

# Birdwatching in Morocco

4<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012

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Tina (my wife) and I spent 3 weeks birding most of the country from 04.02 – 25.02 2012. Roughly, we spent 1 week in the north, 1 week in the south-east and 1 week in Western Sahara. The itinerary was Agadir – Oukaïmeden – Merja Zerga – Zaida – Rissani – Boumalne Dadés – Knifiss – Dakhla – Aousserd – Agadir.

We noted a total of 201 species, including almost all the targets. We missed Dupont's Lark and, sadly, the Cricket Warbler. The Pied Crow has not been recorded for a year, and the Kelp Gull is also very irregular now, so we didn't expect any of them.

## **General comments**

### *Money*

The local currency is MAD, Moroccan Dirham. 11 MAD equals 1 Euro, however Euros are accepted in many places at the rate 10 to 1. In general the price level is low. The income is very low for many Moroccans - workers in one of the many Fossil Factories in Rissani earn 50 MAD a day - so we tipped well. Total costs for 2 persons, 3 weeks were around 3500 Euros, including everything. And by the way: Don't change money in the agency before customs at the airport. Immediately after you pass the customs, among the car rental companies, there are 3-4 exchange booths that give better rates. There are ATMs in all the larger towns. Not all hotels accept Visa.

### *Getting around*

We flew nonstop from Copenhagen to Agadir. Tickets booked at norwegian.com

We had prebooked a car at Europcar, the cheapest I could find on the internet. There were a number of companies at the airport, maybe we could have bargained a better price on the spot – February is clearly low season. Many have recommended a Dacia Logan. It's a well-known and pretty simple car, that any little garage can repair, and it's got a good clearance, making it better for the off road places you inevitably end up in as a birder. It easily holds 2 large and 2 smaller suitcases, all in all making it a very suitable choice for a birdwatching trip. Covering some 6500 km (Aousserd is FAR away!) the Dacia did 13-14 km per liter, giving us a ratio of 700+ km to a full tank. We didn't have any problems with the car at all. We also rented a GPS (quite expensive – 1440 Dirhams for 3 weeks). It proved very useful with the coordinates in "Gosney", but on some of the roads it really wasn't any help. Maybe the satellite connection is poor or the map was not updated, sometimes it simply didn't know where we were.

Petrol is cheap, compared to European standard. In most places 1 liter costs 10-11 Dirhams, in West Sahara only 7 Dirhams. The Moroccan government encourages people to move to West Sahara by keeping the area tax free. Petrol stations are easily found in most places, but not on the road to Aousserd or in the town itself.

The only map we had was Michelin 742 National – “Morocco” 1:1.000.000 with some areas 1:600.000. This and the GPS covered our needs. Gosney’s maps were very useful “on location”.

Driving in Morocco is quite easy. I have never seen so many speed cameras and traffic controls anywhere else. As a result most Moroccans drive slowly (this means they actually stay within the speed limits) and even the lorries are aware of other cars wanting to pass. This said the traffic in and around the major cities is like in any other city. (And Tina now knows, that the fine for speeding is 300 Dirhams ☺)

The numerous police controls were passed with no problems at all. Normally they just signaled us to move on, often without even stopping. In Western Sahara however, they always stop you. If you are going there, print and fill out a number (10-15 per person) of the form on page 5 in:

[http://www.go-south.org/08\\_Go\\_SouthBulletin/gsb\\_8\\_special.pdf](http://www.go-south.org/08_Go_SouthBulletin/gsb_8_special.pdf)

or the one at the end of this trip report:

[http://www.go-south.org/09\\_TripReports/R259\\_2011\\_02\\_chaney.pdf](http://www.go-south.org/09_TripReports/R259_2011_02_chaney.pdf)

We used the latter and had no problems. If you don’t have these, you’ll have to wait for them to write it all down each time...

### *Accommodation*

All accommodations (except in Agadir and Rissani/Merzouga) were found on the way. We never had any problems finding a room, because, as mentioned above, February is low season. Prices were from 250-542 Dirhams / double with breakfast and 500-600 half board (with 1 exception). Some (but not all) hotels accept Visa.

We stayed in these hotels (all prices per room / 2 persons):

Agadir: The first two nights were spent in Agadir. We had booked a room in “La Porte des Etoiles”, a very quaint little hotel: Nothing like the normal tourist hotels, but very good value for money (30 Euros per night/double, breakfast included). It doesn’t look like a hotel from the outside at all, and very kind and helpful family running the place, quiet area quite close to the airport and the first things we heard in the morning were the songs of the Bulbul and the House Finch.

I don’t think they have a homepage, but this will give an idea of the place:

[http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel\\_Review-g293731-d2102903-Reviews-La\\_Porte\\_des\\_Etoiles-Agadir\\_Souss\\_Massa\\_Draa\\_Region.html](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel_Review-g293731-d2102903-Reviews-La_Porte_des_Etoiles-Agadir_Souss_Massa_Draa_Region.html)



*La Porte des Etoiles, you have to know it’s there!*



*The view from our room at Vila Nora*

Oukaïmeden: Chez JuJu. The most expensive place we stayed. The room was heated, we later discovered that it isn't so everywhere. Total price incl. 3 course meal, beer, wine and tips: 1200 MAD.

I tried to contact them in advance but never got an answer. However, the homepage is new, so maybe they can be reached via e-mail now?

<http://www.hotelchezjuju.com/>

Skhirat Plage, south of Rabat: Hotel Les Gambusias. Basic but OK. 400 MAD with breakfast.

Moulay Bousselham: Villa Nora. Small family run place with only 3 or 4 rooms. Beach front with the greatest view of the Atlantic Ocean. 500 MAD with breakfast. Dinner is available on request.

Zaida plains: Ksar Timnay, only 3-4 km from the Dupont's Lark site. COLD! 380 MAD with breakfast, 540 MAD half board.

<http://ksar-timnay.com/>

Rissani/Merzouga: Auberge Caravane. Booked in advance. Very nice place at the edge of the Erg Chebbi. Cold at night. 500 MAD half board.

No home page but easy contact at [kadi1974@hotmail.com](mailto:kadi1974@hotmail.com)

Boumalne Dadés: Riad Soleil Bleu. The room was to some extent heated! 600 MAD half board.

<http://www.hotelsoleilbleu.com/>

El Ouatia (Tan Tan Plage): "Bungalow" at Camping Sable d'Or. This camping Bungalow was a fine hotel room with private shower, lots of hot water, for only 200 MAD. Breakfast was extra, 25 MAD per person. In the evening we had T-bones at 75 MAD each (no wine available but we were welcome to bring our own.)

Tarfaya: Hotel Cap Juby. Nice little place with only 1 (or 2?) room. In the morning we found out, that the door was locked from the outside, the owner didn't stay at the hotel, so we actually couldn't get out! Apart from this, it's OK. 376 MAD + 52 for the breakfast.



*Winter on the road to Oukaïmeden*



*Breakfast at Auberge Caravane*



Tarfaya: On the way back we didn't feel like being locked inside, so we stayed at Hotel Aoudate instead. Basic but OK. 300 MAD + breakfast.

Dakhla: Hotel Doumss. Nice hotel. 542 MAD with breakfast.

Agadir: The last 2 nights were back at La Porte des Etoiles.

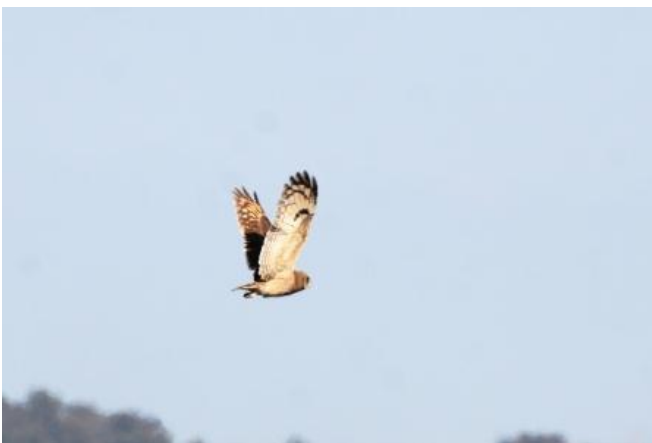
### *Weather*

February is winter, even in Morocco. In the mountains we had frosty nights and mild days. In the Rissani area the nights were cold, but as soon as the sun was up, the temperatures were pleasant. Far south the temperatures were higher with mild nights (camping OK) and daytime temperatures around 25°. We had no rain at all.

