

MOROCCO 28 Jan - 11 Feb 1992

Participants

Anders Lindén, Ängelholm, Sweden.
Hans-Åke Gustavsson, Malmö, Sweden.
Per Anders Bertilsson, Malmö, Sweden.
Lars-Erik Jönsson, Landskrona, Sweden.



General

As it was the first time for all of us to visit Morocco, we wanted to make a complete roundtrip and visit as many of the well known localities as possible. Our main targets although, were the species that in Morocco are unique to the Western Palearctic, and especially Slender-billed Curlew. We bought a charter trip from Copenhagen to Agadir which was arranged by Spies travel and cost 4045 SEK each, including an apartment-hotel of fairly good standard in Agadir.

Car rental

We rented a Fiat Regatta from Europcar which cost 10.640 Dirhams (7380 SEK) for two weeks including free mileage, local taxes and collision damage insurance. The car was delivered at our hotel on the time, and to the price agreed upon with Europcar at the booking in Sweden.

During the 4023 km driven we had no problems at all with the car, not even a flat tire, though some off-road driving in the desert areas.

Site guides and maps

To find the different sites we mainly depended upon the excellent "Morocco (winter) guide" by Annika Forsten and Tapani Numminen. Be sure to bring this report along, it contains almost all information you need! Other travel-reports that we used were:

"Morocco, 20 March -10 April 1987" by S. M. Andrews

"Morocco, Report from an ornithological visit 10-24 April 1986" by O. R. Storkersen

"Marocko november 1988" by SOF-res

"Morocco 8-15 February 1990" by C. Brostam et al.

"Morocco Tour 90" 1-15 February 1990 by M. Ajne et al.

"Marocko november 1990" by SOF-res

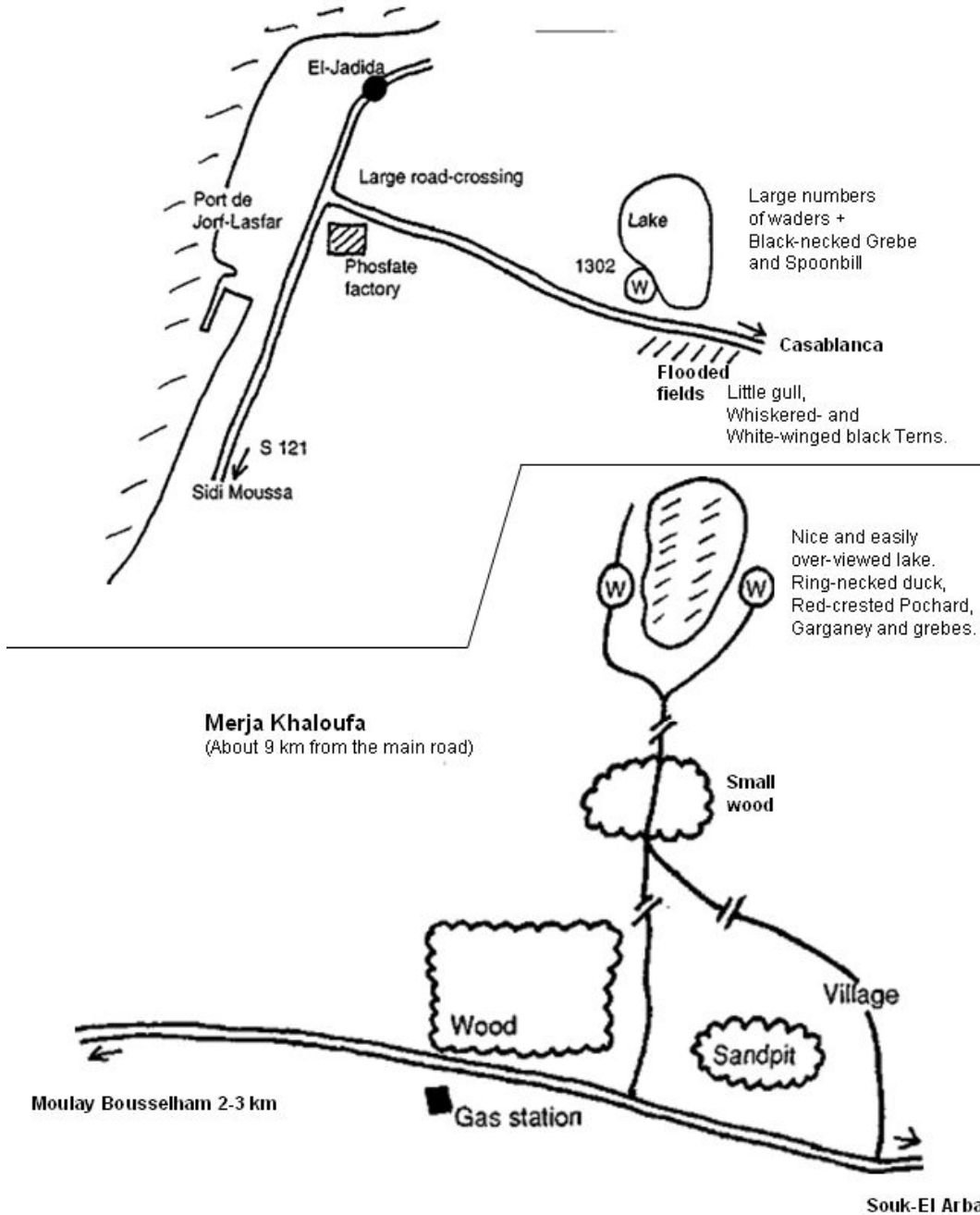
We mainly used the Reise- und Verkehrsverlag 1:800 000 "Marokko" map which shows most of roads and villages, even smaller ones. It also contains maps of the larger cities.

