

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Morocco 2026





## Morocco, species list and trip report, 28<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#	DATE	LOCATIONS AND NOTES
1	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Afternoon arrival in Agadir, transfer to Atlas Kasbah.
2	1 <sup>st</sup> March	Atlas Kasbah and Tighanimine El Baz area.
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Cap Rhir and Oued Tamri.
4	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Taroudant and Tiout palmery.
5	4 <sup>th</sup> March	Imi Mqourn, Ait Baha and Laatik.
6	5 <sup>th</sup> March	Paradise Valley and the Cascades du Immouzer.
7	6 <sup>th</sup> March	Souss Massa National Park and Oued Souss.
8	7 <sup>th</sup> March	Atlas Kasbah, afternoon flight back to UK.

### LIST OF TRAVELLERS

#### Leaders

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A gallery of photos from the trip is at [Morocco 2026 | Flickr](#)

Front: *Linaria ventricosa*. Photos: Mike Symes, unless stated.



**Day One: 28<sup>th</sup> February. Afternoon arrival in Agadir, transfer to Atlas Kasbah.**

Our morning flight took us south from London Gatwick, across the Bay of Biscay to Asturias in north-western Spain, on to Faro in Portugal, before meeting the Moroccan coast near Casablanca. Passing over the High Atlas, we descended through the clouds and over the agricultural plains around Agadir.

With bags reclaimed it was out into blue skies, to meet our driver Hassan and to drive along Agadir's new main road, whisking us out of town in record time to our accommodation for the week, the stunning Atlas Kasbah, perched on a hilltop in the foothills of the High Atlas. After the obligatory and very welcome mint tea, we had a short tour of the hotel facilities by our charming hosts, before settling into our rooms.

We reconvened a little later for an introduction to the week's itinerary and a chance to get to know each other, followed by a traditional Moroccan supper, which featured a poolside barbecue with the ambience further enhanced by the traditional musicians playing enthusiastically across the water.

**Day Two: 1<sup>st</sup> March. Atlas Kasbah and Tighanimine El Baz area.**

The overnight moth trap had attracted a dizzying array of moths, many of which remained unidentified, but we did pick out Purple Marbled, Robust Tabby, and the rather spectacular *Polytela cliens*, a species found in arid habitats, on the wing in February.

After enjoying the moths, and the Common Bulbuls singing outside the hotel, we made our way for our first Moroccan breakfast: a selection of fresh bread, *jben* (fresh cheese), apricot jam, honey, *amlou* (made from ground almonds, honey and argan oil), yoghurt, eggs and *dchicha* (cracked barley soup), washed down with coffee and mint tea.

We set off to explore the hotel gardens, and our first stop was one of the many large Argan trees growing in the hotel's grounds. Argan is endemic to south-western Morocco and south-western Algeria, and belongs to a primarily tropical family, Sapotaceae; a relic of the time when this area had a tropical climate. Argan is at the heart of much of the local culture and economy, being used for culinary and health purposes, washing, feeding animals, fuel, and in much of the traditional architecture. The area of Argan forest has decreased by around half over the last century due to changing land-use, agricultural intensification and subsequent desertification. It now covers around 828,000ha, and the Argan forest, and its surrounding area were declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1998, as a means of promoting the protection and sustainable development of this area.

The Atlas Kasbah was built with the objective of promoting responsible travel, both in terms of sustainable use of resources and environmental protection, but also in showcasing Berber culture, and supporting the local communities. At the top of the gardens, a phyto-purification water filtration system uses a series of pools containing gravels and plants to treat the 'grey water' from the hotel, which is then used to irrigate the garden. As we passed by the pools, we noted a few North African Water Frogs loafing amongst the vegetation, though most dived for cover as we approached.

Upon reaching the road at the bottom of the hotel grounds, it became clear just how much the return of the winter rains had profoundly changed the landscape, and where the banks had been bare and parched in previous years, the vegetation was now flourishing with an array of impressive plants

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including the feathery-leaved yellow *Cladanthus arabicus*, *Volutaria lippii*, *Zygophyllum creticum* and a re-emergence of the shrubs *Withania somnifera* and *Periploca angustifolia*. It was also interesting to look at two spiny shrubs lining the roadside: the 'chicken-wire bush' *Launaea arborescens* and *Ziziphus lotus*, often used as dead hedging around fields.

We eventually made it to the goat track where we were greeted by a similar abundance of plants, with flowering shrubs of *Cytisus albidus* and *Genista tricuspidata*. Virtually every crack in every rock had plants spilling forth, with abundant *Plantago afra*, *Rumex vesicarius*, *Notoceras bicornis*, *Heliotropium crispum* and *Echium horridum*, to name but a few. Coming on to the main track the abundance of plants reduced slightly, but we had the amazing site of the fields virtually choked with an abundance of the beautiful white *Asphodelus fistulosus*, as well as encountering two small but delightful plants of *Linaria bipartita*.

Butterflies were also plentiful and included frequent Greenish Black-tip, Painted Lady, Small White and also the distinctive Moroccan Orange Tip, Clouded Yellow, Common Tiger Blue, African Grass Blue and False Mallow Skipper. Common Bulbuls noisily revealed their presence, alongside African Chaffinch, Cirl Bunting, Serin, Thekla Lark, Laughing Dove, Maghreb Magpie and both Sardinian and Western Orphean Warblers.

As we started to head back, a large Bibron's Agama lizard was seen at the trackside, and we also eventually had good views of a real local speciality, the handsome Moussier's Redstart - however this sighting was almost upstaged by the discovery of a vocal Great Spotted Cuckoo further along the track, a rare bird here so very pleasing to see!

Other notable invertebrates included Vagrant Emperor, an angular Cone-headed Grasshopper, and an equally intriguing Toad Grasshopper, which was wonderfully camouflaged amongst the stones.

