

MOROCCO TOUR REPORT 2025

23 April - 4 May 2025

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With Morocco holding several North-African endemic (sub)species and range-restricted bird species, this country is amongst the most popular birding destinations in the Western Palearctic. Add to this the beautiful landscapes, the excellent food and mostly pleasant weather around this time of the year, everyone enjoys this tour – this year being no different! Visiting several habitats throughout the country, we enjoyed many highlights including Crimson-winged Finch, Maghreb Owl, 'Atlas' Horned Lark, Atlas Wheatear, Levaillant's Woodpecker, Atlas Pied Flycatcher, Dupont's Lark, Crowned and Spotted Sandgrouse, Egyptian Nightjar, African Desert Warbler, Streaked Scrub Warbler, Pharaoh Eagle-Owl, Maghreb Wheatear, Tristram's Warbler, Northern Bald Ibis, Moussier's Redstart and much more. This was a tour with some surprises as well, including African Houbara, Red-throated Pipit, European Nightjar, Ring Ouzel and Great Spotted Cuckoo! A long staying Lesser Moorhen, Morocco's first, was a tour write-in. All together this resulted in the highest trip list ever: 204, including 48 diamond birds (including three subspecies diamond birds).

The tour started with an early morning departure from the old town of Marrakech as we set off for the High Atlas. Enroute, we tried for Barbary Partridge as this can be a tricky species to connect with and we were fortunate to have good views of a pair, while also picking up our first Western Black-eared Wheatear, Woodchat Shrike, Cirl Bunting, Little Swift and Corn Bunting, while a nearby location resulted in our first Levaillant's Woodpecker, African Blue Tit and African Chaffinch. Nearing Oukaimeden we made a quick stop in a coniferous forest where we found more of the latter two species, plus Common Firecrest, Mistle Thrush and Rock Bunting. Once in Oukaimeden we headed straight for the ski station, finding our first Crimson-winged Finch, Atlas Wheatear, 'Atlas' Horned Lark, Rock Sparrow and our only Common Rock Thrush of the tour. As some showers came in, we decided to bird lower down near the village; this turned out to be an excellent decision as we quickly located a nice pair of Crimson-winged Finch, now seen by everyone. Other good birds here included a pair of Black Wheatear, many Rock Sparrows, a White-throated Dipper for some and a superb male Moussier's Redstart. After dinner we tried for Maghreb Owl lower down but couldn't find any due to the wind, however, back in Oukaimeden, some of us decided to give it another try (where Sjoerd knew a spot) and immediately had a very tape-responsive pair in the bins – a nice way to end the day!

The next morning, two clients (who skipped last night) together with Sjoerd, tried for the Maghreb Owl just before breakfast. Despite it being fairly light already, we were all surprised the owl showed itself extremely well and we captured some amazing pictures. We birded just outside the village again, and this turned out to be an excellent move as over the next few hours we had superb close-by views of both Red-billed and Alpine Choughs, Atlas Wheatear, 'Atlas' Horned Lark and Rock Sparrow. On the way out, we spotted a pair of White-throated Dipper which were now enjoyed by all of us. The rest of the day was spent driving towards Ifrane in the Middle Atlas, adding our first Booted Eagle, Yellow-legged Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black Kite and Glossy Ibis before checking-in to our lovely hotel.

Dawn birding here proved to be extremely productive, and in just over an hour after breakfast we recorded a nice pair of Atlas Pied Flycatcher (the main target here), better views of Levaillant's Woodpecker, several Hawfinches, a singing Melodious Warbler, a singing male Cirl Bunting, some Spotless Starlings, a pair of Common Redstart and more African Blue Tits – all showing very well! One of us even recorded another Maghreb Owl earlier that morning, being mobbed by several Common Blackbirds. It was time to visit a forest patch just outside the village and as soon as we stepped out of the van, birds were simply everywhere. Among the common birds not seen (well) before, there were Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Short-toed Treecreepers, Eurasian Nuthatches, and Coal and Great Tits. We were surprised to find a European Roller in the forest, plus more Atlas Pied Flycatchers and we heard our only Red Crossbill and Western Bonelli's Warbler of the tour. After this we went to look for Lesser Kestrel, finding several near Ifrane. In the late morning we visited some lakes in and around Ifrane, resulting in our only Black-crowned Night Herons, close-up views of Red-knobbed Coots, a European Honey Buzzard flying over and several new trip species in the form of Little Grebe, Common Pochard, Gadwall and more.

