

## October 2007 - North Morocco Greentours tour Fauna checklist

day 1 (17th Oct): Tangier area (airport, cap Spartel, Cotta...)

day 2 (18th Oct): from Tangier to Chefchaouen via the Strait and Tetouan

day 3 (19th Oct): Talassemrane National Park (Bab Taza)

day 4 (20th Oct): Talassemrane National Park (Talembote), oued Laou valley and mouth

day 5 (21st Oct): transfer from Chefchaouen to Larache via the pays Jebala, and the oued Loukos marshes

day 6 (22nd Oct): oued Loukos marshes, Ras R'Mel, more sites north of Larache and Merja Zerga

day 7 (22nd Oct): oued Loukos marshes, Asilah backcountry

### Birds

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) - seen at cap Spartel (day 1) and at oued Laou mouth (day 4)

Mediterranean Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*) - seen at oued Laou mouth (day 4) and at Ras R'Mel beach (day 6)

Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) - the same: oued Laou and Ras R'Mel (days 4 & 6)

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) - common in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5, 6 & 7)

Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) - quite a few seen in the oued Loukos during the early morning birding trips (days 6 & 7)

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) - a few seen in the oued Loukos marshes... the least common heron of the trip! (days 5 & 6)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - very, very common: seen every day and almost everywhere, with some impressive flocks in the oued Loukos in the early morning!

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) - common, seen in every suitable habitat

Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*) - quite a few seen in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5, 6 & 7)

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) - common, often seen in every marshy or riverine habitat, very many in the oued Loukos area

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) - many seen in the oued Loukos area (days 5 & 6) and a few in the 'steppe' north of Asilah (day 7)

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) - some big flocks in the oued Loukos area (days 5 & 6)

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) - several in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5, 6 & 7)

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) - seen in the oued Loukos marshes (day 6)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) - common in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5, 6 & 7)

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) - seen in the oued Loukos marshes (day 6)

Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) - one seen while at the 'green narcissus' site near the airport (day 1)

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) - often seen near Tangier and on the way to Chefchaouen (days 1 & 2), seen again at Merja Zerga (day 6) and near Lixus (day 7)

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) - a few seen near Tangier (day 1)

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) - the most common raptor of the trip, seen every day, common in marshy and agricultural areas, but spotted also elsewhere

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) - one spotted while driving along the Strait a few kms east from Tangier (day 2)

Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) - scattered (day 1 & 4)

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) - often seen in the Chefchaouen area (days 2 & 3)

Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) - one of the raptors seen while at the 'green narcissus' site near the airport was probably a Booted Eagle (day 1)

Osprey - one seen standing in the shallow water in the oued Loukos marshes (day 5)

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) - common, seen every day

Barbary partridge (*Alectoris barbara*) - a few seen in the upper oued Laou valley (day 4) and 2 north of Larache (day 6)

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) - heard and seen in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5 & 6)

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) - quite a few seen in the oued Loukos marshes (days 6 & 7)

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) - several seen in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5, 6 & 7)

Coot (*Fulica atra*) - common in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5, 6 & 7), also at oued Laou (day 4)

Red-knobbed Coot (*Fulica cristata*) - very common in the oued Loukos marshes, most of the local coots apparently belong to this species (days 5, 6 & 7); 30+ seen just in the early morning of day 7  
Common Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*) - seen in Larache, in the hotel garden and also elsewhere

Common Crane (*Grus grus*) - one trying to hide behind the storks in the oued Loukos marshes (day 6)

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) - a few seen in the oued Loukos marshes (day 5)  
Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) - very common in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5, 6 & 7)  
Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicephalus*) - 42 at the beach next to Cotta ruins (day 1), and also heard during the early morning birding at the oued Loukos marshes (day 6)  
Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) - a few seen in the oued Loukos (day 5)  
Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) - seen at the oued Laou (day 4) and oued Loukos (days 5, 6 & 7)  
Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) - a few seen at the oued Laou (day 4)  
Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) - seen in the early morning at the oued Loukos marshes (day 7)  
Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) - a few seen in the early morning at the oued Loukos marshes (day 6)  
Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) - seen in the early morning at the oued Loukos marshes (day 6)  
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) - seen at the oued Loukos marshes (day 6)  
Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) - common in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5, 6 & 7)  
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) - one spotted during the early morning birding at the oued Loukos marshes (days 6 & 7)  
Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) - seen at the oued Laou (day 4) and oued Loukos (days 5, 6 & 7)  
Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) - at least one seen in the oued Loukos marshes (day 5)  
Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) - seen in the oued Loukos (days 5, 6 & 7)  
Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) - seen in the oued Loukos marshes (day 5)  
Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) - seen in the early morning at the oued Loukos marshes (day 7)  
Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) - seen in the oued Loukos marshes (days 6 & 7)  
Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) - seen at oued Laou mouth, oued Loukos marshes (days 4, 5, 6 & 7) and possibly also at oued Aliane (day 2)

