

## MOROCCO Species list: 29 December 2006 - 6 January 2007

**Route:** Marrakech, Oued Massa, Tamri, Sous Valley, Taroudannt, Tizi-n-test road (Southern ascent) incl. Tafingoult Argan Forest, Aoulouz, Ouarzazate, Mansour Dam, Boumaine Dades (Tagdilt track), Erg Chebbi, and back via Ouarzazate, Oukaimeden to Marrakech.

Details are given of records which do not follow established patterns or represent significant counts or locations. Details of these sightings and others can be supplied, if required.

### Bird species recorded

Species		Comments
Little Grebe		
Great Crested Grebe		Mansour Dam 2 Jan 2007: c50
Balearic Shearwater		
Northern Gannet		
Cormorant		
Bittern *		Oued Massa 30 Dec 2006: 1
Squacco Heron		Oued Massa 30 Dec 2006: 1
Little Egret		
Cattle Egret		
Grey Heron		
White Stork		
Glossy Ibis		
Bald Ibis		Tamri 31 Dec 2006: 76
Spoonbill		
Greater Flamingo		
Ruddy Shelduck		
Shelduck		
Wigeon		
Teal		
Mallard		
Pintail		
Shoveler		
Marbled Duck (Teal)		
Red-crested Pochard		Oued Massa 31 Dec 2006: 1 m and 1 f
Pochard		
Ferruginous Duck		
Tufted Duck		
Black-shouldered Kite		
Marsh Harrier		
Dark Chanting Goshawk *		Oulad-Teima-Taroudannt 31 Dec 2006: 1 ad
Sparrowhawk		
Common Buzzard		
Long-legged Buzzard		
Golden Eagle		
Osprey		
Kestrel		

Lanner		
Peregrine		
Barbary Falcon *		Aoulouz 2 Jan 2007: 1 (see image)
Barbary Partridge		
Moorhen		
Eurasian Coot		
Crane		
Oystercatcher		
Black-winged Stilt		
Ringed Plover		Erg Chebbi
Kentish Plover		Erg Chebbi
Lapwing		
Sanderling		Oued Massa 31 Dec 2006, c100
Dunlin		
Ruff		
Common Snipe		
Greenshank		Erg Chebbi
Green Sandpiper		
Common Sandpiper		
Black-headed Gull		
Audouin's Gull		
Lesser Black-backed Gull		
Yellow-legged Gull		
Great Black-backed Gull *		Oued Massa 29 Dec 2006: 1 imm
Sandwich Tern		
Razorbill		Oued Massa 31 Dec 2006: 1 on sea
Black-bellied Sandgrouse		
Rock Dove		
Wood Pigeon		
Collared Dove		
Laughing Dove		
Little Owl		
Red-necked Nightjar		Tafingoult 1 Jan 2007: 1 male flushed from ground in olive grove near village about midday
Pallid Swift		
Little Swift		Oued Massa 30 Dec 2006: 3+
Kingfisher		
Hoopoe		
Levaillant's Green Woodpecker		
Great Spotted Woodpecker		
Bar-tailed Desert Lark		
Desert Lark		
Hoopoe Lark		
Thick-billed Lark		
Short-toed Lark		

Lesser Short-toed Lark		
Crested Lark		
Thekla Lark		
Horned (Shore) Lark		
Temminck's Lark		
Plain Martin		
Sand Martin		Oued Massa 31 Dec 2006: 1
Crag Martin		
Barn Swallow		
House Martin		Oued Massa 30 Dec 2006: 1
Meadow Pipit		
Water Pipit		
Yellow Wagtail		
Grey Wagtail		
White Wagtail		
Common Bulbul		
Dipper		
Robin		
Black Redstart		
Redstart		
Moussier's Redstart		
Stonechat		
Desert Wheatear		
Red-rumped Wheatear		
Mourning Wheatear		
White-crowned Wheatear		
Black Wheatear		
Blue Rock Thrush		
Blackbird		
Song Thrush		
Mistle Thrush		
Zitting Cisticola		
Tristram's Warbler		
Spectacled Warbler		
Sardinian Warbler		
Blackcap		
Chiffchaff		
Willow Warbler		Oued Massa 30 Dec 2006: 1 heard only
Firecrest		
Fulvous Babbler		Ait-Yazza-Oulad Berehil (100m north of the 30 km marker from OB, along P32 to west) 1 Jan 2007: Group of 3
Coal Tit		
Blue Tit		
Great Tit		
Black-crowned Tchagra		
Southern Grey Shrike		
Woodchat Shrike		By road N8 nr Tassademt 29 Dec 2006: 1

