



ORIOLE BIRDING



TOUR REPORT **Morocco** **12th – 23rd March 2019**

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TOUR LEADER

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PARTICIPANTS

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This was a trip blessed, for most of the time, with lovely weather. As ever we saw almost all the target species. The only ones we missed out on were Scrub Warbler (sandstorm stopped play), Crimson-winged Finch (no snow in the mountains), Red-necked Nightjar (inexplicable) and birds such as Houbara Bustard, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler which we're pretty sure were not present at the time. On the other hand our trip list of 187 species included 4 Bonelli's Eagles, 4 Levaillant's Woodpeckers, Barbary Falcon and Fulvous Babbler on 3 days each, Pharaoh Eagle Owl at two sites, four species of sandgrouse (again) some unexpected finds such as Griffon Vulture, Spotted Crake, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Isabelline Wheatear and Red-throated Pipit and an exciting bonus bird, only identified in retrospect (see postscript).

TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2019 – *Sunny and warm with little wind*

The group arrived to a lovely sunny day in Agadir and, after watching Little Swifts over our hotel and snatching a short snack in a street café, we set off to explore the estuary of the Oued Souss. We hadn't even reached the car park before someone shouted Gull-billed Tern. So we made an impromptu stop to study our first good birds of the trip, and soon found ourselves also enjoying different-looking forms of familiar birds such as Chaffinch and Magpie. The African Chaffinch looks the most different but hasn't yet been widely split but the Maghreb Magpie is now considered a separate species.

We viewed the estuary from several points and also the pools by the Royal Palace. The hundred plus Greater Flamingoes looked particularly impressive in flight against a back drop of sand dunes but there were relatively few ducks and herons. With care we managed to identify 20 species of waders including stilts, Avocets, Oystercatchers, Kentish plovers and a few Ruffs, Knot and Curlew Sandpiper and the herons included a Great White Egret, 10 Glossy Ibis and a dozen Spoonbills. The gulls were almost entirely Lesser Black-backs and Yellow-legged but we also picked out 3 Audouin's and, surprisingly, only 1 Mediterranean Gull. Perhaps the birds we enjoyed the most were the regular Ospreys, the occasional flushed Barbary Partridge, the spectacular Moroccan White Wagtails, the frequent flyovers of parties of Bee-eater and the fantastic views of Stone Curlew.

The leader had spent two days in Morocco before the group arrived and had sussed out sites for a few difficult species. One of these was Brown-throated Sand Martin; if we could find them near Agadir it would save us a 200 km round-trip the next day. So we checked out a site that the leader had found and sure enough we had fabulous views of about 4 birds that seemed to be breeding in a river bank. Another target bird, Red-necked Nightjar had been found by the leader the night before. In fact he'd counted at least 4 singing males at one site. But for some reason when we waited at the same site at dusk, none of those nightjars made any sound at all. So utterly unpredictable.

WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm with little wind*

Our main target bird for today was Northern Bald Ibis, one of the rarest breeding birds in the Western Palearctic. We stopped first at Cap Rhir but couldn't find any feeding there. Instead we enjoyed birds like House Bunting, Black Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush, the North African 'coastal' race of Great Grey Shrike and the dazzlingly colourful Moussier's Redstart.

There were no ibis on the drive to Tamri either but on the estuary we had more Audouin's Gulls and a couple of Marsh Harriers. We checked the bushes for an Isabelline Shrike that had been found there in January, the second ever for Morocco, and got a glimpse of it again before it disappeared. At that moment a group of Northern Bald Ibis flew right over us and settled on the beach between the lagoon and the sea. Should we move to get better views of the ibis or keep searching the bushes for the shrike? The ibis won. They stayed long enough for us to get great scope views so we went back for the shrike and relocated that too. It perched obligingly atop various bushes within photographable range. Wow.