We spent the rest of the day around Dayet (Lake) Aoua, and although the lake was dry, we still had a good time with our first Eurasian Hoopoe, a heard-only Common Cuckoo, an intriguing Thekla's Lark and more of the same as before. As we were doing so well with the target species, we decided to try for Eurasian Scops Owl nearby. This species sometimes calls during the middle of the day here, so we tried to lure it in. In the meantime, we enjoyed a group of probably well over 120(!) Hawfinches, several Mistle Thrushes and a Levaillant's Woodpecker at eye-level. Suddenly, we heard a calling Eurasian Scops Owl. Walking towards where the calls came from, it was quickly located by David. We had prolonged views before we decided to visit another forest near Ifrane, however, showers soon came in and it rained for the rest of the afternoon. Having seen more than we expected to see, we spent the rest of the (late) afternoon in or around the hotel.

The next day, after breakfast, we slowly made our way south to Midelt with our first stop aiming to find Barbary Macaque in the cedar forest near Azrou, which we saw with ease. A walk through this half-open habitat also resulted in more Moussier's Redstarts and our only Western Subalpine Warbler and Western Orphean Warbler – both males showing very well! Some of us also enjoyed the smart Spanish Fritillaries. Back on the road we saw tens of Northern Ravens and our first Long-legged Buzzard and a short stop near some water produced Black-necked Grebes, while a little further we picked up on a Tawny Pipit from the car. Continuing on our way to the famous Zaida Plains, we decided to drive further in than necessary for our main target (Dupont's Lark) which resulted in a nice pair of Cream-coloured Courser. When driving back things became even better when Sjoerd suddenly spotted an African Houbara standing next to the car! While the origin of this bird is debatable with many captive-bred birds now free-flying around for hunting, it still is a very hard bird to find! A search for Dupont's Lark resulted in good views of Mediterranean Short-toed Lark, Desert Wheatear, Red-rumped Wheatear and a Spur-thighed Tortoise for some.

Next morning we started really early, as Dupont's Larks are known to sing before sunrise! After driving for half an hour, we parked somewhere out on the plains and listened for its characteristic song. We picked up on a singing bird, but too far, so we decided walking in its direction, playing its song every now and then. This tactic worked out perfectly, as we soon enjoyed good views of a singing Dupont's Lark right in front of us! Having already seen the bustard and courser yesterday, we decided to go for breakfast and move on south towards the Sahara Desert. A try for Tristram's Warbler resulted in a surprise Ring Ouzel for Steve – a write-in for this tour. Another stop in a green orchard resulted in our first European Pied Flycatchers, Whinchats and a Wood Warbler. After lunch, we continued towards Rissani where we successfully tried for Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (ssp. reiseri) and Maghreb Lark late afternoon. From there, it was only a short drive to our hotel in Erg Chebbi where we would spend the following three nights.

The next morning, we had three SUV's pick us up from our hotel to take us to our first birding spot. Our first stop was a water hole on the outskirts of the settlements where we soon enjoyed large groups of Spotted and Crowned Sandgrouse, coming in to have a quick drink and then fly off again. A surprise Pin-tailed Sandgrouse was much appreciated too as this is probably the best looking sandgrouse in the area. After most sandgrouse had gone, we went for another desert specialty: Desert Sparrow. En route, we picked up on our first Greater Hoopoe-Lark just meters away – what a bird! Shortly after, we arrived at a nomadic Berber camp and quickly noted two juveniles Desert Sparrows – together with some House Sparrows. After a while a nice male flew in and we had fantastic views at eye-level at close range. In some places, it now seems the sparrows have been pushed away by House Sparrows, but here they still occur together. A neat bonus already here was a flock of very showy Fulvous Babblers. Via the desert we drove to a good spot for African Desert Warbler, enjoying views of White-crowned Wheatear and Brown-necked Raven along the way. On arrival it was already very hot and there was not a sniff of the warbler. It took some time before our local guide and Sjoerd saw "something flying somewhere", but shortly after we enjoyed superb views of a very obliging African Desert Warbler! Before lunch, we had only one more target to see: Egyptian Nightjar. Over the last couple of years, a local Berber ("Uncle Nightjar") has specialised in finding these very well camouflaged birds early morning at dawn or by looking for them under the bushes in the Sahara Desert during the day. We were pleased to hear he found not only one today, but an adult with two juveniles! After only a short walk in the desert, we soon enjoyed excellent views of all three birds hiding in the shade of a bush, though even a few meters away, some of us had a hard time finding the birds!