Thanks to Lars Råberg, Lund who made some personal notes for us from a trip, just a few weeks before ours.

Sites

As most of the sites are well-known, and several reports contain maps and detailed information how to find them, we are only giving some additional information about a few interesting sites that we haven't found in any of the reports that we used.

Not to scale



Itinerary

28/1 Left Copenhagen in the morning and arrived in Agadir at 13.45 o'clock, local time. After bus-transfer to our hotel, the Anezi, we picked up our car from Europcar and went straight down to the fishing-harbour for the last hour of daylight. Lots of Mediterranean Gulls, some Arctic Skuas and Manx/Yelkouan Shearwaters were seen.

- 29/1 Started birding at Oued Souss at dawn, about 07.00. Rather cold before the sun came up. A good variety of shorebirds, a small party of Slender-billed Gulls and our only White Wagtail of the subpersonata-race of the trip were recorded. At noon we headed east into the Sous valley. Made frequent stops along the road which produced a Lanner 32 km west of Taroudannt and 3 Fulvous Babblers 5 km east of Taroudannt. Arrived at Igoudar just before 3 o'clock, and went up on the highest of the hills east of the village. No Dark Chanting Goshawks were seen, but quite a few other good birds; Black-shouldered Kite, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Blue Rock Thrush and Cirl Bunting among others. While we were standing on the hill a lot of kids from the nearby villages gathered around us, but didn't interfere with our birding. Drove back to Agadir in darkness, and arrived at about 20.00.
- 30/1 Spent most of the day at Oued Massa. Arrived at 07.30 and drove slowly towards the mouth of the river. The whole area was very dry due to the absence of rain, and the marshes around the village of Sidi R'bat were almost dried up. We heard 4 singing Black-headed Bushshrikes, and finally managed to get excellent views of one individual. Other birds of interest were Barbary Falcon, 90+ Marbled Teals, Brown-throated Sand Martin and an immature Bonelli's Eagle. Spent an hour on the terrace of the Sidi R'bat cafe, having lunch and seewatching. A Caspian Tern, some Yelkouan Shearwaters and Arctic Skuas were seen passing. In the afternoon we looked around the village of Massa for Laughing Doves, but without any luck. Drove to Barrage Youssef Ben Tachfine, where the road was blocked by construction work just after the dam. Tried some wadis on the northwestern side of the dam instead, and were lucky to find a Red-necked Nightjar on the ground. There were also 3 adult Bonelli's Eagles soaring around the mountains close to the dam. Drove back to Agadir after dark.
- 31/1 Started our ten-day roundtrip and headed north along the coast. Spent a good part of the day at Cap Rhir and Tamri see-watching and looking for Bald Ibises. Unfortunately there was hardly any wind at all, but good numbers of Gannets were passing anyway, together with some Yelkouan Shearwaters and a Great Skua. The Ibises proved to be rather tricky to find, but finally we found five birds feeding on the sanddunes about 500 m north of the lighthouse. Drove north to Safi in the evening where we stayed at the Hotel Majestic. We got two double-rooms for 60 Dirhams each, without toilet and with cold water only. The rooms were rather bad, and we don't recommend this hotel. There have to be better places to stay at in Safi, if you look around.
- 1/2 Begun the day at Cap Beddouza, with a morning sea-watch. Just as the day before there was hardly any wind blowing at all, and only small numbers of birds were seen. Most interesting were 14 Audouin's Gulls, mostly older birds, flying north. After breakfast at the auberge at Beddouza we continued to El Oualidia, where we saw two Collared Doves, a species we hadn't expected to see. A good part of the day then was spent checking the wetlands and ponds between El Oualidia and El Jadida. Lot's of birds but rather difficult to get close. In this extensive area of wetlands we found the following places to be the best;
- About 6 km north of El Oualidia, where the marshes and salt pans were easy to overview from the hills next to the road. Large numbers of ducks and waders and also 30 Spoonbills and 7 Brown-throated Sand Martins.
 - Sidi Moussa Lagoon, which is easy to overview from the roadside. We saw lot's of gulls, eg. 265 Audouin's Gulls, Little Tern and also Brown-throated Sand Martin.
 - The Salt pans and marshes just north of the Sidi Moussa lagoon. A small dirt road leads out among the salt pans, and the area is easily checked from this road.
- Along the road no. 1302, a few kilometres east of Port de Jorf-Lasfar, we found a lake on the north side of the road and some flooded fields on the south side of the road with a lot of interesting birds. Whiskered- and White-winged Black Terns, Little Gull, Black-necked Grebes and Spoonbills together with large numbers of Black-tailed Godwits, Ruffs and Dunlins. We didn't find any information about this locality in any of the travel-reports that we used, but we think it's well worth checking (see map).
- After a rather quick passage through Casablanca we arrived at Foret du Sidi Bettache just before dusk. The sky was clouded and a slight rain was falling. Stayed in the area until it got completely dark without seeing or hearing any Francolins. Stayed over night in Temara plage at the luxurious Hotel Felouque, which cost 150 dirhams/person.