### *Guides*

In Moulay Bousselham we contacted Hassan Dalil. He has been guiding in this area for many years and can take you to the places to see the Marsh Owl. The way to find him is to drive straight through the town to the parking by the sea. Here you find Restaurant Milano. Bring your binoculars and ask the waiter to call Hassan. He charged us 400MAD for 3 hours (16.00-19.00), which is pretty much, but we saw a Marsh Owl at some distance. He offered to show us the owls on the SW side of the lake the next morning, but we went there by ourselves.

On the SW side of Merja Zerga we met Hamouradir (he came running when he saw us), who took us to a place by the lake where we saw 3 Marsh Owls. We gave him 200 MAD, which seemed to be more than he expected. He can be contacted by phone 06 68492479



*Marsh Owl, Merja Zerga*



*Tea in Brahim's family home*

Brahim Mezane offers guiding in the Rissani area. We had contacted him by e-mail and hired him for a full day. He is a very kind young man, eager to show you the specialties of the area. Don't expect him to identify all the birds you see, but he is worth the money because he can take you to the right places. He

showed us Pharaoh Eagle Owl, Desert Sparrow, Tristram's Warbler, Desert Warbler, Fulvous Babbler, Maghreb Lark and Barbary Falcon. He charges 40 euro for 2 persons for a full day, which is pretty much for Moroccan standards, but the birds justify the price. He is pleasant company and he even invited us home for tea and took us to see the family business, a fossil factory and shop. For contact info, see <http://birdinginmorocco.jimdo.com/>

The most reliable guide for the Houbara Bustard seems to be (another) Brahim, owner of the Auberge Caravane right at the edge of Erg Chebbi. We had contacted him in advance and the deal was simple: For 100 Euros he would show us the bird, if we did not see it, we should not pay. He works with some of the local bedouins, who had found the bird the day before and kept an eye on it till we were there, so we saw it. Even though the price is high, we happily paid Brahim and tipped the 2 bedouins, because it involved the local people, encouraging them to protect the nature. Chances of seeing the Houbara are better in April or May, when they are breeding, thus being more stationary. Brahim also offered to take us to a place, where we were sure to see the Desert Sparrow, but since (the other) Brahim found it for us, we didn't go there. Contact him at [kadi1974@hotmail.com](mailto:kadi1974@hotmail.com) both for Houbara trip and for booking the hotel.

#### *Literature/ Homepages*

Patrick and Fédora Bergier: "A Birdwatchers Guide to Morocco"

Dave Gosney: "Finding Birds in Morocco: Coast and Mountains" (in the following referred to as Gosney-C)

Dave Gosney: "Finding Birds in Morocco: The Deserts" (in the following referred to as Gosney-D)

We had great help from all 3 when planning the trip. In Morocco, we soon discovered that Gosney's were the more useful on location. They seem more up-to-date, and the sketches are very accurate and easy to follow. The coordinates were also very useful.

Much valuable info at <http://www.go-south.org/> and <http://moroccanbirds.blogspot.com/>

For trip reports <http://www.travellingbirder.com/>

For further information please don't hesitate to contact us at [madselley@gmail.com](mailto:madselley@gmail.com)

#### **Itinerary**

##### *4<sup>th</sup> February*

Afternoon flight from Copenhagen to Agadir. Got the car and drove to our hotel, La Porte des Etoiles. Only birds recorded at the airport were a Kestrel, a Spotless Starling and 2 unidentified pipits (seen from the plane).

### *5<sup>th</sup> February*

We woke up to the sound of singing House Finch and Common Bulbul, 2-3 of each.

After breakfast we drove along the coast to the Tamri estuary. Best birds: Bald Ibis, Lesser Kestrel, Moussier's Redstart and Black Wheatear.

An hour's sea-watching at Cap Rhir produced Cory's and Balearic Shearwater, British storm Petrel, 50+ Gannets, Great Skua and Audouin's Gull.

A detour away from the coast along the P1004 gave us our first Moroccan White Wagtail and the local ssp of Blackbird, Magpie and Chaffinch.

### *6<sup>th</sup> February*

The drive past Marrakech to Oukaïmeden gave little of interest, adding Hoopoe, Rock Martin and Red-billed Chough to the tour list. There was a lot of traffic on the road to Oukaïmeden, and when we arrived, we considered going back right away. A school holiday meant that the place was loaded with people, and no birds around. Luckily we decided to stay and checked in at Chez JuJu. A walk up hill through the village to the radar station added Rock Sparrow, Rock Bunting and near the top Barbary Partridge but no sign of Alpine Accentor.

### *7<sup>th</sup> February*

Before breakfast we walked to the ski lift. In the early morning the place was quiet and both Choughs were plentiful. At the car park by the ski lift we found our main target for the day: 100+ Crimson-winged Finches were feeding at close range. Shore Lark was also new to the list. After breakfast we tried the radar station once more but still no Alpine Accentor.

Leaving Oukaïmeden we found a Levaillant's Woodpecker in the first tall trees on the way down. We actually heard it from the car!

In Marrakech we visited the Djema el Fna with the famous market. White Stork and the usual House Buntings and Bulbuls were the only interesting birds.

The drive to Rabat was long, 2 Cream-coloured Coursers and a Calandra Lark being the highlights, both seen from the car. We checked in at Hotel Les Gambusias in Skhirat Plage.



*Crimson-winged Finch, Oukaïmeden*



*Levaillant's Woodpecker, Road to Oukaïmeden*

### 8<sup>th</sup> February

We left in the dark to reach Sidi Yahya before dawn. In the early morning we heard a Double-spurred Francolin calling to the NV of the car park (Gosney-C p.37 site 3). In the same area 2 Black-crowned Tchagras were singing. Heading back to the hotel for a late breakfast we stopped at some flooded fields close to Sidi Yahya. We also saw our only 2 Black-shouldered Kites on the way.

The rest of the day was spent at Lac de Sidi Bourhaba. A nice place where many Moroccans also come to relax by the lake. Nevertheless the lake is good for birds. Red-knobbed Coot and Purple Swamphen were easily found and seen well, and a surprising total of 63 White-headed Duck were present, 51 of them in one flock. We spent most time at the northern end of the lake (Gosney-C p.9 site 2 and 3), where you are close to the shore. The visitor centre (Gosney-C p.9 site 4) is only open in weekends. We stayed till after dark hoping to find a Marsh Owl but in vain. A Barn Owl showed well in the headlights when we left.

### 9<sup>th</sup> February

The beach in Skhirat Plage held some waders and a Mediterranean Gull while a Pomarine Skua chased the Sandwich Terns.

After driving to Moulay Bousselham we checked in at Hotel Villa Nora. A short sea watch from the balcony produced Slender-billed Gull and Great Skua.

At 16.00 we met with Hassan Dalil, who took us to a place for the Marsh Owl. Leave the road at N 34.87107 W 006.24520. You can drive past the Eucalyptus grove. The marshy area here is Marsh Owl habitat. We saw one at some distance and a possible one closer in the dark. A Barn Owl gave a fine performance too. A singing Calandra Lark and 2 Richard's Pipits were also noted.

### 10<sup>th</sup> February

Sea watching from our balcony in the morning produced Mediterranean Gull, Great and Pomarine Skua and the usual Gannets.

After breakfast we drove to the south end of the lake (Gosney-C p.7, site 4). Here we met Hamouradir, who offered to show us the owls. We were a little skeptical, but decided to give it a chance. He first tried the area described by Gosney, but with no luck. He then took us north along the road to the west of the lake, and at the second place he tried, we saw 3 Marsh Owls. He was very eager, that we should see them again, but we stopped him, leaving the owls to a good days sleep. We missed the exact coordinates but noted these: N 34.83785 W 006.30159. The site was actually a bit further north. Brown-throated Sand Martin and Bluethroat completed a fine morning.

