



A [Tropical Birding](http://www.tropicalbirding.com) SET DEPARTURE tour

MOROCCO: NORTH AFRICA IN A NUTSHELL

12th – 22nd March 2016



Maghreb (Western Mourning) Wheatear is a low-density, unpredictable and highly desired North African endemic

Tour Leader: Lisle Gwynn

*All photos in this report were taken by Lisle Gwynn. Species pictured are highlighted **RED**.*

INTRODUCTION

Morocco is a fascinating, mesmerizing and spell-binding country. Our set departure tour is popular for a reason; this tour offers more than just good birding, it offers GREAT birding, GREAT food, spectacular landscapes, unique culture and a whole barrel of laughs along the way.

The tour this year was a roaring success. Our final tally totaled 181 species of bird, including 13 seen only on a private pre-tour extension. More importantly, not only did the tour produce all of the target birds we would normally seek, two of the clients had arrived with lists of birds that would be lifers, and we managed to find every single one – though unfortunately Black-bellied Sandgrouse was a heard-only (next time Peter!). In search of these birds we made our way from the mid-altitude hustle and bustle of old-style metropolitan Marrakech to the snow-covered high Atlas Mountains, by way of the frigid but idyllic Ourika Valley. We then traversed the Tizzi-n-Tichka Pass and descended into the high desert of Boumalne Dades and the (in)famous Tagdilt Track in search of wheatears, larks, sandgrouse and other pre-desert delights, before making our way to the 'real' desert. The dunes of the Sahara at Erg Chebbi and our magical hotel will surely never be forgotten; it would be hard to forget such incredible scenery teamed with such fruitful and enjoyable birding. After our fill of desert birds we returned to the town of Ouarzazate to begin our tally of waterbirds at the local reservoir and rest before taking the drive to the coastal tourist paradise of Agadir. Here at the coast the Oued Souss estuary and snaking, lush Souss Massa valley presented us with a bounty of birds, including SEVENTY plus of the Critically Endangered and wholly unique Northern Bald Ibis. One last morning in the area saw us find an extremely rare vagrant in the form of Franklin's Gull, score a final couple of targets including abnormally spectacular views of Water Rail, before heading back to the enchanting chaos that is Marrakech. Some final shopping, or rather laughing at Lisle as he bought djellaba robes and Saharan headscarfs, preceded one last delicious meal together.

Morocco has evolved and transformed significantly since my first visit nearly 10 years ago, and it has now revealed itself fully as the welcoming, friendly, exotic and heart-capturing destination I know it to be. Of course, the birding is also absolutely fantastic with a whole host of endemic subspecies for future interest and endless superb birds, most of which are also great lookers! To give you a taste, the final Top Five Birds of the Trip as voted by the participants are:

- 1. Maghreb (Western Mourning) Wheatear*
- 2. Egyptian Nightjar*
- 3. Pharoah Eagle Owl*
- 4. Moussier's Redstart*
- 5. Cream-coloured Courser*
- 6. Northern Bald Ibis*

Frankly I found it unacceptable that Northern Bald Ibis didn't make the top 5, especially with such killer views, so it receives a special mention at number six. However, surely it shows the quality of the birding when such a brute of a bird doesn't even make the top 5. There will be a battle among guides to lead this incredible tour next year.

PRE-TOUR Day 1: Marrakech to Merja Zerga

In addition to the main Morocco tour this year, one of the participants had decided to add on a couple of extra days travelling north from Marrakech in search of two main targets: Marbled Teal, and Marsh Owl. Though Marbled Teal is often seen on the main tour route, Marsh Owl can only be found at a series of wetlands north of the Moroccan capital of Rabat.

Arriving in Marrakech mid-morning, we faced a lengthy drive to our first owl site so spent the majority of the day steaming along brand new and almost empty highways adding the likes of **Corn Bunting** and 'North African' **Grey Shrike** to our trip tally, along with **Eurasian Kestrel**. We arrived at the town of Moulay Bouselham an hour or so before dusk and decided to go straight out to search. A short drive took us to the far side of the wetland and we drove its length to select prime viewing points from which to scan for our first target: Marsh Owl. Alighting from the vehicle we spent a pleasant hour in the growing dusk with plenty of birds to keep us company including **Common Ringed Plover**, **Little Stint**, **Sanderling** and a number of **Western Marsh Harriers**. We spent a while admiring a **Little Owl** that perched closeby, wishing it was its larger cousin, but just as it was becoming dark I picked up a quickly-banking and fluttering shape across the marsh. With the scope quickly wielded we were soon enjoying somewhat distant but satisfactory views of **Marsh Owl!** Our first target in the bag before day 1 had even finished. We celebrated by checking into our accommodations and seeking pasta and pizza nearby.

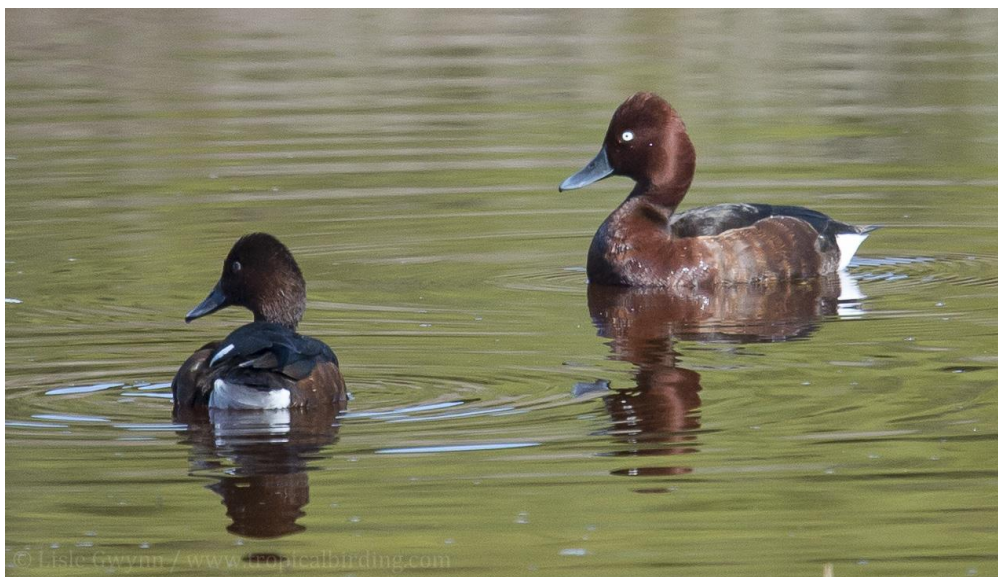
PRE-TOUR Day 2: Kenitra, Lac de Sidi Bourghaba & Merja Zerga