- 2/2 Back to Foret du Sidi Bettache early in the morning. Almost immediately upon arrival we heard the first Francolin, and during the morning we found at least 10 displaying birds. Other interesting birds were 4 Black-shouldered Kites, 5 singing Black-headed Bush-shrikes, Jays and Blue Tits of the north African races. During our stay in the area we didn't see any guards, and we experienced no problems in leaving the roads while birding etc.
- Left at noon and drove straight to Oued Loukos where we arrived at 15.30. A very interesting area with a lot of good birds; 20 Glossy Ibises, Squacco Heron, Night Heron, 140 Red-knobbed Coots, Red-crested Pochard and Purple Gallinule. The best areas are on the south side of the gravel road that goes along the river, and a morning visit would give better light-conditions than those we had in the afternoon. Drove to Moulay Bouselham after dark, and stayed for the following three nights at Hotel Le Lagon. The price was 150 dirhams for a double room, including breakfast. Good standard with hot water most of the time.
- 3/2 Started early for the western side of Merja Zerga where the Slender-billed Curlews had been seen regularly during the winter, last time the previous morning. As we didn't want to risk not finding the correct place, we decided to hire a local guide, Hassan D'Alil. A guide shouldn't be necessary as you find good descriptions of the site in many travel reports, and as you'll always find the latest news in the bird-log at cafe Milano in Moulay Bouselham. *If* you hire a guide, be sure to make up the price in advance. We didn't, which led to some discussions afterwards.
- Unfortunately we found no slender-billed curlews anyway, though we searched the area until noon. After lunch we went to Merja Khaloufa, a nice little lake about 10 km north of Moulay Bouselham (see map). The lake held large numbers of ducks, including Garganey and a long-staying male Ring-necked Duck. The evening was spent in "SBC-area" with two Marsh Owls as best birds found.
- 4/2 Back to the western shores of Merja Zerga, where we spent most of the day. Impressive numbers of birds in the lake, but unfortunately no Slender-billed Curlews. Made a break in the afternoon, see-watching from Moulay Bouselham which produced a few Arctic Skuas, Gannets and Yelkouan shearwaters.
- 5/2 Made a third, fruitless try for the Slender-billed Curlews and then decided to leave the area. During the three days that we birded around Merja Zerga we didn't experience any great problems with the reputed kids from the nearby villages. Of course, everybody wanted money or guard our car, but otherwise it was better than expected. After Souk el Arba, where we changed money and watched some Little Swifts and Lesser Kestrels, we drove straight to the cedar woods of Ifrane. Now our bad luck seemed to change, and we found Levaillant's Woodpecker without any problems. Continued down to Midelt where we checked in at Hotel El Ayachi. A nice hotel where we paid 222 dirhams for a double room.
- 6/2 Arrived at the site for Dupont's Lark, south of Zeida, in complete darkness at 06.00. We drove eastwards from the main road on a small dirt track for about 1 km, see the report from Forsten & Numminen for details. At 06.23 the first Dupont's Lark started to sing, and until 07.05 we heard at least 3 singing birds in the area. When it got light, we started to search the areas from where we estimated that the birds had been singing, and found two different individuals rather easy. The birds seemed to favour areas with tufts of dry, yellow grass and we got close views.
- We left at 09.00 and went back north to Col du Zad. A calling Levaillant's Woodpecker, Shore Larks, Rock Buntings and 176 Ruddy Shelducks were seen on the alpine meadows north of the Col before we started the rather long drive towards Erfoud. Arrived at 18.30 and stayed for two nights at Hotel Tafilalet, which cost 208 dirhams for a double room. Plenty of hot water and also a good restaurant.
- 7/2 The whole day was spent in the desert around Erg Chebbi and Merzouga. The first stop in the morning was made at the wadi at Derkaoua, where we found 6 Tristram's Warblers, 6 Fulvous Babbler, some Hoopoe Larks and lots of White-crowned Black Wheatears.

Continued to cafe Yasmina where a local showed us Desert Sparrows, 2 males and 3 females, at some camel feeders a few hundred meters away from the cafe. We got excellent views and good opportunities for photographing this very nice species. Visits at the other cafes along the Erg Chebbi dunes gave some more Desert Sparrows, Bar-tailed Desert Lark and Brown-necked Raven. Continued past Merzouga village to Lake Merzouga, which unfortunately was completely dried out. In a scrubby area just west of the "lake" we found an Eagle Owl sitting on the ground. Otherwise this area was rather empty of birds. Much better was an area of more dense scrub on the east side of the former lake. Lots of Hoopoe- and Thekla Larks, Desert Wheatears, Spectacled Warblers and a few Tristram's Warblers. Drove back to Erfoud in complete darkness. Driving in the area, even without a guide, gave us no problems thanks to the excellent maps in the report of Forsten & Numminen.

- 8/2 Left Erfoud at 07.00 in the morning and headed west towards Boumalne des Dades. Arrived at 10.40, and after a quick lunch we started birding at Tagdilt track. A magnificent scenery with the 4000 m peaks of the Atlas mountains in the north and grey-brown 2000 m mountains on the south side of the stony plains. Birds recorded included Thick-billed-, Desert-, Bar-tailed Desert- and Temminck's Horned Larks, Red-rumped Wheatear, Trumpeter Finch and Black-bellied Sand-grouse.

