

## Morocco and Western Sahara 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010



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### Introduction

Morocco has long been a popular destination with birders. There has been a traditional week long circuit that birders have followed; arriving at one of the major cities, birders take in a wide array of habitats – deserts, mountains and coasts - at sites such as Tamri, Oued Sous, Oued Massa, Ouarzazate, Tagdilt, Merzouga, Zeida, Dayet Aoua, Merdja Zerga and Oukaimeden.

Over the last couple of years, with travel becoming easier along the coastal belt of Western Sahara as far south as Dakhla, there is now a realistic and exciting extension to the traditional circuit that birders have carved out. This opens up the possibility of adding species such as Kelp Gull, Royal Tern, Black-crowned Sparrow Lark, Dunn's Lark, Cricket Warbler and Pied Crow as well as visiting bird rich areas including Khnifiss Lagoon and Dakhla Bay.

This report documents our July 2010 trip where we spent 12 days birding in Morocco and Western Sahara, focusing our efforts on the southern specialities as well as re-visiting sites and species on the traditional circuit. This was my fourth birding trip to the country, Oliver's third, Josh's second while Dan was visiting Morocco for the first time. It was reassuring to see that many of the sites we had visited on previous trips had not changed, despite an overwhelming sense that as a country Morocco is moving forward in terms of its development.

### Logistics

We flew with the ever cheap and not so cheerful [Ryanair](#) from London Stansted to Agadir, and hired our car through [Car Hire 3000](#); the total of flights and hire car came to a reasonable £297 each.

Accommodation was searched for each day when we were there, and we generally went for the budget option starting at £2.50 per night in Western Sahara and slightly more expensive in Morocco.

### Resources and Acknowledgements

There are plenty of trip reports and web resources for Morocco, though there are relatively few for Western Sahara (the best being one by the punks [here](#)). An important resource is Patrick Bergier's [Go South](#) website; we also used Bergier's book, the second edition published by Prion, 'A Birdwatcher's Guide to Morocco' - particularly useful in explaining sites in coastal Western Sahara. From previous trips, we were armed with the trusty 'Finding Birds in Northern Morocco' and 'Finding Birds in Southern Morocco' by Dave Gosney, as well as a copy of Gosney's recently published 'Finding Birds in Morocco: The Deserts'.

Pierre-Andre Crochet, Kris de Rouck, Lee Gregory, Jens Sogaard Hansen, Andrew Holden, Olof Jonsson and Chris Lansdell provided us with invaluable information from their trips to Western Sahara earlier this spring.

### Hints and Tips

As you travel south from Agadir and into Western Sahara, there are many military checkpoints. At each of these, Moroccan officials are keen to know the purpose of your visit and relevant personal details. This bureaucracy would try even the patience of the most amiable team, and we were advised to complete and photocopy forms with this information prior to leaving the UK. We would thoroughly recommend that everybody does this as it potentially saved us hours when in Morocco – please feel free to [email me](#) for a form and each person will need about fifteen copies to hand in at various checkpoints on the way to and way back from Western Sahara. It really is worth the effort.

We had no issues driving around the country. In fact, the 1,200km drive from Agadir to Dakhla was surprisingly quick with good conditioned asphalt all the way down, combined with light traffic. Another thing to remember is that petrol in Western Sahara is significantly cheaper than in the rest of Morocco, so ensure that you fill up near La'ayoune when you're heading back north.

On previous trips, we have had issues with overzealous policemen attempting to issue fixed 400 dirham penalty fines for absolutely no reason. We have heard that the government has recently cracked down on this corruption; nevertheless it is essential that you stick to speed limits, particularly on the edge of towns in the 60kph zones.

Our diet consisted of local bread and Laughing Cow cheese spread supplemented with a tajine each evening. Accommodation is plentiful throughout the country, and most small towns have somewhere adequate to stay – admittedly, to keep costs down, we stayed predominantly in budget hotels (£2.50 to £10 per person per night).

## Itinerary

A brief outline of our trip is detailed below. Please be advised that we covered over 5,000km during our 12 day trip, although the last couple of days were done at a more leisurely pace.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** late afternoon flight from London Stansted to Agadir, arrival mid evening; then drive of 1,200km south towards Dakhla (reaching Guelmine by midnight). Overnight driving.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July** driving through the night to arrive; brief birding and refreshment stop at La'ayoune early morning before continuing to drive south to the Pied Crow site at Tchoukan, then birding Dakhla until dark. Overnight in Dakhla.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July** early morning drive of 260km from Dakhla along the road to Aousserd; birding at Oued Jenna until mid morning then birding back along the road towards Dakhla. Evening spent at a sandgrouse drinking pool at Gleb Jdiane (79km from Dakhla). Overnight in Dakhla.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July** dawn until mid morning at Gleb Jdiane before a brief look around Dakhla; late morning drive north, stopping briefly at the Pied Crow site at Tchoukan, and arriving at La'ayoune early evening where birded the oasis on the south side of the town until dark. Overnight in La'ayoune.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July** early morning drive north, past Tarfaya, to Khnifiss Lagoon where birded until late morning. Roadside stops at Ouma Fatma, Tan-Tan Plage on the way north towards Guelmine; birding at Thick-billed Lark and Scrub Warbler sites to the south of Guelmine late afternoon before driving north. Overnight in Agadir.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July** mid morning drive to Oued Massa; leisurely drive east to the Sous Valley where the evening spent at an Egyptian Nightjar site near Igoudar. Overnight in Taliouine.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July** early morning drive east towards Ouarzazate; birding at Barrage El Mansour before heading east to the Tagdilt Track early afternoon. Birded a site for Scrub Warbler west of Errachidia mid afternoon before heading north to a Tristram's Warbler site at Tizi-n-Tairhemt early evening. Overnight near Zeida.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July** early morning birding the plains at Zeida before driving north to Dayet Aoua; birded here until early afternoon. Drive of 8 hours to Oukaimeden where we spent the night.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July** early morning birding at Oukaimeden before driving to the nearby site of Imlil; drive west towards the coast mid afternoon. World Cup Final and overnight in Essaouira.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July** morning birding at Essaouira, then drive south to Tamri; evening seawatching at Cap Rhir. Overnight in Taghazout.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July** seawatching at Cap Rhir early morning; leisurely day with some birding at Paradise Valley and an evening seawatch at Cap Rhir. Overnight in Taghazout.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July** seawatch at Cap Rhir early morning; packed bags and left Taghazout, birding at Oued Sous early to mid afternoon. Early evening flight back from Agadir to London Stansted.