With Marsh Owl already having fallen, the pressure was off today and it was with wide-eyes that we set out bright and early for a day of nothing more than pleasant birding, with a certain strange-headed teal in mind. Heading south we approached the town of Kenitra, where we turned off to visit the wetlands on the edge of town. What met us at the parking area was nothing short of breathtaking – the sheer number of waterbirds and wildfowl was reaching spectacle level for such a small area. Immediately we could see at least 50 **Eurasian Spoonbill** (next page), as well as many **Little Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Great Egret**, **Grey Heron**, **Northern Shoveller**, **Eurasian Coot** and dozens of fly-over **White Storks**. Above us wheeled **Pallid** and **Common Swifts** with a couple of **Little Swift** thrown in for good measure, as well as **House** and **Sand Martins** and **Barn Swallow**, though it was **Red-rumped Swallow** that really stole the show. With our focus on the wetland in front of us we spent an hour watching, searching and taking photographs, which saw us tally several very good birds including **Western Swamphen**, **Red-knobbed Coot**, two gorgeous **Ferruginous Ducks** and, much to our delight, a small group of **Marbled Teal**.



Moving on to a local lake we pitched up at the bridge and broke out the cold pizza we'd saved for breakfast – there are few greater things, in my opinion, than good pizza accompanied by great birds. While we ate, we had phenomenal views of a pair of **Ferruginous Ducks**, super views of both **Sardinian** and **Subalpine Warblers**, several **Black Kites** and **Eurasian Kestrels** drifting over, as well as a whole bevy of waterbirds at the far end of the lake. Moving along the banks and traversing a Moroccan barbeque party we set out along a short trail to get closer to the far birds. This paid off as we enjoyed close views of a large number of **White-headed Duck**, **Greater Flamingo**, **Red-crested Pochard**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Common Pochard**, and **Yellow-legged Gull**, all new for the trip list. The walk itself proved fruitful with large numbers of **Common Chiffchaff**, **'Ultramarine' Blue Tits**, **Common Stonechat** and yet more **Subalpine Warblers**.

With such a successful morning under the belt we opted for a



relaxed lunch before setting out to some lakes north of Moulay Bousselham. This proved a wise decision; we spent the afternoon moving from lake to lake, trying to find vantage points, and racking up new birds like **White** and **Yellow Wagtails**, **Northern Wheatear**, **Gull-billed Terns** following tractor ploughs, **Common Kingfisher** dazzling from semi-submerged posts, **Spotted Redshank** wading along a lake edge, **Western Osprey** and **Booted Eagle** to boost our raptor list, and a generally impressive number of birds to take our time enjoying. It was only the setting of the sun that pushed us to move on for another try at Marsh Owl.

Though our second evening quest for the owl wasn't as successful, with no Marsh Owl seen, we did pull out a rather surprising migrant. A wry and loud "crrrek" from behind our vantage point had us both swinging rapidly to try and catch a glimpse of a migrant **Corncrake** that repeatedly called from beside us. In typical Corncrake fashion though, the bird remained firmly hidden, and we had to make do with listening to its taunting calls.

Day 1: Marrakech to the Ourika Valley & Oukaimeden

Today marked the first day of the main Morocco Set Departure tour for 2016. With Sonia and I arriving in Marrakech in the mid-morning, after having made our way from north of Rabat via a fly-over **Namaqua Dove**, we met the other participants at their city centre hotel and immediately made our way south, out of the city and toward the imposing shadow of the Atlas Mountains which sat snowy on the horizon. Along the way we noted our first **Common Bulbuls** and **Cattle Egrets**, before arriving in the picturesque Ourika Valley, our home for the night. Checking into our truly stunning classic Moroccan Kasbah, we immediately dropped our bags off in our rooms and headed up to the rooftop terrace for a spot of scanning. **Red-rumped Swallows** were first to be seen, with a nest outside one of the couple's room, but from the roof we also added **Barn Swallow**, **House Martin** and **Common Swift** as a pair of **House Buntings**, a North African endemic and quite



the looker, serenaded us from various perches. Sitting down to lunch we were thrilled to find two huge tagines filled with vegetables, lamb and plentiful olives – a true Moroccan staple food. It was hard to keep our eyes on our food as we constantly searched the skies, but as we got to know each other a little better we set our sights forth to our first afternoon and our first chance at some 'real' birding.



Moving out of the 'hotel' (such a term does this place true injustice) in the early afternoon we moved off into the mountains, climbing slowly at first. Stopping at some roadside farmland and patches of trees we tried for our first main target of the tour. Despite a busy road, several curious kids and a few braying donkies, we were soon enjoying good views of the endemic **Levaillant's Woodpecker** – a real feat and a great way to kick off the tour! A brief pair of fly-through **Serin** and a quickly-disappearing **Spectacled Warbler** saw us off as we started to climb higher still. Reaching the top of the treeline we saw our first **Red-billed Choughs** before pulling off at a patch of pines that always hold something worth seeing. Sure enough we spent the next half an hour or more in tick-heavy heaven, adding such stunners as **Hawfinch**, **Brambling**, **North African Chaffinch** and the underrated **Greenfinch**. This is of course not even to mention the diminutive but obscene **Firecrest** (what a name!), the ghostly pale-shawled **Mistle Thrush**, our first *mauritanicus* **Blackbirds**, a large flock of **Eurasian Siskin**, and after some effort great views of the frosty *mauritanicus* **Short-toed Treecreeper**. Overhead we also tallied **Eurasian**

Sparrowhawk and the *cirtensis* form of Long-legged Buzzard, often known as **Atlas Long-legged Buzzard**.