The last hour before dusk was spent at some tamarisk groves, close to the farms and houses, south of the big wadi. In these green patches, we found Robins, Chiffchaffs, Blackbirds, Hoopoes and other birds completely different from those in the surrounding desert. These groves should be worth checking during migration!

A rather long drive west to Ouarzazate, where we stayed at the luxurious Hotel Tichka Salam (****) which cost 418 dirhams for a double room.

- 9/2 Begun the day in the area north of Barrage El-Mansour Eddahbi, east of Ouarzazate. Found two males of Mourning Wheatear, good numbers of Black-bellied Sand-grouse and Trumpeter Finches. The Barrage itself held large numbers of Coots, 5 Ruddy Shelducks and some Great Crested Grebes. Along the road between Ouarzazate and the Sous valley, two Golden Eagles were seen 32 km west of Tazenakht. Other birds along the road included Thick-billed Lark and Mourning Wheatear. Made a second attempt for the Dark Chanting Goshawks at Igoudar, and were rewarded with a Tawny Eagle, which was soaring high above us, before it drifted away along the Sous valley. Another new species for the trip was Red-rumped Swallow, but unfortunately no Dark Chanting Goshawks could be found. The night was spent in Agadir.

- 10/2 Left Agadir at 06.15 and drove south, towards Goulimine. First stop was made at Oued Sayad, 7 km south of Goulimine, where at least 13 Scrub Warblers were found. Other birds in the area were Stone Curlew, Red-rumped Wheatear and Tawny Pipit. At a short stop at 15 km south of Goulimine, two more Scrub Warblers and a Great Spotted Cuckoo were seen. Further south, at 30-35 km south of Goulimine good numbers of raptors were found. Eg. 11 Black Kites, 10 Long-legged Buzzards, 1 Bonelli's Eagle, 1 Golden Eagle, 1 Hen Harrier, some Marsh Harriers and 3 Lanners. Check the pylons for perched raptors, which often give good opportunities for photographing. Continued south to the gas station about 50 km south of Goulimine, where we turned back north. At Oued Talmadert, 20 km N of Goulimine, where we made a short stop late in the afternoon, 7 Fulvous Babblers were found.

- 11/2 Our last day. Decided to revisit the mouth of Oued Souss as some other Swedish birders reported a Lesser Crested Tern from that area a few days earlier. Found a Common Gull, a first winter Common Tern and a Wryneck, all new species for the trip, getting the total to 198. Returned the car to Europcar and left the hotel at 14.10 for the airport. Arrived in Sweden late in the evening.

Systematic List of Species

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

10 Oued Massa 30.1, 1 Tamri 31.1, 3 lagoons N Oualidia 1.2, 3 5km NE Port de Jorf Lasfar 1.2, 1 Oued Loukos 2.2, 100+ Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

3 Oued Massa 30.1, 75+ Merja Khaloufa 3.2, 15+ Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

1 5km NE Port de Jorf Lasfar 1.2, 25 Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

1 Cap Rhir 31.1

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

3 Sidi R'bat 30.1, 3 Cap Rhir 31.1, 1 Cap Beddouza 1.2, 1 Moulay Bouselham 4.2

Puffinus sp.

7+ Agadir 28.1, were either Manx or Mediterranean. 4 Moulay Bouselham 4.2

Gannet *Sula bassana*

10+ Agadir 28.1, 2 Oued Sousss 29.1, 10 Sidi R'bat 30.1, 630 Cap Rhir 31.1, 44 Cap Beddouza 1.2, 25 Moulay Bouselham 4.2, 10 Oued Sousss 11.2

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus*

Common

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

24 Oued Loukos 2.2

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

8 Oued Loukos 2.2

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Common. 1350 counted from the car, between Rabat and Oued Loukos 2.2

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Common

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Common

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

75 Oued Souss 29.1, 1 Oued Massa 30.1, 7 Oualidia 1.2, 4 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 10 10km S El-Jadida 1.2, 1 16km S Casablanca 1.2, 23 Rabat-Larache 2.2, 120 Oued Loukos 2.2, 63 Merja Zerga 3.2, 41 Merja Zerga 4.2, 61 Meknes 5.2, 9 Col du Zad 6.2, 1 Oued Ziz 6.2, 1 6km W Jorf 8.2, 7 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

20 Oued Loukos 2.2

Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*

5 Cap Rhir 31.1

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

5 Oued Souss 29.1, 4 Oued Massa 30.1, 35 Oualidia 1.2, 3 Oued Souss 11.2

Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

150 Oued Souss 29.1, 89 Oued Massa 30.1, 100+ Oualidia-Sidi Moussa 1.2, 220 Merja Zerga 3.2, 288 Merja Zerga 5.2, 104 Oued Souss 11.2

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

1 Oualidia 1.2, 120 Merja Zerga 3.2

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

176 Col du Zad 6.2, 5 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

2 Oued Massa 30.1, 20 Oualidia-Sidi Moussa 1.2, 1 Oued Loukos 2.2, 2000+ Merja Zerga 3.2

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

8 Oued Massa 30.1, 2 Oued Loukos 2.2, 2 Merja Khaloufa 3.2, 20+ Moulay Bouselham 4.2

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

50 + Oued Loukos 2.2, 7 Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Teal *Anas crecca*

30 Oued Massa 30.1, 20+ Oualidia 1.2, 10+ Oued Loukos 2.2, 100+ Merja Khaloufa 3.2, 4 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