## DAILY DIARY

### 3<sup>rd</sup> July

We assembled at Stansted airport, and after the usual carnage that is Ryanair check-in, our departure to Agadir was on-time and we arrived mid evening. After an entertaining flight that involved sitting next to a group of numbskull stags (why then went to a Muslim country for a stag do is anyone's guess), we got through the arduous queue at immigration control, collected our bags and then got to the car hire desk. We were given a rather battered Nissan Sunny, and were reassured to be told it was roadworthy despite some bald tyres and a 12-inch crack in the windscreen. Well, at least the wear and tear of a couple of thousand more km wouldn't show... so we headed off on the long drive south.

### 4<sup>th</sup> July

It was a tough drive south overnight, and when we hit Guelmine at midnight, there was an overwhelming sense in the team that we might as well continue south and see how far we got. The roads were excellent, although the local bus drivers seemed to use them as their playground and they bossed the road. Added to this, conditions were damp and with sand thrown into the mix, we'd done well to do the 650km from Agadir to La'ayoune by early morning.

There had been few roadside birding opportunities, although as you come into the town of La'ayoune from the north you will cross a bridge (with a parking place on the left) where the wet and marshy area is worth scanning. Despite the tiredness we found **Marbled Ducks**, **Black-necked** and **Little Grebes** and over 70 **Greater Flamingos** during a quick scan. A well-earned breakfast stop in a cafe in town produced a couple of **Black Wheatears** near the army base and many **Pallid Swifts**.

Heading on south from La'ayoune, the desert area gradually became more productive for roadside birding with **Hoopoe Larks**, **Desert** and **Red-rumped Wheatears** all showing up while driving; it was not long before an impressive **Lanner**, presumably a female, was found on wires adjacent to a phosphate factory 20km south of La'ayoune. A family group of **Cream-coloured Coursers**, including a fresh juvenile, provided an impromptu stop 286km south of La'ayoune.

As we continued to head south in the sunshine, the Atlantic breeze was trying its best to cool the place down – despite it being July and in Western Sahara, temperatures on the coast remained remarkably pleasant throughout the trip. And as we continued to drive south, with expectations mounting, to a couple of petrol stations and a roadside cafe at Tchoukan, 169km north of Dakhla. A visiting group of British birders had lucked out here back in December 2009 when they located 3 **Pied Crows**, and since then it they'd been lingering and chats to locals suggested they'd been there a while beforehand too. So, after a tense 10 minutes or so of scanning, we found our targets shimmering in a heat haze, sheltering from the afternoon sun on a rocky ledge on the nearby cliff. Three birds were present but, as we got closer, it was obvious that one of the birds had an obvious gape patch, fresh plumage and was dependent on the other two. So, after knowing they'd been on a nest earlier this spring, it was excellent to confirm the first successful breeding of this species in the Western Palearctic.



*Juvenile Pied Crow at Tchoukan, 169km north of Dakhla. Having been discovered at this site in 2009, the only known pair in the Western Palearctic successfully reared this one young.*

Happy with our success, and tiredness semi-overcome, we continued south and after a few km the first **Brown-necked Ravens** were seen. Having driven for upwards of a 15 hours, we headed down a steep escarpment and were confronted by the magnificent bay that expands northwards along the Dakhla peninsula. We made a roadside stop 18km north of Dakhla, and scanned the shore from the cliffs. At least a dozen **Royal Terns** were present, an undoubted highlight and interesting to note the almost complete absence of any black on the heads of a couple of the winter-plumaged birds. A smaller orange-billed tern, complete with its black cap, was the first **Lesser Crested Tern** of the trip while **Caspian Terns**, **Greater Flamingos** and **Audouin's Gulls** more than made up the numbers along with large numbers of moulting **Knot**, **Greenshank** and **Bar-tailed Godwits**.

After scouting around the town of Dakhla to get the lie of the land, we headed south from the town and across endless plastic bags and detritus that formed the rubbish tip. Where it opened up and met the bay, we enjoyed some good views of more **Royal Terns** amongst 50 or so **Caspian Terns**, along with three **Little Terns**, a host of waders and more **Greater Flamingos**. As we made our tracks back towards town and then around the western fringe of the coast, the numbers of **Audouin's Gulls** (mainly non-adults) was staggering; a brief seawatch last thing produced only **Cory's Shearwaters** and, after a decent tajine in town, we checked in for the first of two nights at a clean, budget hotel opposite the main mosque in Dakhla.

### 5<sup>th</sup> July

Despite the long drive yesterday, we'd decided that today was the day we would venture 260km southeast from Dakhla and along the road to Aousserd. Having heard that you needed a full tank of petrol to get there and back (as there's no reliable fuel on the journey outside of Dakhla), we filled our tank up to the brim and set off on the 2 hour drive in order to reach birding locations for first light and before the heat got up; in the event, we actually had over a ¼ of a tank of petrol left when we returned to Dakhla.

Over the last couple of years, with the deterioration in the political situation in neighbouring Mauritania, the Aousserd road has become known as *the* place to see Cricket Warbler in the Western Palearctic. Most teams have recorded decent numbers of this species, and we were hopeful that we'd also connect. So after single twilight sightings of **Desert Sparrow**, **Southern Grey Shrike** and **Brown-necked Raven** along the road, we arrived at the main birding spot – Oued Jenna – an obvious area of acacia trees 25km before Aousserd, parking the car on the south side of the road at N22°40'44", W14°29'37" and then walking south. As soon as we jumped out of the car, the cricket-like sounds of our target species were audible nearby and in no time we were getting some quality views of a family of **Cricket Warblers**; scurrying about in small flocks, there were at least 20 birds

present in the area in total. **Desert Sparrows**, at least 40 of them, buzzed about the scattered bushes while another quality species, **Black-crowned Sparrow Lark**, were busy attending well-grown juveniles in the sandy areas between the acacia trees. A couple of **Southern Grey Shrikes** and a juvenile **Woodchat** were also present.



*Cricket Warbler at Oued Jenna – over twenty were seen along the road to Aousserd.*

After having our fill at Oued Jenna, full of limbs with no land mine explosions, we started to head back along the road towards Dakhla stopping at places that had greenery. Further **Cricket Warblers** were found 36km and 41km from (west of) Aousserd, while at the latter site a juvenile **Great Spotted Cuckoo** provided some value. We flogged an area of desert 71km from Aousserd for Dunn's Lark, though in a rather half-hearted manner knowing the time of year probably wasn't the best and that it had also been a poor year for this species. **Hoopoe Larks** and **Bar-tailed Larks** were the common lark species, but even these were seen only in small numbers, along with the odd **Desert** and **Red-rumped Wheatear**, as the heat continued to rise. On the way back to Dakhla, having done a bit of sleuthing on Google Earth before the trip, we investigated a small pool by a drinking tap that was meant to be good for sandgrouse. The conversation I had with locals, despite being in broken French, identified that you do get sandgrouse, and that the odd bird comes in during the evening while mornings are best... in fact, the local claimed he'd seen 80 just a few hours ago!