After lunch and some rest, we visited nearby lush gardens to see what else we could get on migration. A small lake en route produced our first waders, including Green Sandpiper, Dunlin, Little Stint, Kentish Plover and Pied Avocet. A late afternoon stroll in the gardens didn't get us much, but we had good views of several Wood Warblers, Western Yellow Wagtails, Eurasian Turtle Dove, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, Tree Pipit and a single Reed Warbler.

This morning, some of us birded the scrub around the hotel resulting in a surprise European Nightjar. A little later, we were surprised to see it chased down by a Brown-necked Raven in flight above our hotel! After breakfast, we drove to a place for Streaked Scrub Warbler

(ssp. saharea) nearby. Along the way, we picked up on a showy pair of our first Desert Larks, but the Streaked Scrub Warblers turned out to be not so showy and some of us didn't even get to see it. Therefore, we continued towards Rissani where we birded some agricultural areas for more (new) birds. It was hard work, but resulted in our first Laughing Doves, Western Marsh Harrier and a nice male Sardinian Warbler. Before lunch we visited a spot for Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, resulting in good views of three or four birds. Then we headed for lunch, which came in the form of a Moroccan Berber Pizza: a beautifully stuffed flatbread filled with spiced meat, onions, and herbs. Once we had had enough, we went to Dayet (Lake) Srij – only stopping shortly for a Little Owl, but arriving at the lake, it soon became clear it was packed with birds! By driving slowly along the shore, we had very good looks of Pied Avocet, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Sanderling, Kentish Plover and Ruddy Shelduck. Far away we picked up a Gull-billed Tern, Whiskered Tern and Ruddy Turnstone – all not guaranteed birds. In a flock of yellow wagtails, Sjoerd was keen to pick up on a Red-throated Pipit by ear. We all quickly got out and after some scanning, we found an obliging bird on the ground – yes! By now, it was time to go back to the hotel where we said goodbye to our desert guides.

This morning, we departed the beautiful Saharan Desert before making our way to the famous Tagdilt Track near Boumalne Dades. En route we made several stops for more new birds, our first near Tinejdad, where we tried for views of Streaked Scrub Warbler where we soon found a small flock of six birds here, which showed much better than the ones yesterday and most of us were even able to get some decent photos! Next was the Todgha Gorge, which is a good place for Bonelli's Eagle and Tristram's Warbler. As soon as we got out of the van a distant Bonelli's Eagle flew over and after some time, we picked up the bird again (showing nicely overhead) and even found a nest with two chicks! We played the tape for Tristram's Warbler here, but only found Barbary Ground Squirrel, Trumpeter Finch and another distant Bonelli's Eagle.

After lunch we headed for Boumalne Dades, but as we had some time to kill, we decided to try for Pharaoh Eagle Owl, Lanner Falcon and Maghreb Wheatear. Together with our local guide 'Hibou' (French for owl), we were soon looking at an adult Pharaoh Eagle Owl hiding in a cave. At the other side of the canyon, three immatures were looking straight at us while bobbing their heads up and down. We tried here for Maghreb Wheatear, but it was very windy so we tried elsewhere. A walk into the other side of the canyon is where we enjoyed nice scope views of a Lanner Falcon on a nest and a Long-legged Buzzard, also on a nest, with two fledglings. After finding two juvenile wheatears at first, luckily our guide quickly located a lovely male Maghreb Wheatear which was very showy and enjoyed by all of us. With still some time left, our guide had a good place for Thick-billed Lark along the way to the hotel. We decided to give it a go and a short while later we were watching two immature Thick-billed Larks, and just as we were intending to leave, Martin found us a nice male and we all had great looks of this odd-looking lark with its massive bill, bold face pattern and intriguing wing pattern in flight. It was now almost 7pm and with still an hour to drive to our hotel, we said goodbye to our local guide and called it a day – and what a day it was!

