



Greg Beeton Morocco 2025

TOUR REPORT

Morocco

12th – 23rd March 2025

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TOUR LEADER

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PARTICIPANTS

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We thought we might never again match the 'clean-sweep' of the 2024 trip but this trip was even more successful. One client came with a hit-list of 29 possible lifers and ended up with 30 new birds – every one from his original hit-list, plus Lesser Moorhen, a first for Morocco. And his hit-list didn't include some of the other great birds that we found such as Houbara Bustard and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to everyone on the trip for playing their part in us finding so many birds. Literally everyone made important contributions. Thanks to Chris and Martin for sharing their knowledge of mammals, reptiles and butterflies and thus adding to the overall experience. Special thanks to Greg Beeton for capturing such fantastic photos which make this trip report so much more visually appealing, entertaining and informative than it would otherwise be.

WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH 2025 – *Light cloud, a pleasant 13-15C*

After a delay at our hotel as we waited for rooms to be ready, we set off to the nearby Sous estuary for our first proper birding (having already had glimpses of birds like **House Bunting** and **Maghreb Magpie**). We stopped to scan the estuary but the tide was high and there were few birds visible, the best of which were some **Mediterranean Gulls** and some rather lovely **Slender-billed Gulls**. We soon set off to make our usual walk towards the mouth of the estuary where great birding was expected. Unfortunately, though, we were waved back by the local guards who insisted we couldn't walk anywhere in that direction. The site is right next to the Royal Palace and guards have got increasingly tetchy over years about us using optics in the direction of the palace (a kilometre away, all we can see is a wall). Now it seems that the site is just completely out of bounds – a nature reserve that no-one is allowed to visit or even look at. Plan B was required for the rest of the day. We transferred to a site further upstream where, actually, we enjoyed one good bird after another. Apart from the impressive flock of over 100 **Greater Flamingoes** we also found about a dozen **Ruddy Shelducks**, 2 **Gull-billed Terns**, 2 **Caspian Terns**, over 50 **Eurasian Spoonbills**, more gulls including a **Common Gull** and 19 species of waders including **Kentish Plover**, **Spotted Redshank** and at least 7 **Eurasian Thick-knee (Stone Curlew)**.



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Caspian Tern. A species we don't often see on our Morocco trips

Around nearby buildings and bushes we got proper views of birds like **Maghreb Magpie, Common Bulbul, Serin, House Bunting, Spotless Starling, Zitting Cisticola** and that great Moroccan crowd pleaser, a male **Moussier's Redstart**.



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Moussier's Redstart. They really are gorgeous aren't they?!

Overhead we managed our first views of **Little Swifts** and a very distant **Short-toed Snake-Eagle** but the highlight was a flock of 7 Marbled Duck that flew past us on their way downstream. That was the bird we'd seemed most likely to miss out on by not walking near the Royal Palace.

We stayed out late enough to look for **Red-necked Nightjars**. Conditions seemed just about perfect with hardly any wind, (perfect for listening) and hardly any passing traffic since the locals had disappeared for their post-dusk Ramadan meal. However, for the first time in many years we failed to even hear a Nightjar. The weather had been cold and wet along this coast for some days – maybe the birds had delayed their arrival from wherever they spent the winter. Instead we just heard the wailing of thick-knees and a **Black-crowned Night Heron** flying by.

THURSDAY 13th MARCH 2025 – *Mostly pleasant, up to 15C but storm clouds in the afternoon caused a sharp drop in temperature. Heavy rain started after we were back in the hotel.*

After getting views of **African Blue Tit** and **Subalpine Warbler** in the bushes outside our hotel we drove to the coastline beyond Cap Rhir to look for one of the rarest birds in the world – **Northern Bald Ibis**. Sometimes we see them near the lighthouse so we tried there first but had to make do with species like **Thekla's Lark**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Moussier's Redstart**, **African Chaffinch**, **House Bunting** and **Black Wheatear**.



Thekla's Lark. *That relatively small, straight, inoffensive-looking bill is still the best field mark.*

A **Black-crowned Tchagra** sang in the distance and we added **Ruddy Turnstone** and **Sanderling** to our wader list. En route we'd seen **Great Grey Shrike** of the coastal subspecies *algeriensis* by the roadside and we had our first views of the local buzzard. Even though Clements still describes this as a subspecies of Long-legged Buzzard, it is now widely regarded as a race of **Common Buzzard**, sometimes called Atlas Buzzard or North African Buzzard.

We continued to the estuary of the Oued Tinkert. The recent rains had caused a few changes: the track to the site was blocked by puddles and the lagoon was no longer isolated from the sea because the waters had cut a path through the shingle beach. However, the lagoon, which last year had come to resemble little more than a puddle, now had water in it. Disappointingly there were hardly any ducks or waders but we still enjoyed an impressive flock of loafing gulls which included at least 50 **Audouin's Gull** (far more than in recent years) and yet another **Common Gull**. It was a pleasure to scan through the flock and pick out Audouin's Gulls of differing ages and some birds with white darvic rings whose numbers could just about be read. This led us to learn that these were birds that had been ringed in 2023 near Tarragona, Spain (just up the coast from the Ebro Delta).



Audouin's Gull. Red bill, milky grey upperwing and prominent triangular black wedges in the primaries.

Some sharp eyes in the group occasionally spotted large dark birds flying in the distance. **Bald Ibis!** But invariably they never came close. We drove on to look for them in the area where we'd had the best views in recent years. With persistence we managed to find some more ibis but they were mostly seen in flight and those we saw on the ground were frustratingly distant. Through our scopes we could make out the bare red face and bill but we still wanted better views. Despite trying several sites and getting further views of parties of ibis in flight (and, remarkably, a Whimbrel, right next to the minibus on a stony hillside) we eventually gave up and set off back towards Agadir. But then as we approached the lighthouse we chanced upon the amazing spectacle of over 30 **Bald Ibis** feeding around the gardens of the buildings near the lighthouse – exactly where we'd started looking that morning! Imagine Bald Ibis as a garden bird! Wild ones too, because this population has survived without the reintroduction of formerly captive birds. As you might expect of a garden bird, these were remarkably tame so we could study and photograph them at close range and in fabulous light, their green wings and purple shoulder panels glinting in the sun. No need for better views now. With so many birds coming and going during the day it is hard to say how many we'd already seen but we reckon we saw a minimum 50 different birds (about 7% of the Moroccan population).



