

Tripreport Morocco 18.4. – 2.5.2003

Team: Claudio Koller, Diana Briel, Benjamin Sutter

Flight return with Air France Zürich – Casablanca (Change in Paris)

Renting-car: Peugeot 306 for two weeks, Airport Casablanca (1250.- SFr)

Literature:

- ? Prion: A Birdwatcher's Guide to Morocco (P. and F. Bergier)
- ? Arlequin: A Birdwatching Guide to Morocco (P. Combridge and A. Snook)
- ? Recommended: Bird of Morocco (Bergier 2003)

Itinerary and places to observe:

- 18.4.03: Flight to Casablanca – Sidi Bourhaba – Kenitra
- 19.4.03: Kenitra – Sidi Bourhaba – Airport Casablanca (luggage) – (Rabat –) Moulay Bouselham (Merdja Zerga)
- 20.4.03: Moulay Bouselham (Merdja Zerga) and environs
- 21.4.03: Moulay Bouselham (Merdja Zerga) – Sidi Yahya de Zaer – Sidi Bettache – Meknes (Fes) – Ifrane
- 22.4.03: Ifrane – Dayet Aaoua (Lake-region)– Boulemane – Zeida
- 23.4.03: Zeida – Sidi Ali – Er Rachidia
- 24.4.03: Er Rachidia – Erfoud – all the way through the desert along the white stones to Yasmina
- 25.4.03: Yasmina – Chez Michel (Hotel and Oasis)
- 26.4.03: St. Michel – Boumalne Dades
- 27.4.03: Tagdilt-Track
- 28.4.03: Tagdilt-Track – Ouarzazate – Taliouine
- 29.4.03: Aoulouz – Taroudannt – Agadir (Oued Souss)
- 30.4.03: Oued Massa and Souss
- 1.5.03: Oued Souss – Cap Rir – Tamri – Essaouira
- 2.5.03: Essaouira – Casablanca

Birdlist:

1. Little Crebe

Common

2. Great Crested Crebe

Mergja Zerga. Tajet Aaoua

Shearwater Sp.

Oued Souss. Cap Rhir

3. Gannet

Everywhere along the seaside

4. Cormorant

Oued Massa (Ssp maroccanus)

5. Cattle Egret

Very common

6. Squacco Heron

Mergja Zerga. Oued Massa

7. Little Egret

Common

8. Grey Heron

Regularly in small numbers

9. Purple Heron

Merja Zerga

10. White Stork

Common in the north

11. Bald Ibis

30-40 Ex. Tamri:

The Ibises were actually much easier to find than we have expected. During this time of the year they can be watched near their breedingplace about 7km north of Tamri. They breed in a cliff near the sea. The area is a natural reserve which luckily is strictly observed by guards. You are not allowed to enter the reserve without a guide or a permission! But it is neither necessary to disturb the birds, you can have very good views on them already from the parking near the road. There they are flying overhead towards the near fields to feed. If you follow the road some further, it starts climbing up the hill. From here you can see them on the ground, but you'll probably need a telescope.

12. Spoonbill

2Juv. Oued Massa. 30 Ex. Oued Souss

13. Greater Flamingo

about 400 Ex Mergja Zerga. about 100 Ex Oued Souss

14. Ruddy Shelduck

Sidi Ali and more places to the south.

15. Mallard

Common

16. Marbled Duck

17 Ex Sidi Bourhaba

17. Red crested Pochard

Some families at Sidi Bourhaba

18. Egyptian Vulture

1 Ex between Ouarzazate and Taliouline

19. Osprey

1 Ex Mergja Zerga

20. Short-toed Eagle

1 Ex Tajet Aaoua. 1 Ex between Aoulouz und Taroudannt. 3 Ex Oued Massa

21. Booted Eagle

Regularly, about 10 Ex during the trip

Eagle Sp.

2 Ex Near Aoulouz, propably juvenile Bonelli's Eagles.

22. Black Kite

Common

23. Marsh Harrier

Regularly in the north

24. Black-shoulderd Kite

4 Ex between Sidi de Zaers and Sidi Bettache. 3 Ex south of Meknes

25. Montagu's Harrier

Only in the north, about 10 Ex on the trip

26. Long-legged Buzzard

1 Ex near Boumalne. 2 Ex Tagdilt Track

27. Common Buzzard

Common

28. Honey Buzzard

2 Ex near Aoulouz

29. Sparrowhawk

Common

30. Goshawk

1 Ex near Sidi Bettache

31. Kestrel

Common

32. Hobby

1 Ex Sidi Bourhaba. 1 Ex near Zeida

33. Eleonora's Falcon

At least 30 Ex near Essouari : They breed on the island, so they're easily watched flying from there to the coast, but on rather long distances. You can see them much better and also perched at a little river where they come to drink (at least in the morning).