Due to our very successful day yesterday, we had few new birds to look for today, but high on the list, however, was Tristram's Warbler, and we were confident in finding one. Our first spot was just 700m down a gully from our hotel, and after some taping, a very confident male Tristram's Warbler showed very well. With the most important target bird for the day bagged, we slowly birded our way down seeing expected species in the canyon like Blue Rock Thrush, Grey Wagtail and Black Wheatear. Once out of the canyon, we drove straight to the plains east of Boumalne Dades. A short stroll around an (almost) dried up lake resulted in another target bird: Temminck's Lark. We all enjoyed several adult birds feeding the juveniles at close range, with Desert Wheatears alongside. We continued onwards, until some Greater Short-toed Larks flew in front of the van and landed nearby. We then birded the famous Tagdilt Track where we picked up our first Great Grey Shrikes and had lovely views of a fine male Red-rumped Wheatear too. On the way out we noted a pair of Cream-coloured Coursers. Once lunch was had in Boumalne Dades, we birded the other end of the track, but it didn't get us much and once the expected showers came in, we called it a day.

The next day was mostly a travelling day, driving all the way down to the coast from Boumalne Dades. Some carefully selected stops en route resulted in a few unexpected additions to our ever-growing list. A stop for Common Quail resulted in a fantastic (singing!) first-summer Great Spotted Cuckoo that showed itself extremely well – mostly in flight. A group of 30+ European Bee-eaters was new too, while another stop gave us our only Little Bittern and first 'Moroccan' White Wagtail (ssp. supersonata). A final stop for the day was near Aoulouz, where in March the first Lesser Moorhen for Morocco was found. Though it showed itself shortly at some distance, it was – of course – another write-in for us. Lots of beautiful Copper Demoiselles provided some distraction while waiting for the moorhen. The rest of the day was spent travelling to Agadir.

This being our last full day, we were keen on an early start in the famous river deltas of Morocco: Oued Souss and Oued Massa. While driving there, we noticed many Maghreb Magpies – a species we did not see much of before. Our birding this morning started near a

bridge just outside Oued Souss-Massa NP where we noted several new birds in the form of a Eurasian Spoonbill, European Stonechat, European Stone-curlew and – most importantly – the localized Brown-throated Martin. It was a birdy place, and we also enjoyed Zitting Cisticolas, Crested Larks, Western Olivaceous Warblers, Sardinian Warblers and a nice Eurasian Golden Oriole. The best bird here however was an Eleonora's Falcon, a bird we were supposed to look for the next day. We continued to the National Park, where a walk along the river gave us many new birds: Marbled Duck, Spanish Sparrow, Purple Heron, Eurasian Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Dunlin and Common Redshank. Also new were several flocks of soaring Northern Bald Ibis, though surprisingly absent were Black-crowned Tchagras, hearing just one at the other side of the river. A welcome bonus were two Lesser Crested Terns foraging with some Sandwich Terns out on the sea, as we were picked up by our van near the beach. The rest of the day was spent looking for the tchagra (with some success) and ibises on the ground (with no success).

Our very last day started in Oued Souss, the river just south of Agadir. As we were closing in on over 200(!) species, we were all very keen to see what we could get there. Among the many groups of waders present, we soon started to pick up on new species: Black-headed Gull, Red Knot, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Eurasian Whimbrel, both Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwit, and a fly-by Caspian Tern. A fly-by immature Audouin's Gull was also new. Also present in good numbers were Eurasian Spoonbills, Greater Flamingo's, Common Ringed Plovers, Grey Plovers, Little Egrets and almost 100 Sandwich Terns! Maghreb Magpies showed well close by, allowing good pictures for most. We then headed up north towards Tamri.

Just north of Agadir we checked another beach hoping for Lesser Crested Tern, ending up with a first summer Mediterranean Gull and 8 Common Bottlenose Dolphins out on the sea. Near Cap Ghir we had no problem adding Cory's Shearwater and Northern Gannet to our long list. Around midday we reached Tamri, where we were hoping for Northern Bald Ibis on the ground and although we did see two land, they flew before we were close enough to observe them. A nice flock of 15 Spanish Sparrows provided some consolation. We then drove straight to Marrakech and said goodbye to our local cultural guide Abdellah – who told us so many interesting things about Morocco – and driver Abdelkaber – who always made sure we were sound and safe by the end of the day. Hereafter, we checked in to our hotel for the night where most of us had some fantastic burgers to celebrate what an amazingly successful tour this had been. In total we recorded 204 species including almost all target birds and many nice bonuses!