Northern Bald Ibis. Surely the most prehistoric-looking bird in the Western Palearctic

We also added another species to our list which we see much less frequently in Morocco; a dark morph **Parasitic Jaeger** (Arctic Skua) powered past us amongst the Gannets at sea.

In the afternoon we drove on to look for **Tristram's Warbler** in the hills. This is a notoriously difficult species to find at this time of year but last year we'd had at least two singing males at a particular spot. Sadly we found the site had been sanitised by the encroachment of picnic tables from a nearby café. It looked nowhere near as promising. We tried anyway but, with dark clouds gathering, all the birds of the area went quiet and we struggled to find any species at all. We did get the only Woodlark of the trip, but no Tristram's Warbler. Our next stop was a site where **Black-crowned Tchagra** is usually easy to see and hear but today, in this weather, practically nothing was making a sound. We invariably find **Bonelli's Eagles** here too but this time a **Short-toed Snake-Eagle** was the best bird overhead. Feeling a little thwarted by the weather we returned to our hotel.

FRIDAY 14th MARCH 2025 – *Never more than 13C all day, feeling much cooler when heavy showers rolled through.*

We woke to heavy rain but thankfully by the time we arrived at the Oued Massa the storm had passed. Having missed the Tchagra yesterday, the pressure was on to find one today. They are numerous enough but if they don't sing they can still be missed, even here. But, before we'd even finished disembarking from the minibus, a **Tchagra** was heard singing nearby. It wasn't long before we were all enjoying fabulous views of this bird, so hard to find elsewhere in the Western Palearctic. By the end of the day we'd had at least half a dozen birds. What a cracker!



Black-crowned Tchagra. Even when they sing they can be difficult to spot – and even harder if they don't.

We stood and scanned from the bridge and enjoyed views of the gorgeous Iberian race of **Western Yellow Wagtail** plus birds like **Laughing Dove, Green and Common Sandpipers, Pallid and Little Swifts and Sedge Warblers**. There were **Western Olivaceous Warblers** singing in the tamarisks and we spotted at least one **Plain Martin** buzzing over the river some distance away. We found a path that allowed us to reach where the martin had been seen and this meant we had views of at least 2 birds (and a Sand Martin) at really close range.



Plain Martin. You can see why it is often called Brown-throated Sand Martin

More unusually, we had brief views of a **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, one of us found the surprisingly substantial nest of a **Moussier's Redstart** and we all had exceptional views of some of the abundant **Olivaceous Warblers**.



Western Olivaceous Warbler. Note the concolorous wings and the big, protuberant bill on the end of a long, sloping head

Back at the bridge, **Quail** were calling in the fields and a fabulous **Black-winged Kite** chose to hover almost above our heads – the bird of the day for many.

There's another 'wetland' site further upstream, but it has become increasingly dry in recent years. We hoped the winter's rainfall might have rescued it as a birding site but it proved to be even drier than ever. Apart from the usual **Tchagras** and **Moussier's Redstarts** the best bird here was a **Red-rumped Swallow** which looked quite dazzling in perfect light.

We stopped for lunch in the shelter of a wood but soon had to retreat to the minibus to avoid a series of rain showers. By the time we emerged, we managed to get great views of a singing **Cirl Bunting** and a skulking **Squacco Heron**. Two eagles chased each other nearby at tree-top height and proved to be juvenile **Bonelli's Eagles** giving spectacular views.

Despite the regular bursts of rain we moved on to look at the estuarine end of the river Massa. This was once a terrific site for wetland birds but in recent years has been much less attractive. Today we managed a few **Northern Shoveler**, **Teal** and **Mallard**, a single **Shelduck**, a **Great (White) Egret**, 50 **Glossy Ibis**, 40 **Eurasian Spoonbill** and 3 **Ospreys**. A party of 8 **Eurasian Bee-eaters** flew in, dodging the showers, and the nearby bushes gave us our best views of **Spanish Sparrows** and a roosting **Little Owl**. We made a vain attempt to look for **Cream-coloured Courser** nearby but without success before heading off to our next hotel near Tarouddant.



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Black-winged Kite. *This one chose to hover within metres of us.*

SATURDAY 15th MARCH 2025 – *Heavy cloud in the morning quickly cleared but temperatures never got above 15C and felt much colder, even in the desert, due to a brisk westerly wind*

We planned our drive towards the desert to coincide with the best time for migrating storks and raptors to rise up from the Sous plain before they head over the Atlas mountains. This year the migrants were much more impressive than last, with kettling flocks of **Black Kite** and **White Stork** plus several sightings of **Short-toed, Booted and Bonelli's Eagles**. It was fascinating to get decent views of three of the latter, all of different ages. Another **Black-winged Kite** was a bonus.

As usual we stopped at the bridge at Aoulouz because from there we've previously been able to look down into a reed-lined stream and sometimes find rails and crakes. On this occasion it looked like we'd be disappointed – the best birds were just **Sedge Warblers** and a **Turtle Dove**. We were about to give in and return to the van but one of the group called our attention to 'a funny-looking gallinule'. It did indeed look funny, like a bleached-out Moorhen with a large, mostly yellow, bill. Whatever it was, it wasn't a **Eurasian Moorhen**. Could it be a **Lesser Moorhen**? What did Lesser Moorhen even look like? Were there any other possibilities? We studied it through our scopes and described to each other the features we could see. Most excitingly, when seen head on, it had a pattern of a pale W bordering a dark crown including a horn-coloured 'chicken breastbone' around the dark grey shield on its bill. And its undertail was strikingly black with a white border. The van had an on-board wi-fi so were able to look up **Lesser Moorhen** and there... bingo.... we realised that our guess had been correct. We could only find 8 previous records for the Western Palearctic and none for Morocco. Blimey we'd found a first for the country!