Morocco's third Isabelline Shrike

Having already seen Brown-throated Sand Martin we now had the chance to explore Paradise Valley where, on his reccy, the leader had found Bonelli's Eagle, Black-crowned Tchagra and two sites for Tristram's Warbler. We only managed to hear the Tchagra but we all piled out of the minibus when 2 Bonelli's Eagles were spotted. They hung around for long enough for all of us to get good views - an adult and an immature. The Tristram's Warblers were more elusive. The first of the two sites failed to produce the goods so we drove considerably further to the second site. One was heard almost immediately and over the next 20 minutes we all had close views of one of at least two birds present there. We would have further chances of Tristram's Warbler later on the trip but it was great to have already seen such a difficult bird.



Tristram's Warbler - a Spectacled Warbler with a dark throat or a Subalpine Warbler with rufous wings?

THURSDAY 14th MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm with little wind*

The Oued Massa used to be one of the best wetland areas in Morocco but in recent years it has deteriorated. Even so, the cultivated fields and riverside bushes still offer lots of birds, the most glamorous of which is Black-crowned Tchagra. As usual it was easy to hear them but this time it took some patience before we managed to get views of a pair carrying nesting material into a bush. What a bird! Other species here included Little Owl, Sand Martin (again no Brown-throated), Cetti's Warbler, Spanish Sparrow and loads of Zitting Cisticolas. 3 Glossy Ibis flying over, a Quail called and a Western Olivaceous Warbler sang out of sight in a distant bush. The biggest surprise though was the laughing cry of a Great Spotted Cuckoo which showed itself briefly on the top of a bush.

We included a visit to the 'secret pool' which in the past had been so good for ducks, herons, hirundines and, especially Glossy Ibis but were dismayed to find that it had been largely drained and now had virtually no water birds. Another site bites the dust. Another nail in the coffin for the Oued Massa as a birding site.

We drove on to our hotel east of Taroudannt, scanning around desperately for a Black-winged Kite by the roadside as this species had been missed entirely by our groups last year. At the hotel we chose to rest for an hour or so on the roof terrace which proved to be a good choice because from here we added several raptors. Several Black Kites and a couple of Booted Eagles were migrating but we also picked out 2 hunting Black-winged Kites and a distant large falcon; through the scope it was possible to see that the inner wing was paler than the outer and the tail became gradually darker towards the tip - Barbary Falcon! We were delighted to have seen a bird that is so easily missed but to some it had been just a distant dot. BVD - Better Views Desired.

We went out for a walk in some fields which are always crowded with small birds and often attract opportunistic raptors. As ever there were hundreds of Serins, African Chaffinches, Greenfinches and House Sparrows but this time no raptors. We did though enjoy great views of Cirl Bunting, Spanish Sparrow and Woodchat Shrike.

FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm with little wind*

As usual we went for a pre-breakfast walk from the hotel, in search of Fulvous Babbler. We were delighted to get more views of both Black-winged Kite and Black-crowned Tchagra on the bushes and, as we scanned around, one of the party spotted something quite different. A Fulvous Babbler. It stayed there long enough for us to walk around it to a spot where we could view it in better light and

at much closer range. We didn't approach too closely for fear of disturbance so we were amazed when the babbler actually flew towards us and landed on a fence right next to us, calling excitedly. In response, several others appeared from the bushes until it seemed we were surrounded by seven of them. Simply stunning views.



Instead of flying away it came and landed next to us!

It's a long drive from Taroudannt to Boumalne so this time we decided to cut out a trip to the reservoir at Ouarzazate, thinking this would give us more time to look for raptors en route. We stopped several times for flocks of migrating Black Kites and White Storks, the occasional Booted Eagle and two Short-toed Eagles but the biggest surprise was a Griffon Vulture soaring with some storks. That's a bird we don't normally see.

We stopped at a bridge overlooking some promising-looking reedy pools where Sedge, Reed and Cetti's Warblers were all lurking and Ruddy Shelducks were present too. Better still, we had a glimpse of two crakes, chasing each other. The brief views suggested Spotted Crake and this was confirmed when we had prolonged views of another, much closer, bird. As a result of this great find we spent longer here than we should have. We then discovered that our minibus had a problem and was struggling to get to 45mph. This, and a convoy of tanks moving at snail's pace, completely threw our planned timing for the rest of the day.