34. Lanner

1 Ex chasing after a Kestrel and finally stealing his prey! Shortly before Taroudannt

35. Barbary Partridge

2 Ex Sidi Bettache

36. Quail

calling at Sidi Bettache

37. Moorhen

Common

38. Coot

Common

39. Crested Coot

At least 3 families at Sidi Bourhaba. About 50 Ex Ajed Aaoua

40. Purple Gallinule

2 Ex Sidi Bourhaba

41. Oystercatcher

Common

42. Avocet

about 20 Ex Oued Souss and Massa

43. Black-winged Stilt

20 Ex Mergja Zerga. 3 Ex Oued Massa

44. Stone Curlew

3 Ex Mergja Zerga. 3 Ex Oued Souss

45. Cream-coloured Courser

40 Ex Tagdilt Track. 2 Ex before Taliouline

46. Collared Pratincole
Common in Mergja Zerga

47. Little Ringed Plover
Common

48. Ringed Plover
Common at the coastside

49. Kentish Plover
Common at the coastside

50. Grey Plover
Common at the coastside

51. Lapwing
Some at Mergja Zerga

52. Knot
Regularly in both the Oueds (Souss and Massa)

53. Sanderling
Common at the coastside

54. Turnstone
25 Ex Cap Blanc

55. Dunlin
Common at the coastside

56. Curlew Sandpiper
2 Ex Mergja Zerga. common in the Oueds

57. Little Stint
2 Ex Oued Massa

58. Common Sandpiper
Common

59. Redshank
1 Ex Oued Souss. 10 Ex Cap Rhir

60. Greenshank
Common at the coastside

61. Marsh Sandpiper
1 Ex Mergja Zerga

62. Black-tailed Godwit
1 Ex Oued Souss

63. Bar-tailed Godwit
Regularly at Oued Souss

64. Curlew
Common

65. Whimbrel
1 Ex caost near Sidi Bourhaba. 2 Ex near Cap Rhir

66. Arctic Skua
1 Ex Oued Souss, on the sea.

67. Black-headed Gull

about 10 Ex Oued Souss

68. Common Gull

1 Ex Oued Souss

69. Mediteranean Gull

1 Ex Coast near Sidi Bourhaba

70. Yellow-legged Gull

Common

71. Audouin's Gull

Regularly at the coast (Sidi Bourhaba, Oued Souss, Massa)

72. Lesser Black-backed Gull

Common

73. Iceland Gull !

1 Ex subadult at Oued Souss (We have reported that unusual observation later to the moroccan raritie-comission)

74. Little Tern

Common at the Oueds

75. Sandwich Tern

Common at the Oueds

76. Gull-billed Tern

Common at the coast

77. Common Tern

Common

78. Arctic Tern

Some at Oued Souss

79. Caspian Tern

2 Ex Mergja Zerga

80. Lesser Crested Tern

12 Ex Oued Souss. 4 Ex Oued Massa

81. Black Tern

Common along the coast

82. Whiskered Tern

1 Ex Mergja Zerga

83. Black-bellied Sandgrouse

5 Ex Zeida

1 Ex calling, Tagdilt Track. 3 Ex on the Sandbank at Oued Massa

84. Crowned Sandgrouse

3 Ex calling at Tagdilt Track. They're rather easy to hear, but nearly impossible to see!

85. Rock Dove

Common in the Atlas

86. Wood Pigeon

Regular

87. Collared Dove

Common

88. Turtle Dove

Common

89. Cuckoo

1 Ex Oasis Chez Michel

90. Marsh Owl

No luck at Sidi Bourhaba!

10-12 Ex at Mergja Zerga : First we tried the spot near the camping, where all the guides tell that you can easily find the bird at dusk, but there was no signe of them! It seems that in spring they are not here. Luckily we found a local birdwatcher who could show us a roostingplace of some male ones.

91. Little Owl

1 Ex Oued Massa (Ssp. saharae)

92. Red-necked Nightjar

At least 5 Ex Oued Souss

93. Swift

Common

94. Pallid Swift

Regularly, mainly through the Atlas

95. Little Swift

Colony in Berrechid and at Casablanca Airport

96. Hoopoe

Few in the Souss-Valley

97. Bee-eater

Regular

98. Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

9 Ex at Tagdilt Track (in the middle of the desert!?).

99. Roller

2 Ex near Meknes. 1 Ex Zeida

100. Levaillant's Woodpecker

1 Ex Ajet Aaoua

101. Great Spotted Woodpecker

Common in the north

102. Wryneck

Few migrants in the desert.