8 Oued Massa 30.1, 12 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 20+ Oued Loukos 2.2, 20 Merja Khaloufa 3.2, 20 Col du Zad 6.2, 10 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Pintail *Anas acuta*

30 Oued Massa 30.1, 200+ Oualidia 1.2, 100+ Oued Loukos 2.2, 10 Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

1 male Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

7 Oued Massa 30.1, 300+ Oualidia 1.2, 20+ Oued Loukos 2.2, 500+ Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

90+ Oued Massa 30.1, 2 Oued Loukos 2.2

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

5 Oued Loukos 2.2, 3 Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

50+ Oued Massa 30.1, 2 Tamri 31.1, 2 Oued Loukos 2.2, 30+ Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

1 male Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

20 Oued Massa 30.1, 17 Oued Loukos 2.2, 20+ Merja Khaloufa 3.2

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

5 Cap Rhir 31.1, 5 Cap Beddouza 1.2, 3 Oued Souss 11.2

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

2 Igoudar 29.1, 2 Foret de Sidi Bettache 1.2, 4 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 3 Igoudar 9.2

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

1 7km W Taroudannt 29.1, 1 Igoudar 29.1, 1 W Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 1 Oued Sayad 10.2, 11 33km S Goulimine 10.2

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

4 Oued Massa 30.1, 1 Oualidia 1.2, 5 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2,

14 Rabat-Larache 2.2, 6 Oued Loukos 2.2, 10 Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 1 Oued Sayad 10.2, 4 33km S Goulimine 10.2

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

1 female Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 2 pairs Merja Zerga 5.2, 1 female 33km S Goulimine 10.2

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Singles seen 29.1-2.2 & 9.2-11.2

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus cirtensis*

1 5km E Taroudannt 29.1, 1 5km S Tamri 31.1, 4 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 1 Merzouga Lake 7.2, 1 E Boumalne 8.2, 1 Tagdilt Track 8.2, 1 Taliouine 9.2, 1 10km W Tazenakht 9.2, 10 33km S Goulimine 10.2

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

1 Igoudar 9.2

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos homeyeri*

2 subadult 32km W Tazenakht 9.2, 1 subadult 33km S Goulimine 10.2

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus*

1 imm. Oued Massa 30.1, 3 ad Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 1 ad 33km S Goulimine 10.2

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

1 Oued Souss 29.1, 1 Oued Massa 30.1, 1 Tamri 31.1, 1 Oued Loukos 2.2

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

4 4km E Souk-el-Arba 5.2

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

1 male Merja Zerga 4.2

Lanner *Falco biarmicus erlangeri*

1 32km W Taroudannt 29.1, 1 Nzala 6.2, 1 Merzouga Village 7.2, Merzouga Lake 7.2, 2 E Boumalne 8.2, 2 Oued Sayad 10.2, 3 33km S Goulimine 10.2

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

1 Oued Loukos 2.2, 2 ad Merja Zerga 5.2

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*

2 Oued Massa 30.1, 1 Cap Rhir 31.1, 1 3km N Beddouza 1.2

In addition some unidentified large falcons were seen: 1 ad Oued Souss 29.1 & 11.2, 1 5km NE Port de Jorf Lasfar 1.2 & 1 Tagdilt Track 8.2

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*

1 heard Oued Souss 29.1, 1 14km E Taroudannt 29.1, 2 Oued Massa 30.1, 11 Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 5 Cap Rhir 31.1, 5 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 1 Merja Zerga 4.2, 7 Mellab, 10km W Touroug 8.2, 2 17km S Tiznit 10.2, 2 Oued Souss 11.2

Double-spurred Francolin *Francolinus bicalcaratus*

11 calling Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2. 4 of them were seen

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

2 Oualidia 1.2, 1 Merja Zerga 3.2, 3 Merja Zerga 4.2

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

2 Oued Massa 30.1

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

30 Oued Massa 30.1, 50+ Oualidia 1.2

Coot *Fulica atra*

300+ Oued Massa 30.1, 10 Tamri 31.1, 500+ Oualidia 1.2, 20 Oued Loukos 2.2, 3000+ Merja Khaloufa 3.2, 800+ Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

140 Oued Loukos 2.2

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio*

19 Oued Loukos 2.2

Crane *Grus grus*

15 Oued Massa 30.1

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

20 + Oued Souss 29.1, 2 Oued Massa 30.1, 5 Moulay Bousselham 4.2, 22 Oued Souss 11.2

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

30+ Oued Sousss 29.1, 120+ Oued Massa 30.1, 80 Massa Village 30.1, 300+ Oualidia 1.2, 30 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 50+ 5km NE Jorf-Lasfar 1.2, 50+ Oued Loukos 2.2, 30+ Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 2 Oued Sousss 11.2

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

2 Oued Sousss 29.1, 40+ Oualidia 1.2, 30+ Sidi Moussa 1.2

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*

2 Oued Sousss 29.1, 2 Oued Sayad 10.2, 1 Oued Sousss 11.2

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

1 Oued Sousss 11.2

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

10+ Oued Sousss 29.1, 25 Oued Massa 30.1, 7 Cap Beddouza 1.2, 40+ Oualidia 1.2, 20 Oued Loukos 2.2, 30+ Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 50+ Oued Sousss 11.2

