its breeding grounds in the Atlas Mountains, and numerous North African Water Frogs jumped around in the shallow pools. A single Moorish Terrapin was also seen briefly, lurking in the shadows, whilst on the rocky slope by the roadside we identified the bushy white-flowered *Convolvulus trautmanianus* and the pretty *Catananche arenaria* of the family Asteraceae.

After lunch at Taliouine, a town famous for its saffron production, we visited the Asif Tifnout river valley for a short stroll to stretch our legs. Birds included Booted Eagle, Kestrel, Common Bulbul, Western Subalpine Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Hoopoe, Sardinian Warbler and our first Barbary Partridge of the trip, which was flushed from beside the track before flying around behind us and proceeding to signal its disapproval by calling repeatedly and flicking up its crest.

The hot weather encouraged several butterflies to take to the wing, and we noted Bath White, Cleopatra, Greenish Black-tip and Moroccan Hairstreak during our walk.

From here it was on to our hotel near Oulad Berhil, where we checked into our rooms before ambling around the adjacent lanes and hedgerows, where we saw Nightingale, Greenfinch, Serin, Zitting Cisticola, Blackcap, Laughing Dove, Woodchat Shrike, Cirl Bunting and a silhouetted Roller perched at the top of a tree.

An evening exploration of the tranquil hotel gardens proved to be rather productive, with a fly over Barn Owl, African Green Toad, Berber Toad and Stripeless Tree Frog near the pool, and Moorish Geckos chasing insects around the outside lighting. After dinner we fell asleep to the beautiful, melodic song of the Nightingale, here at the very southern edge of its breeding range, as we turned our thoughts to tomorrow's journey to the Atlantic coast.



Top to bottom: African Green Toad; Stripeless Tree Frog; Berber Toad.

Day Eleven: 2nd April. Oued Massa, Oued Souss.

We were again greeted by clear blue skies this morning as we drove towards the coast, and to the Souss-Massa National Park. After stopping for coffee en route, we took a walk along part of the Oued Massa, which produced several good birds over the next couple of hours.

We started off with lovely views of a Little Owl perched on its favourite building, and a short while later a second bird was seen on a fence post. A pair of striking Western Black-eared Wheatear were establishing a territory nearby, bringing our wheatear tally for the trip to an impressive nine species. Colourful Moussier's Redstarts and Stonechats sat up on prominent lookout positions, sharing the local area with Thekla Lark, Linnet, Goldfinch and Serin.

To our delight, a few Northern Bald Ibis flew overhead - this very rare bird was once much more widespread across North Africa to the Middle East, but the species' population declined markedly until less than 60 breeding pairs remained in Morocco by the late 20th Century. However, following the creation of the Souss-Massa National Park in 1991, and with more recent concerted efforts to protect this iconic species, the plight of the Northern Bald Ibis in Morocco is now looking more hopeful: almost 150 breeding pairs and a total population of over 700 birds were recorded in 2018.

As we walked further we were able to gain views across the mouth of the Oued Massa, and we began to pick up some water birds to add to our growing list. Ruddy Shelduck, Greater Flamingo, Black-winged Stilt, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Kentish Plover, Knot, Redshank, Greenshank and Green Sandpiper were all noted, whilst overhead a Bonelli's Eagle appeared to be hunting the local Woodpigeons, stooping on them but apparently without success.

The surrounding scrub was not without interest, and here we found Wryneck, Corn Bunting, Sardinian Warbler, Zitting Cisticola, Maghreb Magpies with their bright blue patch behind the eye, and one of our most hoped-for species, the Black-crowned Tchagra, which was first located by its powerful whistling calls; this bush-shrike is a North African speciality, and unusual in that the other members of its family are confined to sub-Saharan Africa.

After a wonderful lunch at a local restaurant, we continued to the Oued Souss for a short stop to scan the river and muddy margins for waders and wildfowl. Plenty of Oystercatcher were seen, along with Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Curlew, Dunlin, Common Sandpiper, Audouin's Gull and Gull-billed Tern. A small group of Marbled Duck were out on the river, but perhaps the best sighting of the visit comprised a flock of Collared Pratincole, which were spooked into flight by a passing Peregrine and then treated us to a couple of fly-pasts, allowing us to note the pointed wings, white rump and underside, and forked tail, all the while with their calls echoing around us.