103 Skylark

2 Ex Sidi Bettache area.

104 Crested Lark

Common

105. Thekla Lark

Common

106. Short-toed Lark

Some flocks at Tagdilt Track

107. Lesser Short-toed Lark

10 Ex in the in the plain before Zeida

108. Desert Lark

Some between Ouarzazate and Taliouline

109. Bar-tailed Desert Lark

4 Ex Erg Chebbi near Café Yasmina. 3 Ex Tagdilt Track

110. Thick-billed Lark

2 Ex north of Zeida. 2 Ex Tagdilt Track

111. Shore Lark

5 Ex in the high Atlas near Sidi Ali.

112. Temminck's Horned Lark

Common at the Tagdilt Track

113. Dupont's Lark

5 Ex singing, but only one sighting. At the place near Zeida.

114. Hoopoe Lark

Common at Erg Chebbi and at the Tagdilt Track

115. Sand Martin

Several sightings during the trip

116. Crag Martin

Some in the high Atlas

117. Swallow

Common

118. Red-rumped Swallow

2 Ex Erg Chebbi. 2 Ex Aoulouz

119. House Martin

Common

120. Tawny Pipit

1 Ex south of Boulemane

121. White Wagtail

Regular (Ssp. subpersonata)

122. Yellow Wagtail

Regular

123. Grey Wagtail

1 Ex Oued Souss

124. Wren

?

125. Common Bulbul

Regular

126. Robin

1 Ex singing near Aoulouz.

127. Nightingale

Regular

128. Rufous Bush Robin

1 Ex near Essaouira, flying across the road.

129. Redstart

Regular migrant in the desert.

130. Black Redstart

1 Ex north of Ifrane

131. Moussier's Redstart

Quite easily found in dry areas

132. Northern Wheatear

Ssp. Seebohmi mainly in the Atlas and desert region.

133. Desert Wheatear

Regular in the Plain before Zeida, Erg Chebbi and Tagdilt Track.

134. Black-eared Wheatear

1 Ex in the Plain before Zeida. 1 Ex Oued Massa

135. Mourning Wheatear

1 Pair at Tagdilt Track

136. White-crowned Black Wheatear

Common in the south (desert).

137. Black Wheatear

Regular in the Atlas and in the south, covers another habitat than White-crowned Black Wheatear.

138. Red-rumped Wheatear

Regular in the plain before Zeida and at Tagdilt Track.

139. Whinchat

Regular migrang in the dryer areas.

140. Stonechat

About 10 Ex Oued Massa

141. Mistle Thrush

2 Ex Sidi Bettache area

142. Blackbird

Common

143. Blackcap

Migrant in the desert

144. Garden Warbler

1 Ex Mergja Zerga

145. Sardinian Warbler

Regular

146. Whitethroat

2 Ex near Cafe Yasmina (Erg Chebbi)

147. Spectacled Warbler

1 Ex female near Café Yasmina

148. Subalpine Warbler

1 Ex near Ajet Aaoua. 2 Ex Cafe Yasmina

149. Tristram's Warbler

1 Ex male near Ajet Aaoua

150. Scrub Warbler

1 Ex Erfoud

151. Fan-tailed Warbler

Common

152. Cetti's Warbler

Regular

153. Reed Warbler

1 Ex singing at Oued Massa

154. Melodious Warbler

1 Ex singing Oasis Er Rachidia. 2 Ex Café Yasmina (Erg Chebbi)

155. Olivaceous Warbler

5 Ex Mergja Zerga. 1 Ex Oasis Chez Michel

156. Willow Warbler

Migrant in the desert

157. Wood Warbler

1 Ex Café Yasmina

158. Bonelli's Warbler

Common migrant in the desert

159. Firecrest

1 Ex Ajet Aaoua

160. Spotted Flycatcher

Migrant in oasis Er Rachidia and at Cafe Yasmina

161. Pied Flycatcher

1 Ex Café Yasmina. 1 Ex Oasis Chez Michel

162. Great Tit

Common

163. Blue Tit

Common (Ssp. ultramarinus)

164. Coal Tit

2 Ex Ajet Aaoua

165. Nuthatch

1 Ex Ajet Aaoua

166. Short-toed Treecreeper

1 Ex Ajet Aaoua

167. Woodchat Shrike

Regular

168. Southern Grey Shrike

Regular at the coast (Ssp. algeriensis) and in the country (Ssp. elegans)

169. Black-crowned Tchagra

2 Ex singing, 1 sighting at Oued Massa

170. Fulvous Babbler

5 Ex Oasis Chez Michel

171. Magpie

Regular along the coast (Ssp. mauretunica)

172. Jay

2-3 Ex Sidi Bettache area

173. Jackdaw

about 10 Ex Mergja Zerga

174. Raven

Mainly in the Atlas

175. Spotless Starling

Regular

176. Golden Oriole

2 Ex Sidi Bettache

177. House Sparrow

Common

178. Spanish Sparrow

Some in the north

179. Rock Sparrow

Regular around Ifrane

180 Desert Sparrow

Some families at the Café Yasmina

181. Caffinch

at least 1 Ex Ssp. africana Tajet Aaoua

182. Linnet

183. Goldfinch

Common

184. Greenfinch

185. Serine

186. Hawfinch

80-100 Ex Ajet Aaoua

187. Trumpeter Finch

Some between Ouarzazate and Taliouline

188. Corn Bunting

Common at Sidi Bettache area

189. House Bunting

Regular in the south.