After this we headed for Zaida making only a few birding stops on the way. Best birds were a Peregrine *ssp brookei* and 10 Brown-throated Sand Martins.

We arrived to the Dupont's Lark site (Gosney-D p.3 site 2) just before dusk, finding our first Red-rumped Wheatear in the vanishing light. The plan was to camp here, but when we found out how cold and windy it was, we decided to find a hotel. The Ksar Timnay is only a few km to the south. The hotel was almost just as cold, but at least we escaped the wind.

### 11<sup>th</sup> February

We left in the dark (after de-icing the windscreen) to be at the site at dawn. We arrived in the first light, only to discover that we were too late. We met a group there, who had heard the song of the Dupont's Lark



in the dark 10 minutes before we arrived. An hour's intensive search remained fruitless except for some Lesser Short-toed Larks. Our first real dip.

Back for breakfast and then south towards Rissani. On the way we saw our first Desert Larks, Trumpeter Finches, White-crowned Wheatears and some Crested Larks with rather long bills...

In Rissani we met with Brahim Mezane. He told us, that the Pharaoh Eagle Owl was very difficult this year. He had only seen it twice this winter, one of the times was yesterday! We went straight to the spot and found the owl right away. We parked at N 31.20925 W 004.31706 and walked around the cliff. The bird was on the next cliff, probably also visible (at some distance) from the road.

We checked in at the Auberge Caravane, the only hotel (besides the one in Agadir) we had booked in advance.

### *12<sup>th</sup> February*

Off to see the Houbara Bustard! Brahim (owner of the Auberge Caravane) took us in his 4WD to a place, where a local Bedouin was waiting for us. He pointed out another man in the distant, and when we reached him, he set up our telescope and pointed into it. There it was – the Houbara! They had found the bird the day before and stayed there all night keeping it within eyesight, until we arrived. We happily tipped them 200 MAD each, hoping to encourage the interest in preserving the nature. The Houbara is seriously threatened by “the arabs, who come every year to hunt with their falcons”, Brahim told us. The Moroccan government seems to accept this. There are some captive breeding reintroduction programs going on in some parts of Morocco. This is supported by “the arabs”. The result is tame Houbara Bustards with antennas on the back. In my opinion just as intriguing as the Pheasants in Europe. The Houbara we saw showed a natural shyness and was most likely a wild bird. Maybe we'll have to accept the “zoo-birds” in the future, but it seems there is still a chance of “the real thing”. Brahim told us, the chances of seeing the Houbara are better in April or May when they are breeding, thus being more stationary – and the Bedouins know where they are.

In the same area we also saw our first Maghreb Wheatear and 2 Cream-coloured Coursers.

The rest of the day we birded the Rissani area with Brahim Mezane. Ruddy Shelduck, Hoopoe Lark, Bar-tailed Lark, Maghreb Lark, Fulvous Babbler and Spectacled Warbler were new to the tour list.



*Searching for the Houbara...*



*and there it is!*

### 13<sup>th</sup> February

Full day with Brahim Mezane. First we went to the Bivouac Hotel, where we saw a male and 2 female Desert Sparrows. He then took us to a place, where he had seen a Tristram's Warbler a few days earlier. First bird we saw after leaving the car was...Tristram's Warbler! A 2 min. walk from there he knew a site for the Desert Warbler, and again... there it was! Third target species of the day, and it was only 10 o'clock! Brahim had certainly earned his money for the day! A Dartford Warbler was a nice bonus here. The day also brought the first Desert Wheatear of the trip, and in the afternoon Tina spotted a Barbary Falcon on a cliff. Only the Sandgrouse were missing, but we caught up with them later. Brahim invited us home for tea, and after that he showed us the family business, a fossil workshop and the shop where they sell the fossil products. This was a good chance of getting a little behind the scene, and it gave some insight in Moroccan life. 50 MAD for a day's work and the lungs full of stone powder...

### 14<sup>th</sup> February

Time to leave Rissani and head for Boumalne Dades and the famous Tagdilt Track.

First stop was at the Scrub Warbler site (Gosney-D p.17 site 3). We soon located 2 Scrub Warblers *ssp. saharae* a few hundred meters NW of the road.

Next detour was into the Todra Gorge (Gosney-D p.17 site 4). In the very narrow part of the gorge, we added Grey Wagtail. Crag Martin was numerous here. We continued through the narrow part, and just out in the open again, we stopped for lunch. After a few minutes a Bonelli's Eagle was soaring near the cliff top to the right. It showed twice in the 30 minutes, we were there.

Along the road we noted no less than 40 White-crowned Wheatears today!

We arrived to Boumalne in time to do some birding along the Iknouen road. The drinking pools (Gosney-D p.21 site 5) were dry, but we found our first Temminck's Horned Larks there. The orchard (Gosney-D p.21 site 7) produced our first Black-bellied Sandgrouse of the trip with a flock of 20. We took the Old Tagdilt Track back to Boumalne, adding Long-legged Buzzard and another 25 Black-bellied Sandgrouse, but surprisingly few larks. The "Wheatear Wall" (Gosney-D p.21 site 4) is now behind a fence, but close enough to scan the walls for birds. A Long-legged Buzzard was our only bird here.

We stayed overnight at the Hotel Soleil Bleu, another hotel with limited heating.



*Desert Warbler, near Merzouga*



*Pharao Eagle Owl, near Rissani*

### 15<sup>th</sup> February

Like yesterday, we took the Iknouen road to the orchard (Gosney-D p.21 site 7) and found 19 Black-bellied Sandgrouse there. The Old Tagdilt Track was better today with 7 species of larks. Especially the Lesser Short-toed was numerous with 93 noted. At the dump we found 3 Thick-billed Larks in the middle of the garbage.

A short stop at the Barrage el Mansour (Gosney-D p.23 site 3) produced little of interest.

We camped 9 km SE of Tissint at N 29.85303 W 007.26483 which must be the site for Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (Gosney-D p.25 mentioned under site 3). This is a very nice and quiet place with Ruddy Shelduck, but no sign of any Sandgrouse.

### 16<sup>th</sup> February

A great place to wake up with many birds around. We stayed until 08.30, again hoping for some Sandgrouse... You guessed it...

We made a stop at the NW edge of Tissint at N 29.90965 W 007.32041 (Gosney-D p.25 site 3). Gosney says NE, but the river runs half way around Tissint, so you can watch it from a number of places. Many birds here too, but no...

We drove all the way to El Ouatia (Tan Tan Plage). Quite a few birds on the way but nothing new.

We made two stops searching for the Scrub Warbler *ssp theresae*. First we spent an hour at Oued Siyad east of Bouizakarne (Gosney-D p.25 site 1). We didn't find the Scrub Warbler, but Barbary Partridge and Tristram's Warbler were present. Next stop was at Oued Bauhila south of Goulimine (Gosney-D p.31 site 2), where Spanish Sparrow was new to the tour list but again no Scrub Warbler.

In Tan Tan Plage we found a Bungalow at the Camping Sable d'Or. The Bungalow was a fine hotel room for 200 MAD + breakfast. Dinner was T-bone Steaks but no wine (you're welcome to bring our own).

### 17<sup>th</sup> February

After a short walk at the beach (Arctic Skua) we headed south towards Knifiss Lagoon (known as Naïla by the locals). Many shorebirds in the Oueds, we crossed on the way, but a Lanner perched on a pylon was the bird of the day.



Red-rumped Wheatear, Tagdilt Track



Thick-billed Lark, Tagdilt Track

Knifiss is a great place with a lot of birds. Recently the Kelp Gull hasn't been reliable, and the large dark gulls we saw, were all Greater Black-backed. We didn't really believe in finding the Kelp Gull, and a boat trip was 400 MAD, so we decided against it. Instead we took the very rough track west from the car park, giving good views of the lagoon. Subalpine Warbler came on the tour list and almost back to the car park we suddenly heard a familiar call – Scrub Warbler. A very confiding pair gave excellent views for several minutes.

2 Kittiwakes close to the beach in Tarfaya were a little surprise before we checked in at the Hotel Cap Juby.

### *18<sup>th</sup> February*

Sea watching in Tarfaya from 8.00-9.00 gave 250+ Gannets, 2 Great and 3 Pomarine Skuas.