We drove on into our first areas of desert, looking constantly for larks and wheatears but finding relatively few – just the occasional **Black, Desert and White-crowned Wheatears**. Our plan was to look for **Maghreb Wheatear**, the Moroccan form of Mourning Wheatear. We know a site that used to be reliable for many years but recently we've failed to find them there. So this year we tried another site nearby. We managed views of our first **Desert Larks** and some **Black Wheatears** and **Crag Martins** but it was almost a bird-free zone.



Lesser Moorhen. A bleached-out Moorhen with a mostly yellow bill and a pale 'w' pattern between the eyes and the bill



Crag Martin. A fine study of a predator and its prey.

As we set off, the leader advised that Maghreb Wheatears might still be possible for the next few kilometres but we hadn't gone one kilometre before someone shouted 'Got one!'. We screeched to a halt, piled out of the bus and all got great views of a male **Maghreb Wheatear**. Whoohoo! Our drive to Boumalne was pretty uneventful but for a day that had been billed as just a driving day we sure had plenty of excitement.

SUNDAY 16th MARCH 2025 – *Warm and sunny for most of the day but still a relatively cool 25C at most*

We began the day at a site where sandgrouse sometimes come to drink but, with so much water around elsewhere, there were none this time. It's a site where we've previously had an almost overwhelming variety of small birds (wheatears, larks, finches) but, as last year, the site was almost bird-free. We did at least get our first views of the crowd-pleasing **Temminck's Horned Larks** and proper views of male and female **Desert Wheatears** but so many other birds were absent. Occasionally **Short-toed Larks** flew over and we did hear the calls of **Black-bellied Sangrouse** but we soon moved elsewhere to look for more birds.

We stopped in an area where the desert vegetation is more sparse and quickly discovered that some of the 'rocks' were shuffling across the ground – a party of 6 **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**. Further scanning picked out some run-stop-run movements as a group of **Cream-coloured Coursers** ran across the desert until they crossed the track in front of us. This was an important find as they'd been almost impossible to find in the Merzouga deserts the year before. We tried a site for **Thick-billed Lark** without success but did manage to find 2 **Tawny Pipits** and an unexpected **Corn Bunting**. Still in need of both **Red-rumped Wheatear** and **Thick-billed Lark** we resorted to checking out the town dump.

This must be one of the ugliest places to go birding with great swathes of ground just covered in plastics, broken glass and linens, smoke rising from smelly fires, packs of dogs scavenging everywhere and some unfortunate humans having to do the same. Surely there's nothing here to attract birds. But it didn't take us long to find **Red-rumped Wheatears**, the ginger-headed females looking more attractive than their hotch-potch-plumaged mates.

And there were quite a few wagtails here, two races of **White Wagtail**, including the dramatic-looking *subpersonata* race (Moroccan Wagtail) and 3 races of **Western Yellow Wagtail**, white-throated *iberiae*, yellow-throated *flava* and yellow-headed *flavissima*, the British race. After nearly an hour we'd still not found Thick-billed Lark but we held our noses and ventured into the heart of the worst areas of garbage. Almost unbelievably, a **Thick-billed Lark** flew up and settled amongst the plastics. Before long we'd all had good views of this iconic desert bird in what has become its most iconic site!

It was getting warmer now so we headed into the cooler hills to check out a site for **Tristram's Warbler**. Conditions were perfect, with good light and minimal wind, and we explored all the areas where we'd seen them in previous years but, once again we failed to find one. Instead we just had views of birds like **Blue Rock Thrush**, **House Bunting** and **Black Redstart**. Even the local **Bonelli's Eagles** didn't appear.



Red-rumped Wheatear. The male is nowhere near as smart-looking as others in that family.



House Bunting. A common bird wherever there are buildings, though often they are in the rooms inside.

We still had time to go back to the desert, to seek out **Pharaoh Eagle Owl and Lanner Falcon**. At the first site we were greeted by a local who promised he could show us the owl without disturbing it, so we took him up on his offer. After a short walk we were scoping a female **Pharaoh Eagle Owl** as it sat in daylight beside its nest. Careful scrutiny with the scopes revealed that, at the back of the cave, there were two baby owls to be added to the local population.



Pharaoh Eagle Owl. Female at a nest site. There are actually 2 chicks at the back of that cave.

Some of us also glimpsed another **Maghreb Wheatear** but, as is their wont, it disappeared around a spur before we could all get scopes on it. Last year we'd seen a Lanner Falcon on a nest here but now the same nest was occupied by an **Atlas Buzzard**. So we moved on to look for the falcon in a different part of the valley. It wasn't long before we were gazing up at a **Lanner Falcon** against a blue sky. We later realised it was nesting at a site which last year had been occupied by an Atlas Buzzard! They'd done a swap. We explored the area in search of other birds but, despite getting more views of **Desert Larks**, we failed to find **Trumpeter Finch** all day.



Lanner Falcon. What a treat to get views like this

MONDAY 17th MARCH 2025— *Warm enough but still a relatively cool 25C*

Today was essentially a long drive to the 'true desert' areas around Merzouga, with a few birding stops on the way. The main aim of these stops was to find **Scrub Warbler** but, given how difficult it had been last year to see them at the traditional site, we tried a different site this time. This new area looked just perfect for them; the only trouble was that there was just too much habitat, spread out across a wide plain. Eleven of us began quartering the plain, checking every bush and scanning for birds hopping along the gaps between them but there was no sign. The best birds were our first **Hoopoe Lark**, flushed and seen well in flight, and a family of **Great Grey Shrikes** of the desert race *elegans*, paler and with larger white panels in the wing when they flew. But, as we circled around heading back to the minibus, a bird popped up and started trilling excitedly. **Scrub Warbler**. At one point we could hear another bird nearby so there were at least two of them but, boy, they were hard to see, constantly disappearing just beyond the line of bushes in front of wherever we moved to. Thankfully though, everyone managed to get views that were at least identifiable so we moved on.