We still managed to make a stop to look for Maghreb Wheatear, a potentially difficult species. Without too much fuss we soon managed to find two females, seemingly being courted by the same male. Another great bird to chalk up. In our short time there we also added birds that were new for some such as Trumpeter Finch and Desert Lark and we had time to look properly at White-crowned Black Wheatear.

After further delays changing the minibus in Ouarzazate we finally arrived at our hotel exhausted and late but at least we'd seen some great birds.

SATURDAY 16th MARCH 2018 – *Chilly in the morning but then sunny and warm with little wind*

Everyone had high expectations of 'the famous' Tagdilt track and it didn't disappoint. We started by waiting at a traditional drinking site for sandgrouse which is sometimes visited even when there is no water. As we waited we got to know some of the birds of this desert: some of the Temminck's Larks were already feeding young, a few Greater Short-toed Larks kept dropping in and we soon got to sort out the Desert and Red-rumped Wheatears. We had a pair of Bar-tailed Lark here too, a species we hadn't seen here in recent years, but best of all, one of our group exclaimed that she'd found two sandgrouse. Through the scope we could see that they were Pin-tailed. When they flew off in one direction, another three appeared from a different direction. We also heard the chug-chug-churrug of Crowned Sandgrouse here but failed to pick them out.

On a different part of the desert it didn't take us long to find more of the iconic species with both Cream-coloured Courser and Greater Hoopoe-lark seen running across the stony areas. Occasionally a Hoopoe-lark would perch up on a bush, whistle loudly then leap into air before flopping down again.

As we searched for more larks, sandgrouse and wheatears we added another unexpected species - a Red-throated Pipit trying to find food in the desert. We also had distant views of a Thick-billed Lark but it disappeared when we tried to get closer. On our way back to town two Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew across the front of the minibus. Some groups don't see any sandgrouse at Tagdilt - we'd had three species in a morning although one was only heard.

It's always better to find Thick-billed Lark in an area of pristine desert. The alternative is to 'win ugly' by finding one amongst the rubbish at the town dump. Thankfully we were still some distance from the dump when a bird popped up on a mound beside the track - a Thick-billed Lark, perched close and in perfect profile. When it flew we tried to follow it but again it gave us the slip.



Thick-billed Lark through the window of the minibus

The afternoon is usually spent looking for Bonelli's Eagle and Tristram's Warbler but, since we'd already seen those near Agadir, we could concentrate on trying to find two other special species, Lanner Falcon and Pharaoh Eagle Owl. Whilst cold-searching for an owl we found instead a bird on a nest which proved to be one of a pair of Long-legged Buzzards (or North African Buzzard if it is split from Long-legged, or just Buzzard if it is lumped with Common Buzzard!). Our site for Lanner Falcon proved to be unoccupied this year but we were compensated when two kids ran up to us offering 'Hibou' - Eagle Owl. When we insisted that they would only get paid if we saw the bird without disturbing it, one of them confidently set up the scope, pointed it at a cliff and said 'c'est la'. Sure

enough, there, deep in a cave, was a Pharaoh Eagle Owl sitting on a nest. It was so well hidden we would never have spotted it without their help. Well worth the tip we paid them.

What a day. We'd seen just about all the key desert species in that area apart from Lesser Short-toed Lark (scarce again at this time of year), Barbary Falcon (seen by another bird group that day) and Crowned Sandgrouse (only heard).

SUNDAY 17th MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm with little wind until early afternoon when a desert storm arrived suddenly and lasted for the rest of the day*

Another long drive but we started by having another try for Crowned Sandgrouse, this time following a hunch by searching where we thought they might have called from the previous day. Sadly we had no sandgrouse at all just lots of larks and wheatears including another pair of Bar-tailed Lark.

