

Trip tot Morocco (21 days)

Well, our WP-list began to become rather complete. But, in Morocco there were still some potential additions. And it is very nice country to visit. So, April 4th 2010 Gerard de Jong, Kees Mostert, Rob ter Horst and I, Joop Kooijman, flew to Marrakech. In the arrival-hall several House buntings (*Emberiza striolata sahari*) were singing, a new WP-species for me, and if I were a real 'Dutch splitter', even a new lifer.

After picking-up our car, we drove to Oukaimeden, in the High Atlas. On our way up we saw the first Barbary ground squirrels (*Atlantoxerus getulus*) and at the second stop we scored our first lifer, hearing a Levaillant's woodpecker (*Picus vaillantii*). At that spot we also saw a pair of Barbary partridges (*Alectoris barbara*). At our third stop we saw the first of the everywhere quite common Moussier's redstarts (*Phoenicurus moussieri*), and at the bottom of the ski lifts we saw the first Crimson-winged finches (*Rhodopechys sanguinea alienus*).

The next day the surroundings of Oukaimeden produced among other birds Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe seebohmi*), Shore lark (*Eremophila alpestris atlas*), Levaillant's woodpecker. And, now it was quieter, after the weekend, we saw a large group of some 80 Crimson-winged finches at the bottom of the ski lifts, foraging on the rests of the walnuts the local tourists consumed in the weekend.

A trip to the Forest House halfway to the Tichka pass produced little more than some Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra poliogyna*). But close to Oukaimeden we did see and hear beautifully a Levaillant's woodpecker (well, beautifully, obviously they look exactly the same as a female of the Spanish race of the Green woodpecker, and they sound as that race too, but so it). April 6th we would leave the High Atlas. The weather had improved and suddenly everywhere we stopped Tristram's warblers (*Sylvia deserticola*) were singing.

Between Marrakech and Casablanca we saw the first of our total of five Black-winged kites (*Elanus caeruleus*) and southeast of Rabat the numbers 2 en 3 were observed. We saw very few raptors during this trip, in species and numbers. The 2003 guide mentioned poisoning-campaigns and apparently those are still going on. Southeast of Rabat we also heard our first Double-spurred francolins (*Francolinus bicalcaratus*).

On April 7th we visited again the Zaer-woods southeast of Rabat, but again we only managed to here the francolins and didn't see them. Close to Kenitra we saw our first Crested coots (*Fulica cristata*) and Marbled teals (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*).

April 8th we visited the surroundings of Merdia Zerga, with for example many Audouin's gulls (*Larus audouinii*), some Ruddy shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*) and a beautiful Marsh owl (*Asio capensis*). The trip back to the hotel wasn't without danger, because quite a few people drove on the road in for example tractors in pitch-dark just without any lights.

On April 9th we went back to the south, via Ifrane and the mountain-lake Dayet Aaoua. Very many Crested coots in that mountain-lake, and some 250 Black-necked grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*). Close to the pass to the south there were some 8 lingering Barbary apes (*Macaca sylvanus*). Just south of Zeida at dusk we heard the first singing Dupont's larks (*Chersophilus duponti*). At dawn we were there again, and heard dozens of singing Dupont's larks. It was much more numerous than described by Gosny for 2009. A singing Red-rumped wheatear

(*Oenanthe moesta*) meant the 8th new lifer for me. Via Er Rachida and Rissani we ended up north of Merzouga with on our way the first Hoopoe lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*).

The host of 'La Caravane' convinced us that we best could spend the night in his hotel in order to make a trip at dawn on dromedary to an outpost where the Desert sparrow would be seen easily (garantied, if not no charge for the hotel and the dromedary-trip!). Well, the hotel was more than okay (except for the mosquitos, what are they doing in the desert?), and the next morning we indeed did see some 20 Desert sparrows (*Passer simplex*), the first of them we observed sitting on our dromedaries!

