

Morocco 22-29/3 2002

Participants

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General Aims

Since both SE and MGe had been to Morocco before, and none of us wanted to spend any time (more than necessary) in the car, we decided to concentrate our birding around Agadir. Most birders go to Morocco in the winter, we thought it would be interesting visiting Morocco during the spring, though. Spring should produce a lot of migrating birds, we thought. The aim was to see as many birds as possible, both potential Swedish vagrants and local specialities. SE was the only participant with his mind set on a few 'target-species', and these were: Red-necked Nightjar, Scrub Warbler and Royal Tern.

Itinerary

22/3: Oued Sous

23/3: Oued Massa

24/3: Sous valley, Oued Sous

25/3: Cap Rhir, Tamri, Agadir Harbour

26/3: S of Goulimime

27/3: S of Goulimime, Oued Sous

28/3: Oued Massa, Oued Sous

29/3: Agadir Harbour

Afterword

Most travel reports we had read before the trip, as well as our own experience (SE and MGe), warned about begging. But these prejudices were proved wrong. At most places the Moroccans were friendly and let us go about our own business. A lot of people were curious, though, four "white guys" running around in the desert with large "cameras" (hmmm.... who hadn't been curious?). It led to quite a few laughs, when trying in English (and sometimes Swedish!) to explain what we were doing to people speaking French and Arabic. Sign language seems to be international, and works perfectly. Oued Sous was the only place where we had some trouble. The guards didn't let us go to the best spots near the mouth. On the other hand, we didn't have any problems with previous reports of high crime rate at Oued Sous, perhaps it's worth some restriction in your birding to keep you safe.

Total list

For some species the notes are incomplete, these are marked with (*). Totally **185** species was seen during the week.

Little Grebe	Oued Massa ~50 (23/3); Oued Sayad 4 (26/3)
Cory's Shearwater	Cap Rhir 25 (25/3); Agadir, harbour 1 (26/3); Oued Massa 5 (28/3)
Med. Shearwater	Cap Rhir 7 (25/3); Agadir, harbour 1 (25/3)
European Storm-petrel	Agadir, harbour 2 (25/3)
Gannet	Seen all along the coast. Cap Rhir 500 (25/3)
Cormorant (<i>ssp.maroccanus</i>)	Seen on several places along the coast. Oued Massa ~25 (23/3)
Night Heron	Tamri 2 (25/3); Oued Massa 2 (23/3)
Squacco Heron	Oued Massa 10 (23/3), 6 (28/3)