Moving up to the snowline and the top of the world, we entered the ski-resort of Oukaïmeden flanked by flocks of **Red-billed Chough**. We hadn't even pulled into the car park when the call of "Finches!" went up from the back of the van. A quick U-turn saw us bailing out in every direction to get views of the spectacular **Crimson-winged Finch**, a flock of 10 or so of which were perched on nearby wires. Across the valley we saw our first **Yellow-billed** or **Alpine Choughs**. Drifting in we had great views of



Eurasian Kestrel before seeing it perched on a rock. Moving up the valley we were shocked to find a flock of 40+ **Crimson-winged Finches** – a real sight to behold as they sat together on a fence line – stunning! Better still was the realisation that among them, on the ground, were a small number of **Atlas Horned Larks** – the batman of the bird world – and one of my personal favourite birds.

Leaving the ski-lift area of the resort, we moved uphill toward the highest point of the road in search of more goodies. Screeching to a halt around mid-way up, some of us had brief but incredible views of a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** as it caught and sat with **Crimson-winged Finch** prey! What a sight! Moving on further still, our first good looks at **Black Redstart** made it a popular addition to the list, whilst right at the top **Rock Bunting**



and **Black Wheatear** were welcome additions, along with our third **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** of the afternoon.



Two fly-by **Common Raven** were seen well by all, though we missed their frog-like croak of a call. Soon the light was dimming and it was time to descend the mountains to our welcoming abode. All was not over though, and on the way out we were flanked by **Alpine Choughs**, had good views of a smart adult **Black Wheatear**, fantastic views of a superb perched **Atlas Long-legged Buzzard** and, in the darkest

moments of dusk and after a rather rapid U-turn, great (if a little dull) views of the truly gorgeous **Barbary Partridge**. Assembling once again at our rooftop restaurant we watched the twinkling lights of Marrakech in the distance as we tucked into beef, chicken and vegetables with bountiful couscous – what a way to start the tour – guide and clients alike were elated.

Day 2: Ourika Valley, Oukaimeden & Boulmane Dades

I was met this morning at breakfast by a wide-eyed bunch of birders, awaiting their first morning's birding in Morocco with eager anticipation. Under a glittering blanket of darkness we ate our fantastic crepes, sipped good coffee and chatted through the plan for the day. Soon we were loading up the van and creeping through the valley.



The first stop was somewhat unexpected as I spotted a **Grey Wagtail** on a roadside rockface. Screeching to a halt, we all piled out and scoured for the wagtail, which I suspect had been spooked by a passing lorry, but much to our surprise we were met by the shrill screech of a **Levaillant's Woodpecker**! After a few seconds Peter had eyes on the bird atop a nearby half-dead tree – the scope was whipped out and on it before you could say jiminy cricket, and we were enjoying the best views possible of this stunning endemic. We had a date with other targets though, so we moved off once the bird had moved out of plain sight, and wound our way up the Ourika Valley. Along the way we made several stops, and although we had done spectacularly well yesterday we still managed to pull out some great new birds. **Wood Pigeon** was well represented, and is much under-rated, whilst **'Atlas' Red Crossbill** gave uncharacteristically great views atop their favoured pines higher up the valley. A stop to search some roadside trees produced our first **Great Tits** and also the iconic **European Robin**, which was met with some excitement. Our first fiery-eyed **Sardinian Warblers** also created a bit of a stir, but we couldn't locate the rarer *Sylvia* we were after – the endemic Tristram's Warbler, despite a lot of trying.

Once we reached the top of the valley, and the ski resort of Oukaimeden, we made our way slowly to the upper car parks, taking in point-blank views of **Alpine Choughs** which were decidedly scarcer yesterday. **Red-billed Choughs** were also in attendance, of course, and combined they formed a flock that totaled several dozen birds – a true spectacle! A couple of fly-over **Common Raven** were joined by **Common Kestrel** and a pair of **Eurasian Sparrowhawks**, whilst **Rock Buntings** were enjoyed once more, however it was the superficially drab **Rock Petronia** that stole the show first of all, despite the bounty of **Crimson-winged Finches** that abounded in seemingly every direction. **Black Redstarts** dazzled and amused as we pushed

further, finally reaching the top of the track. Here we found much better views of '**Atlas' Horned Lark** than yesterday, with everyone having super scope views of this avian Batman. Time by now was pushing on steadily, so it was time for us to make a move out of the mountains, however not before ticking a pair of **Meadow Pipits** and a quick stop on our way back down for a **Northern Wheatear** that Sonia found on the roadside. Another screeching halt had us enjoying a pair of poorly-named blue and yellow **Grey Wagtails** wagging their tails beside an icy torrent for an atmospheric addition to the list. Despite yet more searching, Mr. Tristram remained elusive.

Driving for an hour or so over to the winding, back-tracking series of cut-throat hairpins that form the Tizi-n-Tichka Pass, we steadily rose higher once more. I decided to try some good looking habitat on the roadside on the off chance that a Tristram's Warbler may be lurking, however after some searching we had failed to find or hear anything of interest. I suggested we try a little further along, which of course paid off massively – we immediately heard the scratching and scrawling song of a *Sylvia* warbler. A quick 'pish' and a stunning adult **Tristram's Warbler** was suddenly giving fantastic views flitting between trees and running circles around us. To say we were elated and relieved would be an understatement! To celebrate, we enjoyed a lunch of chicken kebabs, chips and incredible vegetable tagine on the rooftop of a local restaurant.