Our plan was to have lunch at the more traditional site for Scrub Warblers; we wouldn't have time to walk to the best area but there was a chance we might find one closer to the road. However, when we pulled off the road for our break, the leader realised we'd stopped at the wrong wadi! Never mind, the habitat still looked promising and we were getting hungry. While our driver worked his magic preparing our picnic spread, we had a wander as far as a wadi with a skinny line of bushes. Almost immediately we were shocked to find another **Scrub Warbler**. Then another. And another. There were probably eight (!) Scrub Warblers in a loose-knit group, concentrated into this narrow line of scrub. They were still irritatingly mobile but this time we all got better views. Completely by chance we'd found a new spot for Scrub Warbler which was much easier to 'work' than either the traditional site or the one we'd tried in the morning.



Scrub Warbler. *These move about so quickly that it's no mean feat to get a photo like this*

Moving on, we had to make a few stops before getting views of **Brown-necked Ravens** but there were no **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** in the palm groves of Erfoud.



Brown-necked Raven. *Quite a skinny-looking bird compared to Common Raven. In good light it's not that difficult to see brown in the neck.*

We continued until we were within sight of the famous Erg Chebbi sand dunes and, as the sun began to dip, we had our first experience of desert birding. Again it was a case of quartering a wadi, looking to see what we could find in the scattered bushes or the sandy hollows in between. It was a lesson in just how difficult it can be to find desert birds. **Hoopoe Lark**, normally guaranteed in sites like this, was completely absent and other possibilities such as **Desert Warbler**, **Spectacled Warbler** and **Bar-**

tailed Lark were equally elusive. Apart from the odd **Sardinian and Subalpine Warblers** and a couple of **Desert Wheatears**, the only bird we found here was, rather surprisingly, a **Tawny Pipit**. We reached our hotel, hopeful that the next day's desert birding would be more fruitful.

TUESDAY 18th MARCH 2025 – *Sunny again but not blisteringly hot, mostly around 25C, and with only a gentle breeze*

Every year, our day in the desert with the 4 x 4s and drivers is different and this was no exception. This year, instead of heading around the east side of the Erg Chebbi dunes, we began by heading quickly to an area further north. At our first stop, we'd barely disembarked from our vehicles when a pale warbler was seen dashing past us into a nearby patch of dunes – **African Desert Warbler**. Moments later it flew past us in the other direction, carrying food before leaping past us again into the dunes. We had stopped between its breeding and feeding areas and it repeatedly gave views either side of us. Last year it had seemed that most of the desert was too arid even for Desert Warbler and we'd really struggled to find them but today the desert was more lush and we were all able to enjoy quite exceptional views. A great start.



African Desert Warbler. Much sandier-looking than the Asian forms.

As we continued northwards, our guides admitted the reason for going out of our normal route. Two **Houbara Bustards** had been found by one of their local 'scouts'. We reached the designated area and were joined by the scout who clung to the outside of the lead car and pointed the way. We soon had a sighting but it was of a distant bird in flight. Big and with white patches in the wing it was obviously a **Houbara** but the views weren't great. We made a note of where it went down and drove to a higher slope from which we could scan to try to find it again. From there some of us had views of a Houbara appearing briefly in a gap between some bushes. Promising but not entirely satisfactory. We continued our search, visiting new areas and scanning fervently. Eventually we gave up; time was passing and there were many more birds to look for. We hadn't gone far before the guides got a message on their phones – the **Houbara** was showing again. We turned around and perched up on another vantage point but the bird was out of sight. We waited and scanned and then spotted one, somewhat closer than we'd expected, marching across an open area in full view. We

hadn't seen a Houbara on these trips for several years but here was one that we could all see through our scopes, shimmering in the heat haze.



Houbara Bustard. A male strutting across an open patch of desert and therefore in full view.

We'd eventually found our Houbara but it was now too late to visit the sandgrouse drinking site that we'd enjoyed in previous years. We'd missed the chance to find sandgrouse the easy way – now we would have to do it the hard way, by cold-searching for them in miles of desert. We drove around, more in hope than expectation but then suddenly we stopped. 'Sandgrouse! There!'. Sure enough, a pair of **Spotted Sandgrouse**. And they had two chicks! And they were really close! Close enough to get amazing views of their plumages, the subtle rich golden hues of the male and the browner female showered with delicate dark spots, especially on the tail, breast, head and neck. It's no surprise that these amazing close-up views ranked highly in our 'bird-of-the-trip' poll at the end.

So, we'd seen Spotted Sandgrouse but not Crowned. We kept looking. We found another pair of Spotteds with babies... and another... and a total of 5 more of this species but still no Crowned. By now we were also picking up more of the commoner species of the desert too, with several views of **Hoopoe Lark, Bar-tailed Lark and even Cream-coloured Courser** (a species that had become very rare here by 2024) and we also had views of **Trumpeter Finch**, remarkably for the only time on the trip.

We drove on, this time in search of **Desert Sparrow**. We tried one site – no luck. We tried another – still no joy. At the third site we stood around without seeing one until a female suddenly popped into view and then a male too. They were showing an interest in a little wood and canvas contraption next to some bushes. There, wrapped in a pocket made by the canvas, was an untidy pile of feathers which was clearly their nest and we had great views as each bird flew in to visit. We even indulged in a bit of voyeurism as they mated, hopefully making more **Desert Sparrows** for the future.