So, with a few hours to kill before a return to Gleb Jdiane for an evening stint, we checked Dakhla Bay. At least a dozen or so Royal Terns were roosting regally amongst the hordes of **Caspian Terns**, **Audouin's**, **Lesser Black-backed** and **Yellow-legged Gulls**. With the tide way out, the wader

spectacle wasn't as good as the previous day and seawatching proved hard work with the ubiquitous **Cory's Shearwaters** being the only birds of note. And so it was time to return to our sandgrouse hotspot...

Gleb Jdiane is 79km from Dakhla at N23°36'48", W15°43'25" – as you're heading along the road to Aousserd you'll notice a water tower on your left, feeding a small pool and area of greenery (that'd probably be good for migrants in the otherwise parched landscape). Despite a vigil up until dark, there was too much disturbance (contractors working on the water tower) and no sandgrouse were seen, though a **Desert Sparrow** and a couple of **Desert Wheatears** were present. We retreated back to Dakhla, got ourselves tadjined-up with hope for better luck in the morning.



*The sandgrouse drinking pool and water tower at Gleb Jdiane, on the road to Aousserd and 79km southeast of Dakhla.*

### 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010

We headed southeast again to Gleb Jdiane (N23°36'48", W15°43'25") for dawn. The desert was cold, and alarmingly there was still disturbance! It took an absolute age for the contractors to pack their tents away and have a wash but at 8.15am it was just us and an empty. Six **Temminck's Larks** flew in, had a drink and departed. Then, no more than fifteen minutes after the workmen departed, a couple of **Crowned Sandgrouse** flew in and huddled up in the desert adjacent to the pool. These were the prelude to the main event – over the next hour or so, we counted a dozen **Crowned** and at least 71 **Spotted Sandgrouse**. The views were fantastic, though it's essential that birders don't get too close to the pool; we were probably unlucky with the disturbance, so who knows what numbers could be on a good day. Additionally, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse are creatures that visit their waterholes at dusk so, perhaps without the disturbance yesterday evening, these could have been a real possibility.



*Spotted Sandgrouse coming to drink at Gleb Jdiane*

After a trip back to Dakhla to pack our stuff and leave the hotel, we had a quick bash around the rubbish dump where we found a couple of **Cream-coloured Coursers** amongst the detritus. That was that with Dakhla – at more productive times of year, there'd certainly be more need to stay around to check the gulls, do some seawatching or bird the areas of greenery for migrants; but we headed north, taking in the three **Pied Crows** at Tchoukan again. The views were more distant compared to two days previously, and the juvenile was on its own perched distantly on the east side of the road. A **Long-legged Buzzard** nearby was the first of the trip, while the area of wasteland adjacent to the petrol station seemed to be full of Moroccans going to the loo *al fresco* so do watch your feet when visiting.

The whole afternoon was spent driving the 500km or so north, and it was early evening by the time we reached La'ayoune. Coming into the town from the south, you'll notice a lush oasis in the valley to your left – we accessed it by a rough track immediately adjacent to a petrol station, and then followed this over a small rubbish tip to a ridge where the whole area could be viewed. The area of water proved to be a magnet for birds with highlights including 72 **Ruddy Shelduck**, 40+ **Marbled Ducks** including several with chicks, 450 **Greater Flamingos**, 100 **Spoonbills**, 7 **Glossy Ibis**, 2 **Gull-billed Terns** and a **Peregrine**. Amongst the **Pallid Swifts**, both here and on the north side of town, a couple of all dark, smaller swifts were noted – presumably **Plain Swifts**.

With the light fading, it was time to find some accommodation. Time for the trusty Lonely Planet – opting for the budget section, we explored a couple of options. The first venue wasn't favoured as there were strong suspicions it was a brothel, so we plummeted for a second hovel; this proved to be ok bar a few random itches picked up during the night - £2.50 each. On the plus side, the best tajine of the trip was served up in a place in the central riad.

### 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010

We were up early and back on the road north. The Atlantic serves as an impressive backdrop while cutting up the northern extremity of the Sahara. Birds were hard to come by though, with a **Long-legged Buzzard** near Tarfaya being the only thing of note before we reached Khnifiss Lagoon.

Khnifiss Lagoon is 265km south of Guelmine, and the viewpoint is signed off the main road between Tan-Tan Plage and Tarfaya at N28°01'43", W12°14'23"; permits are available from the National Park centre in the small village of Akhefennir to the north of the viewpoint. Birders in the past have been able to hire a small boat out onto the lagoon, but the wardens weren't allowing us to do this on our day. Fortunately, it was a cool morning and the light was crisp with little heat haze so it was down to business to study the controversial large black-backed gulls...

After some observation and nifty photographic skills, we were able to walk away having confidently clinched a pair of **Kelp Gulls** amongst half a dozen **Great Black-backed Gulls**; leg colour, structure and restricted white primary mirrors were much more satisfactory than last year when we, along with everybody else, just presumed all were Kelp Gulls. There were loads of other birds too – including 25 or so **Black Terns**, 40 **Ruddy Shelduck**, many **Greater Flamingos**, **Caspian Terns**, **Slender-billed Gulls** and an **Osprey**; 3 **Hoopoe Larks** and a **Desert Wheatear** were on the entrance track.



Heading north, our next stop was at Ouma Fatma, 59km south of Tan-Tan Plage. Just before the bridge over the river, we took a decent track to the left to view the river mouth. A large flock of roosting terns included an adult **Roseate Tern** and seven **Royal Terns** (including a juvenile) while amongst the 85 **Greater Flamingos** several colour rings were read; two **Arctic Skuas** were offshore. Further up the coast at Tan-Tan Plage, we tried to get into the port area but were denied access (despite managing to drive straight through last year). Not to be put off, we parked nearby and scanned the beach where two smart **Royal Terns** allowed close approach along with hundreds of **Audouin's Gulls**.



*Royal Tern at Tan-Tan Plage – one of two present on the beach in amongst masses of Audouin's Gulls.*

Having said our goodbyes to the Western Sahara part of the trip, we were now on much more familiar ground as we headed north to the sites on the more traditional Moroccan birding circuit. First port of call was a 'usual' site for **Thick-billed Lark** 22km south of Guelmine – having seen the species here in 2005 and 2009, it didn't take long before three birds were found at the bottom of the hillock to the west of the road at N28°51'46", W10°12'41". Ten Cream-coloured Coursers here were a good showing, while the stony desert also held **Bar-tailed Lark**, **Hoopoe Lark** and a few **Red-rumped Wheatears**.