BIRD OF THE TOUR

1. Maghreb Owl
2. Dupont's Lark
3. Moussier's Redstart
4. Pharaoh Eagle Owl
5. Pin-tailed Sandgrouse

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g., it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follow Gill, F., Donsker, D., & Rasmussen, P.(Eds). **2025. IOC World Bird List (v15.1)**.

BIRDS

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Marbled Duck ♠ (M Teal) *Marmaronetta angustirostris* Near-threatened. Several seen in Oued Souss-Massa NP.

Common Pochard *Aythya farina* Vulnerable.

Barbary Partridge ♠ *Alectoris Barbara* A pair showed well on day 1 at the base of the High Atlas.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* One chased by a Brown-necked Raven(!) in Erg Chebbi.

Egyptian Nightjar ♠ *Caprimulgus aegyptius* An adult bird with two juveniles gave excellent views in Erg Chebbi.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* One bird in the Todra Gorge.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Little Swift *Apus affinis* Several birds seen well in Marrakech.

African Houbara ♠ *Chlamydotis undulata* Vulnerable. One bird on the Zaida Plains

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* A singing(!) first-summer bird was a surprise found near Ouarzazate.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Heard-only

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* One bird came in with the other sandgrouses.

Spotted Sandgrouse ♠ *Pterocles senegallus* About 120 birds came in to drink in Erg Chebbi.

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

Crowned Sandgrouse ♠ *Pterocles coronatus* About 80 birds came in to drink in Erg Chebbi.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba [livia] var_ domestica*

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* Vulnerable. Pleasantly common by sight and ear throughout the tour.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* A few birds seen in the southeast.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Lesser Moorhen *Paragallinula angulata* This first for Morocco was found near Aoulouz in March 2025 and still present when we were there.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Red-knobbed Coot (Crested C) *Fulica cristata* Close-up views of around 30 birds near Ifrane. Later seen more.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* A pair on a small lake en-route.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oediconemus*

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Near-threatened.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* Several seen this year in Erg Chebbi.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola*

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus*

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* Near-threatened.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* Near-threatened.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Near-threatened.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* Near-threatened.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Vulnerable. Fantastic views along the shore of Lake Srij near Merzouga.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Near-threatened.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Over a 100 seen along the shore of Lake Srij

Cream-colored Courser *Cursorius cursor* A pair seen on the Zaida Plains and another pair with chicks along the Tagdilt Track near Boumalne Dades.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* One bird on a sand bank in Lake Srij.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* One fly-by over the Souss River

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* This scarce passage migrant was seen on a sand bank in Lake Srij

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* A couple of them feeding out on the sea in the Agadir area.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Audouin's Gull ♦ *Ichthyaetus audouinii* A flock of 60 birds present on the beach near Tamri.

Mediterranean Gull ♦ *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* A first-summer bird on a beach north of Agadir.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Cory's Shearwater ♦ *Calonectris borealis* A few of them on the sea near Cape Ghir, allowing good views.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Great Cormorant ♦ (Moroccan C) *Phalacrocorax [carbo] maroccanus*

Northern Bald Ibis ♦ *Geronticus eremita* Endangered. Several groups seen flying overhead in the Oued Souss-Massa NP and two more near Tamri.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Little Bittern *Botaurus minutus* One was seen in the Assif Iriri River en-route to Agadir.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* At least 7 birds in a colony with Cattle Egrets in Ifrane.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Western Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Osprey (Western O) *Pandion [haliaetus] haliaetus* Non-leader

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* One fly-by near Ifrane.

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* Excellent views of this beautiful raptor in the Todra Gorge.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Long-legged Buzzard ♦ (Atlas B) *Buteo [rufinus] cirtensis*

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* One heard and then seen near Lake Aoua.

Pharaoh Eagle-Owl ♦ *Bubo ascalaphus* An adult and three immatures were seen near Boumalne Dades.

Maghreb Owl ♦ *Strix mauritanica* A pair seen brilliantly in Oukaimeden

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* Good views of several birds near Rissani.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major mauritanus* Endemic ssp.