The remainder of the day, after such a bird-filled morning, was spent relocating to the high-desert town of Boulmane Dades. However, this is not to say it was birdless! Near the town itself we first stopped for fuel, cold drinks and ice cream, and discovered that our stop of choice was home to a particularly confiding and positively tame **Moussier's Redstart!**



We all gathered for mind-blowing views of this ultra-sexy bird, with binoculars not even being needed as it perched just a couple of feet away from us and ran practically around our feet at times – a really fantastic experience. Just half a mile down the road we stopped at a spot I've found productive in the past, and quickly added great views of **Desert, Black** and **White-crowned Wheatears**, pristine examples of each giving brilliant views. A fly-over **Desert Lark** was a surprise, but all too brief, but the same could not be said of a trio of singing, calling and generally obliging **Spectacled Warblers** that gave atypically excellent 'scope views for all – we even managed to see the spectacles.

With a gorgeous sunset behind us, glinting in the mirrors and windows of the van, we drove further into the desert and arrived at our imposing red-walled Kasbah hotel after dark. We were welcomed as friends and sipped Mint Tea as we checked in. There was of course no need to convince everyone that a hearty dinner was well-deserved, and we completed the checklist accompanied by chicken, beef and vegetable tagines, Moroccan soup and delicious fruit salads.

Day 3: Tagdilt Track, Todra Gorge & Erg Chebbi

Once again we were up early this morning; meeting the sun as it rose we drove the short distance from the Kasbah to the famous Tagdilt Track, home of larks, coursers, sandgrouse and other ground-dwelling goodies.



After starting down this gravel road, we almost immediately found our first **Lesser** and **Greater Short-toed Larks**, with the lesser giving particularly good views, allowing a quick masterclass in identification of this tricky duo. Soon after, we were having our second class, with **Thekla Lark** and **Crested Lark** both seen in quick succession, the first of many of each this morning. It didn't take long though before we were seeing birds with a little more colours – **Trumpeter Finch** was first up, with its pink wash and peachy tones. Next though was the much sought after, and really quite dapper **Red-rumped Wheatear**, was also joined in the area by **Desert, Black** and **White-crowned Wheatears**. Our major target of the morning though, and by far the trickiest bird on the track, was Thick-billed Lark. After some searching, and lots of scanning, I decided to stop the vehicle and take off on foot. We made our way in 'flush formation' across the open stony desert, trying to locate any larks that may run off away from us. Having found ourselves a little way from the vehicle, it was with both relief and frustration that I picked up a **Thick-billed Lark** in flight, barreling over us. Fortunately most got onto the bird,

and by the time it hit the ground we all had the bird. Linda did an excellent job of keeping on the lark as it hit the ground running, and we managed brief and distant scope views before moving forward in pursuit. Sure enough, it wasn't long before the bird was giving its parachute-type display flight right towards us, landing mere metres from us. We all crouched or stood and watched this incredible lark run circles around us just a few metres away – absolutely incredible!

With the sun rising ahead of us, we decided to drive fast along the main road to get the sun behind us before our search continued. Arriving at the opposite end of the track, our breakfast stop quickly became all the more valuable as some sharp eyes found 7 **Cream-coloured Coursers** strutting and running across the ground nearby, giving absolutely fantastic scope views. More frustrating though was the repeated sound of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** that, despite much walking and trying, remained hidden. However, as we moved forth it took only a couple of minutes before we came to another quick halt – in the track ahead of us was a pair of **Temminck's Larks** – our final real target for this site! Moving out on foot we were afforded absolutely fantastic close-quarters looks at this handsome little bird.



Once we'd had our fill of the track, and searched fruitlessly through a local oasis, we made off on our journey toward the Sahara. Lunch was taken in the world-class Todra Gorge where we wandered for a little while, ate fantastic food, drank refreshing cold drinks, and added both **Eurasian Crag Martin** and **Blue Rock Thrush** to our tally – a truly worthwhile stop. We were on the road again though before long, and by early evening we arrived at the edge of the world famous Erg Chebbi dunes on the edge of the Sahara Desert. The entrance track was surprisingly quiet, and only a single super-smart **Cream-coloured Courser** was a worthwhile stop.

Arriving at our dune-edge Kasbah we unloaded, unpacked and unwound before rendez-vousing on the terrace where the Spanish ringing group were working their way through a couple of birds they'd caught. We were absolutely delighted to add '**Eastern' Subalpine Warbler, Common Chiffchaff** and a stunning **Western Bonelli's Warbler** to our lists. Some frustration came from a tricky *Phylloscopus* warbler that looked a dead ringer for **Iberian Chiffchaff**, however these birds are incredibly tricky to identify. Measurements taken by the ringers suggested that it was indeed an Iberian though. With the smell of dinner rising through the air and dusk falling, it was time to call it a day once more.

Day 4: Erg Chebbi and the edge of the Sahara Desert

Today is without doubt not only one of the best days of this tour, but surely of any tour we run – the quality of species we seek in the desert here is absolutely fantastic. The day started early, at first light, with a quick walk around the tamarisks beside the hotel where we hoped to find some migrants. Despite much searching, all we could find were **Subalpine Warblers**, however there were around 15 of them in a very small area making for an impressive small-scale migration spectacle. After this, we discovered that our breakfast was running late, which caused some frustration. Soon our local guide, drivers and two 4x4 vehicles arrived and, after a slightly delayed breakfast, we entered our chariots. As I stepped into my land cruiser though I was beckoned by a frantic member of the ringing group shouting "*Otus scops!*" at me – they had caught a **Eurasian Scops Owl** just as we were leaving. Of course, everything happens for a reason (a mantra held in great regard by most travelers), and had our breakfast been on time we probably would have missed the opportunity to see an incredible owl up close and personal. Despite angry eyes, it was a relaxed bird; we left for the desert a little elated to say the least.



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The majority of the morning was spent driving through the desert, stopping in likely habitats and at frequently visited sites for a whole range of species. Of course, all of these were desert specialists. First of all we stopped for a small group of **Bar-tailed Larks**, which were soon followed by **Greater Short-toed Lark** and really great views of the peculiar and quite spectacular **Greater Hoopoe Lark**.