After a reviving lunch at the hotel and a chance to cool off in the shade, we met up with our local guide and headed off to take a tour of the local village, Tighanimine El Baz. The views back to the hotel were totally transformed from previous years, with the fields full of crops and wildflowers. On the rocky banks we were thrilled to find our three target bulb plants, Barbary Nut *Moraea sisyrinchium*, *Colchicum gramineum*, and Tassel Hyacinth all in peak flowering. We had seen some rather unassuming Barbary Nuts on the track in the morning, but this species only flowers in the afternoon, and so here they were showing their full resplendence!

Swallows swooped overhead, and as we walked a loop around the village other new birds for the day included Black Wheatear, Hoopoe, Spotless Starling and Barbary Partridge, the latter running away from us and hoping to evade detection.

A Moorish Gecko was spotted clinging to one of the village walls, a Barbary Ground Squirrel played hide and seek with us for a few moments, and we also found several striking caterpillars of *Polytela cliens*, nicely complementing the adult moth that we had discovered in the moth trap this morning.

We returned to the hotel where we thanked our guide, enjoyed some mint tea and relaxation time before meeting up again to go through the day's sightings before dinner.



Top to bottom: Greenish Black-tip; Moussier's Redstart; Great Spotted Cuckoo; *Cladanthus arabicus*.



Top to bottom: False Mallow Skipper; Barbary Ground Squirrel; Moorish Gecko.

### Day Three: 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Cap Rhir and Oued Tamri.

A Striped Hawk-moth in the overnight moth trap was a great start to the day, before we met up with Mohamed, our trusty guide and driver, and headed north along the coast, through the outskirts of Agadir and on to explore the hillsides of Cap Rhir. The plant communities here are unique to the south-west Morocco coastline, down into coastal Mauritania, and across to the Canary Islands (where closely-related species make up a very similar flora). These communities are a botanical link between this part of Morocco and the flora of the North Atlantic Islands, collectively termed the Macaronesian flora. In the geological past this flora would have been more widespread on the mainland, becoming confined to these climatically favourable areas during recent cycles of glaciation.

We spent the next hour immersing ourselves in these wonderful coastal communities. Two succulent species were prominent among the vegetation: the umbrella-forming, lime-green shrubby *Euphorbia regis-jubae*, and *Kleinia anteupehorbium* with its unusual plump stems. Strange 'thumbs' of the red-brown *Cynomorium coccineum* emerged from the sand alongside spikes of yellow-flowered *Cistanche phelypaea*. Both species are obligate parasites, with the *Cistanche* most likely feeding on the Shrubby Sea-blite also present.

Due to the rains a wealth of other species were thriving on the cliff tops, including *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*, which had developed large sparkling leaves, *Sclerosciadium nodiflorum*, *Limonium mucronatum* and *Limonium sinuatum*, *Teucrium capitatum*, and dense shrubs of the sticky *Asteriscus imbricatus*. We encountered our next parasite in this area, with great tangles of yellow Dodder growing on the shrubs. It was also a great chance to admire two native Lavenders, *Lavendula dentata* and *Lavendula multifida*.

Moussier's Redstart, Thekla Lark, Skylark and an elusive heard-only Black-crowned Tchagra were the pick of the birds, tiny Agadir Lizard-toed Geckos were found sheltering under stones, and invertebrate interest was provided by lumbering Darkling Beetles, one or two Yellow Scorpions, several flighty Desert Locusts and a fascinating Egyptian Flower Mantis.

We proceeded to the Oued Tamri, where Margarita's Fringe-toed Lizards dashed amongst the dunes, Vagrant Emperors cruised past, and birds around the river mouth included White Stork, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Common Sandpiper and a group of roosting Spoonbills. A handful of smart Audouin's Gulls were picked out amongst the throng of Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and we also spotted our main bird target for the day on a distant cliff ledge, a Northern Bald Ibis.

Once widespread across southern Europe, North Africa and part of the Middle East, this species was lost from most of its range as a result of poisoning from pesticides, hunting, disturbance at nesting sites, and more recently, loss of important foraging habitats to coastal development. Northern Bald Ibis reached a low of only around 100 birds by the 1990s, with the last remaining Middle Eastern birds, a tiny colony near Palmyra in Syria, which migrated down via the Yemen to Somalia and Eritrea for the winter. These birds are almost certainly extinct: doomed by the various conflict zones that make up their territory.

There is positive news from the Moroccan population, with at least 708 individuals at a recent count, and 170 chicks fledged in 2019. An introduced population in southern Spain now numbers around 80

birds, with further small, managed colonies introduced to Germany and Austria. The Northern Bald Ibis was down-listed to Endangered in November 2018, after more than three decades categorised as Critically Endangered.

After a satisfying lunch on the beach, we were treated to lovely close views of both Thekla Lark and Moroccan Wagtail, which has more extensive black markings on the face than the nominate form of White Wagtail or the Pied Wagtail we are familiar with back home.

We began our return journey but hadn't got very far before we found a group of Northern Bald Ibis near the roadside, providing much better views than the distant black speck seen at Oued Tamri! We all took time to appreciate these special birds, before they flew off and away from us along the coast.

We stopped again a short distance further south at a cemetery overlooking the pounding ocean waves. After pausing to admire several large Spanish Aizoon plants, this was our first chance to see the amazingly spiny *Euphorbia officinarum*, a fascinating example of convergent evolution with its near perfect cactus-like appearance. A detailed search rewarded us with a single clump of the parasitic Witchweed *Striga barthlottii* looking like asparagus with its pre-flowering spikes. Other highlights included a very sticky Mediterranean Catchfly, and plentiful *Periploca angustifolia* growing up through the Euphorbias.

A couple of Barbary Partridges beat a hasty retreat from our advancing footsteps, as Clouded Yellows fluttered amongst the flowers and several more Desert Locusts were disturbed from the ground as we continued our exploration of the area.

By now it was time to head back to the hotel, to reflect on a great day's wildlife sightings over dinner. Following our meal some of us took a short walk through the hotel gardens to look for amphibians and found North African Water Frogs as well as our main target, the impressively chunky Berber Toad. Several Brown Widow Spiders were seen lurking in their webs near dark recesses in the garden walls as we passed by, before we then retired to bed, looking forward to tomorrow's journey into the Souss Valley.