Levaillant's Woodpecker ♠ (L Green W) *Picus vaillantii* Several excellent views in the High and Middle Atlas.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* Several birds around Ifrane mostly, including adult males.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora* A surprise found near Agbalou (Massa River).

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* An adult on a nest near Boumalne Dades.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Heard, seen by leader-only.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* Heard-only in Ifrane, two seen in Oued Souss-Massa NP.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Near-threatened.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Maghreb Magpie ♠ *Pica mauritanica* Most common on the last days around Agadir.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* Excellent views of both this and the following species near Oukaimeden in the High Atlas.

Alpine Chough (Yellow-billed C) *Pyrhcorax graculus*

Western Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis* Up to 50 birds seen together soaring in Erg Chebbi.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

Coal Tit *Periparus ater atlas* Endemic ssp.

African Blue Tit ♠ (North A B T, Ultramarine T) *Cyanistes teneriffae* Seen in the High and Middle Atlas.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes* This beautiful lark was seen several times in Erg Chebbi.

Thick-billed Lark ♠ *Ramphocoris clotbey* A nice male and two immatures east of Boumalne Dades.

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti* A pair near Rissani and common in the canyons east of Boumalne Dades.

Bar-tailed Lark (B-t Desert L) *Ammomanes cincture* seen a few times in the southeast.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* Heard-only

Thekla's Lark ♠ *Galerida theklae* Seen several times, with good views near Ifrane and Boumalne Dades.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* Endemic ssp. riggenbachi seen in coastal zone near Agadir.

Maghreb Lark ♠ *Galerida macrorhyncha* Goods views of this intriguing lark species near Rissani.

Horned Lark ♠ (Atlas H L) *Eremophila [alpestris] atlas* Endemic ssp. A few seen well in Oukaimeden.

Temminck's Lark ♠ *Eremophila bilopha* Excellent views of adults feeding juveniles on the Boumalne plains.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Dupont's Lark ◊ *Chersophilus duponti* Vulnerable. One bird showing brilliantly on the Zaida Plains early morning.

Mediterranean Short-toed Lark ◊ *Alaudala rufescens* Proper views of some birds on the Zaida Plains

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Brown-throated Martin (Plain M, African P M) *Riparia paludicola mauritanica* Endemic ssp. Several seen near Agbalou (Massa River)

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Western House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

European Red-rumped Swallow ◊ *Cecropis rufula* Seen only on day 1 en-route to the High Atlas.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Streaked Scrub Warbler ◊ (Saharan S W) *Scotocerca [inquieta] saharae* Reasonable views near Rissani, but excellent views of a small flock en-route to Boumalne Dades.

Wood Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Multiple sightings of this attractive warbler, mostly in Erg Chebbi.

Western Bonelli's Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus Bonelli*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common Reed Warbler (Moroccan R W) *Acrocephalus [scirpaceus] ambiguus*

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler ◊ (Saharan O W) *Iduna [pallida] reiseri* Very common in the southeast of Morocco.

Western Olivaceous Warbler ◊ *Iduna opaca* Several seen on multiple occasions, most common around Marrakech and Agadir.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler) *Cisticola juncidis*

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Western Orphean Warbler ◊ *Curruca hortensis* A singing male in the Cedres Forest near Azrou.

African Desert Warbler ◊ *Curruca deserti* One bird showing very well in Erg Chebbi.

Tristram's Warbler ◊ *Curruca deserticola* A singing male at close range in the Dadès Gorge.

Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala*

Western Subalpine Warbler ◊ *Curruca iberiae* A singing male in the Cedres Forest near Azrou.

Fulvous Babbler ◊ *Argya fulva* Several seen well near a nomadic Berber camp in Erg Chebbi.

Common Firecrest ◊ *Regulus ignicapilla*

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

Spotless Starling ♦ *Sturnus unicolor*

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Non-leader

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin ♦ *Cercotrichas galactotes* Good views on several occasions of this attractive bird.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Atlas Pied Flycatcher ♦ *Ficedula speculigera* Excellent views of several males and females in and around Ifrane.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Moussier's Redstart ♦ *Phoenicurus moussieri* This attractive redstart was seen in several habitats, ranging from rocky slopes to agricultural fields.