By now we had encountered our first of many groups of **Cream-coloured Courser**, which by the end of the day totaled upwards of 20 birds! A similarly common sight was that of **Brown-necked Ravens**, which we first viewed on our way to a small nomad house in the middle of the ochre dunes. Here we found a nesting pair of the much-desired, often-talked-about and generally quite sexy **Desert Sparrow** – the male giving us great looks and of course not failing to impress. The morning wasn't over yet though, despite the rising temperature; we moved further into the stony expanse, stopping for more **Desert Sparrows** and **Cream-coloured Coursers**, before locating another of our targets – a small group of **Desert Lark**. It was shortly after this that whilst searching through a large group of **Greater Short-toed** and **Bar-tailed Larks**, Sonia and our local guide managed to get views of a single **Dunn's Lark** as it foraged and then took flight, showing all the salient features – gripping! Whilst trying to relocate the bird, unsuccessfully, we found a small group of 5 **Thick-billed Larks** which were quite unexpected. Next up on the list of targets was something extremely special indeed; burning our way quickly through the desert we soon came upon a lonely Bedouin in the desert who flagged us down – he was a friend of our guide. Awaking long before light he had followed an Egyptian Nightjar as it hawked over the desert until it rested in its roost spot. Commanding the scope he beckoned us to look. Peering through the eyepiece brought us eye to eye with the near-mythical and totally-satisfying **Egyptian Nightjar** (next page). It even churred and sang for us – what an experience! After saturation views we left the bird in peace and went to our next target in a bit of a giddy daze – how could it get any better?! **African Desert Warbler**, that's how it could get better. With a little work and some walking through the vegetated small dunes we eventually had fantastic scope-filling views of this gorgeous, pallid little warbler, a

pair of which darted between bushes and sought shade. At one point we had the warbler and a Hoopoe Lark doing its bizarre display in the same binocular view. Whilst here we also added our first migrant **Woodchat Shrike** to our list.

Before returning to the hotel for a large lunch of chicken and beef kebabs and French fries, with some refreshingly cool water and cokes, we stopped at a small migrant trap in the hope of pulling out some new species. Sure enough we quickly found a pair of distinctive **Western Olivaceous Warblers**, with their tail-pumping motion amusing all. In the same area we



Spot the Egyptian Nightjar!

finally had great views of **(Blue-headed) Yellow**

Wagtails, a couple of the pallidly handsome **Western Black-eared Wheatear**, several **White-crowned Wheatear**, a couple of **Common Chiffchaff**, several **Subalpine Warblers** and a couple of **White Wagtail**. Returning to the hotel, we were met at the gate by a **Northern Wheatear**, and at lunch the banders brought us a **Woodchat Shrike** (next page) to look at.

Emerging back into the sunshine after lunch we were after several more new birds, the first of which involved travelling to a nearby town and walking through the Date Palm plantations. It didn't take long to add it to our lists, but it did take a while before we had what can only be described as stonking views of **Fulvous Chatterer** – with its constant chattering giving us a good idea of why it was named such! In fact, we found several adults tending to begging fledglings, which allowed amazing views at a respectful distance. The difficult thing though, was knowing where to look. In front of us were the chatterers, above us were several hawking **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters**, and beyond us on a tree was a **Southern Grey Shrike**. Walking among the fields we also had stupendous views of the endemic and really quite interesting '**Maghreb**' Lark, which is a very long-billed form of Crested Lark, considered a separate species by some authorities. Noting the differences in call, song, structure and the obvious bill length made for an educational experience.

Next we made our way to the furthest point of the day, at a plateau among towering red cliff faces. Here we stopped and after a little searching managed to locate 6 **Spotted Sandgrouse** which gave, typical of our

excellent day, fantastic views. These colourful and curious birds were a sure highlight of the day, however they just couldn't compete with our final of target of the day. Making our way through seemingly untouched terrain on our way to a towering desert cliff, we passed a lake with **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Kentish Plover**, better views of the belting **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** and the interesting 'Moroccan' **White Wagtail**. At our destination we got our exercise in for the day by climbing a steep slope, at the top of which our local guide once again commandeered the scope to focus it on something spectacular – this time a roosting **Pharaoh Eagle Owl**! What a way to end the day – at the top of a slope with spectacular views of the Sahara and scope filling views of an incredibly ornate and beautiful Pharaoh Eagle Owl.

The ride home was understandably filled with excited and satisfied chatter and we learnt about the history and culture of the region from our Berber guide, a truly interesting experience. Back at the hotel we had time for a shower and a rest before dinner – an amazing day was had by absolutely everyone.



Day 5: Erg Chebbi, the Tagdilt Track and Ouarzazate

Though today was very much a long travel day from the Sahara back to the high desert of Ouarzazate, that of course didn't mean there was no birding to be done. We started the day at dawn by walking through the migrant trap beside our hotel. Sunrise over the dunes was spectacular to watch, and our attention was periodically diverted to a large fall of **Subalpine Warblers**, a single **Laughing Dove** and, much to our surprise,

a **Fulvous Chatterer!** A very lost **Ruddy Shelduck** gave repeated flyovers whilst calling, until we eventually made our way to a hearty breakfast on the terrace.

After a short break to repack our bags, we made our way along the track to the main road, picking up a couple of final **Brown-necked Ravens** and a single **Desert Lark** that gave fantastic views. From here we drove through to the Todra Gorge once again, and found a rather lovely little restaurant at the entrance to the gorge at which to have lunch. Taking our seats atop the roof of the restaurant we had a fantastic view over the surrounding rocky cliffs, and although our hoped-for Bonelli's Eagles didn't show, we did have a fantastic lunch of chicken kebabs, omlettes and fries.