Cattle Egret	Oued Massa 30 (23/3), 1 (28/3)
Little Egret	Common near fresh water. Oued Sous 60 (28/3)
Grey Heron	Common
Purple Heron	Oued Massa 1 (23/3)
White Stork	6 km w Taroudant 150 (24/3); Oued Sous 2 (24/3), 1 (27/3), 2 nesting (28/3); 26 km N Agadir 3 (25/3); Oued Sayad: 11 (26/3)
Glossy Ibis	Oued Massa 15 (23/3); Oued Sous 2 (24/3), 1 (27/3), 1 (28/3)
Bald Ibis	Oued Massa 4 (23/3), Tamri 10 (25/3)
Spoonbill	Oued Massa: 10 (23/3), 7 (28/3); Oued Sous: 15 (24/3), 20 (27/3), 8 (28/3)
Ruddy Shelduck	Oued Sous: 1 (24/3), (27/3) & (28/3)
Shelduck	Oued Sous: 20 (24/3) & (27/3)
Wigeon	Oued Massa: 5 (24/3) & (28/3)
Garganey	Oued Massa: 5 (24/3) & (28/3)
Teal	Oued Massa: 2 (24/3) & 8 (28/3)
Pintail	Oued Massa: 25 (24/3) & 10 (28/3)
Shoveler	Oued Massa: 10 (24/3) & 3 (28/3)
Marbled Teal	Oued Massa: 15 (24/3) & 5 (28/3)
Pochard	Oued Massa: 4 (24/3) & 2 (28/3)
Tufted Duck	Oued Massa: 3 (24/3) & (28/3)
Common Scoter	Cap Rhir 39 (25/3)
Hybrid: Mallard × ??	Oued Massa: 1 (24/3) & (28/3)
Black-winged Kite	12 km E Taroudant, Sous Valley: 1 (24/3)
Black Kite*	Aerodrome, Sous Valley: 3 (24/3); Oued Sayad, S. Goulimime: 4 (26/3)
Griffon Vulture	40 km SW Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Short-toed Eagle	Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3); 40 km SW Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Marsh Harrier*	Seen in Oued Massa, Sous Valley & S. Goulimime
Montagu's Harrier	35 observations (especially S. Goulimime), including 2 'dark morph' birds.
Sparrowhawk	Oued Massa: 2 (23/3); Oued Sayad: 3 (26/3).
Long-legged Buzzard	24 km SW Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Booted Eagle	Sous Valley: at least 4 (24/3); S. Goulimime 3 (26/3)
Osprey	Seen in Oued Massa, Oued Sous and Sous Valley
Lesser Kestrel	Agadir airport: 1 male (29/3)
Kestrel	Seen every day
Lanner	Sous Valley: 1 (24/3), S. Goulimime: 1 (27/3)
Barbary Falcon	Cap Rhir: 1 (25/3), S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3)
Barbary Partridge	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3)
Quail	Oued Massa 3 calling (23/3)
Moorhen	Oued Massa: 15 (23/3), Oued Sayad: 30 (26/3)
Coot	only seen in Oued Massa
Oystercatcher	Oued Sous: 30 (24/3), Cap Rhir: 50 + 250 migrating (25/3)
Black-winged Stilt*	Oued Massa: 85 (23/3), 20 (28/3); Oued Sous 150 (24/3), 50 (28/3); Oued Sayad: 5 (26/3);
Avocet	Oued Massa: 10 (23/3); Cap Rhir: 19 migrating (25/3); Oued Sous: 25 (24/3), 10 (28/3)
Stone-curlew	Oued Massa: 3 (23/3); Sous Valley: 6 (24/3), Oued Sous: 3 calling (22/3) & (24/3), 1 (28/3)
Cream-coloured Courser	Oued Massa (Upper track): 11 (23/3), 3 (28/3); Sous Valley: 16 (24/3); S. Goulimime: 12 (26/3), 4 (27/3)
Collared Pratincole	Sous Valley: 17 migrating (24/3)
Little Ringed Plover*	Oued Massa: 7 (23/3); Oued Sous: 5 (25/3); Oued Sayad: 2 (26/3)
Ringed Plover*	Oued Massa: 2 (23/3); Oued Sous: 200 (24/3)