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Spotted Sandgrouse. So that's why it's called 'spotted'. The male is much less patterned.



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Desert Sparrow. This male isn't in the best of plumages but that didn't seem to hinder his mating capabilities.

During a break for lunch in a Bedouin tent at a desert oasis we picked out our first **Western Bonelli's Warbler** before driving on to stop at a place where we'd seen **Fulvous Chatterer (Babbler)** several times in the past. It was a little compound of palm trees but this time before we even entered the compound we had views of several birds from the entrance, hopping about between the palm avenues. We stepped inside and estimated there were at least 8 birds there.



Fulvous Babbler. 'Fulvous' describes its warm tawny colouring.

Our next stop was to look for Egyptian Nightjar with the help of the famous 'Nightjar Man'. We parked the vehicles and he beckoned us up a slope towards him. He pointed... and there it was, only partly in the shadow of a little bush. Egyptian Nightjars can take on a variety of guises; from first view, head-on, it looked like a triangular pile of sand. It looked triangular because it had its wings partly out to the side, as if sheltering something from the heat. Was this a nest? Did it have eggs or young? Obviously, we didn't disturb it to find out.



Egyptian Nightjar. From this angle it looks like a bird. From others it looked like a pile of sand.

Ok, we'd seen just about everything we'd hoped for, apart from **Crowned Sandgrouse**. They are scarcer than Spotted and more likely to be found in rockier parts of the desert. We set out on a mission to try to find some. However, even Lahcen and his team, with their sharp eyes and years of experience, didn't manage to spot one.

Instead we drove on to witness something that hadn't been seen in this desert since 2015. A lake. Most maps show that there is a lake to the west of Merzouga – Merzouga Lake or Dayet Zrij – but recent years have been so dry that there's been no water there at all. Now we were presented with a lovely blue lake and LOTS of birds: over 400 **Greater Flamingoes**, over 200 **Ruddy Shelduck**, over 100 **White Storks**, a smattering of ducks including a **Ferruginous Duck** and, around the edges, numerous waders to scan through. **Black-winged Stilts** were the commonest and loudest but there were also **Pied Avocets**, **Green and Wood Sandpipers**, shanks, including **Spotted Redshank**, **Ruffs**, **Little Stint** and **Ringed**, **Little Ringed** and **Kentish Plovers**. Perhaps the most unexpected find was a very distant pair of pipits. At least one of them had a solid dark chest with at least hint of red – **Red-throated Pipit**, an exciting end to another amazing day in the desert.

WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH 2025 – *Pleasant and warm, still a manageable 25C*

Even after seeing **Houbara Bustard**, **Desert Warbler**, **Desert Sparrow**, **Spotted Sandgrouse**, **Egyptian Nightjar**, **Bar-tailed Lark**, **Cream-coloured Courser** and **Fulvous Babbler** in the desert yesterday there were still some birds of this area that we hadn't seen, so today was a chance to do just that.

For some of us at least, the bird we most wanted to see was **Crowned Sandgrouse**. But, without 4 x 4s we wouldn't be able to reach the areas where they might be seen. So, suppose were to re-hire the 4 x 4s for at least a morning? Could we visit the sandgrouse drinking site that we'd missed out on

yesterday? We negotiated a supplementary price and, even though Lahcen said we'd be unlikely to see Crowned Sandgrouse, most of the group decided to go on another 4 x 4 trek before breakfast!

When we reached the drinking site, a few sandgrouse were already arriving. As Lahcen had predicted, they were all **Spotted Sandgrouse**. We parked at a safe distance, got out of the vehicles and studied them through our scopes or just watched and listened as they skimmed past us, making their magical 'whackoo' calls. This was already a wonderful experience but then we realised that there were a few **Crowned Sandgrouse** amongst them. Yes. Now we were able to scan through each group and pick out the face stripes of the males and the denser patterning of the females. Then a new rush of excitement went through the group as we also realised there was a male **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** in one of the flocks: like other sandgrouse but with added red, black, white, green and yellow! Wow. Once again, we'd seen 4 species of sandgrouse on the trip.



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Spotted Sandgrouse. The males are plain, sandy-coloured but with a black secondary panel and a black belly stripe. Both sexes have a tail spike.



Crowned Sandgrouse. A classic shot of both male and female. Look how finely patterned the female is.



Pin-tailed Sandgrouse with Spotted Sandgrouse. It's the one with a black chin, red breast, white belly, green back and long tail!

Thoroughly delighted with our sandgrouse experience we were back at the hotel for 9am. There were still more birds to look for. We drove to the palm groves and cultivations around Rissani and picked out a spot where **Maghreb Lark** could be reliably found. This is the long-billed (*macrorhyncha*) 'desert' version of Crested Lark which is considered as a distinct species by some authorities. But when we arrived at the site there were no larks to be seen. Eh? We wandered off in search of some and did manage a brief glimpse but we were diverted by something altogether more exciting, a party of 6 **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters**. We tracked them down to a line of telegraph wires and had fabulous views of them. What a bird.



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. They really are exquisite.

On the way back to the minibus we also caught up with a couple of **Maghreb Larks**, in the open and at close range so we could see their whopping great bills.

Our next stop was a traditional site for Saharan Olivaceous Warbler, the *reiseri* race of **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**. We weren't too optimistic because we'd failed to find them here in recent years but, this time, we heard one singing almost immediately. In fact, we reckoned there were at least 3 singing males. However, they love tamarisks and that can make them very difficult to see. We had lots of views but, unlike the rather ponderous Western Olivaceous Warblers we'd seen at Oued Massa, they were very lively and rarely stayed in view for more than a second or two. It was a while before we'd all had good views.



