

Morocco (25 January – 8 February 2005)

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Some highlights included:

25.1.: **Souss Massa:** 1 Red-necked-Nightjar (male singing and flying around, next to the Royal Palace), a Red-throated Pipit, dozens of Chiffchaffs, including a few Iberian (voice), 1 Gull-billed Tern.

26.1. **Oued Massa:** a female American Wigeon(photo, digiscoping), 1 Barbary Falcon, 48 Bald Ibis, a first Woodchat Shrike, 1 Black-Throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*) flying in southerly directions.

27.1. **some 30 km South of Guelmime:** 100 Lesser Short-toed Larks, 150 Temminck's Horned Larks, 20 Bar-tailed Larks, 35 Thick-billed Larks, Hoopoe Larks and 20 Kentish Plovers (!) within one uncultivated field (looking for seed ?), 3 Lanners chasing overhead, a couple of Scrub warblers in a small wadi and 15 Fulvous babblers in an Oasis about 18 km south of Guelmime, additionally 3 Red Foxes and 1 Sand Fox (*V. rueppeli*).

29.1. **Souss-Valley:** 4-5 Black-shouldered Kites, a possible Dark-chanting Goshawk passing by (about 15 km east of Taroundant and about 4 km North of Freija) in Agrania steppe. It was certainly no Sparrowhawk, Goshawk or a Hen Harrier, unfortunately the bird was flying in back light of the rising sun. It was relatively slender but broad-winged. **10 km west of Aoulouz** we saw an immature Tawny Eagle and an African Wild Cat. In the wadi of Aoulouz was a pair of Peregrines (no Barbary Falcons !) and a Purple Heron.

On the **road 7025** through the Anti-Atlas: 1 Barbary Falcon (ad male), 1 Black Kite

30.1. **Black Cliff 25 km south of Tata:** 1 singing male of Pharaoh Eagle Owl; **oasis 18 km south of Tata:** 32 Crowned Sandgrouses drinking (digiscoping), at least 4 African Rock Martins (I guess that my colleague took photos) and a possible second calendar year female TREE SWALLOW (North American species): Definitely no hybrid of Barn Swallow and House Martin and no Sand Martin (but sadly: no photo !!), **Foum Zguid** (30 km west of it): 1 Brown-necked Raven, **Tissint:** an African Rock or Crag Martin

31.1. **Tinerhir:** 4 Mourning Wheatears, **Erfoud:** 1,1 Sparrowhawks, **Erg Chebbi** at Cafe Yasmina. 2 Pharaoh Eagle Owl males singing at night (one observed).

1.-3.2. **Erg Chebbi:** about 60 Brown-necked Ravens and 4 Desert sparrows, despite intensive search no Desert warblers were found!! 2.2.: a female Mourning Wheatear; 3.2. **Rissani:** 1 Crag Martin

3.2. Midelt (3 km before **Zeida**): a flock of 50 Dupont's Larks (snow just melted)

4.2. **Sidi Bettache:** 3-4 Double-spurred francolins (1-2 observed foraging in Hunting Reservoir, two others singing; here also 2 Red Deer), 5 Black-shouldered Kites, a Black Kite, 2 Levillant's Woodpeckers, 1 Black-crowned night Heron, a first cuckoo, at the Pond: 5 Marbled Ducks and 4 Red-knobbed Coots with 300 Coots

5.2. **Lagoons of Sidi Moussa - Oualida:** among other things: 10 Black-necked Grebes, 1 Great Skua, 30 Whiskered terns, 1 Reed Warbler, 4 MARSH SANDPIPER, 8.000 Golden Plovers, 1.000 (!) Marbled Ducks, 1000 Northern Shovelers, 2 Garganeys, 1 BLUE-WINGED TEAL (male, digiscoping), 1 GREEN-WINGED TEAL (male, flew away because of a Marsh Harrier before photographing)

6.2. **Oued Souss:** 3 Red-rumped Swallows (mud banks not visitable because of the King), **Oued Massa:** 1 Black-necked Grebe, 3 Ferruginous Ducks, 2-3 Sedge warblers

7.2. **Oued Massa:** 1 female Little Crane, 5 Sedge warblers, 1 Squacco Heron, a probable WESTERN REFF EGRET (white morph, digiscoping), 1 Great Skua, 1st winter Common Gull (digiscoping) .

Tristram's Warbler were numerous in desert areas south of the AntiAtlas and Blackcrowend Tchagras were seen at Oued Massa, Tamri, Souss Plain and Sidi Bettache, at the Atlantic coast we had a few observations of Pallid swifts.