#### **Day Four: 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Taroudant and Tiout palmery.**

It was decidedly fresh this morning as we gathered for breakfast before heading east through the fertile Souss valley, an important agricultural area where oranges, bananas and salad are grown, much of it destined for northern Europe. Our destination this morning was the town of Taroudant, often described as a mini-Marrakech, with its mud-plastered ramparts dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. With almost 6km of walls and nine gates, Taroudant is an impressive and imposing sight on arrival.

We stopped for a drink in the peaceful garden of the Dar Zitouine hotel, where we had time to wander in the grounds, admiring the diverse plantings and the birds which included Common Bulbul, Spotless Starling and two male Sardinian Warblers that kept chasing each other and flying in and around the shrubs, right in front of us.

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Feeling refreshed, we continued into the heart of the town, to explore the old streets and visit the maze-like souk, where local dates proved to be the most popular item to purchase amongst the group!

Driving further, we approached the edge of the Anti-Atlas mountains and the palmery on the outskirts of the village of Tiout. From the bus we could admire the huge change in the vegetation cover after the rains, with crops and wildflowers growing profusely, and most notably extensive stands of *Linaria bipartita*, creating striking purple drifts across the landscape.

At Tiout a mountain spring feeds the palmery via a network of pools and channels, allowing local villagers to grow wheat, corn and barley, alongside the many Date Palms and Carobs here. We ate our picnic lunch at a secluded restaurant in the company of cats, guinea fowl and a tame White Stork, before taking a short stroll through the palmery, admiring the clever irrigation system that keeps the area so lush and green.

The cool breeze kept most of the butterflies out of sight, however we did find Greenish Black-tip and Clouded Yellow, and enjoyed a range of plants including the very rare *Verbascum faurei*, the showy vetch *Vicia benghalensis* with its clusters of reddish-purple flowers, the delicate Maidenhair Fern growing alongside a water channel, clambering White Bryony and the distinctive Dutchman's Pipe *Aristolochia baetica*, with its highly characteristic flowers.

The abundant supplies of water meant many of the fields were dense with crops of Broadbean, Wheat, Barley and Alfalfa, and in amongst these plants was a large assemblage of arable wildflowers, including three types of fumitory, Small Blue Convolvulus, Small Melilot, Roman Nettle and showy drifts of the grass *Lamarckia aurea*.

The birdlife comprised Kestrel, Blackcap, Hoopoe, Sardinian Warbler, African Chaffinch, House Bunting, a stunning Moussier's Redstart, and both Common and Iberian Chiffchaff, which were distinguished by their different vocalisations.

By now it was time to commence our return journey, so we boarded the bus and headed back through darkening skies towards Agadir, and on to the Atlas Kasbah. After the now familiar routine of a refreshing mint tea and nuts to greet us on arrival, we gathered again for dinner to relax at the end of a long but enjoyable day.



Top to bottom: *Linaria bipartita*; Egyptian Flower Mantis; Margarita's Fringe-toed Lizard.



Top to bottom: *Cistanche phelypaea*; Northern Bald Ibis; Berber Toad.

**Day Five: 4<sup>th</sup> March. Imi Mqourn, Ait Baha and Laatik.**

Today's journey took us south-east towards Ait Baha, one of the larger towns in the western Anti-Atlas, as we set out to explore a little of Morocco's most southerly mountain range. Before that though, we noted a Marsh Harrier drifting over some roadside fields, and an obliging Little Owl perched on a wall, whilst at the same time enjoying views of the snowy peaks of the High Atlas in the distance.

Our first stop was an unassuming field near the town of Imi Mqourn, which was filled with towering Apple of Sodom Milkweed plants. Many of the plants had been tightly grazed, but we searched with great enthusiasm (though ultimately unsuccessfully) for the caterpillars of the Plain Tiger butterfly, which uses this as its food plant.

Once again the recent rains had hugely altered the appearance of this site, with a spectacular display of Sandplain Lupin over much of the area, plus a good range of other plants that had recently flowered, including *Nonea calycina*, *Matthiola tricuspidata*, *Silene drysis* and *Glebionis coronaria*.

Butterflies here included Painted Lady, the seemingly ubiquitous Greenish Black-tip, Small Copper and Common Tiger Blue, as a Margarita's Fringe-toed Lizard sped from one clump of vegetation to another. Overhead we were treated to views of Red-rumped Swallow, Little Swift, Pallid Swift and House Martin, as Crested Lark, Sardinian Warbler, Common Chiffchaff, Linnets, Stonechat and a skulking Western Subalpine Warbler occupied the bushes and low scrub.

It was coffee time so we continued on to the charming town of Ait Baha for a caffeine hit and an opportunity for shoe shopping, before carrying on into the Anti-Atlas proper. The Anti-Atlas contain some of the oldest rocks in the world: an ancient mountain range that started to form 300 million years ago, and once rivalled the Himalayas in height. Today, they are much eroded, the highest peaks reaching between 2,500m and 2,700m.

Reaching the tiny village of Laatik, we paid a visit to its ancient agadir, a fortified grain store dating from the time when local Berber tribes still fought one another (this particular agadir is some 770 years old). These buildings are typical of the Anti-Atlas and others could be spotted during the day, in various states of repair, perched on high ground. Once the local trusted custodian had let us in, Mohamed gave us a fascinating tour of this interesting mud and stone built structure, with its small storage rooms for villagers' valuables accessed by stepping stones, a well with fresh water, and water storage tanks for seeing out any siege. The agadir came complete with its own 'jail', with some doors protected by more than one lock (security against less-trustworthy relatives), whilst others bore the black cross to fend off the advances of the beautiful but dangerous Aisha Kandicha of Moroccan folklore.

We ate lunch out in the sunshine, surrounded by flowering *Senecio glaucus* plants, which were attracting a good number of Painted Lady butterflies, despite the chill in the air. A brief exploration of the rocky ground outside the granary revealed a few Yellow Scorpions lurking under stones, our first Moroccan Hairstreak butterfly of the trip, and a proliferation of the liverwort *Riccia lamellosa*, thriving equally in muddy hollows and up on dry banks.