Our one planned birding stop during the drive was at a site for Scrub Warbler. This is a very localised species but we've never failed to see them at this site - until this year. But we did have a good excuse. We explored their breeding habitat, spotting several warblers but they all turned out to be either Sardinian or Spectacled Warbler (itself a good species to see). We also had great views of the desert race of Great Grey Shrike (*elegans*) and some more Fulvous Babbler before finally hearing the call of a Scrub Warbler. One of the group spotted it flying ahead and watched where it went down so we all gathered in anticipation of its next move. But as we stood there, a wall of sand came hurtling towards us and engulfed us. All we could do was turn our backs on the warbler and protect our eyes and optics from the raging winds and battering sand grains. We waited for the storm to pass so we could get on with finding the warbler. But it didn't pass. It continued for the rest of the afternoon which was consequently pretty much a write-off birding wise. We did manage to get some views of Brown-necked Raven before we got to our hotel but that was it.



They're called House Bunting for a reason

MONDAY 18th MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm with little wind*

Unless the weather changed, our day in the desert could be a write-off too. So, imagine our relief when we awoke to clear starlit skies and hardly any wind. The trips in the desert with Lahcen and

his 4 x 4s are legendary. On this occasion we started by watching the light from the rising sun illuminate the huge dunes of the Erg Chebbi. As we stood we spotted a large falcon in the distance - almost certainly a Lanner but not close enough to be sure. We also heard the 'whackoo' calls of Spotted Sandgrouse and dived into the vans to try to drive to where they'd landed. Sure enough we were soon almost surrounded by groups of sandgrouse, over 30 of them, scuttling along in single file or creeping directly away from us. The next sandgrouse we came across were a pair of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (oh, those colours!) and apart from Northern, Black-eared and Desert Wheatears we also had one that was an Isabelline Wheatear. And the day had barely started!

Next up was a visit to a family's desert encampment where most of the sparrows in their 'garden' proved to be Desert Sparrows. We had terrific views of both males and females - the most favoured spot seemed to be the doorstep of the family house.

A quick dash across the desert took us to a drinking site for sandgrouse. Here we saw more Spotted Sandgrouse but this time they were outnumbered by Crowned Sandgrouse - at least 40. As ever we were getting terrific views from inside our vehicles. I remember when it was a major event to see any species of sandgrouse in Morocco yet once again we've had great views of all 4 species (not counting Lichtenstein's).



Spotted Sandgrouse – it's the female with the spotted breast and upper tail

We made our next stop when a singing Desert Warbler was heard from the vehicle. They are so much easier when they are singing so, as usual, we had great views. Our next stop was less conventional. Even with a 4 x4 we got stuck in a sand dune! Before the vehicle was towed out, one of us was sharp enough to spot a Hoopoe-lark sitting on it's nest. Most of us were surprised to realise that the nests are in the tops of the desert bushes, buried in a crown of thorns.



Hoopoe Lark at a nest – look carefully

From there we went to visit Mubarak who, once again, was able to show us Egyptian Nightjar. This time there was not one but two birds roosting by the same bush so the photographers could get a picture showing this species from two angles at once.



Can you see both Egyptian Nightjars in this picture?

After a terrific lunch at a new guest house in a desert village, we spent some time checking for migrants in some gardens. Most turned out to be Chiffchaff or Subalpine Warbler but we also added Willow Warbler, Redstart and Western Bonelli's Warbler.

Before returning to our hotel, Lahcen took us to the far side of Merzouga Lake which, this year, had plenty of water and lots of birds too. The flamingo flock (about 500) looked spectacular with the Erg Chebbi behind them and the commonest duck turned out to be Garganey (over 200). More exciting, there were also about 20 Ferruginous Duck and even more Marbled Duck - a new species for some. There were also quite a few waders including a few dozen Little Stints. A couple of Gull-billed Terns floated around too.

We were quite tired by the time we got back to our hotel but once again Lahcen had treated us to an exceptional day's birding and an unforgettable experience.