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) - one seen in the Atlantic from the Ras R'Mel beach (day 6)  
Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*) - another skua seen from the Ras R'Mel belonged probably to this species (day 6)

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) - several around Larache (days 5 & 6)  
Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*) - very many at oued Laou (day 4) and quite common in the Larache area (days 5 & 6)  
Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) - often seen on the Atlantic coast: cap Spartel and Cotta (day 1), Ras R'Mel (day 6) and oued Loukos (day 6)  
Yellow-legged Herring Gull (*Larus cachinnans*) - very common, seen every day, also inland, but locally (like at oued Laou) outnumbered by Audouin's Gulls

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) - several seen at oued Laou (day 4) and Larache (days 5, 6 & 7)

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - very common, seen every day. 'True' Rock Doves in the Laou gorges (day 4)

Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*) - scattered (days 1, 3 & 4)  
Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) - very common, noted almost every day

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) - one seen by me while flying in a palm at the airport while waiting for the group arrival (day 0?), heard in Larache (day 6)

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) - seen in the ruins of Cotta, Taghramt, on the way to Tetouan (days 1 & 2) and the last day on the way back to the airport (day 7)

Marsh Owl (*Asio capensis*) - a very good view in Merja Zerga (day 6)

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) - many seen in downtown Larache (day 6)  
Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) - seen in oued Aliane (day 2), Akchour (day 4) and during an early morning birding at the oued Loukos (day 7)  
Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) - one seen in the Asilah ÒsteppeÓ (day 7)

Levaillant's Woodpecker (*Picus vaillantii*) - one heard in the Talassemrane NP Cedrus atlantica wood (day 3)

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) - seen and heard in the Talassemrane NP (day 3)

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) - very common, seen every day

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) - seen and heard at Merja Zerga (day 6)

Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) - common and often seen in the Rif (days 2, 3 & 4)

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - a few seen while driving toward Tetouan (day 2)

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) - several seen and heard in the Talassemtane NP (day 3)

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava flavissima*) - common in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5 & 6)

Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*) - common in the oued Loukos marshes (days 5 & 6)

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) - Akchour and oued Loukos (days 4 & 5)

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) - scattered (days 2, 4, 5 & 6)

Common Bulbul (*Pycnonotus barbatus*) - common, quite shy and surprisingly difficult to see but heard every day

Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) - seen in Akchour (day 4)

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) - common in the Talassemtane NP (day 3)

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) - common (days 2, 3, 4 & 6)

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) - seen in Larache and north of the town (day 6)

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) - seen in Akchour (day 4)

Moussier's Redstart (*Phoenicurus moussieri*) - seen, with very good views, in Taghramt (day 2)

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) - seen around Larache (days 5 & 6)

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*) - common, seen almost every day and everywhere

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) - scattered (days 2 & 6)

Black Wheatear (*Oenanthe leucura*) - scattered, seen on the way to Tetouan and in the pays Jebala (days 2 & 5)

Blue Rock-Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) - seen in Taghramt (day 2), Akchour (day 4) and Lixus (day 6)

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) - common and widespread, seen every day

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*) - one seen north of Larache (day 6)

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) - in the Talassemtane NP (day 3)

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) - heard and sometimes seen at Akchour (day 4) and very common in the reeds of the oued Loukos marshes (days 5, 6 & 7)

Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) - seen every day, very common

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) - scattered, quite common in the Rif

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) - near Tangier (day 1)

Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*) - heard and seen in the Talassemtane NP woods, where quite common (day 3)

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) - seen on the way from Tangier to oued Aliane (day 2)

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) - common in the Talassemtane NP (day 3)

Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*) - common, often seen (days 1, 3, 4 & 6)

Great Tit (*Parus major*) - scattered (days 3, 4 & 6)

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) - many seen in the Talassemtane NP (day 3)

Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) - common in the lowlands and in the pays Jebala (days 1, 2, 5 & 6)

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) - common in the wooded areas of the Rif (days 2, 3 & 5), very many in the Talassemtane NP

Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) - many in the Talassemtane NP (day 3) and also seen in the Akchour gorge (day 4)

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) - many just out Tetouan (day 2), in the lower oued Laou valley (day 4), very common around Larache with big early morning flocks (days 5, 6 & 7)

Raven (*Corvus corax*) - common in the Talassemtane NP, Akchour and Laou gorges (days 3 & 4), also near Larache (days 6 & 7)

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) - very few seen in the oued Loukos area (day 6)

Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*) - very common, seen every day, sometimes in huge flocks

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) - seen at oued Aliane (day 2) and many in the Talassemtane NP (day 3)

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*) - seen in the oued Loukos area (day 5)

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) - very common, seen and heard every day

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) - seen and heard in the Talassemtane NP (day 3)

Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*) - scattered (days 2, 3 & 6)

Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*) - seen at oued Aliane (day 2) and oued Laou (day 4)

## **Mammals**

Barbary Ape (*Macaca sylvanus*) - heard but not seen in the Talassemtane NP (day 3)

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) - lots of activity traces in the Talassemtane NP (day 3)

Hare (*Lepus capensis*) - one seen north of Larache (day 6)

## **Amphibians & Reptiles**

Marsh Frog (*Rana saharica*) - widespread, seen in Akchour (day 4) and north of Larache (day 7) but present in every suitable habitat

Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*) - very localized in North Africa! One smallish toad seen in the gorge of Akchour (day 4)

Spur-thighed Tortoise (*Testudo graeca*) - a male and a female on the way to Tetouan (day 2) and a male at Ras R'Mel (day 6)

Stripe-necked Terrapin (*Mauremys caspica*) - seen only by me from the minibus on the way to Tetouan and by everybody in the river near the Akchour dam (days 2 & 4)

Iberian Wall Lizard (*Podarcis hispanica*) - common in the Rif, several seen in the Talassemtane NP and Akchour (days 3 & 4)

Spiny-footed Lizard (*Acanthodactylus erythrurus* s.l.) - common in the sandy pinewoods of Ras R'Mel (day 6)

## **Butterflies**

Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*) - both the caterpillars and the butterflies seen near Tangier (day 1)

Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) - very common, seen every day

Small White (*Pieris rapae*) - slightly less common, every day

Desert Orange Tip (*Colotis evagore*) - widespread, seen every day

Clouded Yellow (*Colias crocea*) - common, seen every day

Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) - seen in the Talassemtane NP and Akchour (days 3 & 4)

Cleopatra (*Gonepteryx cleopatra*) - seen in the hills of the pays Jebala (day 5)

Geranium Bronze (*Cacyreus marshalli*) - quite common in downtown Tangier (days 1 & 2)

Lang's Short-tailed Blue (*Leptotes pirithous*) - seen near Tangier (day 1) and Akchour (day 4)

Plain Tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*) - 1-2 seen at oued Aliane (day 2), several caterpillars feeding on *Gomphocarpus fruticosus* and a very tatty adult in the lower oued Laou (day 4)

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) - an incredibly good view of a perfect looking specimen in the hotel garden in Larache (day 6): the best butterfly of the trip (at least for me!)

Two-tailed Pasha (*Charaxes jasius*) - one seen (only by me...) on the way to Tetouan (day 2), several and some good views in Akchour (day 4) and a few more in the hills of the pays Jebala (day 5)

Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) - seen in Akchour (day 4) and Ras R'Mel (day 6)

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) - common in the Tangier peninsula (days 1 & 2) and seen also at Ras R'Mel (day 6)

*Hipparchia caroli* - the tatty graylings in the woods of the Talassemtane NP probably belonged to this species (day 3)

Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) - lower oued Laou (day 4)

Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*) - common and widespread, seen every day

Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*) - oued Aliane (day 2)

Red-underwing Skipper (*Spialia sertorius*) - seen at Taghramt (day 2)

Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*) - Akchour (day 4)