We drove on a short distance to a rocky hillside where *Euphorbia officinarum* made another appearance, here in its beautifully tight-cushioned *echinarum* form (considered by some to be a distinct sub-species), which we took time to appreciate alongside the asphodels, the emergent leaves of Friar's Cowl, *Colchicum gramineum*, and Scaly Lip Fern, which is native to the Canary Islands and North Africa through to the Indian subcontinent, resembling a hairier version of Rusty-back Fern.

Enthusiastic stone-turning yielded further Yellow Scorpion sightings as well as Termites, and a Pale Shoulder moth also put in an appearance before we returned to the bus. We drove back to the hotel, arriving in plenty of time to freshen up before dinner where we discussed our plans for tomorrow.

**Day Six: 5<sup>th</sup> March. High Atlas: Paradise Valley and the Cascades du Immouzer.**

We drove north this morning, around the edge of Agadir, before heading inland towards the High Atlas mountains. As we climbed up from the coastal road we chanced upon several large *Linaria ventricosa* plants with their tall spikes of spectacular stripy dark orange snapdragon flowers. This rare plant had eluded us so far, so it was wonderful to find it at a new location, and apparently quite well-established too.

We then decided to visit a small Argan Oil Cooperative, where we had a brief tour of the gardens (including a fascinating lemon-scented Cypress tree) and a chance to taste a multitude of honeys, as well as purchasing Argan products. These small community-led organisations provide a vital income to local people, as well as ensuring the economic value of the Argan forests is maintained. Outside the cooperative we had time to explore the wonderful mix of flowers in the road verge, as well as enjoying the fast, high twittering song of Serin, and butterflies which included Bath White, Small Copper, Common Tiger Blue, Red Admiral and Painted Lady.

Our next stop was at about 500m to explore an area dominated by *Tetraclinis articulata*, the 'Thuja of the Berbers'. This conifer is primarily found in Morocco and Algeria, with additional small relict populations in Andalucia and Malta. Morocco holds 600,000ha of the 1Mha world population of the tree, which is known for its unusual grain and rich colour. Thuja is handcrafted to produce ornaments and utensils, with its large burrs resulting from 'self-coppicing' (a way of managing over-grazing and wildfires) prized by wood-carvers.

Ornithological highlights included Crag Martin, an obliging Thekla Lark singing from a treetop, and a pair of impressive Bonelli's Eagles, one of our main targets for the day, soaring and gliding high up around one of the dramatic mountain peaks.

Casting our eyes downwards, we had a chance to see both *Asphodelus fistulosus* and *Asphodelus ramosus* growing side by side, and we also found several large plants of the charismatic snapdragon-like *Nanorrhinum heterophyllum*. This location also gave us the unusual sight of *Euphorbia officinarum* plants, normally associated with bare rocky hillsides, growing up amongst dense grasses and other plants.

From here it was a short drive down to Paradise Valley, where we ambled along the river, spotting Moorish Terrapins and North African Water Frogs by the water, and Barbary Ground Squirrels

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scampering over the adjacent rock face. Legs stretched, we continued on our way, climbing higher via a series of sharp bends with fabulous mountain scenery all around us.

We ate lunch at a restaurant near Immouzer, with a welcome hot drink to fortify us from the cool air, before taking time to enjoy a real botanical highlight of the area, the colourful Shrubby Milkwort *Polygala balansae*, with its beautiful purple and yellow flowers. As we scanned the rocky slopes, we discovered more and more plants of this rare species, so it's great to see that it seems to be faring well here. Until recently this plant was thought to be endemic to Morocco, but a small population has now been found in southern Spain, close to Granada.

Moving on, we stopped again at the base of a slope where the Dwarf Fan Palm is found, and after pausing a while to appreciate this interesting high-altitude species, we switched our attention to look for a rare breeding bird of the area, the highly localised Tristram's Warbler. We heard one singing almost straight away, but it remained frustratingly out of view... however we then heard another bird a little further up the slope, and we managed to persuade it to approach more closely by briefly playing its song. The inquisitive bird flitted through the bushes and after a while perched quite openly, giving us all great views - we left a few minutes later, very satisfied with our encounter!

There was still time for one last stop at 1,420m elevation to enjoy the views of the mountains in the haze, and to delight in more plants such as the rock-rose *Cistus crispus* and the yellow flowering *Genista tricuspidata* before returning to the hotel for a delicious dinner of fish tagine and sweet crispy pancakes.



Above: Moroccan Hairstreak; Laatik agadir.



Top to bottom: Yellow Scorpion; *Echium horridum*; Moorish Terrapin.



Top to bottom: Tristram's Warbler; *Genista tricuspidata*.

**Day Seven: 6<sup>th</sup> March. Souss Massa National Park and Oued Souss.**

Following breakfast, we were met by a fleet of 4-wheel drive vehicles, setting off south for our visit to Souss-Massa National Park. The National Park was established in 1991, and covers an area of almost 34,000 hectares of sand dunes, steppe, wetlands and Argan forest. Souss-Massa has particular significance for its colonies of Northern Bald Ibis, as well as being an important site for many other breeding and wintering birds. We were of course also here for the mammals: the 'Sahelo-Saharan megafauna' is one of the most endangered assemblages of large animals in the world, threatened by a combination of lack of grazing as a result of competition with domestic livestock (primarily goats and camels), and over-hunting, with increasing numbers of high-powered weapons freely available across large swathes of their former range (which includes Libya, Tunisia, Mali and Chad). Once widespread across the arid regions of North Africa, almost all the large mammals of the Sahara are now extremely rare in the wild, and four important members of this megafauna have been 're-wilded' in Souss-Massa National Park.

After a brief visit to the visitor centre we wandered across to a new enclosure which is accessible on foot, passing through a truly spectacular sand dune 'meadow'. Most of the plants we had seen before, including *Erodium hesperium*, *Nonea calycina* and *Volutaria tubuliflora*, what was notable however was the sheer abundance of the plants present, and a chance to witness a rare desert 'superbloom'. This also included the spectacular flowers of *Ismelia carinata*, which was a welcome addition to our species list.