TUESDAY 15th MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm with little wind*

Another day in the desert, hoping to catch up on anything we had missed. Above all we wanted better views of Lanner and Barbary Falcons so our first stop was a site for Barbary Falcon that was supposedly occupied this year. As we searched (in vain) for the falcons we were interrupted by a deep hoot. Pharaoh Eagle Owl, calling in daylight! We looked up to the cliff where the sound had come from and were flabbergasted to see one sitting out on the edge of a ledge in full view. Even through binoculars you could see all the distinguishing features but through the scope the views were astonishing. Those eyes!



So, Pharaoh Eagle Owl doesn't always hide deep inside a cave

Ok, no Barbary, let's try for Lanner. We visited a well-known site and could see no sign of the birds. Most of us were engrossed instead with looking at a fox on the cliffs and birds like Spectacled Warbler, Desert Lark, Trumpeter Finch and White-crowned Wheatears but one person was alert enough to spot a falcon flying over. It soared above us giving quite superb views. A second bird joined

it and flew onto the cliff where the traditional nesting ledge was. It's usually possible to see the sitting bird but this one disappeared from view entirely.



Lanner Falcon overhead

After an ethnic lunch of Pizza Berbere, a local speciality, we made another effort to look for Barbary Falcon. At first it seemed as though our minibus wouldn't be able to make the trek across the desert as the track became worryingly soft and sandy. But our driver, Abdo, was determined and managed to find an alternative route. When we approached the cliff it wasn't long before two lads appeared on their bikes, trying to sell us their wares. Helpfully, they pointed to where a falcon had been seen that morning then, even more obligingly, one of them shouted 'la' and pointed to the sky. A Barbary Falcon was steaming towards the cliff and we spotted where it landed. Now we could study the perched bird through our telescopes. Brilliant. We didn't buy their rocks but gave them a tip for their help which was of greater value.

Next we went back towards the town to have a good look at the local 'crested' larks. They had massive bills, at least as long as the head, confirming that they were Maghreb Larks. We usually visit this site for Fulvous Babblers but didn't need to go chasing those. Instead we lingered in vain in the hope of a Blue-cheeked Bee-eater but it seems we were too early for them. We returned to the hotel having seen the rest of the target species wonderfully well.

WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm with little wind*

A long drive with just a few birding and drink stops to break up the journey. We checked a site where Eastern Olivaceous Warblers breed, as well as Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters but, again, it seemed as though neither species had arrived. We also stopped at a town dump which usually attracts dozens of Brown-necked Ravens but today there were none. It looks like the site is no longer used for dumping. Instead we later stopped to study a lone Brown-necked Raven by the road because not everyone had seen them well up to now.

The main birding for the day was at the reservoir near Marrakech. The water level was a little higher than in recent years so that many of the tamarisks that had sprung up on the shore were now inundated. This made it difficult to see the birds around the shore. For a while it seemed that the best birds here would be the Maghreb Larks and a few raptors such as Osprey, Marsh Harrier and Black Kite. but then someone spotted a falcon dashing low over the shore. It landed way in the distance but, although it was obscured by tamarisks, one of us had pin-pointed exactly where it was so we

were able to walk closer and get a view of it through a gap in the bushes. It was an immature bird so the identification features were less clear than on an adult. The buff belly and broad white cheek area suggested Barbary Falcon and this was confirmed when it flew up and we saw that it was skinnier than a Peregrine would be. Sometimes we don't get Barbary Falcon at all on this trip - this time we'd seen them on three days.

THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm, a little cooler at the mountain pass, with little wind*

To the mountains. Our first stop was at a site where we'd seen Levaillant's Woodpecker several times but not for the last two years. This time though it really came up trumps and we had great views of a female, plus a more distant male. We also got our best views yet of African Blue Tit and added species such as Mistle Thrush to our trip list.

At the Tizi-n-Tichka pass, the weather was surprisingly glorious but this meant there was no snow to push birds down from the peaks. At first it seemed the only birds we would see would be the choughs, both Red-billed and Alpine which swooped down to feed on the meadows close to the road. But then we spotted a Wheatear which turned out to be a male Seeböhm's. No need to panic about looking for one tomorrow.