A few km further on and we stopped again, parking immediately to the south of the bridge over Oued Boukila (10km south of Guelmine). This is an excellent spot for *theresae* **Scrub Warbler** and, having split into two groups of two to scour the wadi, it was only a matter of minutes before we'd both found the species; to the east (N28°55'07", W10°08'36") and west of the road. A **Rufous Bushchat** showed really well to the east of the road, **Spanish Sparrows** were nesting under the bridge while **Fan-tailed Warblers** and **Thekla Larks** were also noted. Two **Lanners** were on the adjacent pylons before flying off. Just a few km to the north, on the southern outskirts of Guelmine, we stopped at the bridge over the Oued Sayed where **House Bunting**, **Laughing Dove**, **Reed** and **Western Olivaceous Warblers** were noted.

The drive from Guelmine to Agadir, due to traffic, took longer than expected, with the odd **Common Bulbul** and a couple of **Stone Curlews** the only birds of note. It was not until late evening that we arrived in the tacky resort of Agadir, found a bed and settled down for the night.

### 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010

After a good sleep, it wasn't until mid morning that we recorded our first birds of the day – numerous **Little Swifts** and **Spotless Starlings** from our Agadir hotel balcony. Not being impressed with our car, both its general state and an ever-increasing windscreen chip, the plan was to go to the airport and exchange it. Dan managed to temporarily misplace the car keys so our departure from Agadir was delayed by half an hour. Fortunately the car hire swap at the airport was straightforward so, with a decent Renault Clio and airport birds including the distinctive *mauretanic* **Magpie**, **Lesser Kestrel** and **Red-rumped Swallow**, we were on the move again.

We headed south to Oued Massa for the afternoon, but upon arrival the place had changed compared to the previous year – the floods earlier this year had decimated the reedbed habitat and the site seemed to be a fraction of its former self. We arrived at the car park beyond the entrance gate and quickly managed to locate a couple of **Black-crowned Tchagras** in the adjacent scrub, with one showing exceptionally well. A **Moussier's Redstart** was the first of the trip while a few **Spoonbills** and 20 or so **Bee-eaters** were also seen; an area near the bridge (close to Massa village) that had previously been good for Brown-throated Sand Martin was searched, but to no avail. We headed along the south side of the estuary and, in fields near the river mouth, we were able to locate 50 **Bald Ibis**; one of the rarest and ugliest birds in the Western Palearctic.

Retracing our journey back towards Agadir, we headed off east along the Sous Valley mid afternoon and by early evening we had reached the village of Igoudar. Gosney's new 'Finding Birds in Morocco: The Deserts' gives an Egyptian Nightjar site here so, on the route east, we thought it was worth a try. The last hour of light produced a couple of showy **Rufous Bushchats** and a family of **Southern Grey Shrikes** while **Quails** and **Stone Curlews** were audible from the dry, stony river valley. Despite a lovely still night, there was no sight or sound of any Egyptian Nightjars and if we're honest the site is extremely extensive and it's anyone's guess on where to start looking for these birds. So we headed off, via a decent roadside tajine, and stayed the night in a budget hotel in Taliouine.

### 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010

We got up early and were on the road shortly after first light, with the plan today being a day of driving punctuated with a few birding stops. The first roadside birds of note were a covey of five **Barbary Partridges** 10km north of Anezal while **Black Wheatears** and **Trumpeter Finches** were also seen frequently during the early bit of the drive. As we headed across the vast plains, three **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** flew over the road 31km west of Ouarzazate.

Once we reached Ouarzazate, on the eastern side of town at N30°55'28", W06°53'30", we took a right hand turn signed 'camping' and this road quickly took us to the Barrage El Mansour. The previous spring, this site had been heaving with birds and the arable fields are an excellent place to see the long-billed race *macrorhyncha* (or species) of **Crested Lark**. Two **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** performed admirably overhead while 13 **Ruddy Shelduck**, a couple of **Marbled Ducks** and a handful of **Night Herons** were noted.



*Crested Lark of the long-billed race macrorhyncha at Barrage El Mansour; treated by some authorities as a separate species.*

Back on the road, a further three **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** were seen just east of Ouarzazate along with a couple of **Green Sandpipers**. There was little else of interest on the drive eastwards towards Boumalne du Dades. We turned off the main road 6km beyond Boumalne du Dades and onto the the road to Iknouen (signed 'Iknouen 40km' at the main road junction); after 6.5km we took a track to our right (west) to what Gosney refers to as 'wheatear wall' and viewed the area at N31°18'37", W05°54'02". There were no Western Mourning Wheatears despite a pretty thorough search during the heat of the day although the area was alive with larks – lots of **Lesser Short-toed** and **Short-toed** along with a **Temminck's** and at least 25 **Thick-billed Larks**; there were also many **Trumpeter Finches**, three **Cream-coloured Coursers**, a handful of **White-crowned Black** and **Red-rumped Wheatears** along with a showy **Long-legged Buzzard**. A couple of lively dogs created a bit of value, forcing Dan to hurdle a wall and Oliver to run rather fast.

Further east, we stopped off again by the main road 43km west of Errachidia and parked at N31°45'17", W04°49'58". Back in 2005, this was a site where I saw my first **Scrub Warblers** in Morocco. Despite the horrendous mid afternoon heat, with the wind akin to a hairdryer, we managed to locate three Scrub Warblers (of the race *saharae*) on each side of the road along with a hot-looking **Southern Grey Shrike**. Moving on, and after a refreshment stop where Dan decimated the lavatories, a quick scan of the Oued Ziz Reservoir produced a **Great Crested Grebe** amongst innumerable **Coots** while a **Peregrine** headed over.

The final stop of the day was again an old favourite; my third visit to the Tizi-n-Tairhemt pass to the southeast of Midelt for **Tristram's Warbler**. We parked in the lay-by on the hairpin bend by the 'Er-Rich 51' and 'Errachidia 114' signpost exactly 1.5km after you the pass summit (signed Col Talghomt 1907m) if coming from the south. An adult and a juvenile showed well in the usual valley, along with double figures of **Moussier's Redstart** and single **Crag Martins** and **Rock Buntings**. After an encounter with a local shepherd woman, we headed north where three **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** flew over 10km south of Midelt and then to the excellent Timnay Camping to the south of Zeida for the night.