Although we had heard Black-bellied Sandgrouse earlier in the tour, we still hadn't seen the bird, so we decided to make a detour back to the Tagdilt Track near Boulmane Dades to have a final search. Unfortunately, we couldn't locate any sandgrouse, despite some serious scanning effort, however we did find yet more **Thick-billed Larks**, several flocks of **Temminck's Larks**, a whole family of **Cream-coloured Coursers**, and on our way out a great 'Atlas' **Long-legged Buzzard**. The remainder of the heat of the day was spent cruising through the desert toward our final destination, however we did make a quick stop for gas and ice cream, and for a stunning roadside **Little Owl** that was widely enjoyed and hotly anticipated.



Arriving in Ouarzazate just before the final golden hour of light, we set up camp atop a mound at the edge of the giant reservoir at the edge of town. From here, we were able to scan out over the reservoir edge allowing great views of birds like **Little Ringed** and **Kentish Plovers**, **Gull-billed Tern**, **White Stork**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Greater Flamingo**, **Grey Heron**, **Little and Great Egrets**, **Great Cormorant** and 'Moroccan' **Great Cormorant**, and hundreds of **Yellow Wagtails**, among which were a handful of 'Moroccan'

White Wagtail and another couple of hundred **White Wagtails**. Along the shoreline, in the vegetation, we found a great fall of **Common Chiffchaff** as well as **Eurasian Reed Warbler** and **Sedge Warbler**. Overhead were dozens of **White Stork** and **Black Kites**, whilst over the reedbeds **Western Marsh Harriers** hunted and gave fantastic views. Wildfowl were of course well represented, and we managed to find **Mallard**, **Northern Shoveller**, **Common Coot**, **Common Shelduck** and, surprisingly, a large group of around 10 **Marbled Teal**! A great target to see so early. Out on the reservoir were a handful of **Great Crested Grebes** and a single **Black-headed Gull**, whilst closer to shore was a **Marsh Sandpiper**. With such a great end to the day, we headed to our hotel in the town very happy indeed, and ready for yet another hearty and delicious dinner.

Day 6: Ouarzazate area to Agadir and the Oued Massa estuary

Today once again involved a good amount of travelling - it's quite a way from the Sahara to the sea! - however, we started the day in real style. Downing a pastry-heavy breakfast before dawn, we were on the road as the sun rose, making our way to the west of the bustling desert town of Ouarzazate. Our target for the morning was the endemic north west African form of Mourning Wheatear, known as Maghreb Wheatear or Western Mourning Wheatear. This is a bird that currently has no known stake out, and involves a heavy dose of luck to just bump into it, however having trawled countless trip reports and spoken to some local contacts, Ken and I had come up with a few areas that seemed more realistic than most. One of these areas was our search spot for the morning. Driving slowly, we stopped to scan a couple of times before I picked up a briefly heart-stopping **Desert Wheatear** flick across in front of us. Admiring good looks at a **Black Wheatear**, I interrupted the discussion between the others about its matte plumage with a whopping "GET ON THIS BIRD" – I'd found a very cold grey young male wheatear sat on a rock ahead of us. No sooner had I said this though than it flew – damn! Instantly though we knew this was the bird, and after some rapid reversing we were out on foot and hot on its heels. Approaching a gully, we set the scope down and scanned... a tense wait was broken when I finally picked the bird up again and we all had superb 'scope views of a young male **Maghreb Wheatear** (next page)! We couldn't believe our luck, but it was only to get a lot better. As we watched, a female joined it in flight, and as we moved forward we flushed a **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush** – a lifer for most of the group and an unexpected bonus bird. As I pointed out the salient features of the female rock thrush, Sonia piped up from behind with a "is this a male wheatear?!". Turning at the speed of light, I lifted my bins to an absolutely stonking male Maghreb Wheatear – ghostly white and hauntingly black, atop a thorn bush in a magnificent ochre desert setting – does it get any better than this?! Actually, yes, it does, as over the next 20 minutes or so we enjoyed mind-blowing views of the whole group of birds as the male finally came and perched within 10 metres of us giving frame-filling 'scope views, leaving the entire group bemused and giddy – what a start to the day!



Moving onwards we lived the road life for a while, picking up nice views of **Barbary Partridge** and enjoyed some playful **Barbary Ground Squirrels**, whilst roadside birds included the dapper **Northern** and **Red-rumped Wheatears**, **Woodchat** and 'North African' **Grey Shrikes**, **Eurasian Kestrel**, **Long-legged Buzzard**, 'Moroccan' **Magpie** and a wonderful pale morph **Booted Eagle** that gave fantastic views. We also had long-overdue good looks at **European Serin**, as well as a bunch of other common birds. After a hearty lunch of beef and goat tagines, we finally made it to the coastal tourist paradise of Agadir, and our modern hotel for the next two nights.

There wasn't much time to rest though, as our many stops along the way had left us short of time to relax, so we went back out into the field quite soon after arriving, in search of yet more birds. Our site for the afternoon was the Oued Massa estuary on the outskirts of Agadir. Here we walked a scrubby trail, scoured a marsh and perused the sandy banks, picking up birds including **Sardinian Warbler**, **Zitting Cisticola**, **Greater Flamingo**, **Eurasian Curlew** and **Whimbrel**, **Eurasian Oystercatcher**, **Gull-billed** and **Sandwich Terns**, **Great** and 'Moroccan' **Cormorants** and even a surprise **Shag**! On the marsh edge we found a really superb **Eurasian Thick-knee** or **Stone Curlew**, a trio of **Black-winged Stilts**, some unobliging **Common Snipe** and a fly-through **Peregrine** that gave great views. The gulls were the show stealer though, with **Lesser Black-backed**, **Black-headed**, **Mediterranean** and **Yellow-legged Gulls** being present in good numbers, and the extremely attractive **Audouin's Gull** (next page) providing great views from close range. Among the huge number of

birds, Sonia managed to pull out a single **Slender-billed Gull**, an uncommon and tricky bird in Morocco. Throughout this wonderful afternoon we were blighted by obscenely strong winds filled with abrasive sand, and with it all becoming too much and the birds in the bag, we opted to head back to the hotel for some down time before dinner. Another amazing day in this amazing country.