When we stopped for a coffee we were delighted to find a singing Rock Sparrow in the trees outside the cafe but we didn't manage to spot any eagles just a Long-legged Buzzard.

Our lunch stop was at a site which for years has been the best place to catch up with woodland species such as woodpeckers, treecreepers, firecrests, coal tits, crossbills and hawfinches but last year we discovered that many of the key trees had been felled to make way for a road-widening scheme. This year it was even worse because the roadworks made the whole place full of dust which puthered up every time a lorry trundled by. Awful birding conditions and frankly not many birds either, just Coal Tit (Moroccan race *atlas*) and singing Wren and Firecrest. Another site bites the dust - literally.

Just a little further along the road we were amply compensated for whatever we missed at the wood. Two eagles were spotted from the minibus so we screeched to a halt and leapt out to see two more Bonelli's Eagles. Wow! Then, just around the corner, we saw more raptors which turned out to be at least 6 Booted Eagles and a Long-legged Buzzard all behaving as if they were breeding birds, not migrants.

The rest of the journey was fairly uneventful. When we got to the hotel, we didn't need to go looking for Tristram's Warblers so we just went for an exploratory walk around the hotel. Interesting birds here included Sparrowhawk, Cirl Bunting, Spanish Sparrow, Red-rumped Swallows, a calling Cuckoo and 2 hovering Short-toed Eagles.

FRIDAY 22nd MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm, even in the mountains, with little wind*

We woke to find that the mountains were still fabulously clear of rain or indeed any clouds at all. Great weather seemed guaranteed but the lack of snow could make it harder to find birds.

We set off across a tiny mountain road and soon started picking up interesting roadside birds including 2 Rock Buntings, a party of jays and 2 Barbary Partridge walking across the road.

Having failed miserably at one wooded area in the mountains we decided to spend time at a much quieter and more amenable alternative. The birding here was really enjoyable and included great views of Firecrest, Short-toed Treecreeper, Mistle Thrush, a family of Crossbills, plenty of Coal Tits, Great Spotted Woodpecker and, best of all, fantastic views of another pair of Levaillant's Woodpecker.

At the ski resort the main target bird was Crimson-winged Finch. In bad weather they come down to the car parks to feed on walnut kernels by the sales stalls but if there is no snow they tend to disappear into the hills. Even so, we have always managed to find them, eventually, whatever the weather. This year we arrived at the car park to be greeted by a birding group who'd been there for some time and not had the finches. We spent time looking in a slightly different area but had no joy either.

After lunch we tried again, this time walking further in search of (Atlas) Horned Lark and Seebohm's Wheatear. Both were elusive but eventually both were seen. In fact the larks were right in front of us, an adult and juvenile giving terrific views. But still no 'pink wings'.

We tried a site where we have sometimes seen Alpine Accentor but had to be content with birds such as Moussier's Redstart and Rock Sparrows en route and a raptor that flew past us. It quickly disappeared behind a cliff but gave us time to notice that the upper parts were uniformly steely blue - a Peregrine, our third big falcon of the trip.

In the past when we've struggled for Crimson-winged Finch they have always, eventually, turned up in the late afternoon when the car park was quiet. So we went back there and waited. But actually the car park had been quiet all day and despite our patience we never did manage to see one this time - the first time on these trips that we've dipped on Crimson-winged Finch. (The other birding group gave up long before we did - they didn't see them either).

So that was it. We rolled back down the mountain to Marrakech where we flopped in our hotel.

SATURDAY 23rd MARCH 2018 – *Sunny and warm with little wind*

Our midday flight gave us time to see Pallid Swifts around the hotel and birds such as Maghreb Magpie and Spotless Starling en route to the airport where House Buntings were still singing inside the building.