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

4 Oualidia 1.2, 6 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 1 Merja Zerga 4.2, 22 Oued Sousss 11.2

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

1 Oued Massa 30.1, 400 Oualidia 1.2, 400 Oued Loukos 2.2, 10 Merja Zerga 3-5.2

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

20+ Oued Sousss 29.1, 15 Oued Massa 30.1, 2 Cap Rhir 31.1, 3 Cap Beddouza 1.2, 30+ Sidi Moussa 1.2, 15 Oued Loukos 2.2, 200+ Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 20+ Oued Sousss 11.2

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

25 Oued Massa 30.1, 1 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 25 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 100+ Oued Loukos 2.2, 200+ Merja Zerga 3-5.2

Knot *Calidris canutus*

5 Oued Sousss 29.1, 30 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 16 Oued Sousss 11.2

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

50+ Oued Sousss 29.1, 5 Oued Massa 30.1, 15 Cap Beddouza 1.2, 10 Sidi Moussa 1.2, recorded Merja Zerga 4.2, 100+ Oued Sousss 11.2

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

1 Oued Massa 30.1, 5 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 20 Merja Zerga 3.2, 50+ Merja Zerga 4.2, 1 Oued Sousss 11.2

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

30+ Oued Souss 29.1, 20+ Oued Massa 30.1, 2000 Oualidia-Sidi Moussa 1.2, 30+ Oued Loukos 2.2, probably > 5000 Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 50+ Oued Souss 11.2

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

3 Oued Souss 29.1, 2 Oued Massa 30.1, 40 Oualidia 1.2, 5 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 50+ Oued Loukos 2.2, 50+ Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 1 Oued Souss 11.2

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

3 Oued Massa 30.1, 10+ Oualidia 1.2, 50 Oued Loukos 2.2, 100+ Merja Zerga 3-5.2

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

15 Oued Souss 29.1, 10 Oued Massa 30.1, 200+ Oualidia 1.2, 6 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 200+ Oued Loukos 2.2, 1000+ Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 5 Oued Souss 11.2

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

50+ Oued Souss 29.1, 20+ Oued Massa 30.1, 50+ Oualidia 1.2, 5 Merja Khaloufa 3.2, 50+ Oued Souss 11.2

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

2 Cap Beddouza 1.2

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

3 Oued Souss 29.1, 7 Oued Massa 30.1, 20 Oualidia 1.2, 55 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 5 Oued Loukos 2.2, 30+ Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 4 Oued Souss 11.2

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

3 Massa 30.1, 1 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 8 Oued Loukos 2.2, 1 Merja Zerga 4-5.2

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

30+ Oued Souss 29.1, 10 Oued Massa 30.1, 30+ Oualidia 1.2, 20 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 10 Oued Loukos 2.2, recorded Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 20+ Oued Souss 11.2

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

5 + Oued Souss 29.1, 2 Oued Massa 30.1, 8 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 5 Oued Loukos 2.2, 1 Merja Zerga 4.2, 5+ Oued Souss 11.2

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

1 Massa Village 30.1, 2 Oued Loukos 2.2, 1 Merja Zerga 5.2

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Agadir 28.1, 7 Oued Souss 29.1, 3 Oued Massa 30.1, 1 Tamri 31.1, Cap Beddouza 1.2, 2 Oued Loukos 2.2

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

1 Agadir 28.1, 2 Cap Beddouza 1.2, 5 Oualidia 1.2, 2 Sidi Moussa 1.2

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

5 Agadir 28.1, 1 Sidi R'bat 30.1, 1 Cap Beddouza 1.2, 1 Moulay Bouselham 4.2

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

1 Cap Rhir 31.1

Stercorarius sp.

5 Agadir 28.1, 2 Sidi R'bat 30.1, 4 Moulay Bouselham 4.2

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

40+ Agadir 28.1, 1 Oued Souss 29.1, 1 27km N Agadir 31.1, 4 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 3 Oued Souss 11.2.
About 95 % were 2nd calendar-year birds

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

1 2nd calendar-year 5km NE Jorf-Lasfar 1.2

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

200+ Agadir 28.1, 200+ Oued Souss 29.1, 30+ 5km NE Jorf-Lasfar 1.2, 20 Oued Loukos 2.2, 5-10 Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 100+ Oued Souss 11.2

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*

13 Oued Souss 29.1, 12 Oued Souss 11.2. All but one were 2nd calendar-year birds

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

5 25km N Agadir 31.1, 1 27km N Agadir 31.1, 8 Tamri 31.1, 14 Cap Beddouza 1.2, 265 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 2 Oualidia 1.2, 21 Moulay Bouselham 4.2, 7 Oued Souss 11.2. Mostly adults, but some younger birds in all ages were also seen

Common Gull *Larus canus*

1 2nd calendar-year Oued Souss 11.2

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii*

Abundant along the Atlantic coast 28.2-1.2, recorded Merja Zerga 3-4.2. Some L.f. intermedius were also seen

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus michahellis*

15 Agadir 28.1, common Oued Souss 29.1, 5 Oued Massa 30.1, 20 Agadir-Tamri 31.1, 20+ Cap Beddouza-Sidi Moussa 1.2, 15 Oued Loukos 2.2, recorded Moulay Bouselham 3-4.2, 10+ Oued Souss 11.2

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

2 Sidi R'bat 30.1, 8 Oued Loukos 2.2, 2 Moulay Bouselham 4.2

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Fairly common

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

1 Oued Souss 11.2

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

4 Sidi Moussa 1.2

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

5 5km NE Jorf-Lasfar 1.2, 1 Merja Khaloufa 3.2

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

15 5km NE Jorf-Lasfar

Chlidonias sp.