Kentish Plover*	Oued Massa: 40 (23/3); Oued Sous: 70 (24/3)
Golden Plover	Oued Sous: 1 (24/3)
Grey Plover*	Oued Sous: 100 (24/3) & 25 (28/3)
Knot	Oued Sous: 1 (24/3)
Sanderling*	Oued Massa: 15 (23/3) & (29/3); Oued Sous: 10 (25/3), 3 (27/3) & 10 (28/3)
Little Stint	Oued Massa: 75 (23/3) & 15 (28/3); Oued Sous: 30 (24/3), 15 (27/3) & 10 (28/3)
Curlew sandpiper	Oued Massa: 5 (23/3) & 3 (28/3); Oued Sous: 10 (24/3), 3 (27/3)
Dunlin	Oued Massa: 50 (23/3) & 8 (28/3); Oued Sous: 60 (24/3), 15 (27/3) & 40 (28/3)
Ruff*	Oued Massa: 15 (23/3); Oued Sous: 50 (24/3)
Snipe*	Oued Massa: 15 (23/3);
Black-tailed Godwit	Oued Massa: 10 (23/3) & 9 (28/3)
Bar-tailed Godwit*	Oued Massa: 5 (23/3) & 5 (28/3)
Whimbrel	Oued Sous: 1 (24/3)
Curlew	Oued Sous: 5 (24/3) & 1 (28/3)
Spotted Redshank	Oued Sous: 3 (24/3)
Redshank*	Oued Sous: 90 (24/3) & 25 (28/3)
Marsh Sandpiper	Oued Sous: 1 (27/3)
Greenshank*	Oued Massa: 10 (23/3); Oued Sous: 20 (24/3)
Green Sandpiper*	Oued Massa: 6 (23/3); Oued Sous: 2 (24/3); Tamri: 1 (25/3); Oued Sayad: 7 (26/3)
Wood Sandpiper*	Oued Massa: 3 (23/3); Oued Sous: 9 (24/3)
Common Sandpiper*	Oued Massa: 5 (23/3); Oued Sous: 7 (24/3)
Ruddy Turnstone	Cap Rhir: 1 migrating (25/3)
Pomarine Skua	Agadir Harbour: 4 (29/3)
Arctic Skua	Cap Rhir: 20 (25/3); Agadir Harbour: 10 (25/3) & (29/3)
Skua sp	Oued Massa: 10 (28/3)
Great Skua	Cap Rhir: 4 (25/3); Agadir Harbour: 1 (25/3)
Mediterranean Gull	Oued Sous: 6 (24/3), 10 (27/3) & 1 (28/3); Agadir Harbour: 1 (29/3)
Little Gull	Oued Sous: 1 2y (24/3) & (27/3)
Black-headed Gull*	Oued Sous: 80 (24/3)
Slender-billed Gull	Oued Sous: 2 (28/3)
Audouin's Gull	Oued Massa: 3 (23/3) & 51 (28/3); Oued Sous: 2 (24/3), 1 (27/3) & 30 (28/3); Tamri: 6 (25/3), 26 km N. Agadir: 4 (25/3); Agadir Harbour: 1 (29/3)
Common Gull	Oued Sous: 1 (24/3)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Common along the coast
Yellow-legged Gull	Common along the coast
Gull-billed Tern	Oued Massa: 2 (23/3); Oued Sous: 50 (24/3), 8 (27/3) & 5 (28/3); 26 km N. Agadir: 4 (25/3)
Caspian Tern	Oued Sous: 1 (27/3)
Lesser-Crested Tern	26 km N. Agadir (Agadir - Cap Rhir): 2 (25/3)
Sandwich Tern	Oued Massa: 30 (23/3) & 80 (28/3); Oued Sous: 200 (24/3) & (27/3), 400 (28/3); 26 km N. Agadir: 10 (25/3)
Common Tern	Oued Sous: 3 (28/3)
Arctic Tern	Oued Sous: 2 (28/3)
Common/Arctic Tern	Oued Sous: 5 (28/3)
Razorbill	Cap Rhir: 1 (25/3)
Auk sp.	Cap Rhir: 2 (25/3)
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	Oued Massa: 2 (23/3); 42 km S. Goulimime: 7 (26/3)
Sandgrouse sp.	40 km S. Goulimime: 11 (26/3)
Rock Dove	
Common Wood Pigeon	Sous Valley: 50 (24/3)