Greenish Black-tip, Small White, Bath White, Clouded Yellow, Red Admiral and Painted Lady all flitted between the many and varied nectar sources, as Serin, Blackcap, Western Subalpine Warbler, Cirl Bunting and Sparrowhawk provided avian interest. A bright red Orange-winged Dropwing dragonfly posed for photographs on the track in front of us, as a Moorish Terrapin basked at the side of a small pond.

The walk led us to view a small group of Scimitar-horned Oryx, the first of our megafauna species that we had hoped to see today. The Oryx is a handsome beast with its ginger neck, tear-shaped face markings and swept-back horns. Unfortunately the species has not fared well, and was declared Extinct in the Wild in 2000; the population here at Souss-Massa is now the largest single herd left on the planet. Scimitar-horned Oryx once grazed extensively across North Africa, migrating seasonally with the rains. There are now ambitious plans from Chad to re-establish this species in the wild, at its former stronghold in Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve. In late summer 2016, the first individuals were released into the wild, with a calf born in September 2016 considered the first 'wild-born' Scimitar-horned Oryx for over 30 years.

We then got back in our vehicles and drove into the 2,000ha Rokein reserve. We soon spotted our first Addax, a large and ghostly-pale antelope with long, twisted horns topped with a 'toupée' of brown hair. Addax are native to arid stony and sandy desert out in the Sahara proper, where they graze on a range of vegetation. At one time Addax would have been abundant across North Africa, however they are now Critically Endangered in the wild, with some last individuals possibly clinging on in Mauritania, Chad and Niger: a survey in 2016 of prime habitat identified just three wild Addax. Captive populations, including these in Morocco, mean the Addax still persists as a species, with

reintroductions underway into the Sahara of Tunisia and Algeria, but its future in the wild is far from secure.

We also found a couple of dainty Dorcas Gazelle, with their lyre-shape horns and intricately marked faces and ears. These small antelope of steppe and desert are found across North Africa however are considered Vulnerable, with the Moroccan sub-species showing a marked decline in recent decades. Somewhat easier to locate were the numerous Red-necked Ostriches which have been re-introduced to the Park: this is the North African sub-species of the Common Ostrich, and it is the largest living species of bird. The Red-necked Ostrich is noticeably more colourful than sub-Saharan birds and the males were sporting the sunburn-pink of the breeding season as they attempted to impress the more muted females. Indeed, we were lucky to see a male displaying, in a remarkable flurry of wings and neck twisting, though apparently without success as the chosen female casually dismissed his advances and sauntered off.

A Red Fox scampered across the dunes in front of the vehicles, and birds seen as we continued our drive included Thekla Lark, Southern Grey Shrike, Northern Wheatear, Little Owl, Linnet and numerous Kestrels, which seemed to be finding plenty to eat in the form of Desert Locusts, which were no doubt the remnants of the region's recent locust swarm.

We also heard both Common Quail and Black-bellied Sandgrouse, but unfortunately couldn't locate either of these secretive species, though we did spot a wintering Green Sandpiper probing around the margins of a watering hole.

We exited the enclosure area and drove across further dunes and stony desert habitat, notching up sightings of Tawny Pipit, Desert Wheatear and Spur-thighed Tortoise, before leaving the park to have a late lunch at a pottery store, with shopping opportunities as well as ice cream eating opportunities! The wildlife sightings didn't stop here though, as a large bright green African Mantis was found on the wall of the store, perhaps waiting to grab an unsuspecting insect visiting the nearby Bougainvillea flowers...

Our excursion finished with a visit to the Oued Souss estuary, and although high tide meant that there was little mud available for wading birds, we did find Common Sandpiper, Little Egret, Grey Heron and about 100 Greater Flamingos, showing beautifully in the strong late afternoon sun. The highlight for many though was the Osprey perched atop a pylon, enjoying its fish supper, refuelling before it continued its northward migration towards Europe.

By now it was time to return to base, and after another satisfying meal we were treated to a recital of traditional Moroccan music and dance on the terrace before we headed up on to the roof of the hotel with M'bak who gave us a fascinating tour of the stars and constellations that were visible in the clear night sky.

#### **Day Eight: 7<sup>th</sup> March. Atlas Kasbah, afternoon flight back to UK.**

Our final morning at the Atlas Kasbah dawned sunny and bright, and we bade farewell to some of our group who had decided to spend the day in Agadir. For the rest of us, some chose to relax and enjoy

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the hotel gardens, while the remainder of the group took a leisurely stroll along the goat track that we had visited on the first day.

The now familiar Common Bulbuls and Thekla Larks were still singing vigorously, along with Greenfinch, Serin and African Chaffinch, and we had good views of Woodchat Shrike, Hoopoe, and a pair of Barbary Partridges which we disturbed from the side of the track.

Remarkably, we found Great Spotted Cuckoo again, and this time were treated to a fly past of two birds which were being chased by a Maghreb Magpie. Great Spotted Cuckoos have been recorded breeding in this part of Morocco in recent years, and Maghreb Magpies would be the most likely host species - so perhaps this individual was seeing off these potential brood parasites from the area.

However, the star bird of the morning came in the form of a family group of Fulvous Babblers; three fledglings could be seen in the shady interior of an Argan tree, while at least four adult birds were in attendance, helping to feed the youngsters and keeping an eye out for danger. The adults did not seem perturbed by our presence, and at times were very confiding as we all enjoyed wonderful views of these fantastic birds.

We didn't spend a lot of time looking at the plants, though we did find the weird and wonderful *Orbea decaisneana*, a strange succulent member of the Apocynaceae which had eluded us for the rest of the trip, as Greenish Black-tip and False Mallow Skipper flew swiftly over the vegetation.