By now it was time to check in to our final hotel of the trip, the wonderful Atlas Kasbah, where we took the opportunity to relax with a drink before dinner as a Stone Curlew could be heard calling from the surrounding hillside in the fading light.

Day Twelve: 3rd April. Cap Rhir, Oued Tamri.

Today we headed north along the coast to Tamri, stopping first by a rocky hillside near Cap Rhir where the abundant cactus-like *Euphorbia officinarum* adorned the slopes. Thekla Lark, Western Black-eared Wheatear and Moussier's Redstart were seen amongst the scrub, as the distinctive song of a Black-crowned Tchagra momentarily filled the air. Gannets passed by in languid style offshore, but the sighting of a Razorbill on the sea was rather more unexpected, though this species does regularly spend the winter in Moroccan waters.

Turning over a few stones revealed a *Buthus* sp. Scorpion and the delightfully diminutive Agadir Lizard-toed Gecko, sheltering from the heat of the day and hoping to avoid any predators. Butterflies on the wing included Clouded Yellow, Southern Common Blue, African Grass Blue and the spectacular Plain Tiger, which is closely related to the famous Monarch butterfly. One or two Striped Hawkmoths bombed past us, and we also found the prettily marked Crimson Speckled moth.

All too soon we had to drag ourselves away from this wildlife-rich hillside to continue onwards to the beach at Oued Tamri, an area of dunes, scrub and wetland. Margarita's Fringe-toed Lizards scampered between clumps of bushes as we walked along the edge of the beach, past numerous spikes of mostly gone-over *Cistanche phelypaea*, to a vantage point where we could scan the pools for birds. Several wader species were visible including Black-winged Stilt, Dunlin, Redshank, Ruff, Kentish Plover, Little Ringed Plover and Common Sandpiper, and we also saw the Moroccan race of White Wagtail, which is very different from the birds we see back home, with a much darker head pattern.

Small groups of Northern Bald Ibis periodically passed back and forth overhead, and briefly landed on the adjacent hillside before restlessly moving off again. A flock of European Bee-eaters flew low over one of the pools, and a male Marsh Harrier drifted over the small reedbed close by. Sardinian Warblers scolded us as we walked back to the bus for our picnic lunch, which we ate in the company of some local dogs that had clearly done their research and knew that the odd handout might come their way if they looked at us pleadingly for long enough!

After lunch we were all set to begin our return journey when the minibus encountered a problem and wouldn't start - cue an amusing sequence of Wildlife Travellers and leaders pushing the bus to try and jump start it, but to no avail... thankfully, the ever-calm Mohamed quickly arranged for help to arrive, and before long we were clambering into taxis to take us back (via an 'interesting' detour along an unfinished road...) to the Atlas Kasbah, where tea was waiting for us. We had time to unwind, use the pool, and freshen up before meeting again to go through the key wildlife highlights of the day to the backdrop of Red-necked Nightjar 'tocking' in the distance, before our last Moroccan dinner in the hotel restaurant.

The hotel owners, Hassan and Helene, then treated us to an entertaining and informative demonstration and chat about the importance of the Moroccan tea ceremony - a rather more involved process than just popping the kettle on for a quick cuppa!

Day Thirteen: 4th April. Tighanimine El Baz, transfer to Agadir for evening flight back to UK.