### 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010

We were in place on the Zeida plains before first light to the east of the crossroads (N32°47'41", W04°55'53") described by Gosney in 'Finding Birds in Morocco: The Deserts' but all was silent on the

Dupont's Lark front; evidently July is not a good month for the species, presumably as they've completed their breeding cycle and aren't interested in singing. Anyway, we bashed away and walked some miles across the plains until eventually we found one **Dupont's Lark**, scurrying elusively through the vegetation and giving us the runaround. Seven **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** flew over, there were a handful of **Cream-coloured Coursers**, **Desert** and **Red-rumped Wheatears** while a **Peregrine** was busy chasing a flock of 11 **Mallards**.

Travelling north after a decent breakfast back at our accommodation, the first bird of note was a **Roller** 93km south of Ifrane; further birds on the journey then included **Raven**, **Black Kite** and a **Woodlark**. Once we'd headed out of Ifrane on the road towards Fes, a **Short-toed Eagle** circled overhead just before we turned off to our next site – Dayet Aoua.

Even in July and when a cycle race is taking place around the lake, Dayet Aoua is a fantastic site. Although the late morning time of our visit and the hordes of picnickers were not conducive for seeing Levillant's Woodpecker, our target species – **Atlas Flycatcher** – was remarkably easy. In particular a showy male was located in the mature trees near the Royal Palace walls; further females and juveniles were also seen. At least 50 **Red-knobbed Coots**, including a particularly confiding bird on a nest, amongst several hundred **Coot** and a couple of **Pochard** were present on the lake, while several **Rollers**, **Jays**, **Spotted Flycatchers**, **African Chaffinches**, **Serins** and single **Hawfinches** and **Golden Orioles** entertained us too.



*Red-knobbed  
Coot on nest at  
Dayet Aoua*

A spur of the moment decision once we'd finished at Dayet Aoua, to attempt to get to Oukaimeden, meant the long drive west for the rest of the day; the changing scenery was pleasant, though birds were inevitably a little thin on the ground with highlights being a pale morph **Booted Eagle** near Azrou and a pair of **Cream-coloured Coursers** 37km west of El Kelaa. With the only target of the drive to find a 'western toilet' for Dan being a success, we eventually reached the top car park at Oukaimeden at around midnight. Three of us opted for the car/open air option while Dan, with his bowels still grim, splashed the cash and went for the hotel option.

### 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Morning couldn't come too soon enough for those of us in the car, and especially for Josh who'd taken one for the team and slept outside in a thin sleeping bag. It really was cold. But with the first rays of light, bird activity commenced and it was not long before **Crimson-winged Finches** were calling and showing well around the upper (ski lift) car park. There were at least three, probably more, including a pristine male. Both **Alpine** and **Red-billed Choughs** were vocal, echoing as they

flew high over the valley; **Seebohm's Wheatears** were found easily in the vicinity while a healthy number of Rock Sparrows and a couple each of **Common Whitethroat** and **Black Redstart** were near the small parade of hotels.



*Crimson-winged Finch at Oukaimeden of the race alienus, treated by several authorities as 'African Crimson-winged Finch' and split from the nominate race that occurs from Turkey eastwards.*

Once we'd awoken Dan, and he'd finished emptying his insides after a lively night, we headed down the mountain lapping up the views and a couple of **Alpine Swifts**. Our next site was to be the village of Imlil; nestled in the High Atlas, it took an hour or so to get to from Oukaimeden as we had to go down and then up another valley to access it. Despite being a lovely place and all that, we failed in our quest to find any White-rumped Swifts – a long shot, but mentioned in vague fashion by Bergier in his book. The views and copious numbers of **Red-rumped Swallows**, **Crag Martins** and **Pallid Swifts** weren't all bad – neither was a distant immature **Golden Eagle** that soared over one of the mountain ridges.

There was only one target left for the day – to reach the coast, book into a hotel and find somewhere suitable to watch the World Cup Final. After navigating Marrakech remarkably easily, and stocking up on food, we headed west to the coastal town of Essaouira and scored a decent hotel and bar for the footie. That all sorted, we were able to get our fill of **Eleonora's Falcon** action – it was difficult to scan the sky and not see one, particularly just to the south of town at the Oued Tsob where birds seemed to congregate (a **Moroccan Wagtail** was here too); we even watched a couple of falcons hunting in the harbour floodlights at midnight... stunning stuff. The World Cup Final was far less exciting.

### 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Having been on the go for the last few days, we rewarded ourselves with a bit of a lie in before sauntering in true holiday mode to the harbour front. **Yellow-legged Gulls** loafed around the fishermen in large numbers, allowing close approach, while offshore a couple of **Lesser Crested Terns** were located in amongst the feeding **Sandwich Tern** flock; several **Eleonora's Falcons** wheeled around and the odd **Audouin's Gull** and **Little Tern** were offshore too.

We headed off south late morning, checking an area of roadside wetland to the north of Tamri at N30°53'37", W09°43'34" where a **Ruddy Shelduck** and a couple of **Spoonbills** were present; the adjacent bushes held a couple of **Cirl Buntings** and a few **Bee-eaters**. Taking a track towards the

north side of the river mouth at Tamri we were able to locate 15 **Bald Ibis** foraging on the dry vegetation while several hundred **Audouin's Gulls** and **Sandwich Terns** could be viewed distantly.



*Hundreds of Audouin's Gulls were present along the Atlantic coast, right the way up from Western Sahara to the furthest north we went at Essaouira.*

With the aim of the next couple of days just to wind down, have a base for a couple of nights, we managed to find a decent apartment to the north of Agadir in the resort of Taghazout. It was a good base, with a few cheap places to eat while local birding, with Cap Rhir and Paradise Valley nearby, would hopefully be half decent. However, it must be stressed that it was a bit of a hole and I'm glad I've never been tempted with Agadir and its resorts for a 'non-birding' holiday.

After an hour or two of chilling out, we headed out for an evening seawatch at Cap Rhir – this was to be where we would concentrate our efforts over the next couple of days. There are a couple of tracks west off the main road to the south of the lighthouse and, after a little bit of moving about, we found the best spot for views was from N30°37'36", W09°53'06". There were many **Cory's Shearwaters**, three **Gannets** and a handful of **Sandwich Terns** offshore as well as a male **Black-eared Wheatear** on the land. We met a helpful local who told us that evenings were always windy, with the wind normally an onshore one, and recommended that we'd see more birds in the morning. So, with that in mind, we let his children look through our optics for a good while.