***Maghreb Lark. With a bill like that, there's no mistaking it.
'Saharan' Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. More delicate-looking than Western Olivaceous and with a pale panel in the closed wing.***

Next up was a chance to look for migrants in a wadi with well established low trees. It was also a site where **Trumpeter Finch** should be pretty much guaranteed; not all of us had seen them well the day

before. Remarkably though, there were no finches this time. Furthermore, the migrants were very thin on the ground – a few **Chiffchaffs**, **Subalpine Warblers** and **Woodchat Shrike**. We moved on to a site where **Lanner Falcon** often nested and which would give us another chance of Trumpeter Finch. The falcon's nest was clearly vacant and still there were no finches but we did manage to find what looked like a family party of about 6 **Spectacled Warblers**.

Merzouga Lake wasn't the only wetland that had appeared in the area. We drove on to another site, 'Yasmina Lake' which was actually two pools, either side of the Riad Yasmina, once famous for its flocks of Desert Sparrows. The pools were nowhere near as bird-rich as the one at Merzouga; here we found just a few birds such as **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Little Ringed Plover** and **Green Sandpiper** but we did have the bonus of a **Collared Pratincole** flying low over the water then over our minibus.

We visited the grounds of the Riad Yasmina, not just to sit on their verandah and have a welcome cold drink but also to chat to the ringers who base themselves there every spring. The main man, Marc, told us it was very different this year due to the influence of the water, with far more Sedge Warblers than usual. They went off for their first late-afternoon check of the nets and came back with one bird – a '**Saharan**' **Olivaceous Warbler**. Marc was able to talk us through the key identification features such as white tips to the outer tail feathers and a pale panel in the secondaries as well as the greyer plumage, peaked crown and skinnier bill. We waited long enough for them to make another round of the nets and bring back, remarkably, a **Western Olivaceous Warbler** which meant we saw both Olivaceous Warblers in the hand about 10 minutes apart. This



bird was clearly a muddier brown with a longer, flatter head, bigger bill and plainer wings and tail. ***Eastern (top) and Western Olivaceous Warblers compared. The bigger bill of Western impacts on the whole head shape.***

We tried to end the day by revisiting Merzouga Lake but got a little lost en route and found ourselves running out of time. We'd try again the next day.

After the evening meal, one of the participants, Chris, offered to share with the rest of us his passion for searching for mammals with his spotlight. He'd tried this on several nights of the trip and, apart from seeing a few mammals he'd also heard, and briefly seen, **Maghreb Wood Owl**. Those of us who went with him tonight were treated to several views of a Gerboa dashing across the sand dunes as if jet-propelled on those amazing long legs – for some this night-time expedition into the dunes was one of the best experiences of the trip.

THURSDAY 20th MARCH 2025 – *sunny but cooler in the morning, cloudier and breezier in the evening, around 20C*

Today would consist of a long drive back to Ouarzazate. In recent years we've used this as a chance to revisit Boumalne for better views of Thick-billed lark and Maghreb Wheatear but we'd already seen those birds well and now there was a chance of reachable water at the Barrage near Ouarzazate so we took the more southerly route.

We started out by revisiting Merzouga Lake. The light was perfect and we enjoyed again many of the birds we'd seen earlier such as **flamingoes** and **Ruddy Shelducks** but we added nothing new.

We broke up the journey with a lunch stop by some palm trees where we found our **first Common Redstart** of the trip and another **Bonelli's Warbler**. Further on, a stop at the Tizi-n-tinift pass gave us close views of **Black Wheatear** and **Desert Lark**.





Desert Lark (above) and Bar-tailed Desert Lark. They look quite similar in the field guides but in the field they are really distinctive. Just look at the bill on that Desert Lark – it looks like its not even in the same family.

The Barrage El Mansour at Ouarzazate used to be a fantastic place for wetland birds but the long drought in the country had caused the water levels to shrink so much that our last visit had failed to even find a shoreline. But this year there had been plenty of rain. Could the water now be reachable? And would it have any birds? Our driver Abdel, lived in the nearest village to the lake and knew how to get as close as possible. This time, yes, there was water. And birds. Not in the numbers and variety of former times but still we added new species to the trip list including **Great Crested Grebe, Kingfisher, Gadwall and Whiskered Tern** – a group of 5 over the water, occasionally joined by a **Gull-billed Tern**. There was a large flock of **White Storks** loafing on a peninsula of the lake and later they were joined by hundreds more, soaring above us then spilling dramatically out of the sky. **Black Kites** were passing too in small numbers and while scanning for those we added two more **Bonelli's Eagles**, 4 **Glossy Ibis** and some more **Bee-eaters**, this time a mixture of **Eurasian Bee-eaters** and, in the distance, at least 15 **Blue-cheeked**.



Greg Beeton Morocco 2025

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. As glamorous in flight as they look on the ground

A short drive further and we arrived at our hotel on the edge of town.

FRIDAY 21st MARCH 2025 – *Mostly sunny in the morning, cloudier later with temperatures around 15C*

Those who went for a walk around the hotel before breakfast were treated to a range of species including migrants such as **Western Bonelli's and Olivaceous Warblers, Tree Pipits, Common Redstart** and both species of **Bee-eaters** as well as breeding birds such as **Common Nightingale and Little Owl**.

Today would be a trip through the High Atlas mountains, exploring various sites along the Tizi-n-Tichka pass. Our first stop was at a site where we've previously had great views of **Levaillant's Woodpecker**. However, for the second year in a row, we failed to see one, although one did call in the distance. Instead, we enjoyed a mix of commoner species such as **African Chaffinch, African Blue Tit** and added **Wren and Great Spotted Woodpecker** to the trip list. A distantly heard song was identified as an **Western Orphean Warbler** so we walked down into the valley hoping for a view of it. We managed to get close to where it was singing and some of us did enjoy brief views but it hopped out of sight and the singing stopped.

An exploration of areas around the highest point of the pass produced some distant flocks of **choughs**, a **Raven**, and a **Black Wheatear** but not much else but when we stopped at a café further on we were immediately greeted with the wheezy calls of **Rock Sparrows**. Great views were had of at least 5 birds and **Jay and Mistle Thrush** were added to the triplist too.