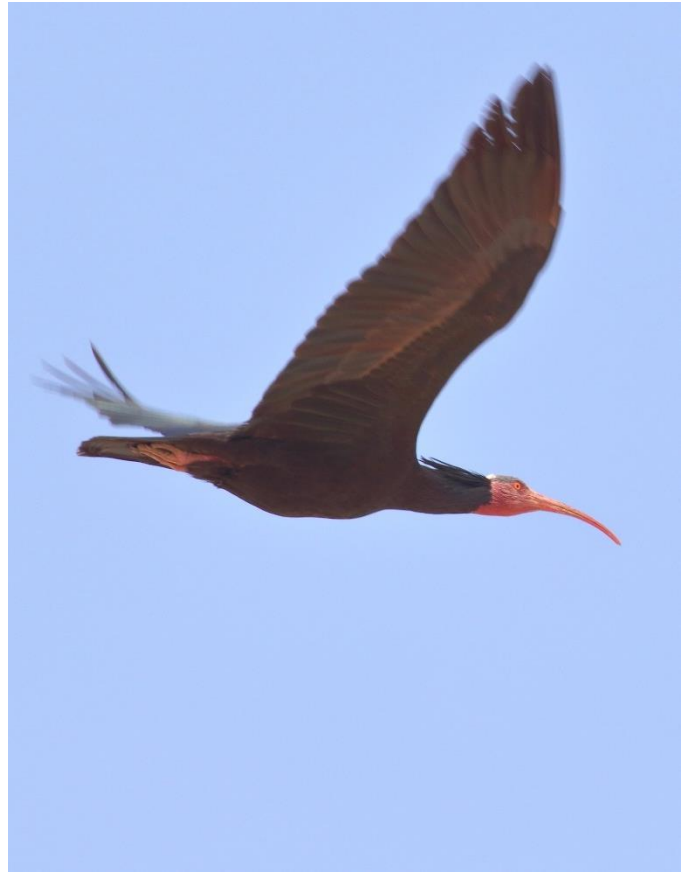
Our final morning in Morocco was fairly relaxed, with some members of the group opting to take a shopping trip into town, others choosing to chill out in the shady hotel gardens, and a few of us took a short birdwatching walk along a goat track, which leads almost from the hotel gates into the surrounding rocky countryside.

During the gentle stroll we encountered a decent range of wildlife, including Blackcap, Sardinian Warbler, Western Orphean Warbler, Thekla Lark, Northern Wheatear, Cirl Bunting, Hoopoe, Common Bulbul, Little Owl, Turtle Dove, both Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrikes, Maghreb Magpie and we savoured our last views of a smart male Moussier's Redstart, which flitted between the Argan trees beside the track.

Moroccan Orange Tip, Bath White, Small White, Painted Lady, Small Copper and Clouded Yellow butterflies were all seen, and as we walked back up through the hotel grounds North African Water Frogs and a Moorish Gecko were seen by a small series of ponds.

We all gathered for a delicious lunch at the hotel, where we discussed our favourite birds and most memorable moments of the holiday, before we drove to the airport in Agadir where we bade a fond farewell to Mohamed, thanking him for all his hard work in ensuring the trip ran so smoothly. There was still a chance to add another species to the bird list in the form of Pallid Swifts which were seen over the airport runway, as we boarded our flight back to the UK, to reflect on a great two weeks exploring the wildlife and landscapes of southern Morocco.

Mike Symes and Mike Russell, Wildlife Travel. April 2023.



Top to bottom: Bonelli's Eagle; Crimson Speckled Moth; Northern Bald Ibis.



Top to bottom: Moussier's Redstart; Plain Tiger; Agadir Lizard-toed Gecko.

SOUTHERN MOROCCO 2023: some highlights

D: dead; S: sings; E: endemic; H: heard only

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
BIRDS															
	This checklist follows the taxonomy published in the HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World , as updated by <i>www.birdsoftheworld.org</i> English names follow those used in the Collins Bird Guide (3 rd edition).														
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl)															
	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>										◆	◆		
	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>											◆		
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				◆							◆		
	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>											◆		
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)															
	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				H									
	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>										◆			
Family Phoenicopteridae (Flamingoes)															
	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>											◆		
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)															
	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				◆									
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)															
	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		◆	◆	◆							◆	◆	
	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>							H	◆	H	H	H	H	◆
	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
Family Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)															
	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>							◆						
	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>				◆									
Family Otidae (Bustards)															
	Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>							◆						
Family Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and allies)															
	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>												H	
	Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>							◆						
Family Apodidae (Swifts)															
	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆
	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>													◆
	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>			◆								◆	◆	
Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules and Coots)															
	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>										H			
	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		◆											