### 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Our last full day and early morning three of us travelled back to Cap Rhir; last night's meal was reoccurring on Dan so he stayed in Taghazout. Just as the local said last night, we were greeted with calm conditions and there were lots of **Cory's Shearwaters** passing north on arrival. Before the heat haze hampered our viewing at 8.15am we were extremely surprised at just how good this place was in very average conditions – 8, including a flock of 4, **Little Shearwaters** bombed north as if they'd been wound up like clockwork toys and head rearing at times too; a Balearic Shearwater also headed north while a **Madeiran Storm-petrel** was lingering in amongst a few **European Storm-petrels**. Thirty **Gannets** and a few **Sandwich Terns** completed the morning's roll call. Extremely happy, we headed off back to Taghazout to break the news to Dan.

Having had a bit of a siesta for a couple of hours, we headed slightly south and headed inland at Tamrhakht taking the road to Imouzzar. This area is affectionately known as Paradise Valley after Jimmy Hendrix's description of the place; it was jolly nice but we didn't find paradise, nor did we find

any Bonelli's Eagles. We concentrated on the area 18 to 24km from the road junction at Tamrhakht and did record some decent species, notably a **Western Orphean Warbler**, a **Melodious Warbler** along with a couple of **Moussier's Redstarts** and **Rufous Bushchats**. An evening seawatch at Cap Rhir was again blighted by an onshore wind and there were just a few lingering **Cory's Shearwaters**.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Early morning we ventured to Cap Rhir, slightly earlier than the previous day. Just the three of us again, as Dan had been defecating a fair few times overnight and thought it wise to be based near a latrine. As it was, Cap Rhir was again on fire and the undoubted highlight was a **White-faced Storm-petrel** that slowly headed north at mid distance at 7.40am. Four **Sooty Shearwaters** and a **Balearic Shearwater** also headed north, while six **Manx Shearwaters** were unexpected; a handful of **European Storm-petrels** and 20 or so **Gannets** were also recorded.



*Cap Rhir – a fantastic place for seawatching that exceeded our expectations with sightings of White-faced and Madeiran Storm-petrels and Little, Manx, Balearic and Sooty Shearwaters. Mornings were best with the onshore wind hampering efforts in the evening.*

After a mid-morning siesta, we packed our bags and were out of our accommodation at Taghazout by midday. We headed through Agadir and onto our last birding stop of the trip – Oued Sous. We parked in the usual spot adjacent to the Royal Palace, and then walked out the km or so to the river mouth. Two adult **Roseate Terns** were in amongst large numbers of **Sandwich Terns**, while a couple of **Whiskered Terns** and an adult **Mediterranean Gull** were last minute trip additions. A handful of **Gull-billed Terns**, a **Greater Flamingo** and 200 **Audouin's Gulls** rounded things off nicely.

Having drawn a blank with sightings throughout the trip, it was a real surprise to find a **Black-winged Kite** by the roadside just a couple of km before we reached Agadir airport. A decent end to another enjoyable Moroccan adventure; our flight departed an hour or so late, but despite this, we were back at Stansted at around midnight.

**SELECTED SPECIES NOTES**

**Sooty Shearwater** – four flew north past Cap Rhir (N30°37'36", W09°53'06") on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Manx Shearwater** – six flew north past Cap Rhir on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Balearic Shearwater** – singles north past Cap Rhir on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Shearwater** – eight flew north past Cap Rhir (N30°37'36", W09°53'06") on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup>.

**White-faced Storm-petrel** – one flew north at Cap Rhir at 7.40am on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Madeiran Storm-petrel** – one lingered off Cap Rhir on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Bald Ibis** – 50 were feeding in fields to the south of the mouth of the Oued Massa on 8<sup>th</sup>; a further 15 were at the river mouth at Tamri on 12<sup>th</sup>. For obvious reasons, I have not divulged the exact locations.

**Ruddy Shelduck** – 72 at the oasis on the south side of La'ayoune on 6<sup>th</sup>, 40 at Khnifiss Lagoon on 7<sup>th</sup>, 13 at Barrage El Mansour near Ouarzazate on 9<sup>th</sup> and a single bird at a roadside wetland to the north of Tamri (N30°53'37", W09°43'34") on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Marbled Duck** – at least 40, including several chicks, were at La'ayoune on 6<sup>th</sup> and a couple were at the Barrage El Mansour near Ouarzazate on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-winged Kite** – one by the roadside 2km west of Agadir airport on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-legged Buzzard** – singles seen by the roadside on various dates, especially in Western Sahara and the Ouarzazate/Tagdilt area.

**Golden Eagle** – an immature soared over a mountain ridge in the High Atlas at Imlil on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Eleonora's Falcon** – commonly seen at Essaouira on 11-12<sup>th</sup>; the species nests in large numbers on the offshore island Ile de Mogador and was frequently seen over the Oued Tsob as well as the town itself, including a couple of birds hunting around midnight over the beach viewable in the floodlights.

**Lanner** – a female showed well by the roadside on wires adjacent to a phosphate factory 20km south of La'ayoune on 4<sup>th</sup> and two were on roadside pylons 10km south of Guelmine at Oued Boukila on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Barbary Partridge** – five were seen by the roadside 5km north of Anezal on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-knobbed Coot** – about fifty were present on the lake at Dayet Aoua on 10<sup>th</sup>. Several juveniles were present, and a confiding bird was still on a nest near the lake shore.

**Cream-coloured Courser** – the species had evidently had a decent breeding season and was seen at most desert habitats that we visited including several sites in Western Sahara, Guelmine, Tagdilt, Zeida while a pair were also seen by the roadside 37km west of El Kelaa on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Black-backed Gull** – six adults were seen alongside the next species at Khnifiss Lagoon on 7<sup>th</sup>.



**Kelp Gull** – a pair was seen alongside six Great Black-backed Gulls at Khnifiss Lagoon on 7<sup>th</sup> from the viewpoint accessed at N28°01'43", W12°14'23", 265km south of Guelmine between Tan-Tan Plage and Tarfaya. There has been a lot of confusion at this site recently and many birders over the past year or so have visited this site, presuming all large black-backed gulls were Kelp Gulls (like we did in April 2009). It is necessary to visit this site early morning before the heat haze gets up, or better still to arrange a permit through the national park hut in the village of Akhefennir (to the north of the viewpoint on the main road) and get a boat out onto the lagoon to study primary patterns, leg colour and overall structure.