We then set off for Dakhla. The absolute stars of the drive were 2 Barbary Falcons mobbing a Long-legged Buzzard.

We stopped at the Café Chtoukan, where the Pied Crows were seen until last year, but as expected the only corvids there were 11 Brown-necked Ravens.

11 km after the turn off to Dakhla, at the northern end of Dakhla Bay, there's a broad sandy beach with a lot of kite surfers to the left of the road. We checked the Terns here and found 2 Royal Terns and the only Lesser Crested Tern of the trip.

Overnight at the Hotel Doumss.

### *19<sup>th</sup> February*

We birded the area south of Dakhla until noon. A flock of 83 Caspian Terns is worth mentioning. The southern tip of the peninsula, Pointe de la Sarga, is good for sea birds. We had 20+ European Storm Petrels foraging quite close to the coast at N 23.64479 W 16.00684.

After lunch we set out for Aousserd. At the surfers beach there was a single Royal Tern.

22 km after the turn off towards Aousserd we camped at Gleb Jdiane (N 23.61303 W 15.72344). This is a well-known drinking site for both Spotted and Crowned Sandgrouse. The place is actually a water well, and a lot of lorries collect water there. The Spanish-speaking warden is very kind and knew right away, what we were there for. We had wondered, what makes people settle in such a remote place, and he probably gave us the answer. When we asked him, if we were allowed to camp in the area, he said something like "of course, you can camp where ever you want, out here we have freedom!"



*Scrub Warbler ssp. theresae, Knifiss*



*Camping at Gleb Jdiane*



20<sup>th</sup> February

We woke up to the sound of 7 lorries filling their water tanks. First thought was, that we'd never see a sandgrouse with the water hole surrounded by people. A few Temminck's Horned Larks came in to drink anyway, leaving some hope. The Sandgrouse come to drink in the morning around 9 o'clock, so we parked the car in a good position and started waiting at 8.30. The last lorry left shortly after and we didn't have to wait long: At 8.50 the first 6 Crowned Sandgrouse showed up, and from then until we left at 10.30 we had constantly some sandgrouse within sight. A total of 60 Spotted (2 flocks) and 73 Crowned (4 flocks) were seen. The Crowned landed far from the water and waited for a long time before slowly moving towards the water, finally drinking for maybe 10 seconds from the edge of the water hole. The Spotted on the other hand landed directly in the water, the first birds in a flock leaving before the last ones even landed. Each bird was in the water for only 2-3 seconds. Not all the sandgrouse, we saw, actually drank while we were there, so maybe the show goes on for several hours. The morning also produced a total of 22 Temminck's Horned Larks, 3 Thekla and a very cooperative Hoopoe Lark.

After this we set off for Oued Jenna with a number of stops on the way. Desert Wheatear and Hoopoe Lark are the common species along the road. At the military fort at Km 122 we found the first Desert Sparrows, visible from the road. After a while some soldiers came out asking what we were doing. We made sure the cameras were out of sight, offered them a look in the telescope and showed the Desert Sparrows in the book. They smiled and told us, they are common there. Everybody was very friendly, and the whole situation very relaxed. I don't know how they would react, if they saw the 400mm...

3 Cream-coloured Coursers at Km 145 were within reach of the camera.

The highlight of the day was a pair of Lanners chasing away a third Lanner, probably a breeding pair at Km 175.

A few hundred meters down the track NE at Km 183 we found the "hoped for but not expected" Dunn's Lark along with 3 Bar-tailed Desert Larks.

At Km 191 we arrived at Oued Jenna, got stuck in the sand, pulled out by a friendly lorry driver, set up the tent and started birding the area. 2 males and a female Black-crowned Finch-Lark were the best birds. All day we had listened for the characteristic sound of the Cricket Warbler, but no luck.



*Spotted Sandgrouse, Gleb Jdiane*



*It's often windy around here*



21<sup>st</sup> February

We woke up at dawn to a wonderful, peaceful morning at Oued Jenna. Birded the area for a couple of hours, best birds were 15 Desert Sparrows, 4 Black-crowned Finch-Lark and 8 Fulvous Babblers.

After breakfast we drove to Aousserd, which is nothing but some houses in the desert. We continued south towards Tichla. After 35 km we could hardly see the road because of a rising sand storm, so we decided to head back towards Dakhla. Because of the wind and the sand we only made a few stops along the way. 5 Dunn's Lark at km 196 were the only birds worth mentioning.

At the surfer's beach were 3 Royal Terns, and a further 5 at N 23.83874 W 15.86117.

One more night at Hotel Doumss.



*Lanner, Aousserd road km 175*



*Cream-coloured Courser, Aousserd road km 145*



*Dunn's Lark, Aousserd road km 196*



*Desert Sparrow, Aousserd road km 175*



*Bar-tailed Desert Lark, Aousserd road km183*



*Where's the road? 35 km south of Aousserd*

22<sup>nd</sup> February

Started the loooooong drive back to Agadir. Today we drove the 635 km to Tarfaya with only a few stops. Only the birds seen roadside were noted. Spent the night at Hotel Aoudate.

23<sup>rd</sup> February

At dawn we heard a Stone Curlew from the room. We still had some 550 km to Agadir, so we left early. The Kelp Gull was seen a few days earlier along the beach east of Knifiss, so we spent some time Gull watching between there and Sidi Akhfennir, but no luck. Best birds today were Lanner and 2 Scrub Warblers. Felt almost like coming home when we arrived to La Porte des Etoiles again.

24<sup>th</sup> February

Once again we woke up to the (now) familiar sound of singing Bulbuls and House Buntings. We headed for Oued Sous, but on the way we entered the large Carrefour supermarket. Inside there were at least 3 singing House Buntings! These birds seem to be everywhere! Oued Sous holds a lot of water birds. We easily found the main target of the day, the Marbled Duck (Gosney-C p.22 site 1). Other good birds were Barbary Partridge, Stone Curlew and Moussier's Redstart, but the best was probably an immature Bonelli's Eagle. We had no problems walking all the way to the coast along the fence to the palace (Gosney-C p.22 sites 3-6). We then drove to Oued Massa, making the first major stop by the bridge (Gosney-C p.24 site 3). Only a single Brown-throated Sand Martin was present, but it showed well. Other birds included singing Cetti's and Fan-tailed Warblers. The rest of the day was spent in the Massa area, producing Little Bittern and 2 Marbled Teals (Gosney-C p.25 site 6). We then tried (Gosney-C p.24 site 4), which proved to be very productive. In 30 minutes late afternoon we found Spotted Crake, Black-crowned Tchagra, Moustached, Sedge and Cetti's Warblers and a singing Cirl Bunting. Just to the north of Agbalou Village (Gosney-C p. 25) are some stone walls surrounding the fields. We ended the day there in search of Little Owl. 2 pairs were present, one of which were mating on top of the wall of the northernmost house in the village. An astonishing way to end our birding in Morocco!



*Royal and Caspian Terns, north of Dakhla*



*Yellow Wagtail ssp iberiae, Knifiss*

25<sup>th</sup> February

The last day was spent in Agadir, visiting the souk (quite a few House Buntings). Even at the airport, these birds were seen inside the building. Some reports mention the House Bunting as difficult to find, we found them everywhere!