Morocco, species list and trip report, 23rd March to 4th April 2023

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Family Burhinidae (Thick-knees)															
	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>											H		
Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)															
	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				◆							◆	◆	
Family Haematopidae (Oystercatchers)															
	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>											◆		
Family Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)															
	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			◆	◆					◆	◆		◆	
	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>											◆	◆	
	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				◆							◆	◆	
	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>											◆		
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and allies)															
	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>											◆		
	Knot	<i>Calidris canuta</i>											◆		
	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>												◆	
	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>											◆	◆	
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				◆							◆	◆	
	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>										◆	◆		
	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				◆							◆		
	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>											◆	◆	
Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)															
	Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>				◆			◆						
	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>											◆		
Family Alcidae (Auks, Murres and Puffins)															
	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>												◆	
Family Laridae (Gulls, Terns and Skimmers)															
	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>											◆		
	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus audouinii</i>											◆		
	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>											◆	◆	◆
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>											◆	◆	
	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>				◆							◆	◆	
	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>											◆		
Family Ciconiidae (Storks)															
	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>			◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆		
Family Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)															
	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>												◆	
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)															
	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>												◆	
	Moroccan Cormorant	<i>Ph. c. maroccanus</i>				◆							◆		
Family Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns)															
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>											◆	◆	

Morocco, species list and trip report, 23rd March to 4th April 2023

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				◆				◆		◆	◆	◆	
	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆			
	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				◆						◆			
	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>											◆		
Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)															
	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>											◆		
	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>											◆	◆	
	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>											◆		
Family Pandionidae (Ospreys)															
	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			◆										
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)															
	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>											◆		◆
	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								◆		◆			
	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>		◆	◆							◆	◆		
	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					◆				◆			◆	
	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		◆	◆										
	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			◆		◆	◆							
	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus cirtensis</i>			◆		◆								
Family Tytonidae (Barn Owls)															
	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>										◆			
Family Strigidae (Owls)															
	Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>					◆								
	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				◆							◆		◆
	Maghreb Tawny Owl	<i>Strix mauritanica</i>		H							H				
Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)															
	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		H
Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)															
	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	H
	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>				◆					◆	◆			
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)															
	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>										◆			
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)															
	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>							◆	◆			◆		
	Great Sp. Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		◆	H										
	Levaillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>			H										
Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)															
	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus erlangeri</i>							◆						
	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>											◆		
Family Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)															
	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>													H

Morocco, species list and trip report, 23rd March to 4th April 2023

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Family Malaconotidae (Bushshrikes and allies)															
	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>											◆	H	
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)															
	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor algeriensis</i>						◆	◆			◆		◆	◆
	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)															
	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius minor</i>		◆	◆										
	Maghreb Magpie	<i>Pica mauritanica</i>			◆								◆	◆	◆
	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		◆	◆										
	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>		◆	◆										
	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>						◆	◆	◆	◆				
Family Paridae (Tits)															
	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>		◆	◆		◆								
	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		◆										◆	◆
	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		◆	◆										
Family Alaudidae (Larks)															
	Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>				◆			◆	◆					
	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>				◆									
	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>						H	◆						
	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>					◆								
	Atlas Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila (alpestris) atlas</i>		◆											
	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>				◆									
	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								◆	◆				
	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>											◆		
	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae ruficolor</i>			◆	◆				◆			◆	◆	◆
	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata riggenbachi</i>				◆	◆					◆			
Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and allies)															
	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>										◆	◆	◆	
Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers and allies)															
	Saharan Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida reiseri</i>							◆	◆	◆				
	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>		◆	◆							◆	◆		
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows)															
	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>											◆		
	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆		◆	◆		
	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>			◆			◆	◆	◆		◆	◆		
Family Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)															
	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)															
	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>							◆						
	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>								◆					

Morocco, species list and trip report, 23rd March to 4th April 2023

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			◆				◆	◆	◆				
Family Scotoceridae (Bush Warblers and allies)															
	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H	H						H			
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and allies)															
	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		◆		◆						◆			◆
	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>								◆					
	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca hortensis</i>											◆		◆
	African Desert Warbler	<i>Curruca deserti</i>							◆						
	Tristram's Warbler	<i>Curruca deserticola</i>					◆								
	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		◆		◆						◆	◆	◆	◆
	Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>				◆			◆	◆	◆	H			
	Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			◆				◆	◆					
Family Leiotrichidae (Laughingthrushes and allies)															
	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>								◆					
Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)															
	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		◆	H										
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)															
	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>			◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	
Family Turdidae (Thrushes and allies)															
	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus deichleri</i>		◆											
	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula mauritanicus</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)															
	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		◆	H										
	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		◆	H				H			◆	◆		
	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>								◆					
	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆				
	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>		◆									◆	◆	◆
	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		◆	◆	◆									
	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		◆			◆								
	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>							◆			◆			
	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>											◆		
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>							◆	◆		◆			◆
	Seebohm's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe seebohmi</i>		◆								◆			
	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</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>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			
	Maghreb Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe (lugens) halophila</i>						◆							
Family Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)															