15 at Merja Khaloufa 3.2 were either Whiskered or White-winged

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

3 Zeida 6.2, 17 Tagdilt Track 8.2, 27 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Pterocles sp.

3 Tagdilt Track 8.2

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

50 Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 20+ 5km S Nzala 6.2, 4 Tunnel du Legionnaire 6.2. Domestic form recorded daily

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

40 Oued Souss 29.1, 50 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 6 Foret de Cèdres 5.2, 2 Oued Souss 11.2

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

2 El Oualidia 1.2

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

2 Igoudar 29.1, 1 Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 1 Merja Zerga 3.2, 2 Igoudar 9.2, 1 15km S Goulimine 10.2

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo ascalaphus*

1 ad Merzouga Lake 7.2

Little Owl *Athene noctua glaux*

1 Oued Souss 29.1, 1 3km W Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 1 28km S
Essaouira 31.1, 1 3km N Beddouza 1.2, 1 Sidi Yahia 2.2, 1 Merzouga Lake
7.2, 1 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis*

2 Merja Zerga 3.2, 1 Merja Zerga 4.2, 2 Merja Zerga 5.2

Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis*

1 flushed at a wadi 3km W Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1

Swift *Apus apus*

1 Igoudar 29.1, 50 Oued Massa 30.1, 3 Souk-el-Arba 5.2

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

2 Oued Massa 30.1, 1 Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 13+ Souk-el-
Arba 5.2

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

1 Oued Souss 29.1, 1 Oued Massa 30.1, 1 Tamri 31.1, 1 Oued Loukos 2.2, 1 Oued Souss 11.2

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

1 Agadir 28.1, 1 Oued Souss 29.1, 1 E Taroudannt 29.1, 3 Igoudar 29.1, 1 Oued Massa 30.1, 1
Merja Zerga 3-4.2, 1 Moulay Bouselham 4.2, 1 Tagdilt Track 8.2, 1 E Igoudar 9.2, 1 Igoudar 9.2, 2
15km S Goulimine 10.2

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

1 Oued Souss 11.2

Levaillant's Woodpecker *Picus vaillantii*

2 Foret de Cèdres 5.2, 3 Ski Club Ifrane 5.2, 1 Col du Zad 6.2

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major mauritanus*

1 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 2 Foret de Cèdres 5.2

Bar-tailed Desert Lark *Ammomanes cincturus*

1 Café Les Etoiles des Dunes 7.2, 1 Café du Sud 7.2, 2 Café Dunes D'or 7.2, 15 Merzouga Lake 7.2,
5+ W Jorf 8.2, 3 Tagdilt Track 8.2

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti payni*

15 along the road between Erfoud and Boumalne 8.2, 2 Tagdilt Track 8.2, 10+ 11km E Ouarzazate 9.2

Hoopoe Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*

6 Derkaoua 7.2, 2 Café Yasmina 7.2, 2 Café du Sud 7.2, 2 Café Dunes D'or 7.2, 15+ Merzouga Lake 7.2, 2 W Jorf 8.2, 2 W Touroug 8.2, 1 Igli 8.2, 3 Tinjedad - Boumalne 8.2, 2 Tagdilt Track 8.2, 2 S Goulimine 10.2

Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti*

3 singing Zeida 6.2. Two of them were seen very well

Thick-billed Lark *Rhamphocoris clotbey*

13 Tagdilt Track 8.2, 5+ Oued R'bat, 5+ 6-7km W Ouarzazate 9.2

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

20 Merja Zerga 4.2

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*

25+ Zeida 6.2, 20+ Oued Sayad 10.2

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata riggenbachi*

Recorded in small numbers 29-31.1 & 2-5.2

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

Locally very common, outnumbering Crested Lark in most habitats

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

10 Merja Zerga 3-4.2

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris atlas*

10+ Col du Zad 6.2

Temminck's Horned Lark *Eremophila bilopha*

9 Tagdilt Track 8.2

Brown-throated Sand Martin *Riparia paludicola*

1 Oued Massa 30.1, 4 Massa Village 30.1, 7 Oualidia 1.2, 6 Sidi Moussa 1.2

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

15 Oued Massa 30.1

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

2 Oued Souss 29.1, 8 Igoudar 29.1, 75 Oued Massa 30.1, 20 Agadir - Tamri 31.1, 30+ Nzala 6.2, 40+ Tunnel du Legionnaire 6.2

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common. Seen almost daily

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

2 Igoudar 9.2

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

30 Igoudar 29.1, 5 Oued Massa 30.1, 5 Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 10 Oued Loukos 2.2, 2 Souk-el-Arba 5.2, 4 Goulimine 10.2

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

1 Cap Rhir 31.1, 1 Oued Sayad 10.2

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Recorded in small numbers almost daily

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

5 Merja Zerga 3.3, 1 Merja Zerga 4.2

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Common. Subspecies involved are *M. f. cinereocapilla* identified in Igoudar 29.1, *M. f. iberiae*, common Oued Loukos 2.2 and Merja Zerga 3-5.2

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

2 Oued Souss 29.1 and 11.2

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

M. a. alba common. Only record of *Motacilla a. subpersonata* was 1 Oued Souss 29.1

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Common

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

3 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Fairly common

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

1 Oued Souss 29.1 and 11.2

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Singles recorded most days

Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*

Fairly common in the south, especially near the coast

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Common

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*

1 Tagdilt Track 8.2

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti homochroa*

Derkaoua 7.2, 1 Café Dunes D'or 7.2, 7 Merzouga Lake 7.2, S Tiznit 10.2, 6 Oued Sayad 10.2, 7 S Goulimine 10.2

Red-rumped Wheatear *Oenanthe moesta*

1 S Tizi-n-Talrhemt 6.2, 22 Tinjedad - Boumalne 8.2, 26 Tagdilt Track 8.2, 6 Oued Sayad 10.2, 3 S Goulimine 10.2

Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens halophila*

3 between Ouarzazate and Tazenakht 9.2

White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*

1 W Errachidia 6.2, 50 Derkaoua - Erg Chebbi - Merzouga Lake 7.2, 42 Erfoud - Tinjedad 8.2, 5 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura syenitica*

6 Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 1 Zeida 6.2, 12 Tizi-n-Talrhemt 6.2, 18 Nzala - Tunnel du Legionnaire 6.2, 2 Tiznit - Bouizakarn 10.2

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

1 Igoudar 29.1, 1 Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1

Blackbird *Turdus merula (mauretanicus)*

Common

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

5 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

10 Foret de Cèdres 5.2

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

1 Oued Souss 29.2, 5 Oued Massa 30.1, 1 Oued Souss 11.2

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis*

5+ Oued Souss 29.1, 5 Oued Massa 30.1, 10+ Oualidia 1.2, 1 Oued Loukos 2.2, 5 Merja Zerga 3-4.2, 3 Oued Souss 11.2

Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta saharae*

13 Oued Sayad 10.2, 2 wadi 15km S Goulimine 10.2

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

1 14km E Taroudannt 29.1, 3 Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 1 Sidi Moussa 1.2, 3 Derkaoua 7.2, 1 Merzouga Lake 7.2

Tristram's Warbler *Sylvia deserticola*

6 Derkaoua 7.2, 5-6 Merzouga Lake 7.2

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

1 Cap Rhir 31.1, 15+ Merzouga Lake 7.2, 1 30km S Goulimine 10.2

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Common

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Recorded Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Recorded almost every day

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus balearicus*

8 Foret de Cèdres 5.2

Fulvous Babbler *Turdoides fulvus*

3 5km E Taroudannt 29.1, 6 Derkaoua 7.2, 7 Oued Talmadert, 20km N Goulimine 10.2

Coal Tit *Parus ater atlas*

20+ Foret de Cèdres 5.2, 4 Tizi-n-Talrhemt 6.2

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus ultramarinus*

8 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 1 Foret de Cèdres 5.2

Great Tit *Parus major excelsus*

1 Igoudar 29.1, 1 Tamri 31.1, 5 Foret de Sidi Bettache 1-2.2, 1 Foret de Cèdres 5.2

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea caesia*

4 Foret de Cèdres 5.2

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

5 Foret de Cèdres 5.2

Black-headed Bush Shrike *Tchagra senegalus*

4 Oued Massa 30.1, 7 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor algeriensis*

Common, e.g. 53 between Ouarzazate and Igoudar 9.2

Jay *Garrulus glandarius minor*

2 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 2 Foret de Cèdres 5.2

Magpie *Pica pica mauretunica*

1 Oued Souss 29.1, 15+ Sous Valley 29.1, 50 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2, 1 Foret de Cèdres 5.2, 4 Col du Zad 6.2

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

8 5km S Nzala 6.2

Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*

3 Café du Sud 7.2

Raven *Corvus corax*

150 recorded. Common in mountain regions

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

60 N Beddouza 1.2, 3000+ Oued Loukos 2.2, recorded Merja Zerga 3-5.2

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

30 Sous Valley 29.1, 10 Igoudar 29.1, 20 Barrage Youssef-ben-Tachfine 30.1, 30 Beddouza 1.2, 10 Zeida 6.2, 30+ Tazenakht - Igoudar 9.2

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

7 Oued Souss 29.1, 5 S Goulimine 10.2

Desert Sparrow *Passer simplex*

5 Café Yasmina 7.2, 1 Café Les Etoiles des Dunes 7.2, 2 Café du Sud 7.2

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

6 Ski Club Ifrane 5.2

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs africana*

Small numbers recorded almost daily

Serin *Serinus serinus*

Common. Highest number : 100+ Oued Sayad 10.2

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris aurantiventris*

Fairly common

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Common. Highest number : > 1500 roosting in a small tamarisk grove at Tagdilt Track 8.2

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*

6 Merzouga Lake 7.2, 2 W Touroug 8.2, 13 Tagdilt Track 8.2, 88 Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 9.2

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

2 Foret de Sidi Bettache 2.2

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

1 Igoudar 29.1, 1 Cap Rhir 31.1

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia africana*

2-3 Col du Zad 6.2, 1 Tunnel du Legionnaire 6.2, 2 W Ouarzazate 9.2

House Bunting *Emberiza striolata saharae*

2 Igoudar 29.1, 1 Beddouza Village 1.2, 1 N Rich 6.2, 1 Auberge "Soleil Bleu" Boumalne 8.2, 1 W Ouarzazate 9.2, 1 Bouizakarn 10.2

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

100+ Oued Loukos 2.2, very common Merja Zerga 3-5.2, 6 Oued Sayad 10.2