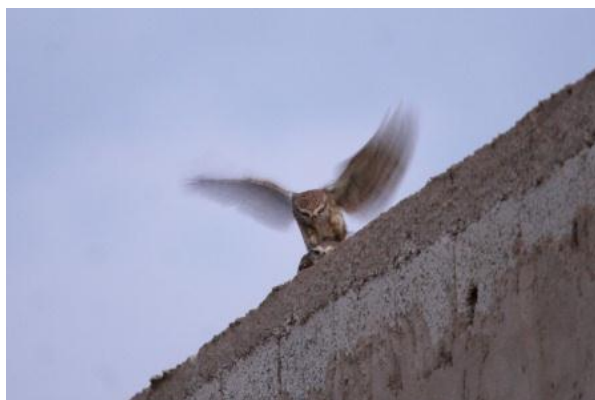
*House Bunting, near Agadir*



*Stone Curlew, Oued Sous*



*Barbary Partridge, Oued Sous*



*Little Owl, mating, Agbalou village*



## Species list

Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> )	8/2	50+ Sidi Yahya – Temara 13 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	10/2	3 Merja Zerga – Zaida
	12/2	2 Rissani area
	13/2	4 Rissani area
	18/2	16 Tarfaya – Dakhla
	22/2	6 Dakhla – Tarfaya
	23/2	2 Tarfaya – Agadir
	24/2	4 Oued Massa
Great Crested Grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> )	8/2	1 Sidi Yahya, 10 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	15/2	21 Barrage el Mansour
Black-necked Grebe ( <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> )	18/2	12 Tarfaya - Dakhla
	22/2	3 Dakhla – Tarfaya
Cory's Shearwater ( <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> )	5/2	1 Cap Rhir
Balearic Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> )	5/2	2 Cap Rhir
Shearwater sp. ( <i>Puffinus</i> sp.)	5/2	3 Cap Rhir
European Storm Petrel ( <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> )	5/2	1 Cap Rhir
	19/2	20+ Dakhla N 23.64479 W 16.00684
Northern Gannet ( <i>Morus bassanus</i> )	Common along the coast with a max of 250+ (18/2 Tarfaya)	
Great Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> )	Common along the coast and at Barrage el Mansour. The white-breasted form seems more numerous in the south	
Little Bittern ( <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> )	24/2	1 calling Oued Massa (Gosney-C p.25 site 6)
Black-crowned Night Heron ( <i>N. nycticorax</i> )	8/2	1 calling Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	9/2	5 Merja Zerga
	23/2	10 Tarfaya – Agadir
Cattle Egret ( <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> )	Common in most of the country, not noted south of Tarfaya	
Little Egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )	Single birds along the coast, higher numbers inland marshes (max 25 SE of Tissint)	
Great Egret ( <i>Casmerodius albus</i> )	12/2 + 13/2	2 Rissani
	24/2	1 Oued Massa
Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> )	1-5 birds noted in many places. Only higher numbers were	

	16/2	22 north of Tissint
	24/2	40+ Oued Sous
Black Stork ( <i>Ciconia nigra</i> )	13/2	2 Rissani
White Stork ( <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> )	Noted on many dates, mainly coastal (max 100+ Merja Zerga), but also 22+8 nests in Marrakech and 5 + 2 nests between Boumalne and Ouarzazate	
Glossy Ibis ( <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> )	22/2	1 Dakhla – Tarfaya
	24/2	100 Oued Massa
Northern Bald Ibis ( <i>Geronticus eremita</i> )	5/2	6 north of Cap Rhir, 58 Tamri Estuary, 12 Cap Rhir
Eurasian Spoonbill ( <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> )	8/2	12 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	17/2	20+ Knifiss Lagoon
	18/2	20 Tarfaya – Dakhla
	23/2	1 Knifiss Lagoon
Greater Flamingo ( <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> )	Up to 100 in coastal wetlands like Lac de Sidi Bourhaba, Knifiss Lagoon a.o.	
Ruddy Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> )	12/2 - 13/2	up to 4 Rissani
	15/2	3 pairs south of Tissint
	17/2	1 Tan Tan - Tarfaya
Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> )	8/2	a single pair Sidi Yahya
Eurasian Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )	8/2	250+ Sidi Yahya, 10 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	8/2	18 Sidi Yahya, 16 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	10/2	32 Merja Zerga - Zaida
Northern Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> )	8/2	600+ Sidi Yahya, 80+ Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	10/2	74 Merja Zerga – Zaida
	17/2	10 Tan Tan - Tarfaya
Marbled Duck ( <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> )	4/2	7 Oued Sous (5 Gosney-C p.23 site 1 and 2 Gosney-C p.25 site 6)
Red-crested Pochard ( <i>Netta rufina</i> )	8/2	35 Sidi Yahya, 2 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
Common Pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> )	8/2	48 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	10/2	2 Merja Zerga – Zaida
Ferruginous Duck ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> )	8/2	1 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> )	24/2	12 Oued Massa



Black Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> )	5/2 17/2 23/2	13 Cap Rhir 50+ Tan Tan Plage 8 Tarfaya - Agadir
White-headed Duck ( <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> )	8/2	63 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
Black-winged Kite ( <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> )	8/2	2 between Sidi Yahya and Temara
Black Kite ( <i>Milvus migrans</i> )	10/2 13/2 16/2 21/2 22/2	1 Merja Zerga, 1 Merja Zerga – Zaida 1 Rissani 1 Tissint – Tan Tan Plage 5 Aousserd 3 Dakhla – Tarfaya
Western Marsh Harrier ( <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> )	8/2 10/2 17/2 24/2	4 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba 2 Merja Zerga, 2 Merja Zerga – Zaida 1 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya 1 Oued Massa
Eurasian Sparrowhawk ( <i>Accipiter nisus</i> )	6/2 8/2 9/2 24/2	2 Agadir – Oukaïmeden 2 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba 1 close to Moulay Bouselham 1 Oued Massa
Long-legged Buzzard ( <i>Buteo rufinus</i> )	14/2 15/2 16/2 17/2 18/2 20/2 21/2 23/3	5 Tagdilt Track 3 Tagdilt Track, 1 Ouarzazate – Tissint 1 Tissint – Tan Tan Plage 4 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya 1 (mobbed by 2 Barbary Falcons) Tarfaya – Dakhla A pair with a nest, Road to Aousserd km 163 1 Aousserd 3 Tarfaya – Agadir
Bonelli's Eagle ( <i>Aquila fasciata</i> )	14/2 24/2	1 adult Todra Gorge 1 imm Oued Sous
Osprey ( <i>Pandion heliaetus</i> )	8/2 17/2 18/2 19/2 23/2 24/2	1 Tamara to Lac de Sidi Bourhaba 2 Tan Tan – Tarfaya, 2 Knifiss Lagoon 3 Tarfaya – Dakhla 1 Dakhla 2 Knifiss Lagoon 1 Oued Sous
Lesser Kestrel ( <i>Falco naumanni</i> )	5/2	3 Agadir, 1 between Agadir and Tamri
Common Kestrel ( <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> )	Noted on most days with a max of 5 23/2	

Lanner Falcon ( <i>Falco biarmicus</i> )	17/2 20/2 23/2	1 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya A pair mobbing a third bird, Road to Aousserd km 175 1 Tarfaya – Agadir
Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	10/2	1 ssp brookei en route Merja Zerga – Zaida
Barbary Falcon ( <i>Falco pelegrinoides</i> )	13/2 18/2	1 Rissani 2 (mobbing a Long-legged Buzzard) Tarfaya – Dakhla
Barbary Partridge ( <i>Alectoris barbara</i> )	6/2 16/2 24/2	2 Oukaïmeden by the radar station 2 Oued Siyad (Gosney-D p. 24 site 1) 2 Oued Sous
Double-spurred Francolin ( <i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i> )	8/2	1 heard Sidi Yahya (Gosney-C p. 36 site 3) between the Hunting lodge and site 3. Silent until half an hour after dawn, then calling a few times.
Common Quail ( <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> )	24/2	1 Oued Massa
Spotted Crake ( <i>Porzana porzana</i> )	24/2	1 Oued Massa (Gosney-C p.24 site 4)
Common Moorhen ( <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> )	9/2 15/2 16/2 22/2 24/2	7 Skhirat – Moulay Bousselham, 2 Merja Zerga 6 Barrage el Mansour 1 south of Tissint, 1 north of Tissint 9 Dakhla – Tarfaya 15 Oued Massa
Purple Swamphen ( <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> )	8/2	7 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
Eurasian Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> )	5/2 8/2 18/2 22/2 24/2	5 Agadir – Tamri 450+ Sidi Yahya, 6 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba 20 Tarfaya – Dakhla 1 Dakhla – Tarfaya 47 Oued Massa
Red-knobbed Coot ( <i>Fulica cristata</i> )	8/2 10/2	26 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba A few distant Coots, some of which were certainly Red-knobbed, at Merja Zerga
Houbara Bustard ( <i>Chlamydotis undulata</i> )	12/2	1 See details above
Euras. Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )	9/2 10/2	5 Temara 2 Moulay Bousselham