Postscript

The photos you see here were taken by one of the group, Julie Rogers using just a lightweight 'bridging' camera ie without the big telephoto lenses that some birder's carry. When Julie processed her photos and started to send some to me after the trip I noticed that one of them looked like this:



That's the view that Julie must have had through her viewfinder so she didn't regard it as anything remarkable. Thankfully, the definition on some of these bridge cameras means you can zoom in the shot to get more detail. When I did so, I was amazed to see this:



Blimey, it's a Dunn's Lark

We've tried to work out which bird this was and reckon it was one of three seen by those in the other 4x4 who called them as Bar-tailed Larks. I said they seemed 'wrong' for Bar-tailed Larks but I didn't get a decent view before they flew. I was puzzled as to why these 'Bar-tailed Larks' had looked so different. Now I know why. One that got away.

A week later another birding group led by Cristian Jensen found and photographed 3 Dunn's Larks 'near Merzouga' – presumably the same birds. These are the first to be seen in this part of Morocco since 2012.

Many thanks to Julie for providing these photos and enabling us to add another species to the trip list!

SYSTEMATIC LIST

1 Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
2 Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>
3 Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
4 Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
5 Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
6 Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
7 Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>
8 Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
9 Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
10 Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
11 Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>
12 Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
13 Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
14 Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>

15	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
16	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
17	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
18	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
19	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>
20	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>
21	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
22	Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>
23	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
24	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
25	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>
26	Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>
27	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
28	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
29	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>
30	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
31	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
32	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedipnemos</i>
33	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
34	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
35	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
36	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
37	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
38	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
39	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
40	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
41	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
42	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
43	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
44	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
45	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
46	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
47	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
48	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
49	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
50	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
51	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
52	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
54	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
55	Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>
56	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
57	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyæetus melanocephalus</i>
58	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyæetus audouinii</i>
59	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
60	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>

61	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
62	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
63	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
64	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
65	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
66	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
67	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
68	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
69	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
70	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
71	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>
72	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
73	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
74	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
75	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
76	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circetus gallicus</i>
77	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
78	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>
79	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
80	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
81	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
82	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
83	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
84	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
85	Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>
86	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
87	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
88	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
89	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
90	Levaillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>
91	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
92	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
93	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
94	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
95	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
96	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
97	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>
98	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
99	Maghreb Magpie	<i>Pica mauritanica</i>
100	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
101	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>
102	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>
103	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
104	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>
105	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>
106	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>

107	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>
108	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
109	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>
110	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
111	Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
112	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
113	Maghreb Lark	<i>Galerida macrorhyncha</i>
114	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
115	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
116	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
117	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
118	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
119	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
120	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
121	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>
122	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
123	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
124	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
125	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
126	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
127	Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>
128	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
129	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
130	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
131	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
132	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>
133	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
134	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
135	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
136	Sitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
137	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
138	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserti</i>
139	Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>
140	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
141	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
142	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
143	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>
144	Fulvous Chatterer	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>
145	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
146	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
147	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>
148	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
149	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
150	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
151	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
152	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>

153	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
154	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
155	Mourning (Maghreb) Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugens</i>
156	Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>
157	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
158	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
159	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>
160	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
161	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
162	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
163	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
164	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
165	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
166	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
167	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
168	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
169	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
170	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
171	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>
172	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
173	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
174	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
175	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
176	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
177	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
178	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
179	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
180	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>
181	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
182	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
183	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>
184	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>

Other 'taxa'

185	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco (peregrinus) pelegrinoides</i>
186	Seebohm's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe (oenanthe) seebohmi</i>
187	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (alba) subpersonata</i>

OTHER WILDLIFE

- 1/Barbary Ground Squirrel
- 2/Terrapin sp (prob Spanish Terrapin)
- 3/Fat Sand Rat
- 4/Common Toad
- 5/bat sp
- 6/Desert Fox
- 7/ Spine-tailed Agama

8/ Lizards – probably Moroccan Rock Lizard
8/ Grey Mullet

Butterflies (these species or something very much like them!): Swallowtail, Monarch, Red Admiral, Clouded Yellow, Small Copper, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Painted Lady, Bath White, Wall, Grizzled Skipper

Other invertebrates: Crickets, Ant-lion, Hawk-moth caterpillar, Dung beetles, Groundhoppers, Wasp Spider

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