Day 7: Souss Massa National Park and Tamri

This morning dawned an important day; there are many, MANY reasons to bird Morocco, but perhaps nothing draws birders to this land more so than one bird – the Waldrapp, or Northern Bald Ibis. With a fresh breeze behind us, we broke from our hotel at dawn and made the short drive south to the Souss valley and the famous Souss Massa National Park, the stronghold of this Critically Endangered species.

Entering the surprisingly lush valley we were greeted with a snaking green oasis amidst barren sandy coastal desert – a real sight for sore eyes! Our first stops for the morning, to give the Ibis time to leave their strictly off limits colony, were a couple of small river crossings in the heart of the valley. Here we parked up and wandered along the road and some tracks, tallying up whatever we could find. The birding was fantastic, and birds dripped from every bush. Some were familiar, like **Subalpine** and **Sardinian Warblers**, **Greenfinch**, **Great** and **Blue Tits**, **Chiffchaff** and an assortment of water birds, including **Black-winged Stilt**, 'Moroccan' **Great Cormorant**, **Great Crested Grebe**, **Little Egret** and **Grey Heron**. However, many were new for us on this tour, with **Willow Warbler**, **Greater Whitethroat**, **Eurasian Reed Warbler**, **European Bee-eater**, **Sand**

Martin, **Squacco Heron** and even a surprise **Common Quail** recorded. Three key highlights early on were a quick but dazzling **Common Kingfisher**, an even more rapid **Egyptian Mongoose**, and some great looks at apparent *saharensis* **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers**, which helpfully responded to recordings.



Our key target was next up, so we headed out to the coastal fields outside the valley, mentally and physically preparing ourselves for a long search. Taking a wrong turn, we ended up in a different area than I had planned to search, but we stopped and scanned the rolling fields regardless. After just a few seconds of scanning, unbelievably we were dashing for the scope as I spotted at least 9 **Northern Bald Ibis** at quite some range. The views left much to be desired, but we noted the crazy neck feathers, bills and curious bald heads as they fed amongst goats. Locating a side track that would take us closer, we slowly drove in their general direction before parking some way off and walking out into the fields. We managed to re-locate them with ease and enjoyed great scope views at a more-than-respectful distance. However, no one had told the birds

that they were meant to keep their distance, and as we stood and watched they walked to within close enough distance to have full-frame scope views – absolutely incredible. After our fill, and after letting them pass in peace so as not to disturb them, we retreated quietly to the van – the smile swere enormous. Arriving almost at the van, we were shocked to see another flock of ibis heading towards us – 21 birds! They landed obscenely close to the van, and us, and allowed similarly spectacular views – the absolute greatest of treats.



What more could we hope for at Souss Massa? Not a lot after that! So, with elation all around at having seen our key bird for this part of the tour, we headed back to Agadir and what was voted the best meal of the trip – super-fresh fish grilled with rice, vegetables and fries – a celebration worthy of any rarity hunter. Still, we had more birds to see, and it was off north of the city we went for the afternoon. Arriving at the Tamri estuary we got superb views of **Pallid Swifts** hawking low over us before making our way to the waters edge to scan the gulls. A single **Ruddy Shelduck** was popular, whilst a dozen or so **Audouin's Gulls** in perfect light were simply stunning. Incredibly, no sooner had we scanned first of all, but three and then five **Northern Bald Ibis** dropped in and sat among the cormorants on the far shore – not all that far away! After another **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**, **Subalpine** and **Sardinian Warblers** we made our way back to the vehicle, and onwards. However, we were stopped in our tracks by a huge distant flock of black birds taking to the air – our bins were met by *at least* 40 **Northern Bald Ibis** feeding in the fields above the road – absolutely phenomenal! I had hoped for good views of a couple of birds, but 75+ for the day is seriously dream-calibre and a significant proportion of the world population.

We chose to finish the day with a seawatch from the famous Cap Rhir. We watched the sun lower as we scoped **Northern Gannet**, **Razorbill**, **Common Guillemot**, **Pomarine Jaeger** and a small group of the desired **Cory's Shearwaters**. Nearby both **Northern** and **Western Black-eared Wheatears** (next page) entertained, whilst a flock of **Linnet** were admired keenly.



Day 8: Oued Souss estuary, Souss Massa National Park and Marrakech

This morning, the final full day of the tour, we had some unfinished business to tend to; namely, Red-necked Nightjar. With the past two evenings being blighted by a strong wind we hadn't had a chance to try for this, a sought after bird among the group. So, it was up dark and early for some of the group today as we headed back down to the Oued Souss estuary. Arriving before dawn we immediately had a **Red-necked Nightjar** responding, and it was joined by a second closer bird, but try as hard as we may we just could not eek it out any further and into view – damn! Turning our attention to a sunrise scan of the estuary we added **Grey (Black-bellied) Plover**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Greenshank** and two fantastic drift-by **Osprey** to our tally. However, the stars of the show were the gulls. We managed to find at least 4 cracking **Slender-billed Gulls**, one with obvious pink tinge, that gave fantastic views. There was even a **Black-headed Gull** in full breeding plumage. The highlight though was some excitement as we found a **Franklin's Gull** – an extremely rare vagrant in Morocco, having come across from the US. All abuzz we returned to the hotel for breakfast and to pack.

With a little time on our hands we quickly ran through the group's remaining lifers – there were a couple of stand outs that we could perhaps find at Souss Massa, so we headed south once again in search of a couple of last new birds for the tour. Sure enough, we were wildly successful, scoring not only **Cetti's Warbler** but also amazing views of a **Water Rail** running through the open in sunshine, giving fantastic views for all. This was of course only to be outdone by another brown warbler – this time a lily-hopping, bush-climbing and unexpected **Moustached Warbler**! It's been some years since this species was in the Souss valley so it was a

real adrenaline moment as we scrambled for scope views – ultimately we walked away from a pair and began our journey north-west. Climbing the Atlas once more, we were soon descending into the hustling, bustling and all-together manic city of Marrakech. Although we couldn't find a hoped-for Spanish Sparrow, we spent the evening in the city doing the 'normal' tourist thing. I bought djellaba robes and locally-woven headscarfs whilst the group laughed and took photos, and others picked up final souvenirs and gifts. Eventually we made our way back into the Djemma El Fnaa for dinner overlooking the square as the spectacular and iconic Koutoubia Mosque lit up in the darkness.