		(very brief view, no description, traffic threatening!)
Jay		
Magpie		
Alpine Chough		
Red-billed Chough		Oukaimeden 6 Jan 2007: c250 around ski area and additional 500 counted at bottom of valley in single 'roosting' flock
Brown-necked Raven		
Common Raven		
Starling		
Spotless Starling		
House Sparrow		
Spanish Sparrow		
Desert Sparrow		
Rock Sparrow		
Chaffinch		
Serin		
Greenfinch		
Goldfinch		
Linnet		
Crossbill		
Crimson-winged Finch		Oukaimeden 6 Jan 2007: 13-16 counted, incl flock of 10
Trumpeter Finch		
Bullfinch *		Arhbalou 6 Jan 2007: 1 male and 2 fem.
Cirl Bunting		
Rock Bunting		
House Bunting		
Corn Bunting		
<b>Total species</b>		

### Counts:

Dayet Merzouga and Auberge Yasmina: 4 Jan 2007

Little Egret 1; Ruddy Shelduck c100; Pintail 1; Shoveler 75; Tufted Duck 25; Coot c50; Black-winged Stilt 1; Greenshank 1; Kentish Plover 1; Ringed Plover 1.

Erfoud - Tinejdad, Site on Route 3451 - about 1km south of road near distance marker Rissani=58 km, Ouerzazate=269 km: 5 Jan 2007. Concentrations of larks were on and around cultivated patches with newly germinating wheat crops.

Long legged Buzzard 1; Kestrel 1; Peregrine 1; Desert Lark 1 nearby; Hoopoe Lark 25; Thick-billed Lark 75; Short-toed Lark 25; Lesser Short-toed Lark c250; Crested/Thekla Lark c15 (mostly Thekla, but incl 1+ Crested nearby); Desert Wheatear 3; Trumpeter Finch 15.

### Descriptions:

#### Barbary Falcon

Observed by N10 road near Aoulouz on 2 Jan 2007, while it was perched on roadside power pole. Hand-held digiscoped image shows main plumage features. These include distinctive chestnut feathering on nape and sides of head with dark crown. Upperparts grey and foreparts and underparts buff and finely barred. Barring on flanks is visible in image, as is the grey contour feathering with buff edges on upperparts. Observed for about 5 minutes until scared away by approaching people.



### **(Great) Bittern**

Observed at range of 50 m in a small reed bed at Oued Massa on 30 Dec 2006, at about 1030h. Reed bed was immediately below an observation wall/platform, itself about 200m to south of the large concrete hide on stilts on eastern bank of lagoon. Bird was seen feeding at edge of reed bed for about 5 minutes, visible throughout and giving wholly unhindered views on two occasions for total of about 1 minute. Otherwise it was in view although partly hidden by reeds. All relevant size, shape, plumage and behaviour details noted, including black cap and malar stripe, enabling

birds to be distinguished with certainty from American Bittern and anything else, including other herons (i.e. juv Night Heron, juv Little Bittern and other African species such as Tiger Bittern). Viewing conditions were excellent and allowed a clear view of a normally reclusive bird.

### **Dark Chanting Goshawk**

One adult seen from near N10 road between Oulad-Teima and Taroudannt on 31 Dec 2006 at about 1600h. It was in an area of scattered trees and stony ground, about 100m to south of road, where the ground had been ploughed recently, apparently for a new irrigation system (i.e. widely spaced furrows, about 50 m apart).

First sighted as it appeared from behind cover, it then banked away while close by (20m), showing its underparts clearly, including its dark barred-on-white body and white underwings with distinctive blackish dipped-in-ink primaries. Wing tips were rounded and tail relatively long and barred. Size was as for a 'harrier'. It went out of view and then reappeared from behind a tree moments later, flying away low about 1-2 m above ground, showing powerful hawk-like flight, with intermittent flapping, rounded wings held horizontal during gliding, and dark grey upperparts. There was a paler grey looking, but not white, rump and a darker toned and relatively long tail. It went out of sight behind cover after about 15 seconds and was not re-located.

Viewing conditions were good although the bird was in sight for only about 25 seconds in all. Goshawk was eliminated on underparts plumage (i.e. black wing tips), and upperparts details, as were other possible confusion-species on plumage details and obvious hawk-like habits (i.e male Hen harrier, other harriers, etc).

### **Bullfinch**

Seen to south of road from Marrakech to Oukaimeden, near village of Arhbalou, on 6 Jan 2007. Male sighted while perching in treetop about 100m from road in excellent light at about 0800h. Showed all typical features including rounded body with bright salmon-pink foreparts, black cap and wings, with white wingbar, plus mid-grey upperparts. White rump and wing bars were visible when it took flight and flew away after about 2 minutes observation. At this point two females appeared as they left the tree with the male and all three flew away as a small flock.

### **Great Black-backed Gull**

Seen on 29 December 2006 at about 1600h flying north along beach at Oued Massa, in company with about 15 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Identified as 1Y and, as a generally familiar species, which, especially, in company with other gulls is easily distinguished by its relatively large size, powerful dark bill and 'protruding foreparts', when compared to adult and juv LBBG (as on this occasion). However, no further description was taken at the time as only later did I note it was unusual in the area.

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