**Royal Tern** – this species was commonly seen, albeit in small numbers, at Dakhla Bay on 4-5<sup>th</sup>; the best sites were 18km to the north of Dakhla as well at the southern end of the peninsula, roosting amongst gulls between the western cliffs and the rubbish dump. Seven were also at Ouma Fatma. 59km south of Tan-Tan Plage on 7<sup>th</sup>; two were at Tan-Tan Plage on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Crested Tern** – one 18km north of Dakhla on 4<sup>th</sup> and two in amongst Sandwich Terns at Essaouira on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Roseate Tern** – an adult was at the mouth of the Ouma Fatma on 7<sup>th</sup> and two adults were in a large tern gathering at the mouth of the Oued Sous on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Crowned Sandgrouse** – at least a dozen showed well as they came to drink at Gleb Jdiane on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup>. This site is 79km from Dakhla at N23°36'48", W15°43'25" – as you're heading along the road to Aousserd you'll notice a water tower on your left, feeding a small pool and area of greenery. Sandgrouse numbers are greatest in the mornings but locals also said they come into drink in the evenings too, albeit in smaller numbers.

**Spotted Sandgrouse** – a conservative count of 71 were noted at the drinking pool and the adjacent desert at Gleb Jdiane on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup>; see the species above for further details.

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse** – two sightings of three birds while we were travelling on 9<sup>th</sup> – 31km west of Ouarzazate and 10km south of Midelt; seven also flew over Zeida plains on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** – a juvenile was seen by the road 41km west of Aousserd on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Plain Swift** – a couple of all dark, small swifts presumably of this species were present alongside Pallid and Little Swifts at La'ayoune on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Swift** – a common species recorded in good numbers in many towns as well as in the mountains of the High Atlas.

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** – two were at the Barrage El Mansour near Ouarzazate on 9<sup>th</sup> and, on the same date, three were just east of Ouarzazate by the roadside.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** – a couple showed very well in scrub immediately adjacent to the far car park beyond the entrance gate at Oued Massa on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-rumped Wheatear** – present in decent numbers in Western Sahara and also noted at desert and steppe sites including Guelmine, Tagdilt Track and Zeida.

**Pied Crow** – two adults and a juvenile were at Tchoukan, 169km north of Dakhla on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. These birds were first discovered here in December 2009 and subsequently have attracted a bit of interest with Western Palearctic birders. They favour an area adjacent to two petrol stations (the northernmost being adjacent to a small rubbish tip) where they nested on a radio mast this spring and, on our visits, could be found on the cliffs to the west and east of the road.

**Brown-necked Raven** – a widespread bird in Western Sahara, with singles occasionally seen by the roadside at sites such as the road to Aousserd on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-crowned Sparrow Lark** – 15 or so, including several juveniles, present along the road to Aousserd at Oued Jenna on 5<sup>th</sup>. This species appeared quite common in the limited area of land-mined desert we felt safe searching.

**Bar-tailed Lark** – present in small numbers along the road to Aousserd on 5<sup>th</sup> and also 22km south of Guelmine on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Hoopoe Lark** – a relatively common desert species in Western Sahara; also seen at sites such as Guelmine and Tagdilt.

**Thick-billed Lark** – commonly recorded in suitable stony desert habitat. Three were present 22km south of Guelmine at N28°51'46", W10°12'41" on 7<sup>th</sup>; park by the Guelmine 22km post and then walk west – this is a reliable site and I've also recorded the species here in 2005 and 2009. The species was also remarkably common at the Tagdilt track with 25 or so present on 9<sup>th</sup>, including several perched on derelict walls and buildings at N31°18'37", W05°54'02".

**Dupont's Lark** – one was seen after considerable effort on the Zeida plains (c.3km south of Zeida) at N32°47'41", W04°55'53" on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup>. The area to the east of the crossroads (the track between the bends on the P21 close to the 'Errachidia 167' and 'Meknes 162' post), where this bird was located, has traditionally been the best spot to search for this species. Despite being at the site before dawn, we did not hear a single bird so it appears that with breeding over, July is not a good time to look for this species.

**Temminck's Lark** – six, a family party, came in to drink at Gleb Jdiane on 6<sup>th</sup> and one was at the Tagdilt track on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Cricket Warbler** – with Mauretania currently being unsafe to travel to, the road to Aousserd in Western Sahara is *the* place to see this species. We recorded it with relative ease, with at least 20 birds present in the acacia scrub at Oued Jenna (25km from Aousserd, N22°40'44", W14°29'37") on 5<sup>th</sup> as well as further birds at roadside stops at 36km and 41km from Aousserd. The species appeared very vocal, much more so than when I saw them in Mauritania in December 2006.

**Scrub Warbler** – birds of both *theresae* and *saharae* were recorded during the trip. Several of the race *theresae* were found in Oued Boukila, 10km south of Guelmine on 7<sup>th</sup> – small family parties were found in the wadi both to the west and east (N28°55'07", W10°08'36") of the road. Half a dozen of the race *saharae* were seen 43km west of Errachidia on 9<sup>th</sup>. Just west of the 'Errachidia 43'

km post, park by the bridge (N31°45'17", W04°49'58") over the small wadi. Sandy wadis extend northwest and southeast from this point and we were able to locate three birds on each side of the road (within 400 metres of the main road).

**Tristram's Warbler** – two, an adult and a juvenile, were seen southeast of Midelt on the Tizi-n-Tairhemt pass on 9<sup>th</sup>. Coming from Midelt, park in the lay-by on the hairpin bend by the 'Er Rich 51' and 'Errachidia 114' post exactly 1.5km north of the summit (signed Col Talghomt 1907m). Walk down the steep-sided valley and the birds favour the bushes to the left of the ravine; this is a reliable site and I have found them previously here in both 2005 and 2007.

**Western Orphean Warbler** – one was seen in Paradise Valley, to the north of Agadir along the road to Imouzzar, on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Rufous Bushchat** – one 10km south of Guelmine at Oued Boukila on 7<sup>th</sup>, two in the Sous Valley at New Igoudar on 8<sup>th</sup> and two in Paradise Valley on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Moussier's Redstart** – a relatively common, localised species. Seen at coastal sites including Oued Massa and opposite our accommodation in Taghazout; very common southeast of Midelt on the Tizi-n-Tairhemt pass on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Seebom's Wheatear** – this (sub) species was present at Oukaimeden early morning on 11<sup>th</sup>; three were seen but evidently this species is common at altitude in the High Atlas.

**Red-rumped Wheatear** – easy to find, albeit in small numbers, in stony desert at sites such as Guelmine, Tagdilt and the plains just south of Zeida.

**White-crowned Black Wheatear** – common at the Tagdilt and along the road to the east of Ouarzazate.

**Atlas Flycatcher** – at least three, including a showy male, were in mature trees on the south side of the lake at Dayet Aoua on 10<sup>th</sup>. They could be found in lakeside trees, with the male favouring an area adjacent to the Royal Palace gates.