With only the journey to the airport ahead of us, after a heavenly and well-deserved sleep, the tour had unfortunately more or less come to a close. What a time we had had though! We saw countless incredible birds, from the rare to the common, the colourful to the drab, and everything in between. We shared countless great times, laughs and memories to be cherished forever, and we had worked fantastically as a team to find some of Morocco's toughest and most sought-after birds. It was certainly a tour to remember, and one I absolutely cannot wait to repeat. For two of the group and I, the next day dawned the beginning of our tour through Southern Spain and countless more mouth-watering birds to come; the perfect desert to this meal...



The view from our Sahara-edge hotel



The Sahara is near unbelievable at night. No light pollution, just a sparkling canopy of stars.



House Sparrows hunt the abundant migrant moths (like this Striped Hawkmoth) at our Sahara hotel.



Rock Bunting is a handsome denizen of the rocky interior and snow-capped Atlas



Little Owl is popular and thankfully common, especially at the coast



© Lisle Gwynn / www.tropicalbirding.com

Eurasian Thick-Knee or Stone Curlew is often tricky, but not at a coastal spot near Agadir



© Lisle Gwynn / www.tropicalbirding.com

Black-winged Stilt is a raucous and dapper inhabitant of the wetlands



Both black and white, both common, both thoroughly good birds. 'Moroccan' Magpie and White-crowned Wheatear (female shown) are common but remain tour highlights.

BIRD LIST

The taxonomy of the bird list follows: Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World. Cornell, 2007.

This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until August 2014.

Column 2 lists species' IUCN Red List status

HO in column 5 denotes species that were heard only

EO in column 5 denotes species that were seen only on the pre-tour extension

Numbers: 181 bird species seen, 1 heard only and 3 mammal species recorded

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae				
1		Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	
2		Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
3		Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
4		Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
5	V	Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	
6		Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	EO
7	NT	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	EO
8		Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	EO
9		White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	EO
GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae				
10		Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>	
11		Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae				
12		Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
13		Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	
PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae				
14		Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	
PROCELLARIIFORMES: Procellariidae				
15		Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	
CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae				
16		White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	
SULIFORMES: Sulidae				
17		Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	
SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae				
18		"Moroccan" Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus</i>	
19		Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	
PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae				
20		Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
21		Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	

22		Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
23		Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
24		Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
25		Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	
PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae				
26		Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	
27	CR	Waldraap (Northern Bald Ibis)	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	
28		Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	EO
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae				
29		Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae				
30		Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	
31		Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	
32		Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	
33		Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	
34		Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	
GRUIFORMES: Rallidae				
35		Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	
36		Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	EO/HO
37		Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	EO
38		Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
39		Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	EO
40		Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae				
41		Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae				
42		Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Haematopodidae				
43		Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae				
44		Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
45		Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	
46		Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae				
47		Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
48		Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
49		Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
50		Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stanatilis</i>	
51		Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
52	NT	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
53		Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
54		Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
55		Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	

56		Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae				
57		Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Stercorariidae				
58		Pomarine Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Alcidae				
59		Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	
60		Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae				
61		Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	
62		Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	
63		Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	
64	NT	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>	
65		Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	
66		Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
67		Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	
68		Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	
69		Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	
PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclididae				
70		Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>	
71		Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	
COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae				
72		Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	
73		Common Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
74		Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
75		Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	
STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae				
76		Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	EO
STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae				
77		Pharaoh Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	
78		Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	
79		Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	
80		Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>	EO
CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae				
81		Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>	
82		Egyptian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>	
APODIFORMES: Apodidae				
83		Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	
84		Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
85		Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	
86		Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	
CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae				
87		Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	
CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae				

88	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>	
89	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	
CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae			
90	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	
PICIFORMES: Picidae			
91	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	EO
92	Levaillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>	
FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae			
93	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	
94	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae			
94a	Southern Gray Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis algeriensis</i>	
94b	Southern Gray Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis elegans</i>	
95	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae			
96	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	
97	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	
98	Yellow-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	
99	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	EO
100	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	
101	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae			
102	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	
103	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>	
104	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>	
105	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>	
106	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	
107	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	
108	Dunn's Lark	<i>Eremalauda dunni</i>	
109	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	
110	"Long-billed" Crested Lark	<i>Galarida c. riggenbachi</i>	
111	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	
112	"Atlas" Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris atlas</i>	
113	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae			
114	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
115	Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	
116	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
117	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	
118	Common House-Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Paridae			
119	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	
120	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	
121	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>	

PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae			
122		Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae			
123		White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae			
124		Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae			
125		Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae			
126		Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae			
127		Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
128		Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
129		Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>
130		Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae			
131		Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>
132		Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida saharensis</i>
133		Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
134		Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
135		Eurasian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae			
136		Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae			
137		Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
138		Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>
139		Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
140		Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
141		Greater Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
142		Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae			
143		Fulvous Chatterer	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae			
144		European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
145		Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>
146		Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
147		Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
148		Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
149		European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
150		White-crowned Wheatear	
151		Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
152		Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
153		Mourning Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugens</i>
154		Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>

155		Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	
156		Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae				
157		Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
158		Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae				
159		Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae				
160		Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
161		Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
162a		White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
162b		"Moroccan" White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>	
163		Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae				
164		Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	
165		Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	
166		House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	
167		Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	EO
PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae				
168		"African" Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>	
169		Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	
170		Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>	
171		Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>	
172		European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	
173		"Atlas" Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra polioygyna</i>	
174		European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
175		Eurasian Siskin	<i>Pinus pinus</i>	
176		Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	
177		European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	
178		Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae				
179		House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
180		Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>	
181		Rock Petronia	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	
MAMMALS				
1		Barbary Ground Squirrel	<i>Atlantoxerus getulus</i>	
2		Fat Sand-Rat	<i>Psammomys obesis</i>	
3		Egyptian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	