Common Rock Thrush (Rufous-tailed R T) *Monticola saxatilis* One male seen in Oukaimeden.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Atlas Wheatear ♦ (Seebohm's W) *Oenanthe seebohmi* Perfect views of both male and female in Oukaimeden

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* Seen several times, at close range on the Boumalne plains.

Western Black-eared Wheatear ♦ *Oenanthe hispanica* Seen a few times this tour, including some neat males.

Red-rumped Wheatear ♦ *Oenanthe moesta* A pair seen on the Zaida Plains and several more on the Boumalne plains.

Maghreb Wheatear ♦ *Oenanthe halophila* A pair and two immatures were seen east of Boumalne Dades.

White-crowned Wheatear ♦ (W-c Black W) *Oenanthe leucopyga* The default wheatear in the southeast.

Black Wheatear ♦ *Oenanthe leucura* Seen multiple times, at close range in Oukaimeden.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* A pair was seen in a rocky stream near Oukaimeden.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia* A quite shy species enjoyed mostly in Oukaimeden.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* Seen a couple of times, including 13 males near Tamri.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Desert Sparrow ◊ *Passer simplex* A pair and several juveniles were seen near a nomadic Berber camp in Erg Chebbi.

Western Yellow Wagtail (form unidentified) *Motacilla flava*

Western Yellow Wagtail (Spanish W) *Motacilla [flava] iberiae*

Western Yellow Wagtail (Italian W) *Motacilla [flava] cinereocapilla* One along the shore of Lake Srij.

Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] thunbergia* The most common ssp in groups.

Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] flava*

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

White Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] alba*

White Wagtail ◊ (Moroccan W) *Motacilla [alba] subpersonata* Endemic ssp. Seen a couple of times at the end of the tour.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* This scarce passage migrant was found in a flock of wagtails along the shore of Lake Srij near Merzouga.

African Chaffinch ◊ *Fringilla spodiogenys* Seen in wooded areas in the High and Middle Atlas.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* More than a 100 were seen around Lake Aoua near Ifrane.

Crimson-winged Finch ◊ *Rhodopechys sanguineus* Two pairs and a single female seen in Oukaimeden.

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus* A pair in the Todra Gorge and a juvenile in Erg Chebbi.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Red Crossbill (Common C) *Loxia curvirostra* Heard-only.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* Good views of two birds in Oukaimeden.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

House Bunting ◊ *Emberiza sahari* Seen multiple times, mostly around habituated places.

MAMMALS

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* Eight seen from the beach north of Agadir

Barbary Macaque (B Ape) *Macaca sylvanus* About 20 seen in the Cadar Forest near Azrou

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis* One seen on the Boumalne plains

Barbary Ground Squirrel (North African G S) *Atlantoxerus getulus* Two seen in Todra Gorge

Fat Sand Rat *Psammomys obesus* A few seen near Rissani

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Moroccan eyed Lizzard *Timon tangitanus* Near-endemic to Morocco. One seen in Oukaimeden.

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa*

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca* Vulnerable. One seen on the Zaida Plains.

BUTTERFLIES

Old World Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

Southern Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides feisthamelii*

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Small White *Pieris rapae*

Bath White *Pontia daplidice* The default white.

Desert Bath White *Pontia glauconome* One seen in the southeast.

Greenish Black Tip *Euchloe charlonia* A common butterfly in dry places.

Moroccan Orange Tip *Anthocharis belia* Only in NW Africa and SW Europe. A few seen this tour.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus*

Lang's Short-toed Blue *Leptotes pirithous*

African Bebel Blue *Azanus jesus* Non-leader

African Grass Blue *Zizeeria knysna* Non-leader

Austaut's Blue *Polyommatus celina* Split from Common Blue. Seen in the Cedar Forest near Azrou.

Lorquin's Blue *Cupido lorquini* A male seen of this Northwest African endemic.

Southern Brown Argus *Aricia cramera*

Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus* A few seen of this attractive butterfly.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Queen Of Spain Fritillary *Issoria lathonia*

Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*

Spanish Fritillary *Euphydryas desfontainii* Only in NW Africa and SW Europe. A couple of them in the Cedar Forest near Azrou.

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*

Rosy Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus onopordi*

DRAGONFLIES

Copper Demoiselle *Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis* Around 25 along a stream near Azrou.

Northern/Desert Bluet *Enallagma cyathigerum/ deserti*

Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*

Keeled Skimmer *Orthetrum coerulescens*

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii*