

Southern Morocco

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 February - 2 March 2013



Thick-billed Lark by Peter Dunn



Moussier's Redstart by Stuart Elsom



Desert Wheatear by Stuart Elsom



Camels at Erg Chebbi at dawn by Peter Dunn

Report and images by Peter Dunn and Stuart Elsom



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Tour Summary

This tour took us through tremendously stimulating scenery packed with intriguing geomorphological and geological features. From high mountain passes with snow draped summits to stony, Hamada deserts, sandy deserts, marshes, estuaries and rivers. We took advantage of many opportunities to immerse ourselves in the culture of the country. We visited souks, markets, small villages bustling with local commercial activities involving donkeys, carts, camels and we even saw a mud brick-making plant and a city bakery in action. The very special desert birds thrilled us; Houbara Bustard, Desert Sparrow, Brown-necked Raven, sandgrouse, Cream-coloured Courser, Thick-billed Lark, Desert Lark and the inimitable Hoopoe Lark were all thoroughly enjoyed. We also studied beetles, dragonflies, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians and endearing mammals such as Gundis, Barbary Ground Squirrels and Fat Sand Rats. The weather was cool in the wind some days but sunny on most - this was ideal for watching the varied and exotic wildlife of the region.

Day 1

Thursday 21st February

Sunny and warm in Marrakech

Ten of the group met up at the gate in Gatwick before boarding our flight to Marrakech. We left on time and the 3hr 10 min flight was soon over and we walked out into a warm Marrakech at about noon, having met our guide for the day. Larbi and one of the drivers, Mohamed. We were transported to the Kenzi Farah Hotel where we had lunch before meeting up with Larbi for a tour of bustling square of Jemaa el Fna and the enveloping souks.

We walked labyrinth of scented and brightly coloured alleyways with stalls flaunting enticing spices, clothes, leather goods and ceramics.

The Berber pharmacy assailed our nostrils with wonderful aromas and some even partook in a swift neck and shoulder massage to ease the stiffness from the flight! Stopping at a local café we had refreshments whilst some explored the square with its snake charmers and amazing sounds before we took a stroll back to the hotel. The walk back was another chance to see both Little and Pallid Swifts as they came lower in the evening and we saw Spotless Starlings, Lesser Kestrel, Laughing Doves and White Stork. Having done our species log in the bar, we dined at the buffet and were later joined by four other members of the group who had arrived on the early evening flight.

Day 2

Friday 22nd February

Sunny, warm in the sun but cool in the moderate northerly wind

Some gathered at 7am for a pre-breakfast walk in the grounds where the prominent birds were Common Blackbirds (mostly males) and noisy Common Bulbuls. We saw a few early Little Swifts low over the hotel but these were soon replaced by many more Pallid Swifts. A Cattle Egret flew over, Common Chiffchaffs sang and were fly catching in the eucalyptus trees and Serin and Greenfinch were recorded.

After breakfast we boarded the two mini buses driven by Mohamed and Aesham and made our way through the morning traffic in busy Marrakech heading for the Atlas Mountains seeing hundreds of Pallid Swifts around the old town walls. Our first stop was looking over some olive groves where we had our first African Chaffinches and more Cattle Egrets then onto the foothills just before Touama in coniferous woodland. Here we saw North African Chaffinches, the grey subspecies Atlas Coal Tit and saw and heard crossbills. We had the southern race of Speckled Wood and a Plain Tiger butterfly flew past.

We had a comfort/refreshment stop at Touflihit, where a pair of displaying Goshawks entertained us and we had brief views of our first African Blue Tit as they passed quickly through the garden. The temperature fell with the cold north winds and we found a sunny if not cool spot in the Tizi-N-Tichka pass where 60+ Red-billed Choughs fed on the hillsides and a female wheatear was studied only to be decided as a Northern. One feature of this journey was the incredible numbers of Renault 4's driving in the opposite direction, all part of the annual French 4L Rally which crosses Morocco.

By 16.00 we had descended to the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi close to the ever expanding city of Ouarzazate. Here we encountered many familiar species Grey Herons, Great Crested Grebes, Shoveler and Great Cormorants together with our first desert specialities as a pair of Desert Wheatear showed well, together with a Desert Lark and a party of Trumpeter Finches were entertaining. Continuing on White-crowned Black Wheatears started to appear and a Long-legged Buzzard and Laughing Doves were seen as we drove past. After travelling 275 kms it was approaching dusk when we arrived at our hotel in Boumalne, a change to previous years and with a great outlook high on the edge of the Tagdilt Plain overlooking the town., where we were served dinner to the sound of local live music.

Day 3

Saturday 23rd February

Sunny but very windy and cold in wind

Sunrise was at 7am so some met at the front of the hotel after a somewhat windy night and walked to the shelter of the radio station to scan the stony scrub. First birds were a few Woodlarks feeding with White Wagtails and then we found some Thekla Larks. A White-crowned Black Wheatear was sitting proud on a distant wall whilst Trumpeter Finches moved around us.

We had a great buffet breakfast and set off from the hotel at 8.30am intending to explore the famous stony desert of the Tagdilt Plains. The wind seemed to be increasing as we checked various habitats and found our first Temminck's Horned Larks (which were numerous today). Desert and Red-rumped Wheatear we soon notched up and some distant Long-legged Buzzards were added to the list. Fat Sand Rats sat at their burrow entrances watching us watch them. Having checked one side we went back to Boumalne to approach from the other but it seemed bird-less in the strong wind. A puncture to one of the vehicles delayed us and we started getting battered by sandstorms so Peter decided to abort and head for the Dades Gorge.

We passed the sculpturing effects of sub-aerial erosion on the granite at the mouth of the Gorge. Fists of fingers protruded skywards. We drove to the upper restaurant where we were permitted to have our picnic on their terrace out of the wind, with the promise of buying some drinks. Whilst waiting for it to be prepared we had great views of a family of Common Gundis in the rocks with both Rock and House Buntings to compare and a Black Wheatear coming tantalisingly close for photos. Lunch was up to the same good standard and afterwards, a few were able to get fleeting glimpses of a pair Tristram's Warblers below us before they flew and were lost in the gusty wind. We then took a walk down the road looking for these birds but it was very quiet with only Black Wheatears and Black Redstarts. The mini buses were called and arrived at the bar in the valley where we enjoyed a swift beverage and had two views of Bonelli's Eagle as it soared over head. A pair of African Blue Tits fed in the trees and Crag Martins buzzed around the cliffs faces.

We returned stopping to photograph the geology and dropped some off at the hotel whilst others visited the 'town dump' on the Tagdilt Plain where we found Temminck's Larks again and this time a good sized flock of Lesser Short-toed Larks, where we could see all the identifying features. Dinner that evening was another good buffet and we completed our log before heading for bed and another driving day to Erfoud.

Day 4

Sunday 24th February

Cool start but no wind and bright, warm and sunny pm

The early morning walk was more comfortable now that the wind had died down and we walked the stony desert on the outskirts of town looking for larks. This morning there only seemed to be Crested Larks, Trumpeter Finches and a pair of White-crowned Black Wheatears. As we were about to head back, Walter found a raptor on the radio mast and this was a Barbary Falcon, which flew off into the desert to return a short while later with prey.

After breakfast we packed the minibus and headed out over the Tagdilt Plain to try and catch up with any other larks. We took the road to Tagdilt and took a track to the right where Val exclaimed he thought he had seen a Mourning (Magreb) Wheatear. We stopped and started to scan and a Hoopoe Lark could be heard calling in the

distance. Suddenly Jo saw a wheatear on a rock and it was indeed a fine male Mourning. We were elated by this find, a bird that can prove difficult. However this particular area also had two other pairs!!

We started to look for the Hoopoe Lark, a Long-legged Buzzard flew over and Peter said he heard sandgrouse calling. Nigel saw a bird drop onto the desert and a scan with scope found at least five or six, including a fine male Black-bellied Sandgrouse. We continued on our quest for the Hoopoe Lark and finally it gave itself up and started to display for us, whilst another (possible the female) skulked along a ridge. It was about time for us to leave, when two Short-toed Eagles flew by, making this a good raptor day, whilst entertainment for the morning was courtesy of a Fat Sand Rat that sat at its burrow entrance in full, close view.

We headed east and after a comfort/coffee stop we drove into the dramatic Todra Gorge where we had lunch. As we drove in, the first vehicle flush a Blue Rock Thrush in the village and it was exclaimed "there will be more", but it wasn't that easy. Whilst searching, however, we had great views of a pair of Tristram's Warblers giving some good photographic views. After lunch we stopped to take a few photos around the narrowest part of the gorge and eventually found a male Blue Rock Thrush for all to see.

We made a few stops to explore the stony Marrha Plain, hoping to find other larks and desert birds but only succeeded in seeing a nice male Moussier's Redstart, with the occasional Desert and Crested Larks flying up from the side of the road and a few Southern Grey Shrikes. We arrived at Hotel Belere in Erfoud around 5.40pm and all were looking forward to trying the bar and restaurant before our (very) early start the next day

Day 5

Monday 25th February

Clear sky as sun rose 4 degrees C becoming sunny and hot pm 25 degrees C

Our drivers were ready and waiting for us after our early breakfast and we were on the road heading for the desert in our 4x4's at 5.30am. After leaving the road we started to transverse the stony desert in search of any life in the headlights. First birds were a small group of Bar-tailed Larks looking very finch-like and then some Cream-coloured Coursers were caught in the headlights. By now the light was getting better and we had seen a number of Hoopoe Larks and our first Brown-necked Ravens. We needed to get to Auberge Yasmina for sun rise so we headed there to see the first rays appear over the Erg Chebbi dunes and a small camel train appear out of the dunes...a real feeling of Lawrence of Arabia!!

After a refreshment/comfort stop we checked the nest boxes in the tamarisks but they were occupied by House Sparrows this year, so Lachen took us out into the desert to a small nomad farm where we had both singing African Desert Warbler and eventually a pair of beautifully plain Desert Sparrows.

Heady with success we headed south of Erg Chebbi to look for Houbara Bustard. We learnt that some foreign hunters had been in the area for four days, a fortnight ago, with fourteen 4x4's and hunted and killed 50 Houbara's with falcons and also Sandgrouse. This was disheartening news and we scoured the right habitat which had now been invaded by goats to no avail. However Lachen continued his quest when suddenly in front of us a Houbara Bustard took off, its huge black and white wings shining in the early morning sun. We followed it to where it landed and all four vehicles converged and were able to watch this large bird stride out over the stony desert, albeit at a great distance and with telescopes. We felt honoured to be able to see at least one living individual after the news of the hunting. We started to check a favoured area for sandgrouse and had some

superb close views of Cream-coloured Coursers and Hoopoe Larks, when two large larks with black under-wings alighted in front of us.

These were very confiding Thick-billed Larks, affording some nice photographic views and completing our list of expected lark species. Before lunch we came across a smart Isabelline Wheatear which even stopped for photos to prove its identification. We headed for the Hassilabied Berber Coop in Merzouga for lunch where we also saw examples of Berber carpets, jewellery and other handy work which some even bought to take home.

After lunch we headed back out onto the desert to look for Sandgrouse, not at an oasis but a feeding area which Lahcen knew. Here we managed to see a small party of Crowned Sandgrouse as they fed on the weedy sand dunes, and oblivious to our presence.

We started to make our way back to the hotel in Erfoud, calling at a fossil site en route and arrived back at 4.35pm. A quick break and a few joined Peter and Stuart to walk to the now dried up river where we had views of our first long-billed, sandy-coloured Maghreb Lark for the trip and both Green and Wood Sandpipers, Common Snipe and Little Ringed Plovers on the few puddles that were left. That night we congratulated ourselves on such a good day in the desert which lived up to and beyond our expectations.

Day 6

Tuesday 26th February

Cloudless, blue sky but cool wind in the morning, warmer in the afternoon

We left Erfoud at 8am and began our long journey westwards following the south side of the Anti-Atlas through spectacular and varied desert landscapes. First of all we headed south of Rissani to a small wadi. Peter had tried to contact the local guide but to no avail so he led the group to the site and within five minutes Stuart found the magnificent Pharaoh's Eagle Owl sitting on a cliff surveying its territory. After we had a satisfying look at this huge bird Peter led the group to some cliffs off the main road north of Rissani, where an adult Lanner Falcon appeared on the cliffs, quite close and in good light, so many were able to digiscope it.

We stopped for refreshments in Alnif, and continued onto a small wadi to the north of Tazzarine, where groups had previously seen Fulvous Babbler. As Mohamed and Aesham prepared the lunch we had a walk round, finding Moussier's Redstart and confiding Trumpeter Finch and Desert Larks. Peter tried to entice any babblers with calls and we got a reply from the distance. Eventually some of the group got brief views of two as they crossed the wadi. After another tasty lunch, a few wondered back up the wadi to see the babblers again and were successful, one of the few not to see them was Peter!!

On our way to the Draa Valley we stopped at the bridge over the Draa to add Little Egret to the list and take our last opportunity of a comfort stop and refreshments before the tortuous ascent of the Tinifit Pass rising to 1660m., and enjoyed spectacular views near the summit. The descent to the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi crossed beautiful countryside and we arrived with enough time to savour a variety of species on the fast disappearing water. New species for the trip included Greater Flamingos, Osprey and Yellow Wagtails. We were soon at our hotel in Ouarzazate enjoying the contents of the bar and dining room.

Day 7

Wednesday 27th February

Sunny start with cloud building in the afternoon and a 'few' spots of rain

We enjoyed a good couple hours birding at the Barrage after breakfast adding numerous birds to the list, including Bluethroat, Water Pipit, Stilts, Greenshank and the birds we had seen the previous evening, but in better light.

We set off west heading from Ouarzazate towards Taroudant and made stops for refreshments and to enjoy what bird life we could find along the way. The terrain became increasingly barren but we still had great views of a pair of Bonelli's Eagles sat on a pylon and a pair of Barbary Falcons which crossed over the road. We arrived at the Saffron Tea House where a cup of the local brew revived us with our lunch. Exploring the plantation we added Blackcap, Greenfinch and a surprise find by David Bell was two pairs of Brambling feeding with Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Serin. Before we left a nice male Moussier's Redstart entertained the photographers.

Now we entered the zone of the endemic Argan forest. This spinaceous tree bears fruits used for oil manufacture. Where we stopped to look at the trees, we also had a pair of singing Woodchat Shrikes in residence and Corn Buntings sang from the hillside. A quick stop at Oued Souss showed how little rain had fallen over the winter as there was just a trickle and the standing water that remained had Little Egret, White Stork and Grey Wagtail.

The final section of the day was the run in to Taroudant taking us through 80km of flat agricultural land with tall trees, orchards and some industrial development. This is prime habitat for Black-winged Kite and initially we saw a bird cross the road in front of us but disappear. However a little further we found one sat in the top of a dead tree which was more obliging and posed for photos. This same spot was also where we witnessed some visible migration as 100's of Black Kites were looking for roosting areas in the edges of the hills and were dropping out of the sky, whilst a continual passage of Red-rumped Swallows passed us heading west.

We arrived into Taroudant to be told that the ex-French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was staying at the hotel so we were quickly 'processed' and shown to our rooms which were of a high standard and comfortable. Another buffet dinner followed and the daily log.

Day 8

Thursday 28th February

Started cloudy but sunny and breezy along the coast

The call to prayer gave an atmospheric early alarm wake-up at 5.30am and after breakfast a few went to the roof of the hotel to watch the Pallid and Little Swifts above the roof tops.

We left in cloudy conditions but it became bright sunshine later. Travelling to Agadir we saw the Moroccan Magpies again, a few Little Swifts and a pair of photogenic Red-rumped Swallows but little else of interest until we turned north along the coast. We stopped alongside a small beach which held 40+ Audouin's Gulls and many Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls while a few Gannets moved offshore. We rounded Cap Rhir to overlook a small estuary near Tamri, and could see good numbers of gulls, with egrets and cormorants but no ibis. This was to be our lunch spot so as Mohamed and Aeshaw prepared this we walked to the lagoon to check

the birdlife. As we walked away a pair of Sardinian Warblers and a Zitting Cisticola was mobbing something in a tamarisk bush and Peter saw the tail end of a snake disappear into the undergrowth.

Checking the birds on the lagoon, we found Great Cormorant, Little Egrets, a Spoonbill and some Coot but soon two Bald Ibis were seen to fly onto the ridge opposite and immediately disappear into the vegetation. However a Short-toed Eagle flew north from Cap Rhir and amongst the birds that were put up by its presence were two Bald Ibis which flew right over us. Christine then picked up some more birds flying north and these turned out to be adult Moroccan Cormorants, a striking race of the Great Cormorant.

We had a nice lunch of fresh local cheese, French cheese, fresh bread and salad washed down with juices and were about to leave when two striking 'Moroccan' White Wagtails appeared in the 'car park' – a fitting end to our visit to Tamri – well that's what we thought when we left but just as we rounded the first bend back, a Stone Curlew flew up from the sea and landed close to the road and we had flight views as it travelled further inland!

We checked into our hotel in Agadir and had a short siesta before we visited Oued Souss at 4.30pm. The tide was just turning and Greater Flamingos were stood with a group of gulls which included Yellow-legged, Lesser Black-backed, Black-headed, Audouin's and Mediterranean. No sooner had we arrived when an Osprey flew over and spooked them all. We continued on to the next inlet to find the same birds, together with Sandwich Tern and Curlew. As we watched we were entertained by a Peregrine which flew around harrying these birds and seemed to be playing with them for at least 10 minutes!

We walked a trail between the palace and the golf course which was quite productive with Shoveler and Little Grebes on the pond, Serins in the weedy edges and two Barbary Partridges walked the track towards us pursued by a camel train! We had intended to wait until dusk for the Red-necked Nightjar, but the wind was too strong and cold, so we returned to the hotel for a warm dinner buffet.

Day 9

Friday 1st March

Sunny and hot and bright all day (up to 26 degrees C). Light breeze freshening pm

After breakfast we set off from Agadir and made our way south towards Oued Massa. This picturesque river valley and estuary supports a wealth of wildlife and plants. We stopped by a rubbish tip and seven unidentified sandgrouse flew up and over the hillside and the stony fields held a large flock of Lesser Short-toed Larks, a few Short-toed Larks and four Northern Wheatears.

Continuing on we arrived at the entrance track that led to the reserve. Mohamed and Aesham dropped us off so we could walk the length of the track and meet them at the picnic site. The river was quite high and immediately we started to see what was going to be a remarkable number of Subalpine Warblers. In the valley two Black-crowned Tchagra sang to each other but kept well hidden and a Sandwich Tern flew up river. A small group of Spanish Sparrow males were feeding around the entrance and Moussier's Redstarts fed close by whilst Zitting Cisticola called from the tall reeds and our first Plain Martins over the water. As we approached the village another Tchagra sang and some saw it briefly in a bush whilst most saw it a couple of times in flight. As we waited for it to appear, a Western Orphean Warbler appeared making the close-by Sardinians and Subalpine Warblers look small.

We eventually arrived at the National Park's car park where Mohamed and Aesham had prepared out last Naturetrek picnic on the tables.

After lunch we moved back towards the village of Massa and stopped at various points on the river. New for the trip was Stripe-necked Terrapin and we had good views of another Moroccan Cormorant and Plain Martins with a displaying pair of Black-shouldered Kite. Surprise of the tour however was a Great Snipe flushed from the muddy sides of the bridge, typical snipe colouration, large size, no call and huge white sides to the tail, flashed as it took off and dropped over a bank of tamarisks. Only five or six of the group saw it so Peter and Stuart led the rest to a viewing area on a side track to try and relocate it but only succeeded in seeing another Tchagra. This was a very rare sighting for Morocco (2nd record since 1999).

Our final stop on a bridge to the north, we were entertained by a fishing Sandwich Tern where the photographers attempted to capture the point of impact as the bird fed within 15 feet of us and at least four Plain Martins. We had spent a bit more time at Massa than was planned and we were delayed with traffic returning to our hotel so any further visits to Oued Souss were abandoned after a long hot day and we opted for drinks in the bar and to prepare for the next day, and our flight home.

Day 10

Saturday 2nd March

Hazy cool start, cloudy but warming up later with light breeze

The morning was free to do personal things such as visiting the Souk, or walk to the sea and add a few more species to the list such as Cory's Shearwater, Great and Arctic Skua. We checked out of the hotel at midday when Mohamed and Aesham took us to an Agadir Moroccan restaurant where we had both chicken and lamb tagines in the local style. The last few hours in the afternoon were spent at Oued Souss where we added Avocet to the list and had some nice flight views of Stone Curlew.

Booking in at Agadir was straight forward and we were soon on our way back to the UK and we said our goodbyes in the baggage area, after a very successful initial Moroccan tour this season.

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Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only; ✓ = commonly recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February/March									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
1	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>								2	1	
2	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>						1			H	
3	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		2			2	210	✓			
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>							✓	1	✓	
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		10				30	✓	30		
6	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		2					12			
7	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>								1		
8	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>										4
9	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>								2		
10	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		6						1		
11	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>						8	2	30		22
12	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	2			160	✓	✓		150
13	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>								8		
14	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>							3	10	1	1
15	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓		✓			✓	20	✓	
16	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		5				6	10	✓	✓	30
17	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1							1	
18	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						12	12	✓	✓	5
19	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>								30		20
20	Continental Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>		✓				1	5	✓	✓	✓
	Moroccan Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus</i>								3	3	
21	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						1	1	1		
22	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>							2		3	
23	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		12						150		
24	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				2				1		
25	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1				4	2			
26	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1	2				1			
27	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		2								
28	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		1	3	4						

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February/March									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
29	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>			1				2			
30	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	5			2		4	4			
31	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		1		1	1	2	6	✓	✓	2
32	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>						1				
33	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>								2		
34	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>				1			2			
35	Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>					1					
36	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>									6	
37	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>								4	✓	
38	Eurasian Stone-Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>								1		6
39	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								2		2
40	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							20			
41	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>										4
42	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					1		2			
43	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					1		3			8
44	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>							8		1	
45	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>									1	
46	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					1	2	1			
47	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>							1			
48	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								13		8
49	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							1			
50	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>							6		6	2
51	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					2	4	3		1	
52	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					1	1	1			
53	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>								1	2	3
54	Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>					12					
55	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓					✓	✓		H
56	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>								1		
57	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>								40		
58	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>								50		1
59	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>								✓	✓	H
60	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>								✓	✓	✓