Western Bonelli's Warbler. Shiny-white underparts, yellow in the wings and a beady eye exaggerated by a pale eye-ring.

Our next stop was at a patch of woodland that used to be great for **Levaillant's Woodpecker** but the road had been recently widened and many trees had been felled. To escape the noise from the traffic we walked down into the nearest valley but were thwarted by the even louder sounds of screaming and giggling kids who followed us in their excitement. It wasn't a complete waste of time as we did manage to get views of a singing **Crossbill**.

It was only at this point that we realised that we wouldn't be staying at our usual hotel in the mountains. We'd got to know this place well in previous years and realised that it offered opportunities for three of our target species: **Maghreb Wood Owl**, **Levaillant's Woodpecker** and **Tristram's Warbler**. Oh dear. Without access to this hotel, our chances of those species seemed much diminished. We needed a Plan B.

We tried a site where **Tristram's Warbler** had been seen in several successive years but this area had been hit by a fire and the vegetation was now much degraded. So we moved on to another known Tristram's site (in fact one of those in Dave's book) that we hadn't visited for many years. The vegetation here was in much better condition and we hadn't gone far before a Tristram's burst into song. We all congregated around its favoured bush and were treated to excellent views. Who said they were difficult?

Thrilled at securing such a great bird we continued to our new hotel and were delighted to find it was set in very promising habitat. A walk from the hotel took us into areas where more Tristram's were surely possible (though we didn't see any), where **Common Cuckoos** called and where rhythmic yelping calls led us to get great views of a displaying pair of **Short-toed Snake-Eagles**. Even better, the hotel was set in lush gardens that might have Maghreb Wood Owl and nearby was a stand of tall, bare poplars that looked just perfect for Levaillant's Woodpecker.



Tristram's Warbler. An endemic to the maghreb region of north Africa and therefore a much-prized find.

After our evening meal we stepped out onto a roof terrace to listen for owls. Not only did a **Maghreb Wood Owl** make its hooting call, it also flew up from the lower trees into one of the bare poplars. In the beam of Chris's impressive spotlight the views of this bird were simply spectacular. It sat there for many minutes occasionally thrusting its head forward, fluffing up its throat and hooting into the night. Wow.

SATURDAY 22nd MARCH 2025 – *Only 3C on the mountain but not too breezy and actually feeling much warmer in the sun. Low cloud came in during mid afternoon reducing visibility at the top to practically nil.*

Just after dawn we were up again on the roof terrace in the hope that **Levaillant's Woodpecker** might make use of those bare poplars. As if on cue, one called loudly then flew up and perched exactly where we hoped it might – in full view. This birdwatching lark was easy. We proceeded to go on a pre-breakfast walk, the highlight of which was the sight of two **Hawfinch (and 2 Crossbills)** perched up in the same poplars. We'd just found a new favourite hotel.

En route to the ski resort of Oukaimeden we stopped at an area of woodland, hoping to add two more species, **Short-toed Treecreeper and Firecrest**. Remarkably we found both before we'd all descended from the minibus. The treecreeper was very showy and gave everyone excellent views but the Firecrest was much less obliging.

By continuing to explore this wood we had more views of **Hawfinch, Crossbill and Great Spotted Woodpecker** and were able to compare **Cirl Bunting and Rock Bunting** side-by-side but, best of all, we could also watch a pair of **Levaillant's Woodpeckers** at reasonably close range for some time.



Short-toed Treecreeper. Let's be honest, if it wasn't singing it would be hard to tell from Common Treecreeper.

When we got to the ski resort we were surprised that the fields weren't covered in flocks of chough as they normally are. We still managed to see a few dozen birds, mostly **Red-billed Chough**, some of them very close, but also a few **Alpine Chough**. Then, over the skyline appeared something like a scene from *The Birds*. Literally hundreds of choughs swirled around in a great flock, almost making the sky go dark. This massive flock, of mostly Alpine Chough, alighted in the fields and continued to entertain us for much of the day.

As ever, our main target bird up here was **Crimson-winged Finch**. In recent years we've had to work really hard to find these birds and have sometimes come close to missing them completely. It depends on the snow. If there's lots of snow they concentrate around the car parks; if there's none, they could be anywhere. This year there was some snow on the higher slopes but not enough to

concentrate them. Crucially though, this was enough snow to attract visitors to the car parks so, when we arrived at the most likely spot, one of the stallholders saw our telescopes and waved us over, pointing to the roof of the nearest building. Bingo! Three **Crimson-winged Finch** (we saw 5 in the end) giving great views, either on the edges of rooves and walls or on the ground, grubbing for broken nutshells.



African Crimson-winged Finch. Apart from having a bigger bill, males of the Asian form have more pink in the face and black markings on the back and breast.

Our work here wasn't done yet. There were other target species. One of them, **Atlas Horned Lark** proved to be even more conspicuous (and much more numerous) than the finches, with birds coming to the car park to feast on the same nutshells. With their black and yellow faces, striking black horns and purply-red napes they are most striking birds, apparently more distant, genetically, from European birds than Temminck's Lark is.

Atlas Wheatear (formerly known as Seebohm's Wheatear) proved to be more difficult to find but we persevered and one was eventually spotted on the opposite hillside some distance away. Whilst trying to re-find this bird we picked up another but it wasn't a wheatear. It proved to be an **Alpine Accentor**, a species we only rarely get to see here.



Atlas Horned Lark. *The combination of yellow-and-black face and rich reddish-brown nape is distinctive.*



Atlas Wheatear. *This looks so different from Northern Wheatear that it's surprising they were ever considered the same species.*

Despite having already found the birds we were most hoping for, we went for a walk into the hills. Here we had lots more sightings of **Atlas Larks** and some really close views of **Atlas Wheatear** but the most unexpected sighting was of a **Northern Goshawk** soaring high above us. What was it doing here? There wasn't a tree in sight.