Back at the hotel we tucked into one last meal together and discussed the many highlights of our time in Morocco, before thanking the hotel staff for their exemplary hospitality and making us feel so welcome during our time here. All too soon it was time to load up the bus - but not before appreciating another mantis encounter in the hotel garden - and to thank the ever helpful and cheerful Mohamed for his skilful driving and for sharing his deep knowledge of Moroccan culture and history with us over the past week. We arrived at the airport for our smooth flight back to the UK, reflecting upon a thoroughly enjoyable and successful holiday.

**Domic Price and Mike Symes, Wildlife Travel. March 2026.**



Top to bottom: Addax; *Ismelia carinata* (D. Price); Desert Wheatear.



Top to bottom: Little Owl; Fulvous Babbler.

## MOROCCO 2026: some highlights

## Selected Plant Species

Some plant species do not have English names and English names vary according to author. A common name is given as a guide to help those who are not familiar with the scientific name. The **Scientific name** consists of the **Genus** (the first name starting with a capital) and the **species** (the second name, without a capital). Families are in alphabetical order (not in the order found in many plant books - which now changes frequently as the systematic order of families is changing rapidly due to clarification by genetic research). The English name of a family member is also given so you can relate the family to plants you may know. Some species have recently been transferred to different families and the names of species also change occasionally. Orchid names are always problematic as many people split them into a number of species. For families and species, the list follows the (up to date as much as possible) Plant List (Kew) and INPI classification (although for orchids, popular names are sometimes also given).

D: dead, E: endemic, H: heard only, I: introduced, P: planted

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
<b>FERNS</b>				
<b>Pteridaceae (maidenhair fern family)</b>				
	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern		4
	<i>Cosentinia vellea</i>	Scaly Lip Fern		5
<b>CONIFERS</b>				
<b>Cupressaceae (cypress family)</b>				
	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Mediterranean Cypress		6
	<i>Tetraclinis articulata</i>	Thuya of the Berbers		6
<b>Ephedraceae (joint-pine family)</b>				
	<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	Jointed Pine		3
<b>DICOTYLEDONS</b>				
<b>Aizoaceae (fig-marigold family)</b>				
	<i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i>	Hottentot Fig		3
	<i>Aizoon canariense</i>			3
	<i>Aizoanthemopsis hispanica</i>	(was <i>Aizoon</i> )		3

Morocco, species list and trip report, 28<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
	<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>			3
	<i>Mesembryanthemum cordifolium</i>	Heart-leaf Ice Plant		4
<b>Amaranthaceae (amaranth family) (includes former Chenopodiaceae)</b>				
	<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	Nettle-leaved Goosefoot		2
	<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Sea-blite		3
<b>Anacardiaceae (sumac family)</b>				
	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree		6
	<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian Pepper Tree		4
	<i>Searsia tripartita</i>	(was <i>Rhus</i> )		3
<b>Apiaceae (carrot family)</b>				
	<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel		5
	<i>Sclerosciadium nodiflorum</i>			3
<b>Apocynaceae (dogbane family) (includes former Asclepiadaceae)</b>				
	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Apple of Sodom Milkweed		5
	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander		2
	<i>Orbea decaisneana</i>			8
	<i>Periploca angustifolia</i>			2
<b>Aristolochiaceae (birthwort family)</b>				
	<i>Aristolochia baetica</i> var. <i>bicolor</i>			4
<b>Asteraceae (daisy family)</b>				
	<i>Andryala maroccana</i>			3
	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold		2
	<i>Catananche arenaria</i>			2
	<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>	Crown Daisy		5
	<i>Cladanthus arabicus</i>			2
	<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i> ssp <i>spinosus</i>			3
	<i>Filago pyramidalis</i>			2

Morocco, species list and trip report, 28<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
	<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>			5
	<i>Ismelia carinata</i>			7
	<i>Kleinia anteuphorbium</i>			3
	<i>Launaea arborescens</i>			2
	<i>Asteriscus imbricatus</i>			3
	<i>Onopordum cf macranthum</i>			4
	<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>			2
	<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>			2
	<i>Volutaria lippii</i>			2
	<i>Volutaria tubuliflora</i>			5
	<i>Gladiolus segetum</i>	Corn marigold		4
	<i>Senecio glaucus</i>			5
<b>Boraginaceae (forget-me-not family)</b>				
	<i>Echium horridum</i>			2
	<i>Heliotropium crispum</i>			2
	<i>Mairetis microsperma</i>			3
	<i>Nonea calycina</i>			5
<b>Brassicaceae (cabbage family)</b>				
	<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock		5
	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock		2
	<i>Notoceras bicornis</i>			2
		Salad Rocket		2
<b>Cactaceae (cactus family)</b>				
	<i>Austrocylindropuntia subulata</i>			2
	<i>Opuntia maxima</i>	Prickly Pear		3
<b>Capparaceae (caper family)</b>				
	<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper		6

Morocco, species list and trip report, 28<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
<b>Caryophyllaceae (carnation family)</b>				
	<i>Paronychia argentea</i>			2
	<i>Polycarpaea nivea</i>			3
	<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean Catchfly		3
	<i>Silene drysis</i>			5
	<i>Spergularia fimbriata</i>			2
<b>Cistaceae (rock-rose family)</b>				
	<i>Cistus crispus</i>	Shrubby Cistus		6
	<i>Helianthemum confertum</i>			2
<b>Convolvulaceae (bindweed family) (includes former Cuscutaceae)</b>				
	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>			2
	<i>Convolvulus siculus</i>	Small Blue Convolvulus		4
	<i>Cuscuta</i> sp.	Dodder		3
	<i>Ipomaea batatus</i>	Sweet Potato		2
<b>Crassulaceae (stonecrop family)</b>				
	<i>Sedum sediforme</i>			6
<b>Cucurbitaceae (gourd family)</b>				
	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony		4
<b>Cynomoriaceae</b>				
	<i>Cynomorium coccineum</i>	Maltese Thumb		3
<b>Euphorbiaceae (spurge family)</b>				
	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge		4
	<i>Euphorbia officinarum</i>			3
	<i>Euphorbia officinarum</i> subsp. <i>echinus</i>			5
	<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge		3
	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge		3
	<i>Euphorbia regis-jubae</i>			3