Laughing Dove	Oued Massa: 15 (23/3)
Collared Dove	Fairly common round Agadir and in cultivated area S. Agadir. Agadir: 20 (22/3)
Turtle Dove*	Oued Massa: 4 (23/3); Oued Sous: 1 (25/3) & (27/3), 5 (28/3); Tamri: 2 (25/3); Sous Valley: 1 (24/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 1 (27/3)
Little Owl	Oued Massa: 4 (23/3); Sous Valley: 1 (24/3)
Red-necked Nightjar	Oued Sous (Royal Palace): 2 (22/3) & (24/3), 1 (27/3)
Common Nightjar(??)	Oued Sous (Royal Palace): 1 (22/3)
Nightjar sp.	Sous Valley (bridge over Sous): 1 (24/3)
Alpine Swift	Sous Valley: 1 (24/3), Agadir Airport: 1 (29/3)
Common Swift	Fairly common,
Pallid Swift	Fairly common, Agadir: 30 (22/3)
Little Swift	Agadir: 5 (22/3); Sous Valley: 6 (24/3)
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	km 35, S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Bee-eater*	66 (24/3), 2 (25/3), 97 (26/3), 11 (27/3) & 31 (28/3)
Hoopoe	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3); Sous Valley: 1 (24/3); Cap Rhir: 1 (25/3); Oued Sayad: 10 (26/3) & 6 (27/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3);
Wryneck	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3); 42 km S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3)
Bar-tailed Desert Lark	35 km S. Goulimime: 5 (27/3)
Hoopoe Lark	34 km S. Goulimime: 2 singing (27/3)
Thick-billed Lark	40 km S. Goulimime: 3 (26/3); 42 km S. Goulimime: 3 (26/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 17 (27/3)
Short-toed Lark	Oued Massa (Upper Track): 2 (22/3) & 4 (28/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 10 (26/3) & 24 (27/3); 42 km S. Goulimime: 20 (26/3); 40 km S. Goulimime: 1 (27/3)
Lesser Short-toed Lark	Oued Massa (Upper Track): 3 (22/3 & 28/3); Sous Valley: 1 (24/3)
Crested Lark*	Sous Valley: 2 (24/3)
Thekla Lark *	Oued Massa: 2 (22/3); Sous Valley: 2 (24/3)
Thekla/Crested Lark	Common
Temminck's Lark	35 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3) & 14 (27/3); 42 km S. Goulimime: 30 (26/3)
Brown-thr. Sand Martin	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3); Sous Valley (bridge over Sous, SW Tardouannt): 2 (24/3)
Sand Martin	Fairly common
Barn Swallow	Common
Red-rumped Swallow*	Sous Valley: 1 (24/3); Tamri: 1 (25/3); Oued Sayad: 6 (26/3) & 2 (27/3); 40 km S. Goulimime: 3 (26/3) & 1 (27/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 1 (27/3); Oued Massa: 50 (28/3) – influx!; Agadir Airport: 1 (29/3) – last bird seen in Morocco.
House Martin	Common
Tawny pipit	Oued Massa: 2 (23/3); Sous Valley: 1 (24/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3) & 6 (27/3); 40 km S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3);
Tree pipit	Oued Massa: 3 (23/3); Oued Sous: 1 (24/3); Tamri: 1 (25/3); S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3) & 7 (27/3)
Meadow pipit	Oued Sous: 1 (24/3); Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3)
Yellow Wagtail* (ssp.iberiae)	Oued Massa: 2 (23/3)
(ssp. <i>flava</i>)	Oued Massa: 20 (23/3); Agadir-Cap Rhir: 20 (25/3)
(ssp. <i>flavissima</i>)	Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3)
White Wagtail*	Oued Massa: 3 (23/3); S. Goulimime: 2 (27/3)
(ssp. <i>subpersonata</i>)	Oued Sous: 2 (28/3)
Common Bulbul	Fairly common, Agadir: 15 (22/3)
Rufous Bush Robin	Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3); 40 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Nightingale	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3 & 28/3); Sous Valley: 1 (24/3); Tamri: 1 (25/3); Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3); 40 km S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3)