April 11th after the dromedary-trip we first visited the lake west of Merzouga, Dayet Srij, seeing on our way our first Desert warbler (*Sylvia nana deserti*). Unfortunately, we didn't know that at the same spot, Dunn's larks were present. The Merzouga-lake was nice but nothing thrilling. So we quickly went to the surroundings of Rissani, to tackle the Fulvous babblers. That, however, turned out to be easier said than done. So we went to the spot of the Desert eagle owls (*Bubo bubo ascalaphus*). Luckily a fossil-seller who also was a bird-guide (Brahim Mezane), showed us two birds without delay (if we had done it on our own account, although we had seen at home the Gosny-DVD, it surely would have cost more time). So there still remained time to score the Egyptian nightjar (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*), at the other side of Rissani, of which we saw one as a silhouette and heard some four individuals.

April 12th after a walk before breakfast (on which we saw both subspecies of Olivaceous warblers (*Hippolais pallida*)) we went to Rissani again. We had agreed with Brahim Mezane to meet, in order to get to see the Fulvous babblers (*Turdoides fulvus*) after our failure of the day before, and thanks to him that worked out smoothly. The river northwest of Rissani produced the first of our total of four observations of the Moroccan white wagtail (*Motacilla alba subpersonata*). Then we drove to Boumalne, with before dusk a brief visit to the Takdilt-plateau. The harvest on this plateau the next morning consisted in, among other birds, a Lanner falcon (*Falco biarmicus*), 20 Cream-coloured coursers (*Cursorius cursor*), some Black-bellied sandgrouses (*Pterocles orientalis*), Crowned sandgrouses (*Pterocles coronatus*), some Thick-billed larks (*Rhamphocoris clotbey*) and Western mourning wheatears (*Oenanthe lugens halophila*).

April 14th we went to the coast, to Inezgane just south of Agadir, with on our way our 4th Black-winged kite. On April 15th the (badly smelling) mouth of the Oued Sousse wasn't very interesting, but near Tamri we saw some 100 Bald ibises (*Geronticus eremita*). At dusk at the mouth of the Oued Sousse we heard some singing Red-necked nightjars (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*).

April 16th we went tot the mouth of the Oued Massa. In Massa we saw our first Black-crowned tchagra (*Tchagra senegala*). Also two Bald ibises over there, and some 200 Marbled teals. A local guide showed us the Brown-throated martins (*Riparia paludicola*).

On April 17th we crossed the High Atlas on our way to Marrakech, where we returned our car at the airport. As we already had heard, no planes were flying because of a volcanic eruption on Iceland, so our planned departure on Sunday the 18th couldn't be. Information was scarce, but eventually on Wednesday we managed to get contact with the call-centre, and our trip back to Holland was booked for Friday, April 23rd. Nor did that go easily, because just as several others consequently on Friday our names didn't appear on the check-in list, so again we had to call with the call-centre (via our home-front). But well, Saturday-morning at

01.45 h. we were standing at Schiphol-airport. In our extra days we did go out birding when possible, and that produced some nice observations, such as again the Crimson-winged finches of Oukaimeden, again Brown-throated martins, but now just north of the N'fiss reservoir south of Marrakech, again Moroccan white wagtails, a pair of Bonelli's eagles (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*) south of Ouarzazate and our 5th Black-winged kite.

The trip-report with photo's can be seen at:
<http://www.everyoneweb.com/vogelreisverslagen/>

Species list (Dutch and scientific names, Species-concept as in BWP-CE.):

001. Fuut (*Podiceps cristatus*)
002. Geoorde fuut (*Podiceps nigricollis*)
003. Dodaars (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)
004. Kuhls pijlstormvogel (*Calonectris borealis*)
005. Jan van Gent (*Morus bassanus*)
006. Aalscholver (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
007. Kleine zilverreiger (*Egretta garzetta*)
008. Ralreiger (*Ardeola ralloides*)
009. Koereiger (*Bubulcus ibis*)
010. Blauwe reiger (*Ardea cinerea*)
011. Purperreiger (*Ardea purpurea*)
012. Kwak (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
013. Zwarte ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
014. Heremietibis (*Geronticus eremita*)
015. Ooievaar (*Ciconia ciconia*)
016. Zwarte ooievaar (*Ciconia nigra*)
017. Lepelaar (*Platalea leucorodia*)
018. Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)
019. Wilde eend (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
020. Krakeend (*Anas strepera*)
021. Slobeend (*Anas clypeata*)
022. Marmereend (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*)
023. Casarca (*Tadorna ferruginea*)
024. Witoogeend (*Aythya nyroca*)
025. Krooneend (*Netta rufina*)
026. Kuifeend (*Aythya fuligula*)
027. Tafeleend (*Aythya ferina*)
028. Zwarte zee-eend (*Melanitta nigra*)
029. Havikarend (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*)
030. Dwergarend (*Hieraaetus pennatus*)
031. Slangenarend (*Circaetus gallicus*)
032. Arendbuizerd (*Buteo rufinus cirtensis*)
033. Havik (*Accipiter gentilis*)
034. Sperwer (*Accipiter nisus*)
035. Zwarte wouw (*Milvus migrans*)
036. Grijs wouw (*Elanus caeruleus*)
037. Bruine kiekendief (*Circus aeruginosus*)
038. Grauwe kiekendief (*Circus pygargus*)
039. Slechtvalk (*Falco peregrinus*)