Morocco, species list and trip report, 23rd March to 4th April 2023

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>						◆					◆		
	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>							◆	◆					
	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		◆	◆										
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)															
	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		◆	◆		◆								
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>		◆		◆						◆			
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>			◆	◆	◆						◆		
	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (alba) subpersonata</i>												◆	
	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>									◆	◆			
	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>								◆					
Family Fringillidae (Finches and allies)															
	North African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>		◆	◆							◆	◆	◆	
	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			◆										
	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>			◆		◆	◆	◆						
	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		◆	◆							◆	◆		
	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>											◆		
	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra polioygya</i>		H											
	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>											◆		
	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		◆	H	H	H	H	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)															
	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>											H		
	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>		◆	◆			◆							
	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		◆	◆							◆	◆	◆	◆
	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
MAMMALS															
	Barbary Ground Squirrel	<i>Atalantoxerus getulus</i>		◆	◆						◆	◆			◆
	Fat Sand Rat	<i>Psammomys obesus</i>					S								
	Algerian Hedgehog	<i>Atelerix algirus</i>							◆						
	Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>				◆									

Morocco, species list and trip report, 23rd March to 4th April 2023

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS															
	This checklist follows the taxonomy published in Amphibians and Reptile of Morocco , as updated at www.moroccoherps.com														
	African Green Toad	<i>Bufo boulengeri</i>										◆			
	Berber Toad	<i>Sclerophrys mauretania</i>					◆					◆	◆		
	Stripeless Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>			◆							◆			
	N. African Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax saharica</i>			◆					◆		◆			◆
	Moorish Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>										◆			
	Agadir Lizard-toed Gecko	<i>Saurodactylus brosseti</i>												◆	
	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	◆									◆			◆
	Moroccan Rock Lizard	<i>Scelarcis perspicillata</i>		◆											
	Margarita's Fringe-toed Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus margaritae</i>											◆	◆	
	Boski's Fringe-toed Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus boskianus</i>						◆							
	Dumeril's Fringe-toed Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus dumerilii</i>							◆						
	Bibron's Agama	<i>Agama bibronii</i>			◆	◆	◆					◆			
	Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizard	<i>Uromastix nigriventris</i>				◆									

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
LEPIDOPTERA: butterflies															
	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			◆										◆
	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>											◆	◆	
	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>		◆								◆			◆
	Greenish Black-tip	<i>Euchloe charlonia</i>										◆			
	Moroccan Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis belia</i>		◆											◆
	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>								◆			◆	◆	◆
	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>		◆								◆			
	Moroccan Hairstreak	<i>Tomares mauretanicus</i>										◆			
	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>													◆
	Common Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus theophrastus</i>						◆							
	African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>												◆	
	Southern Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus celina</i>												◆	
	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>												◆	
	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			◆					◆		◆		◆	◆
	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		◆											
LEPIDOPTERA: moths															
	Striped Hawkmoth	<i>Hyles livornica</i>												◆	
	Hummingbird H'moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>										◆	◆		

Morocco, species list and trip report, 23rd March to 4th April 2023

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Crimson Speckled Moth	<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>												◆	
	a tiger moth	<i>Amata mogadorensis</i>									◆				
ODONATA: damselflies, dragonflies															
	Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>				◆		◆	◆	◆					
ORTHOPTERA: crickets, grasshoppers															
	Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus</i> sp.				◆									
HYMENOPTERA: ants, bees, sawflies, wasps															
	Saharan Silver Ant	<i>Cataglyphus bombycina</i>								◆					
SCORPIONES															
	Scorpion	<i>Buthus</i> sp.												◆	