Bluethroat	Oued Sayad: 2 (26/3), 24.5 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3); 40 km S. Goulimime: 2
(ssp. <i>cyaneacula</i>)	Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3); 40 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Common Redstart*	Tamri: 1 (25/3); Oued Sayad: 1 (26-27/3); Sous Valley: 2 (24/3); Anti Atlas: 1 (27/3)
Moussier's Redstart*	Oued Massa: 7 (23/3) & 1 (28/3); Tamri: 2 (25/3); Agadir – Cap Rhir: 1 (25/3)
Whinchat	35 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Stonechat	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3 & 28/3);
Northern Wheatear*	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3); Sous Valley: 2 (24/3); Agadir Harbour: 1 (25/3); 24.5 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 5 (26/3)
Black-eared Wheatear	Oued Massa: 3 (23/3); Sous Valley: 1 (24/3); Cap Rhir - Tamri: 2 (25/3); Agadir – Cap Rhir: 1 (25/3); Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3) & 2 (27/3); 40 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26-27/3); 42 km S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3)
Desert Wheatear	Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3) & 3 (27/3); 40 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Red-rumped Wheatear	40 km S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3) & 3 (27/3); 42 km S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3); 35 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
White-crowned Bl. Wheat.	Tagannt (Goulimime-Tiznitz): 1 2y (27/3)
Black Wheatear	Anti Atlas: 1 (27/3)
Blue Rock Thrush	Tamri: 2 (25/3)
Blackbird	Common
Song Thrush	Sous Valley (the bridge over Sous): 1 (24/3); Oued Sayad: 1 (27/3)
Cetti's Warbler	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3)
Fan-tailed Warbler	Locally common
Scrub Warbler	40 km SW. Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Moustached Warbler	Tamri: 1 (25/3)
Sedge Warbler	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3); Oued Sayad: 20 (26/3) & 7 (27/3)
Reed Warbler	Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3)
Olivaceous Warbler	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3); Oued Sayad: 5 (26-27/3); 24,5 km S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3);
Melodious Warbler	Oued Sayad: 2 (26/3)
Tristram's Warbler	35 km S. Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Spectacled Warbler*	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3); Sous Valley: 2 (24/3); Cap Rhir – Tamri: 1 (25/3); 40 km SW. Goulimime: 2 (26/3)
Subalpine Warbler*	Oued Massa: 15 (23/3); Sous Valley (the bridge over Sous): 6 (24/3) Tamri: 1 (25/3); S. Goulimime: 400! (26/3) & 35 (27/3); Anti Atlas: 1 (27/3)
Sardinian Warbler	Very common, not as common as Subalpine Warbler though.
Orphean Warbler	Oued Sayad (S. Goulimime): 1 (26/3); 1 km SW Goulimime: 2 (26/3); 24,5 km S. Goulimime: 3 (26/3); 40 km SW. Goulimime: 2 (26/3)
Whitethroat	Sous Valley (the bridge over Sous): 2 (24/3); S. Goulimime: 2 (26/3) & 1 (27/3)
Blackcap	Uncommon
Bonelli's Warbler	Sous Valley (the bridge over Sous): 3 (24/3); 5 km N. Goulimime: 1 (26/3); Oued Sayad: 7 (26/3); 40 km SW. Goulimime: 1 (27/3); Anti Atlas: 1 (27/3), Oued Sous: 1 (27/3)
Chiffchaff*	Oued Massa: 10 (23/3); Sous Valley (the bridge over Sous): 2 (24/3); S. Goulimime: 15 (26/3)
Willow Warbler*	Oued Massa: 3 (23/3); Sous Valley (the bridge over Sous): 1 (24/3) Tamri: 1 (25/3); S. Goulimime: 100 (26/3) & 40 (27/3)
Pied Flycatcher	Tamri: 1 (25/3); Oued Sayad: 1 (26/3)

Fulvous Babbler	5 km N. Goulimime: 2 (26/3); Oued Sayad: 4 (26/3) & 10 (27/3)
Blue Tit (<i>ssp. ultramarinus</i>)	Oued Sous: 1 (27-28/3)
Great Tit	Uncommon
Black-crowned Tchagra	Oued Massa: 6 (23/3) & 1 (28/3)
Grey Shrike (<i>ssp. algeriensis</i>)	Oued Massa: 1 (23/3); Sous Valley: 2 (24/3);
(<i>ssp. meridionalis</i>)(?)	S. Goulimime: 10 (26/3) 40 km SW. Goulimime: 4 (27/3)
Woodchat Shrike	Oued Massa: 6 (23/3); Sous Valley (the bridge over Sous): 5 (24/3); S. Goulimime: 80 (26/3) & 2 (27/3)
Magpie (<i>ssp. mauritanica</i>)	Fairly common (especially around Agadir)
Raven	Cap Rhir – Tamri: 3 (25/3)
Spotless Starling	Fairly common, especially in the Agadir area. Agadir: 15 (22/3)
House Sparrow	Common
Chaffinch* (<i>ssp. africana</i>)	Oued Massa: 3 (23/3); Sous Valley: 2 (24/3)
Serin	Common
Greenfinch	Common
Goldfinch	Locally common
Common Linnet	Locally common
Trumpeter Finch	35 km S. Goulimime: 2 (26-27/3); 40 km SW. Goulimime: 5 (26/3)
Cirl Bunting	Sous Valley (10 km E. Tardoudannt): 1 (24/3); Tamri: 2 (25/3)
Rock Bunting	Anti Atlas: 3 (27/3)
House Bunting*	Oued Massa: 2 (23/3); Sous Valley: 2 (24/3); Tamri: 2 (25/3); Cap Rhir: 2 (25/3); Goulimime: 5 (26-27/3); Tagannt: 2 (27/3)
Ortolan Bunting	40 km SW. Goulimime: 1 (26/3)
Corn Bunting*	Oued Massa: 2 (23/3)

//This report is written by Måns Grundsten. The lists of day-to-day observations as well as the total list are made by Johan Stållberg. Comments and responses are preferably sent to m.grundsten@spray.se.