We had lunch in the car park and when we'd just about taken all the photos we could of the finches and larks we set off to take the minibus to an even higher spot in search of more birds. But this was when the clouds came in. We sat tight for 10 minutes, hoping they would pass but instead the mist just got thicker and more impenetrable. We tried dropping to a lower altitude, to try a site for the one species we could think of that we hadn't seen – **Barbary Partridge**. But even lower down, the mist was too consistent. We gave up and began the long drive down into Marrakech.

During the evening we were full of talk of all the birds we'd seen on the trip, debating which was our particular favourite. There were many to choose from. And when we went to bed, **Maghreb Wood Owl** called from outside our rooms.

SUNDAY 23rd MARCH 2025 – *Generally cool and cloudy with occasional sun, mostly around 20C*

Some of us got up before breakfast to try to locate the owl and, with the help of some annoyed bulbuls, managed to pick out a bird roosting in a palm tree.



Maghreb Wood Owl. Compared with Tawny Owl, darker, greyer and with more transverse barring on the underparts and circular rings within the facial disc.

For the rest of the day we were really just waiting for our flights but we did make two optional excursions, one to a riverside area an hour from Marrakech where Western Olivaceous Warbler and Grey and Moroccan White Wagtails were perhaps the highlights, and another to the famous square

in central Morocco, the Jemaa el-Fnaa, where we stood under the nests of some Little Swifts as they hurtled past us to and fro.



Little Swift. Very different in shape from other swifts but the white rump is the clincher.

Even in the hotel grounds the birding was still good, with several singing Western Olivaceous Warblers (one with a nest), a Wryneck, a Turtle Dove, migrant Booted Eagles overhead and the usual bulbuls and House Buntings in the gardens. We were still seeing and hearing House Buntings inside the airport terminal before taking our flights back to the UK.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

The total trip list came to 196 species – unusually close to that magic 200.

1 Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea
2 Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna
3 Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata
4 Gadwall	Mareca strepera
5 Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos
6 Northern Pintail	Anas acuta
7 Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca
8 Marbled Duck	Marmaronetta angustirostris
9 Ferruginous Duck	Aythya nyroca
10 Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix
11 Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus
12 Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis
13 Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus
14 Rock Dove	Columba livia
15 Common Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus

16	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
17	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</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	Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>
24	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
25	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
26	Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>
27	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>
28	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
29	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
30	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
31	Lesser Moorhen	<i>Gallinula angulata</i>
32	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
33	Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>
34	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
35	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
36	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
37	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
38	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
39	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
40	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
41	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
42	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
43	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
44	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
45	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
46	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
47	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
48	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
49	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
50	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
51	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
52	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
53	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
54	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
55	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
56	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
57	Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>
58	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
59	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
60	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
61	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
62	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
63	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyæetus melanocephalus</i>

64	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaelus audouinii</i>
65	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
66	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
67	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
68	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
69	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sanduicensis</i>
70	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
71	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
72	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
73	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
74	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
75	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
76	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
77	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
78	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralliodes</i>
79	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
80	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>
81	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
82	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
83	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
84	Short-toed Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
85	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
86	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>
87	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
88	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
89	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
90	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
91	Common Buzzard (Atlas)	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
92	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
93	Maghreb Owl	<i>Strix mauritanica</i>
94	Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>
95	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
96	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
97	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
98	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>
99	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
100	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
101	Levaillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>
102	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
103	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
104	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
105	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
106	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
107	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
108	Maghreb Magpie	<i>Pica mauritanica</i>
109	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
110	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>
111	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>

112	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
113	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>
114	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>
115	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>
116	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>
117	Horned Lark (Atlas)	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
118	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>
119	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
120	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
121	Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
122	Maghreb Lark	<i>Galerida macrorhyncha</i>
123	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
124	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
125	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
126	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
127	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
128	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
129	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>
130	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>
131	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
132	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
133	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
134	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
135	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
136	Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>
137	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
138	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
139	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
140	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
141	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>
142	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>
143	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
144	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
145	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
146	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserti</i>
147	Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>
148	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
149	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
150	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>
151	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>
152	Fulvous Chatterer	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>
153	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
154	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
155	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>
156	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
157	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
158	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
159	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>

160	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>
161	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
162	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
163	Atlas (Seebohm's) Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe seebohmii</i>
164	Mourning (Maghreb) Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugens</i>
165	Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>
166	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
167	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
168	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
169	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
170	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
171	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>
172	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
173	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
174	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
175	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
176	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
177	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
178	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
179	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
180	African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla spodiogenys</i>
181	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
182	Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>
183	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>
184	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
185	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
186	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
187	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
188	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
189	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
190	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
191	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
192	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>
193	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
194	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
195	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>
196	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
Other 'taxa'		
	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (alba) subpersonata</i>
	British Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>
	Iberian Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>

- 1.
2. **OTHER WILDLIFE**
3. Egyptian Gerboa sp
4. Barbary Ground Squirrel
5. Fat Sand Rat

6. Common Genet
7. Common Pipistrelle
8. Spanish Pond Turtle
9. Wall Lizard
10. Bibron's Agama
11. Gecko sp
12. Southern Smooth Snake
13. Desert Horned Viper
14. Frog sp
15. Swallowtail
16. Knapweed Fritillary
17. Aetherie Fritillary
18. Wall Brown
19. Painted Lady
20. Morocco Copper
21. Plain Tiger
22. Black-eyed Blue
23. Lang's Short-tailed Blue
24. Greenish Black Tip
25. Bath White
26. Clouded Yellow
27. Desert Orange Tip
28. Vagrant Emperor
29. Striped Hawk Moth
30. Hummingbird Hawk Moth
31. 'Black' Scorpion
32. Buthus Scorpion
33. Desert Locust
34. Egyptian Predator Beetle

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