**Desert Sparrow** – at least 40 were present 25km west of Aousserd at Oued Jenna (N22°40'44", W14°29'37") on 5<sup>th</sup>; singles were also seen at other scattered sites along the road to Aousserd, including one at Gleb Jdiane.

**Crimson-winged Finch** – at least three were present at Oukaimeden on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup>; they favoured the rocky slopes above and beyond the upper car park by the ski lift, as well as the buildings adjacent to the car park at the base of the ski lift.

**Trumpeter Finch** – seen in good numbers along the roadside to the west and east of Ouarzazate; particularly numerous at the Tagdilt track.

**African House Bunting** – relatively common in towns and cultivated areas across the country.

## Morocco and Western Sahara July 2010 - Trip List

The list below generally follows the taxonomy and nomenclature used at [www.netfugl.dk](http://www.netfugl.dk).

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>
White-faced Storm-petrel	<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>
European Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>
Madeiran Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus cirtensis</i>
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonorae</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrines</i>
Lanner	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>

<b>Sanderling</b>	<i>Calidris alba</i>
<b>Knot</b>	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
<b>Little Stint</b>	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
<b>Dunlin</b>	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
<b>Stone Curlew</b>	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
<b>Oystercatcher</b>	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
<b>Avocet</b>	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
<b>Grey Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis squaterola</i>
<b>Kentish Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
<b>Cream-coloured Courser</b>	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>
<b>Arctic Skua</b>	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
<b>Audouin's Gull</b>	<i>Larus audouinii</i>
<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>	<i>Larus marinus</i>
<b>Kelp Gull</b>	<i>Larus dominicanus vetula</i>
<b>Yellow-legged Gull</b>	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
<b>Slender-billed Gull</b>	<i>Larus genei</i>
<b>Mediterranean Gull</b>	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
<b>Gull-billed Tern</b>	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>
<b>Caspian Tern</b>	<i>Sterna caspia</i>
<b>Royal Tern</b>	<i>Sterna maxima</i>
<b>Lesser Crested Tern</b>	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
<b>Roseate Tern</b>	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>
<b>Common Tern</b>	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
<b>Little Tern</b>	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
<b>Whiskered Tern</b>	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
<b>Black Tern</b>	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
<b>Black-bellied Sandgrouse</b>	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
<b>Spotted Sandgrouse</b>	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>
<b>Crowned Sandgrouse</b>	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>
<b>Common Wood Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
<b>Rock Dove</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>
<b>Collared Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
<b>Laughing Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
<b>European Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
<b>Great Spotted Cuckoo</b>	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
<b>Barn Owl</b>	<i>Tyto alba</i>
<b>Alpine Swift</b>	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
<b>Plain Swift</b>	<i>Apus unicolor</i>
<b>Common Swift</b>	<i>Apus apus</i>
<b>Pallid Swift</b>	<i>Apus pallidus brehmorum</i>
<b>Little Swift</b>	<i>Apus affinis galilejensis</i>
<b>Blue-cheeked Bee-eater</b>	<i>Merops persicus</i>
<b>European Bee-eater</b>	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
<b>European Roller</b>	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
<b>Eurasian Hoopoe</b>	<i>Upupa epops</i>
<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos major mauritanus</i>
<b>Golden Oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
<b>Black-crowned Tchagra</b>	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>
<b>Southern Grey Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius meridionalis algeriensis</i>
<b>Woodchat Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius senator</i>
<b>Eurasian Jay</b>	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
<b>Alpine Chough</b>	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>
<b>Red-billed Chough</b>	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
<b>Magpie</b>	<i>Pica pica mauretanicus</i>

<b>Pied Crow</b>	<i>Corvus albus</i>
<b>Brown-necked Raven</b>	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>
<b>Common Raven</b>	<i>Corvus corax tingitanus</i>
<b>Firecrest</b>	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
<b>Coal Tit</b>	<i>Parus ater atlas</i>
<b>African Blue Tit</b>	<i>Parus teneriffae ultramarinus</i>
<b>Great Tit</b>	<i>Parus major excelsus</i>
<b>Black-crowned Sparrow Lark</b>	<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>
<b>Bar-tailed Lark</b>	<i>Ammomanes cincturus</i>
<b>Hoopoe Lark</b>	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>
<b>Thick-billed Lark</b>	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>
<b>Short-toed Lark</b>	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
<b>Lesser Short-toed Lark</b>	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>
<b>Dupont's Lark</b>	<i>Chersophilus dupontii</i>
<b>Crested Lark</b>	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
<b>Thekla Lark</b>	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
<b>Wood Lark</b>	<i>Lullula arborea pallida</i>
<b>Eurasian Skylark</b>	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
<b>Temminck's Lark</b>	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>
<b>Crag Martin</b>	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
<b>Barn Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
<b>Red-rumped Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
<b>House Martin</b>	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
<b>Cricket Warbler</b>	<i>Spiloptila clamans</i>
<b>Cetti's Warbler</b>	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
<b>Scrub Warbler</b>	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>
<b>Fan-tailed Warbler</b>	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
<b>Reed Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
<b>Western Olivaceous Warbler</b>	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>
<b>Melodious Warbler</b>	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
<b>Tristram's Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia deserticola maroccana</i>
<b>Sardinian Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
<b>Western Orphean Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>
<b>Common Whitethroat</b>	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
<b>Blackcap</b>	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
<b>Short-toed Treecreeper</b>	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
<b>Spotless Starling</b>	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
<b>Common Blackbird</b>	<i>Turdus merula</i>
<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus viscivorus deichleri</i>
<b>Rufous Bushchat</b>	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>
<b>Black Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
<b>Moussier's Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>
<b>Seebohm's Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe (oenanthe) seebohmi</i>
<b>Red-rumped Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>
<b>White-crowned Black Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>
<b>Black Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe leucura syenitica</i>
<b>Blue Rock Thrush</b>	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
<b>Tawny Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
<b>White (Moroccan) Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla (alba) subpersonata</i>
<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
<b>Common Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
<b>Atlas Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula speculigera</i>
<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
<b>Spanish Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
<b>Desert Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer simplex</i>
<b>Rock Sparrow</b>	<i>Petronia petronia barbara</i>
<b>Common Chaffinch</b>	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>

<b>European Serin</b>	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
<b>European Greenfinch</b>	<i>Chloris chloris voousi</i>
<b>European Goldfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
<b>Common Linnet</b>	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
<b>Crimson-winged Finch</b>	<i>Rhodopechys sanguinea alienus</i>
<b>Trumpeter Finch</b>	<i>Rhodopechys githaginea</i>
<b>Hawfinch</b>	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
<b>Cirl Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>
<b>Rock Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza cia africana</i>
<b>African House Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>