040. Lanner valk (*Falco biarmicus*)
041. Smelleken (*Falco columbarius*)
042. Kleine torenvalk (*Falco naumanni*)
043. Torenavalk (*Falco tinnunculus*)
044. Barbarijse patrijs (*Alectoris barbara*)
045. Barbarijse frankolijn (*Francolinus bicalcaratus*)
046. Kwartel (*Coturnix coturnix*)
047. Waterhoen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
048. Meerkoet (*Fulica atra*)
049. Knobbelmeerkoet (*Fulica cristata*)
050. Scholekster (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
051. Kievit (*Vanellus vanellus*)
052. Bontbekplevier (*Charadrius hiaticula*)
053. Kleine plevier (*Charadrius dubius*)
054. Strandplevier (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)
055. Zilverplevier (*Pluvialis squatarola*)
056. Steenloper (*Arenaria interpres*)
057. Watersnip (*Gallinago gallinago*)
058. Wulp (*Numenius arquata*)
059. Regenwulp (*Numenius phaeopus*)
060. Grutto (*Limosa limosa*)
061. Rosse grutto (*Limosa lapponica*)
062. Oeverloper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
063. Witgatje (*Tringa ochropus*)
064. Bosruiter (*Tringa glareola*)
065. Tureluur (*Tringa totanus*)
066. Zwarte ruiter (*Tringa erythropus*)
067. Groenpootruiter (*Tringa nebularia*)
068. Bonte strandloper (*Calidris alpina*)
069. Kleine strandloper (*Calidris minuta*)
070. Drieteenstrandloper (*Calidris alba*)
071. Kluut (*Recurvirostra avocetta*)
072. Steltkluut (*Himantopus himantopus*)
073. Griel (*Burhinus oedicephalus*)
074. Vorkstaartplevier (*Glareola pratincola*)
075. Renvogel (*Cursorius cursor*)
076. Kleine jager (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)
077. Kleine mantelmeeuw (*Larus fuscus*)
078. Geelpootmeeuw (*Larus michahellis*)
079. Audouins meeuw (*Larus audouinii*)
080. Dunbekmeeuw (*Larus genei*)
081. Kokmeeuw (*Larus ridibundus*)
082. Zwartkopmeeuw (*Larus melanocephalus*)
083. Zwarte stern (*Chlidonias niger*)
084. Lachstern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)
085. Grote stern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)
086. Reuzenster (*Sterna caspia*)
087. Visdief (*Sterna hirundo*)
088. Dwergster (*Sterna albifrons*)
089. Kroonzandhoen (*Pterocles coronatus*)