	17/2	5 Tan Tan Plage, 1 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya, 100+ Knifiss
	18/2	10 Dakhla Bay (Surfer's beach), 41 Dakhla
	21/2	7 Dakhla Bay
	23/2	9 Tarfaya – Agadir, not counted Knifiss
	24/2	6 Oued Sous
Black-winged Stilt ( <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> )	8/2	9 Sidi Yahya
	10/2	1 Merja Zerga, 90+ Merja Zerga- Zaida
	17/2	5 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya, 1 Knifiss Lagoon
	18/2	18 Tarfaya – Dakhla
	22/2	50 Dakhla – Tarfaya
	23/2	1 Tarfaya – Agadir
	24/2	30+ Oued Sous
Pied Avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i> )	10/2	11 Merja Zerga – Zaida
	18/2	8 Tarfaya – Dakhla
	22/2	1 Dakhla – Tarfaya
	23/2	10 Tarfaya – Agadir
	24/2	35 Oued Sous
Eurasian Stone Curlew ( <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> )	8/2	1 calling Sidi Yahya
	20/2	1 calling Gleb Jdiane
	23/2	1 calling Tarfaya
	24/2	5 Oued Sous
Cream-coloured Courser ( <i>Cursorius cursor</i> )	7/2	2 Marrakech – Temara
	12/2	2 Rissani
	20/2	3 Road to Aousserd km 145
	23/2	1 Tarfaya – Agadir
Little Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius dubius</i> )	10/2	5 Merja Zerga – Zaida
Common Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> )	Common on the coast, max 24/2 40 Oued Sous	
Kentish Plover ( <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> )	10/2	5 Merja Zerga – Zaida
	17/2-21/2	Up to 11 on the coast south of Tan Tan
European Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )	5/2	1 Cap Rhir
	8/2	2 Sidi Yahya
	9/2	25 Merja Zerga
Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> )	9/2	6 Temara
	17/2	10+ Knifiss Lagoon, 1 Tarfaya
	18/2	1 Dakhla Bay
	19/2	4 Dakhla

	21/2	4 Dakhla Bay
	23/2	1 Tarfaya – Agadir
	24/2	10+ Oued Sous
Northern Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> )	10/2	1 Merja Zerga
	17/2	1 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya
Red Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )	17/2	3 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya, 3 Knifiss Lagoon
Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> )	Common along the coast, max 23/2 250 between Knifiss and Akhfennir	
Little Stint ( <i>Calidris minuta</i> )	17/2	1 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya
Temminck's Stint ( <i>Calidris temminckii</i> )	17/2	20+ Knifiss Lagoon
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )	9/2	2 Temara
	10/2	1 Merja Zerga – Zaida
	17/2	25+ Knifiss Lagoon, 1 Tarfaya
	19/2	1 Dakhla
	24/2	38 Oued Sous
Ruff ( <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> )	10/2	8 Merja Zerga – Zaida
Jack Snipe ( <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i> )	10/2	3 Merja Zerga – Zaida
Common Snipe ( <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> )	8/2	2 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	9/2	1 Merja Zerga
	10/2	4 Merja Zerga, 19 Merja Zerga – Zaida
Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> )	24/2	10+ Oued Sous
Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> )	Noted on 7 locations on the coast. Max 19/2 88 Dakhla	
Whimbrel ( <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> )	9/2	5 Temara
	17/2	2 Tan Tan Plage, 5+ Knifiss Lagoon and 1 Tarfaya
	24/2	1 Oued Sous
Eurasian Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )	9/2	1 Temara
	17/2	50+ Knifiss Lagoon
	24/2	6 Oued Sous
Common Sandpiper ( <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> )	1 or 2 birds on 8 different locations	
Green Sandpiper ( <i>Tringa ochropus</i> )	Small numbers coastal wetlands and in the Tissint area	
Common Greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> )	8/2	1 Sidi Yahya
	17/2	4 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya

	22/2	1 Dakhla – Tarfaya
	24/2	5 Oued Sous, 1 Oued Massa
Wood Sandpiper ( <i>Tringa glareola</i> )	10/2	4 Merja Zerga – Zaida
Common Redshank ( <i>Tringa tetanus</i> )	Noted on the coast. Max 20+ Knifiss Lagoon and Oued Sous	
Ruddy Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )	9/2	25 Temara
	17/2	7 Tan Tan Plage
	19/2	6 Dakhla
	23/2	1 Knifiss Lagoon
	24/2	2 Oued Sous
Pomarine Jaeger ( <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> )	9/2	1 Temara
	10/2	1 Moulay Bousselham
	18/2	3 Tarfaya
Parasitic Jaeger ( <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> )	17/2	1 Tan Tan Plage
Great Skua ( <i>Stercorarius skua</i> )	A total of 12 birds noted on 8 different locations	
Black-legged Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> )	17/2	2 Tarfaya
Slender-billed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i> )	9/2	1 Moulay Bousselham
	23/2	1 Knifiss Lagoon
	24/2	1 Oued Sous
Common Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> )	Recorded along the coast. Max 8/2 50 Temara. Less numerous further south.	
Mediterranean Gull ( <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> )	8/2	6 Temara
	9/2	1 Temara
	10/2	1 Moulay Bousselham
Audouin's Gull ( <i>Larus audouinii</i> )	Recorded many places on the coast. Max 5/2 200+ between Agadir and Tamri	
Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> )	The most numerous Gull, always present in the coast, often several hundreds	
Yellow-legged Gull ( <i>Larus michahellis</i> )	Common along the coast	
Great Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus marinus</i> )	17/2	3 Knifiss Lagoon
	23/2	6 Knifiss Lagoon, 2 Tarfaya – Agadir
Gull-billed Tern ( <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> )	17/2	2 Knifiss Lagoon
Caspian Tern ( <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> )	5/2	1 Cap Rhir



	More common in the south, max was a flock of 87 19/2 south of Dakhla	
Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> )	Recorded several times, small numbers in the north, up to 2-300 further south	
Royal Tern ( <i>Sterna maxima</i> )	18/2	2 Dakhla Bay at the surfer's beach
	19/2	1 Dakhla
	21/2	3 Dakhla Bay at the surfer's beach, 5 at N 23.83874 W 15.86117
	22/2	2 at N 23.83874 W 15.86117
Lesser Crested Tern ( <i>Sterna bengalensis</i> )	18/2	1 Dakhla Bay at the surfer's beach
Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> )	5/2	1 Cap Rhir
	18/2	1 Tarfaya
Crowned Sandgrouse ( <i>Pterocles conatus</i> )	20/2	73 in 4 flocks Gleb Jdiane
Spotted Sandgrouse ( <i>Pterocles senegallus</i> )	20/2	60 in 2 flocks Gleb Jdiane
Black-bellied Sandgrouse ( <i>Pterocles orientalis</i> )	14/2	20 Ikniouen Road (Gosney-D p. 20 site 7), 25 Tagdilt Track
	15/2	19 Ikniouen Road (Gosney-D p. 20 site 7)
Common Pigeon ( <i>Columba livia</i> )	Common in most places, some more "wild" than others	
Common Wood Pigeon ( <i>Columba palumbus</i> )	Noted on 4 dates in the northern part of the country. Max 12 8/2 Sidi Yahya	
Eurasian Collared Dove ( <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> )	Seen most days. Max 47 14/2 Rissani – Boumalne de Dades	
Laughing Dove ( <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> )	13/2	4 Merzouga area
	14/2	1 Rissani – Boumalne de Dades
	15/2	1 Ouarzazate- Tissint
	16/2	2 Tissint – Tan Tan Plage
	19/2	2 Dakhla
	22/2	1 Dakhla – Tarfaya
	2/2	12 Oued Massa
Barn Owl ( <i>Tyto alba</i> )	8/2	1 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	9/2	1 Merja Zerga
Pharao Eagle Owl ( <i>Bubo ascalaphus</i> )	11/2	1 Rissani
Little Owl ( <i>Athene noctua</i> )	24/2	2 pairs Oued Massa (Agbalou village)