Morocco, species list and trip report, 28<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant		4
	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury		3
<b>Fabaceae (pea family)</b>				
	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	Golden Wattle		2
	<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob		2
	<i>Chamaecytisus album</i>			6
	<i>Genista tricuspidata</i>			2
	<i>Lotus criticus</i>			2
	<i>Lotus assakensis</i>			6
	<i>Lupinus cosentinii</i>	Sandplain Lupin		5
	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa		4
	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot		4
	<i>Ononis natrix</i>			2
	<i>Retama monosperma</i>			5
	<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>			4
	<i>Cytisus albidus</i>			2
<b>Fagaceae (beech family)</b>				
	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak		6
<b>Frankeniaceae (sea heath family)</b>				
	<i>Frankenia laevis ssp velutina</i>			3
	<i>Frankenia boissieri</i>			3
<b>Geraniaceae (geranium family)</b>				
	<i>Erodium hesperium</i>			2
	<i>Erodium botrys</i>	Mediterranean Stork's-bill		4
<b>Lamiaceae (mint family)</b>				
	<i>Lavandula dentata var candicans</i>			3
	<i>Lavandula multifida</i>			2

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound		2
	<i>Salvia aegyptiaca</i>			2
	<i>Teucrium capitatum</i>			3
	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Bush		6
	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Deadnettle		6
<b>Lythraceae (loosestrife family)</b>				
	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate		6
<b>Malvaceae (mallow family)</b>				
	<i>Malva parviflora</i>			2
<b>Oleaceae (olive family)</b>				
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive		2
<b>Orobanchaceae (broomrape family)</b>				
	<i>Cistanche phelypaea</i>	Desert Hyacinth		3
	<i>Orobanche mutelii</i>			7
	<i>Striga barthlottii</i>	Witchweed		3
<b>Papaveraceae (poppy family)</b>				
	<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>			4
		Martins Ramping-fumitory		4
	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>			4
	<i>Glaucium corniculatum</i>	Red Horned Poppy		2
	<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Long-headed Poppy		5
	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn Poppy		4
<b>Plantaginaceae (plantain family) (includes former Globulariaceae)</b>				
	<i>Linaria bipartita</i>			2
	<i>Linaria ventricosa</i>			6
	<i>Misopates oronticum</i>	Weasel's Snout		3
	<i>Nanorrhinum heterophyllum</i>			6

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
	<i>Plantago afra</i>			2
<b>Plumbaginaceae (leadwort family)</b>				
	<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>			2
	<i>Limonium mucronatum</i>			3
<b>Polygalaceae (milkwort family)</b>				
	<i>Polygala balansae</i>			6
<b>Polygonaceae (dock family)</b>				
	<i>Emex spinosa</i>			2
	<i>Rumex vesicarius</i>	Bladder Dock		2
<b>Primulaceae (primrose family)</b>				
	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel		2
<b>Resedaceae (mignonette family)</b>				
	<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette		2
	<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	Corn Mignonette		4
<b>Rhamnaceae (buckthorn family)</b>				
	<i>Zizyphus lotus</i>			2
<b>Rosaceae (rose family)</b>				
	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat		2
	<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond		6
<b>Rubiaceae (madder family)</b>				
	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>			4
<b>Sapotaceae (sapota family)</b>				
	<i>Sideroxylon (=Argania) spinosa</i>	Argan		2
<b>Scrophulariaceae (figwort family)</b>				
	<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>			2
	<i>Verbascum faurei</i> subsp. <i>faurei</i>			4
	<i>Verbascum maroccanum</i>			6

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
<b>Solanaceae (nightshade family)</b>				
	<i>Lycium intricatum</i>			3
	<i>Nicotiana glaucum</i>			2
	<i>Trichodesma calcaratum</i>			6
	<i>Withania somnifera</i>			2
<b>Tamaricaceae (tamarisk family)</b>				
	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	French Tamarisk		2
<b>Urticaceae (nettle family)</b>				
	<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle		4
<b>Zygophyllaceae (caltrop family)</b>				
	<i>Zygophyllum creticum</i>	Virgin's Mantle		2
<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>				
<b>Amaryllidaceae (daffodil family)</b>				
	<i>Pancratium foetidum</i>	Stinking Sea Daffodil		6
<b>Araceae (palm family)</b>				
	<i>Chamaerops humilis var cerifera</i>	Dwarf Fan Palm		6
	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Date Palm		4
<b>Araceae (arum family)</b>				
	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl		5
<b>Asparagaceae (asparagus family)</b>				
	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>			4
	<i>Asparagus albus</i>			2
	<i>Dipcadi serotinum</i>			2
	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassell Hyacinth		2
<b>Asphodelaceae (asphodel family)</b>				
	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel		2
	<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Branched Asphodel		5

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
<b>Colchicaceae (colchicum family)</b>				
	<i>Colchicum gramineum</i>			2
<b>Cyperaceae (sedge family)</b>				
	<i>Cyperus capitatus</i>			3
<b>Iridaceae (iris family)</b>				
	<i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut		2
<b>Poaceae (grass family)</b>				
	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed		3
	<i>Cynodon dactylum</i>			3
	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Buffelgrass		2
	<i>Setaria adhaerens</i>	Bur Bristle Grass		3
	<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>			2
	<i>Stipellula capensis</i>			6

## BIRDS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published in the **HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World**, as updated by [www.birdsoftheworld.org](http://www.birdsoftheworld.org)