090. Zwartbuikzandhoen (*Pterocles orientalis*)
091. Rotsduif (*Columba livia*)
092. Houtduif (*Columba palumbus*)
093. Turkse tortel *Streptopelia decaocto*)
094. Tortelduif (*Streptopelia turtur*)
095. Palmtortel (*Streptopelis senegalensis*)
096. Koekoek (*Cuculus canorus*)
097. Kuifkoekoek (*Clamator glandarius*)
098. Steenuil (*Athene noctua*)
099. Woestijnoehoe (*Bubo bubo ascalaphus*)
100. Afrikaanse velduil *Asio capensis*)
101. Moorse nachtzwaluw (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*)
102. Egyptische nachtzwaluw (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*)
103. Gierzwaluw (*Apus apus*)
104. Vale gierzwaluw (*Apus pallidus*)
105. Alpengierzwaluw (*Apus melba*)
106. Huisgierzwaluw (*Apus affinis*)
107. IJsvogel (*Alcedo atthis*)
108. Groene bijeneter (*Merops persicus chrysocercus*)
109. Bijeneter (*Merops apiaster*)
110. Hop (*Upupa epops*)
111. Levallants specht (*Picus vaillantii*)
112. Grote bonte specht (*Dendropocus major*)
113. Draaihals (*Jynx torquilla*)
114. Woestijnleeuwerik (*Ammomanes deserti*)
115. Kortteenleeuwerik (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)
116. Kleine kortteenleeuwerik (*Calandrella rufescens*)
117. Duponts leeuwerik (*Chersophilus duponti*)
118. Witbandleeuwerik (*Alaemon alaudipes*)
119. Kalendarleeuwerik (*Melanocorypha calandra*)
120. Diksnavelleeuwerik (*Rhamphocoris clotbey*)
121. Kuifleeuwerik (*Galerida cristata*)
122. Thekla leeuwerik (*Galerida theklae*)
123. Veldleeuwerik (*Alauda arvensis*)
124. Strandleeuwerik (*Eremophila alpestris atlas*)
125. Temmincks strandleeuwerik (*Eremophila bilopha*)
126. Boomleeuwerik (*Lullula arborea*)
127. Vale rotszwaluw (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*)
128. Rotszwaluw (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris theresae*)
129. Boerenzwaluw (*Hirundo rustica*)
130. Roodstuitzwaluw (*Hirundo daurica*)
131. Huiszwaluw (*Delichon urbica*)
132. Oeverzwaluw (*Riparia riparia*)
133. Vale oeverzwaluw (*Riparia paludicola*)
134. Graspieper (*Anthus pratensis*)
135. Boompieper (*Anthus trivialis*)
136. Gele kwikstaart (*Motacilla flava*)
137. Grote gele kwikstaart (*Motacilla cinerea*)
138. Witte kwikstaart (*Motacilla alba*)
Marokkaanse witte kwikstaart (*Motacilla alba subpersonata*)

139. Grauwe buulbuul (*Pycnonotus barbatus*)
140. Roodkopklauwier (*Lanius senator*)
141. Zuidelijke klapekster (*Lanius meridionalis*)
142. Zwartkruintsjagra (*Tchagra senegalus cucullatus*)
143. Zwarte spreeuw (*Sturnus unicolor*)
144. Vlaamse gaai (*Garrulus glandarius minor*)
145. Ekster (*Pica pica mauretanicus*)
146. Alpenkraai (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax barbarus*)
147. Alpenkauw (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*)
148. Kauw (*Corvus monedula*)
149. Bruinnekraaf (*Corvus ruficollis*)
150. Raaf (*Corvus corax*)
151. Waterspreeuw (*Cinclus cinclus*)
152. Winterkoning (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)
153. Cetti's zanger (*Cettia cetti*)
154. Rietzanger (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)
155. Graszanger (*Cisticola juncidis cisticola*)
156. Kleine karekiet (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)
157. Orpheusspotvogel (*Hippolais polyglotta*)
158. Vale spotvogel (*Acrocephalus pallidus*)
159. Orpheusgrasmus (*Sylvia hortensis*)
160. Tuinfluiter (*Sylvia borin*)
161. Zwartkop (*Sylvia atricapilla*)
162. Grasmus (*Sylvia communis*)
163. Kleine zwartkop (*Sylvia melanocephala*)
164. Baardgrasmus (*Sylvia cantillans*)
165. Atlasgrasmus (*Sylvia deserticola*)
166. Brilgrasmus (*Sylvia conspicillata*)
167. Woestijngrasmus (*Sylvia nana deserti*)
168. Rosse waaiersstaart (*Cercotrichas galactotes*)
169. Fitis (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)
170. Tjiftjaf (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
171. Bergfluiter (*Phylloscopus bonelli*)
172. Vuurgoudhaantje (*Regulus ignicapilla balearica*)
173. Bonte vliegenvanger (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)
174. Grauwe vliegenvanger (*Muscicapa striata*)
175. Tapuit (*Oenanthe oenanthe seebohmi*)
Gewone tapuit (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)
176. Blonde tapuit (*Oenanthe hispanica*)
177. Woestijntapuit (*Oenanthe deserti*)
178. Westelijke rouwtapuit (*Oenanthe lugens halophila*)
179. Witkruintapuit (*Oenanthe leucopyga*)
180. Zwarte tapuit (*Oenanthe leucura*)
181. Roodstuittapuit (*Oenanthe moesta*)
182. Paapje (*Saxicola rubetra*)
183. Roodborsttapuit (*Saxicola torquata*)
184. Blauwe rotslijster (*Monticola solitarius*)
185. Gekraagde roodstaart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)
186. Zwarte roodstaart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)
187. Diadeemroodstaart (*Phoenicurus moussieri*)