Marsh Owl ( <i>Asio capensis</i> )	9/2	1 Merja Zerga. See directions above
	10/2	3 Merja Zerga. See directions above
Swift sp. ( <i>Apus sp.</i> )	5/2	1 Agadir – Tamri
Common Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> )	9/2	1 Merja Zerga
	24/2	2 Oued Massa
Eurasian Hoopoe ( <i>Upupa epops</i> )	6/2	2 Agadir – Oukaïmeden
	15/2	1 Tagdilt Track
	17/2	1 Knifiss Lagoon
Levaillant's Woodpecker ( <i>Picus vaillantii</i> )	7/2	1 Oukaïmeden Road
Great Spotted Woodpecker ( <i>Dendrocopos major</i> )	7/2	1 Oukaïmeden Road
Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark ( <i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i> )	20/2	3 Oued Jenna
	21/2	4 Oued Jenna
Dunn's Lark ( <i>Eremalauda dunni</i> )	20/2	1 Aousserd Road km 183
	21/2	5 Aousserd Road km 196
Bar-tailed Desert Lark ( <i>Ammomanes cinctura</i> )	12/2	13 Rissani area
	13/2	13 Merzouga area
	14/2	1 Rissani – Boumalne de Dades
	16/2	1 Tissint – Tan Tan Plage
	20/2	9+ Aousserd Road (Noted from the car, much more numerous. 10+ unidentified larks were probably this species)
	21/2	5 Aousserd Road (20+ unidentified)
	22/2	1 Dakhla Tarfaya
	23/2	2 "Tan Tan 100" (Gosney-D p. 30 site 4)
Desert Lark ( <i>Ammomanes deserti</i> )	11/2	4 Zaida – Rissani
	12/2	15 Rissani area
	13/2	5 Merzouga area
	14/2	1 Rissani – Boumalne de Dades
	15/2	1 Tagdilt Track, 1 Barrage el Mansour, 1 Ouarzazate – Tissint
	16/2	8 Oued Siyad (Gosney-D p. 24 site 1)
	21/2	2 Tissint – Tan Tan Plage
Greater Hoopoe Lark ( <i>Alaemon alaudipes</i> )	12/2	1 Rissani area
	13/2	3 Merzouga area
	14/2	1 Rissani – Boumalne de Dades
	15/2	2 Tagdilt Track

	17/2	1 Knifiss Lagoon
	20/2	1 Gleb Jdiane, 6 Aousserd Road
	21/2	3 Aousserd – Dakhla
	22/2	1 Dakhla – Tarfaya
Thick-billed Lark ( <i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i> )	15/2	3 Tagdilt Track, at the dump
Calandra Lark ( <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i> )	7/2	1 Marrakech – Temara
Greater Short-toed Lark ( <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> )	20/2	2 Oued Jenna
Lesser Short-toed Lark ( <i>Calandrella rufescens</i> )	11/2	20+ Zaida
	14/2	10 Tagdilt Track
	15/2	93 Tagdilt Track
Crested Lark ( <i>Galerida cristata</i> )	The Galeridas were not offered much attention, but Crested was common in the north, Maghreb was seen a few times in the south-east and Thekla was the dominant species from Agadir south	
Maghreb Lark ( <i>Galerida macrorhyncha</i> )	11/2	1 Zaida – Rissani
	12/2	2 Rissani. Probably most (all?) of the crested larks here are this form
Thekla Lark ( <i>Galerida theklae</i> )	See comments under Crested Lark	
Eurasian Skylark ( <i>Alauda arvensis</i> )	15/2	3 Tagdilt Track
Horned Lark ( <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> )	7/2	3 Oukaïmeden
Temminck's Lark ( <i>Eremophila bilopha</i> )	14/2	7 Ikniouen Road
	15/2	20 Tagdilt Track
	20/2	22 Gleb Jdiane
	23/2	1 "Tan Tan 100" (Gosney-D p. 30 site 4)
Brown-throated Martin ( <i>Riparia paludicola</i> )	10/2	1 Merja Zerga, 10+ Merja Zerga – Zaida
	24/2	1 Oued Massa (Gosney-C p. 24 site 3)
Eurasian Crag Martin ( <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> )	Seen on 9 different days. Max 11/2 26 Zaida – Rissani and 14/2 20+ Todra Gorge. 1 21/2 in Aousserd was suspected of being a Rock Martin, but didn't appear pale enough for a safe identification	
Barn Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	Noted every day, often numerous, migrating along the coast and at the Aousserd Road	
Common House Martin ( <i>Delichon urbicum</i> )	Noted on 8 different dates in small numbers (1-4 birds)	

Richard's Pipit ( <i>Anthus richardi</i> )	9/2	2 Merja Zerga
Tawny Pipit ( <i>Anthus campestris</i> )	24/2	1 Oued Massa
Meadow Pipit ( <i>Anthus pratensis</i> )	Noted on most days along the coast in small numbers. Quite numerous at Merja Zerga	
Red-throated Pipit ( <i>Anthus cervinus</i> )	23/2	1 Tarfaya, 2 Knifiss Lagoon
Yellow Wagtail ( <i>Motacilla flava</i> )	5/2	1 <i>ssp. iberiae</i> at the P1004
	8/2	1 between Sidi Yahya and Temara
	9/2	1 Merja Zerga
	10/2	10 <i>ssp. flava</i> Merja Zerga – Zaida
	17/2	1 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya, 1 Knifiss Lagoon
	22/2	1 <i>ssp. iberiae</i> Dakhla – Tarfaya
	24/2	1 Oued Sous, 3 Oued Massa
Grey Wagtail ( <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> )	7/2	2 Oukaïmeden – Marrakech
	8/2	1 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	14/2	2 Todra Gorge
	24/2	2 Oued Sous
White Wagtail ( <i>Motacilla alba</i> )	Common near even the smallest water hole. Only <i>ssp. subpersonata</i> were 5/2 1 by the P1004 and 24/2 1 Oued Sous	
Common Bulbul ( <i>Pygnonotus barbatus</i> )	Common in most of the country, except desert areas. Not noted south of Agadir	
European Robin ( <i>Erithacus ribecula</i> )	5/2	3 at the P1004
	6/2	1 Agadir – Oukaïmeden
	7/2	1 singing Oukaïmeden – Marrakech
	8/2	1 Sidi Yahya
	24/2	1 Oued Massa
Bluethroat ( <i>Luscinia svecica</i> )	10/2	1 Merja Zerga
Black Redstart ( <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> )	Noted on 12 different dates in small numbers	
Moussier's Redstart ( <i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i> )	5/2	7 Agadir – Tamri, 3 at P1004
	17/2	1 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya
	24/2	1 Oued Sous, 5 Oued Massa
European Stonechat ( <i>Saxicola torquata</i> )	Common in most places, but only 1 noted south of Tarfaya	
Northern Wheatear ( <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> )	17/2	1 Tan Tan Plage, 2 Knifiss Lagoon
	18/2	1 Tarfaya
	19/2	1 Dakhla