English names follow those used in the **Collins Bird Guide** (3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Family Struthionidae (Ostriches)</b>										
Red-necked Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus camelus</i>								◆	
<b>Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl)</b>										
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				◆				◆	
<b>Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)</b>										
Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>			◆	◆					◆
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								H	
<b>Family Phoenicopteridae (Flamingoes)</b>										
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>								◆	
<b>Family Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)</b>										
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>								H	
<b>Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>										
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (domest.)</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>								◆	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>			◆						◆
<b>Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)</b>										
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>			◆						◆
<b>Family Apodidae (Swifts)</b>										
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>					◆	◆			
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>						◆			
<b>Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules and Coots)</b>										
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				◆					
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				◆					
<b>Family Burhinidae (Thick-knees)</b>										
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>				H					
<b>Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and allies)</b>										
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				◆				◆	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>								◆	
<b>Family Laridae (Gulls, Terns and Skimmers)</b>										
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>								◆	
Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>				◆					
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				◆			◆	◆	

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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Family Ciconiidae (Storks)</b>										
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				◆		◆		◆	
<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)</b>										
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				◆					
<b>Family Ardeidae (Heron, Egrets and Bitterns)</b>										
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				◆				◆	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				◆				◆	
<b>Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)</b>										
Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>				◆					
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				◆					
<b>Family Pandionidae (Ospreys)</b>										
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>								◆	
<b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)</b>										
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>							◆		
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						◆			
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>								◆	
<b>Family Strigidae (Owls)</b>										
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						◆		◆	
<b>Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)</b>										
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			◆		◆	◆	H		◆
<b>Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)</b>										
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	
<b>Family Malaconotidae (Bushshrikes and allies)</b>										
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				H					
<b>Family Laniidae (Shrikes)</b>										
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor algeriensis</i>								◆	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			◆						◆
<b>Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)</b>										
Maghreb Magpie	<i>Pica mauritanica</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>Family Paridae ( Tits)</b>										
African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>								H	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			◆				◆	◆	
<b>Family Alaudidae (Larks)</b>										
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				H					
Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae ruficolor</i>			◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata riggenbachi</i>						◆			
<b>Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and allies)</b>										
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>								H	
<b>Family Hirundinidae (Swallows)</b>										
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>							◆		
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			◆		◆			◆	◆

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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>						◆			
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>						◆			
<b>Family Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)</b>										
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)</b>										
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>					◆			◆	
<b>Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and allies)</b>										
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>					H			H	
Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca hortensis</i>			◆						◆
Tristram's Warbler	<i>Curruca deserticola</i>							◆		
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>			◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>						◆		◆	
<b>Family Leiotrichidae (Laughingthrushes and allies)</b>										
Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>									◆
<b>Family Sturnidae (Starlings)</b>										
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>			◆		◆	◆		◆	
<b>Family Turdidae (Thrushes and allies)</b>										
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula mauritanicus</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
<b>Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)</b>										
Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>			◆	◆	◆				
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>						◆			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>								◆	
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>								◆	
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>			◆	◆			◆		
<b>Family Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)</b>										
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</b>										
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>			◆					◆	
<b>Family Fringillidae (Finches and allies)</b>										
African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla spodiogenys</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			◆			◆		◆	◆
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>						◆		◆	
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			◆			H	◆	◆	◆
<b>Family Emberizidae (Buntings)</b>										
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			◆				H	H	
House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>			◆		◆	◆	◆		

Morocco, species list and trip report, 28<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>MAMMALS</b>										
Dorcas Gazelle	<i>Gazella dorcas</i>								◆	
Addax	<i>Addax nasomaculatus</i>								◆	
Scimitar-horned Oryx	<i>Oryx dammah</i>								◆	
Barbary Ground Squirrel	<i>Atalantoxerus getulus</i>		◆				◆	◆		
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>								◆	

**AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES**

This checklist follows the taxonomy published in *Amphibians and Reptile of Morocco*, as updated at [www.moroccoherps.com](http://www.moroccoherps.com)

<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>										
Berber Toad	<i>Sclerophrys mauretunica</i>			◆						
N. African Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax saharica</i>		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆
<b>REPTILES</b>										
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>		◆						◆	
Moorish Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>							◆	◆	
Agadir Lizard-toed Gecko	<i>Saurodactylus brosseti</i>			◆						
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>		◆							
Margarita's Fringe-toed Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus margaritae</i>			◆			◆			
Bibron's Agama	<i>Agama bibronii</i>		◆				◆			

BUTTERFLIES							
Family HesperIIDae (Skippers)							
False Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus tripolinus</i>		◆				◆
Family Pieridae (Whites)							
Moroccan Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis belia</i>		◆		◆	◆	
Greenish Black-tip	<i>Euchloe charlonia</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>					◆	◆
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					◆	◆
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae mauretanicus</i>		◆	◆		◆	◆
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		◆	◆	◆		◆
Family Lycaenidae (Blues, Coppers and Hairstreaks)							
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>		◆				
Family Nymphalidae (Admirals and Fritillaries)							
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		◆	◆		◆	◆
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		◆			◆	◆

Morocco, species list and trip report, 28<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>OTHER INVERTEBRATES</b>										
Vagrant Emperor	<i>Hemianax ephippiger</i>			◆	◆					
Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostiga</i>				◆					
Orange-winged Dropwing	<i>Trithemis kirbyi</i>								◆	
Striped Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles livornica</i>				◆	◆	◆			
A Noctuid moth	<i>Polytela cliens</i>			◆						
Purple Marbled	<i>Eublemma ostrina</i>			◆						
Robust Tabby	<i>Pandesma robusta</i>			◆						
Pale Shoulder	<i>Acontia lucida</i>					◆	◆			
Egyptian Flower Mantis	<i>Blepharopsis mendica</i>				◆					
African Mantis	<i>Sphodromantis viridis</i>								◆	◆
Cone-headed Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>			◆						
Desert Locust	<i>Schistocerca gregaria</i>				◆				◆	
Toad Grasshopper	<i>Batrachotetrix</i> sp.			◆						
Termite	Family <i>Termitoidae</i>						◆			
Darkling Beetle	Family <i>Tenebrionidae</i>				◆		◆		◆	
Oil Beetle	<i>Meloe</i> sp.							◆		
Silverfish	Family <i>Lepismatidae</i>				◆					
Yellow Scorpion	<i>Buthus</i> sp.				◆		◆			
Brown Widow Spider	<i>Latrodectus geometricus</i>				◆					



*thank you for travelling with us*

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