188. Roodborst (*Erithacus rubecula*)
189. Nachtegaal (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)
190. Merel (*Turdus merula mauretanicus*)
191. Zanglijster (*Turdus philomelos*)
192. Grote lijster (*Turdus viscivorus deisleri*)
193. Pimpelmees (*Parus caeruleus ultramarinus*)
194. Zwarte mees (*Parus ater atlas*)
195. Koolmees (*Parus major exelsus*)
196. Boomklever (*Sitta europaea*)
197. Bruingele babbelaar (*Turdoides fulvus*)
198. Boomkruiper (*Certhia brachydactyla mauretanicus*)
199. Huismus (*Passer domesticus*)
200. Spaanse mus (*Passer hispaniolensis*)
201. Rotsmus (*Petronia petronia*)
202. Woestijmus (*Passer simplex*)
203. Vink (*Fringilla coelebs africana*)
204. Appelvink (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)
205. Europese kanarie (*Serinus serinus*)
206. Groenling (*Carduelis chloris voousi*)
207. Putter (*Carduelis carduelis parva*)
208. Kneus (*Carduelis cannabina*)
209. Woestijnvink (*Bucanetes githagineus zedlidzi*)
210. Rode woestijnvink (*Rhodopechys sanguinea alienus*)
211. Kruisbek (*Loxia curvirostra polioyga*)
212. Grauwe gors (*Miliaria calandra*)
213. Grijze gors (*Emberiza cia*)
214. Huisgors (*Emberiza striolata sahari*)
215. Ortolaan (*Emberiza hortulana*)
216. Cirlgors (*Emberiza cirrus*)

And not seen by me, but seen by one or more of the rest of the group:

217. Boomvalk (*Falco subbuteo*)
218. Krombekstrandloper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
219. Dwergooruil (*Otus scops*)
220. Rosse woestijnleeuwerik (*Ammomanes cincturus*)
221. Duinpieper (*Anthus campestris*)
222. Fluiter (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

Concerning mammals the harvest consisted in:

- Kuhls dwergvleermuis (*Pipistrellus kuhli*)
- Bulvleermuis (*Tadarida teniotis*)
- Magot (*Macaca sylvanus*)
- Barbarijse grondeekhoorn (*Allantoxerus getulus*)
- Wild zwijn (*Sus scrofa*)
- Vette zandrat (*Psammomys obesus*)
- Wezel (*Mustela nivalis*)

And amphibians and reptiles:

Groene pad (*Bufo viridis*)
Gewone pad (*Bufo bufo*)
Mauretaanse pad (*Bufo mauritanicus*)
Noord-Afrikaanse groene kikker (*Rana saharica*)
Zuid-Europese boomkikker (*Hyla meridionalis*)
Moorse landschildpad (*Testudo graeca*)
Spaanse waterschildpad (*Mauremys leprosa*)
High Atlas Morroccan Day Gecko (*Quedenfeldtia trachyblepharus*)
Bibrons agame (*Agama bibroni*)
Doornstaartagame (*Uromastyx acanthinurus*)
Noord-Afrikaanse parelhagedis (*Lacerta pater*)
Roodstaartfranjeteeën (*Acanthodactylus erythrurus*)_