Desert Wheatear ( <i>Oenanthe deserti</i> )	Not seen north of the Atlas. Noted daily from 13/2 (Merzouga area) until 23/2. Max 23/2 10 Tarfaya – Agadir	
Red-rumped Wheatear ( <i>Oenanthe moesta</i> )	10/2	1 Zaida
	14/2	11 Ikniouen Road + Tagdilt Track
	15/2	8 Tagdilt Track
	16/2	2 Tissint – Tan Tan Plage,
	16/2	2 Oued Bauhila (Gosney-D p.31 site 2)
	17/2	4 Tan Tan Plage – Tarfaya
	19/2	1 Aousserd Road km2
	22/2	2 Dakhla – Tarfaya
	23/2	8 Tarfaya – Agadir
Maghreb Wheatear ( <i>Oenanthe halophila</i> )	12/2	4 Rissani area
	13/2	2 Rissani area
White-crowned Wheatear ( <i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i> )	Very common in the interior south of the Atlas, max 14/2 40 Rissani – Boumalne de Dades. A few noted on the Aousserd Road	
Black Wheatear ( <i>Oenanthe leucura</i> )	Noted on 12 different dates, max 11/2 6 Zaida - Rissani	
Blue Rock Thrush ( <i>Monticola solitarius</i> )	5/2	3 Agadir – Tamri, 1 Cap Rhir, 2 on the P1004
	11/2	1 Zaida – Rissani
	14/2	2 Rissani – Boumalne Dades, 1 Todra Gorge
	15/2	2 Boumalne de Dades – Ouarzazate
		1 Ouarzazate – Tissint
	24/2	2 Oued Massa
Common Blackbird ( <i>Turdus merula</i> )	Seen on most days, max 15/2 11 Tagdilt Track. Not noted south of Agadir	
Mistle Thrush ( <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> )	6/2	3 Oukaïmeden
	7/2	2 Oukaïmeden
Cetti's Warbler ( <i>Cettia cetti</i> )	8/2	7 singing Lac de Sidi Bourhaba
	24/2	9 (most singing) Oued Massa
Zitting Cisticola ( <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> )	8/2	1 singing Rabat (heard from the car)
	24/2	8 (most singing) Oued Massa
Scrub Warbler ( <i>Scotocerca inquieta</i> )	14/2	2 ssp. <i>saharae</i> "Km 43" (Gosn-D p. 16 site 3)
	17/2	2ssp. <i>theresae</i> Knifiss Lagoon (see above)
	23/2	2 ssp. <i>theresae</i> Tarfaya – Agadir
Moustached Warbler ( <i>Acroc. melanopogon</i> )	24/2	1 Oued Massa (Gosney-C p.24 site 4)



Sedge Warbler ( <i>Acrocephalus scoenobaenus</i> )	24/2	1 Oued Massa (Gosney-C p.24 site 4)
Eurasian Reed Warbler ( <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> )	24/2	1 Oued Massa (Gosney-C p.24 site 4)
Dartford Warbler ( <i>Sylvia undata</i> )	13/2	1 Merzouga area
Tristram's Warbler ( <i>Sylvia deserticola</i> )	13/2 16/2	1 Merzouga area 2 Oued Siyad (Gosney-D p. 24 site 1)
Spectacled Warbler ( <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i> )	12/2 13/2 17/2 19/2 23/2	1 Rissani area 2 Merzouga area 1 Knifiss Lagoon 1 Gleb Jdiane 1 Tarfaya – Agadir
Subalpine Warbler ( <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> )	17/2 21/2	1 Knifiss Lagoon 2 Oued Jenna
Sardinian Warbler ( <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> )	The most common <i>Sylvia</i> . Noted on 8 different days. Max 24/2 14 Oued Sous	
African Desert Warbler ( <i>Sylvia deserti</i> )	13/2	1 Merzouga area
Eurasian Blackcap ( <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> )	5/2	6 along the P1004
Common Chiffchaff ( <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> )	Common in most places, noted almost every day. Especially numerous Oueds Sous and Massa (not counted!)	
Fulvous Babbler ( <i>Turdoides fulvus</i> )	12/2 14/2 21/8	9 Rissani 1 Rissani – Boumalne de Dades 8 Oued Jenna
African Blue Tit ( <i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i> )	6/2 7/2 8/2 9/2 11/2 15/2 24/2	1 Oukaïmeden 5 Oukaïmeden 1 Sidi Yahya, 1 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba 1 outside Moulay Bousselham 1 Zaida, in the garden at Ksar Timnay 1 Boumalne de Dades – Ouarzazate 2 Oued Sous
Great Tit ( <i>Parus major</i> )	5/2 9/2	2 along the P1004 1 Temara
Black-headed Bush Shrike ( <i>Tchagra senegalus</i> )	8/2 24/2	2 singing Sidi Yahya 1 Oued Massa (Gosney-C p.24 site 4)
Southern Grey Shrike ( <i>Lanius meridionalis</i> )	Noted in many places in most of the country. Largest numbers 6/2 12 Agadir – Oukaïmeden and	

16/2 16 Tissint – Tan Tan Plage.

Birds in coastal areas resemble *ssp. algeriensis*, in the Rissani/Merzouga area and along the Aousserd Road the birds show characters like *ssp. elegans*

Woodchat Shrike ( <i>Lanius senator</i> )	17/2 24/2	2 Sidi Akhfennir, 2 Knifiss Lagoon 1 Oued Massa
Eurasian Magpie ( <i>Pica pica</i> )	5/2 6/2 7/2 8/2 24/2	1 Agadir – Tamri, 5 along P1004 2 Agadir – Oukaïmeden 3 Oukaïmeden – Marrakech 1 Lac de Sidi Bourhaba 14 Oued Sous
Alpine Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i> )	7/2	200+ Oukaïmeden
Red-billed Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> )	6/2 7/2	2 Marrakech – Oukaïmeden, 3 Oukaïmeden 200+ Oukaïmeden
Western Jackdaw ( <i>Corvus monedula</i> )	10/2	25 Merja Zerga
Brown-necked Raven ( <i>Corvus ruficollis</i> )		Common in desert areas. Max 12/2 41 Merzouga area and 21/2 24 Aousserd
Northern Raven ( <i>Corvus corax</i> )	5/2 7/2 8/2 10/2 11/2	2 Agadir – Tamri 2 Oukaïmeden 1 Sidi Yahya 12 Merja Zerga – Zaida 32 Zaida, noted but not counted Zaida – Rissani
Spotless Starling ( <i>Sturnus unicolor</i> )		Numerous near the coast from Agadir north
Common Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )	8/2 10/2	5 between Sidi Yahya and Temara 1 Merja Zerga
House Sparrow ( <i>Passer domesticus</i> )		Common everywhere except along the Aousserd Road
Spanish Sparrow ( <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> )	16/2 23/2 24/2	34 Oued Bauhila (Gosney-D p.31 site 2) 75+ at km marker "Tan Tan 98" 50 Oued Massa
Desert Sparrow ( <i>Passer simplex</i> )	13/2 20/2 21/2	1m, 2f at Bivouac Hotel 7m, 2f Aousserd Road (5m, 2f at the fort) 15 Oued Jenna, 1 pair Aousserd
Rock Sparrow ( <i>Petronia petronia</i> )	6/2 7/2	11 Oukaïmeden 18 Oukaïmeden

Common Chaffinch ( <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> )	Common in coastal areas north of Agadir (most <i>ssp. africana</i> ) + at Oukaïmeden ( <i>ssp. africana and nominate</i> )	
European Serin ( <i>Serinus serinus</i> )	Common in coastal areas from Agadir north, inland seen south to Zaida	
European Greenfinch ( <i>Carduelis chloris</i> )	A total of 11 birds on 6 dates. Not seen in desert areas	
European Goldfinch ( <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> )	A total of 36 birds. Seen Sidi Yahya, Merja Zerga, Zaida, Rissani and Oueds Sous and Massa	
Eurasian Siskin ( <i>Carduelis spinus</i> )	11/2	3 at Ksar Timnay
Common Linnet ( <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> )	A total of 41 birds noted on 5 dates.	
Red Crossbill ( <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> )	11/2	2 at Ksar Timnay
Crimson-winged Finch ( <i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i> )	7/2	100+ Oukaïmeden at parking by the ski lift
Trumpeter Finch ( <i>Bucanetes githagineus</i> )	11/2	7 Zaida – Rissani
	12/2	11 Rissani area
	13/2	16 Merzouga area
	14/2	8 Tagdilt Track
	16/2	1 SE of Tissint, 5 Tissint – Tan Tan Plage
		1 Oued Siyad (Gosney-D p.25 site 1)
	17/2	2 Knifiss Lagoon
	18/2	7 Tarfaya – Dakhla
	21/2	1 Oued Jenna
	23/2	2 Tarfaya – Agadir
Cirl Bunting ( <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> )	24/2	1 singing Oued Massa (Gosney-C p.24 site 4)
Rock Bunting ( <i>Emberiza cia</i> )	6/2	1 Oukaïmeden
	7/2	1 Oukaïmeden
House Bunting ( <i>Emberiza sahari</i> )	Common in some parts of the country (Agadir area, Marrakech, Rissani/Merzouga) 31 birds noted, many singing	
Corn Bunting ( <i>Emberiza calandra</i> )	7/2	1 singing Marrakech – Casablanca
	8/2	A flock of 50+ Sidi Yahya
	24/2	1 singing Oued Massa