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February/March										
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	
61	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>									3	1	5
62	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>											1
63	Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>											3
64	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>				5						7sp	
65	Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>					5						
66	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia livia</i>		6	✓	✓							
	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	2	✓						✓	H	✓	
68	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>									2	2	1
69	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	1	1	2	3	6			1	12	6
71	Pharaoh Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>						1					
72	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua glaux</i>										1	
73	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>										✓	✓
74	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	10	4							30		
76	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>						1			1	2	
77	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>										2	
78	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis elegans</i>		4		4							
	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis algeriensis</i>					2	3	6	1	1		
79	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>							10	4			1
80	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>								1			
81	North African Magpie	<i>Pica pica mauritanica</i>		4						✓	20	✓	
82	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>					10	6					
83	North African Raven	<i>Corvus corax tingitanus</i>		2							4		
84	Atlas Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater atlas</i>		2									
85	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		H						6		1	
86	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus</i>		3	2	2				1			
87	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>				3	✓						
88	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>					3						
89	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>					15						
90	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>		1		4	4	20					

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February/March									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
91	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			2			14	30		6	
92	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>			20						309	
93	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		2		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
94	Maghreb Lark	<i>Galerida macrorhyncha</i>					1		1			
95	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			20	2	1				1	
96	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			2							
97	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>			30	12						
98	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
99	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>									6	
100	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>									2	2
101	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	6	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		2	50	100		3	6			
103	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	2	4	✓	✓	✓		✓	
104	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		5					40	30	2	6
105	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H	1					H	
106	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	2	1	4	4	6	✓	2	50	
107	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>									H	
108	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>								2	20	3
109	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>						6				
110	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1						2	2	30	
111	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>									1	
112	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserti</i>					1					
113	Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>			2	2	2					
114	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>		1			4		1			
115	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>									20	
116	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	1	2					4	4	20	3
117	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		H								
118	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>							2			
121	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			4	5	2	2	4	1		
122	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>				1		2	3	2	6	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	February/March										
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	
123	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		5	1				1	2		6	
124	Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>			6								
125	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>					1						
126	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1						1		3	
127	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>		2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1		
128	Western Mourning Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugens halophila</i>				6							
129	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>		6	2	12	40	30	10			1	
130	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>		2	6	4				2			
131	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				2		2					
132	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
133	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	5	5						1		15	
134	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>					3						
135	Ashy-headed Yellow-wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava cinereocapilla</i>							1				
	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>							20	100			
136	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		1	1	2				2			
137	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>									2		
138	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>										2	18
139	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>							20				
140	African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>		✓	1					✓	✓	6	2
141	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>								4			
142	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓	1	✓			2	✓	✓	✓	3
143	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓						✓		✓	10
144	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		30					✓	✓		✓	3
145	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>								✓		2	
146	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>		20	35	✓	12	15	2				
147	North African Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra polioygna</i>		2									
148	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>								✓		35	
149	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			4								
150	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	2	2	4	✓	✓	4

Mammals

Common Gundi
Barbary Ground Squirrel

Ctenodactylus gundi
Atlantoxerus getulus

Fat Sand Rat

Psammomys obesus

Butterflies & Moths

Swallowtail
Large White
Small White
Bath White
Clouded Yellow
Pale Clouded Yellow
False Mallow Skipper
Plain Tiger

Papilio machaon
Pieris brassicae
Artogeia rapae
Pontia daplidice
Colias croceus
Colias hyale
Carcharodus tripolinus
Danaus chrysippus

Painted Lady
Speckled Wood
Small Copper
Greenish Black-tip
Humming-bird Hawk-Moth
Scarce Swallowtail
Common Blue

Vanessa cardui
Pararge aegeria aegeria
Lycaena phlaeas
Euchloe charlonia
Macroglossum stellatarum
Iphiclides podalirius
Polyommatus icarus

Dragonflies

Dragonfly sp (Brown Hawker)

Lesser Emperor

Anax parthenope

Other taxa

Side-striped Terrapin, Moorish Gecko, various sand/wall lizard sp., two unidentified snakes; Ground beetle sp., Dung beetle sp.; Red Flashwing; Egyptian Grasshopper; Bee Fly sp.; Pool Frogs; Barbary Spurge Hawk-moth caterpillar



Happy 2013 Naturetrek Group after the Desert day