

Birding Trip Report to Morocco

19 January to 26 January 2011

Participants

Peter Gluth and Robert Pocklington.

Flights were booked with www.ryanair.com from London Stansted to Agadir for a total of £89.28 each including all the usual add ones.

Car hire was arranged with www.sixt.com for a Dacia Logan Laureate 1.5L diesel with a/c for MAD2,362.49 (£182.37) which included an extra driver for free. Sixt have a desk at the airport which saves a lot of hassle encountered with most of the local suppliers.

We covered 2,194 kms and fuel cost MAD940 (£73.87) which included a tank full of duty free fuel from 72 kms south of Tan-Tan Plage (El Quatia).

The total cost in Morocco was MAD5,771 (£453.50) for both of us. The total cost of the trip ex. Stansted airport was just £407 each.

The hotels used were quite varied from very basic to the exotic!

January 19 : Aourir - Hotel Littoral - MAD310 (£24.36 for a twin)

<http://www.hotellittoral.com/littoral.htm>.

January 20 : Tiznit - Hotel de Paris - MAD376 (£29.55 for 2 singles)

<http://www.hoteldeparis.ma>.

January 21 : Tan-Tan Plage (El Quatia) - Hotel Belle Vue - MAD200 (£15.72 for a twin)

January 22 : Goulimine - Hotel Adil Moussafir - MAD370 (£29.07 for a twin)

<http://www.hoteladilmoussafir.com>.

January 23 : Icht - Borj Biramane Encampment - MAD520 (£40.86 for a twin including breakfast)

<http://www.borj-biramane.com>.

January 24 : Tata - Hotel Les Relais des Sables - MAD267.60 (£21.03 for a twin)

January 25 : Tazenakht - Hotel Zenaga - MAD200 (£15.72 for a twin)

We can definitely recommend the Hotel Adil Moussafir which is brand new and like a palace compared to most others. Also Borj Biramane Encampment which is an amazing establishment owned by two Frenchmen and offers traditional Berber bungalows with earth walls and tented roofs or spacious Moroccan style chalets with superb showers. The food served here was the best of our trip by some distance.

The food elsewhere was mostly surprisingly good; the ubiquitous Chicken Tagine, although Camel and Beef were sometimes on offer. Excellent salads and fruit. Even the most basic of eateries served up very tasty food at astonishingly low prices. For instance in the centre of Tan-Tan Plage; a large tasty salad followed by bean soup then a quarter roast chicken & chips with 2 cokes & a litre of water all for MAD80 (£6.29) for the two of us!

Note most establishments did not serve alcohol.

Literature and References

- Mullarney, K. et al. 2009. *Collins Bird Guide (2nd. Edition)*.
- Bergier, P. & Bergier, F. 2003. *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco*.
- Gluth, P. 2010. *Birding Trip Report to Southern Morocco and Western Sahara 10th to 14th December 2009*.
<http://www.fyldebirdclub.org/abroad.htm#smpg>.
- Jansen, J. 2004. *A Report from Birdtours.co.uk : Morocco 25th January to 1st February 2004*.
<http://www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/morocco/morocco7/mor-jan-04.htm>
- Pettersson, T. et al. 2008. *Trip Report : Western Sahara and Southern Morocco, 14th to 21st February 2008*.
http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/WesternSahara2008_TP.pdf
- Michelin 1:1,000,000 & 1:600,000 National 742 Map of Morocco

Commentary

January 19th.

Arrived on time at Al Massira Airport at 19:30 and collected the hire car without fuss. Then drove north to our pre-planned hotel in Aourir, Tamraght.

January 20th.

We set off for the 50 kms drive north of Tamri to the Bald Ibis colony arriving at 07:00. At sunrise of 07:30 we could start to make out the **Bald Ibis** on their nesting ledges. By 08:00 all had left flying south. 101 birds counted in total. What a magnificent sight. Also roosting there were 100 Little Egrets and a few Cormorant's plus a lone Whimbrel at the bottom of the cliff. In the general area we saw 20+ Crested Lark, 5 Spectacled Warbler, 3 Sardinian Warbler, 4 Moussier's Redstart and 3 Southern Grey Shrike. A stop off in Tami village produced 10 House Buntings, 5 Common Bulbul and 4 African Chaffinch. At a small beach side pool 5 kms north of Taghazoute were 200 Audouin's Gull, 10 Kentish Plover, a Black Wheatear and a **White Wagtail (of the form *subpersonata*)**. Driving through Agadir we saw another **White Wagtail (of the form *subpersonata*)** on a grassy roundabout plus 5 Magpie (of the form *mauritanica*), 20 White Stork, 15 Cattle Egret and a number of Spotless Starlings. On our drive to Massa 2 Ravens flew over. The rest of the day was spent birding the Oued Massa. This is a superb site at any time of year and we spent some hours exploring the cultivated fields. The main prizes were an Aquatic Warbler from the bridge over the river and 2 Corncrakes, one flushed and the other calling loudly nearby. Others birds seen here included 2 Black Kite, 100 Cattle Egret and a Squacco Heron, 3 Kingfisher, 2 Turtle Dove and 10 Laughing Dove, 30 Common Bulbul, 10 Sardinian Warbler, 10 Fan-tailed Warbler, 10 Moussier's Redstart, 25 Spanish Sparrow, 5 Serin, 3 Plain Martin, and single Grey Wagtail and Green Sandpiper. We then went down river to the entrance of the National Park. From here we walked to the gated barrier and found 3 **Black-crowned Tchagra** as well as 8 House Bunting, 10 Magpie (of the form *mauritanica*), Black Redstart, African Chaffinch and 2 Cirl Bunting whilst on the river were a Greater Flamingo, 3 Spoonbill, 33 Marbled Duck and 6 Curlew. A drive round to the southern side produced no less than 10 Little Owl and 3 Stone Curlew in the village of Sidi-Ouassai. After sunset we departed for our night stopover in Tiznit.

January 21st.

Another early start to be at Oued Boukila **GPS : N 28.9186, W 10.1433**, 10 kms south of Goulimine for 07:00. The birds here proved to be considerably scarcer than in December 2009 *cf.* <http://www.fyldebirdclub.org/abroad.htm#smpg>. However we eventually found our target of a pair of Scrub Warbler who performed admirably. Other birds seen were 20 Spanish Sparrow, 20 Thekla Lark, 6 Red-rumped Wheatear, 4 Southern Grey Shrike, 2 Spectacled Warbler, a Moussier's

Redstart and 4 Trumpeter Finch which came to drink at a small pool. As the weather warmer up birds of prey began to appear and 3 Long-legged Buzzard and a Black Kite were seen over the westerly hillside plus a distant flyby pair of Ruddy Shelduck and a Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Then it all went mad, an eagle appeared and it was being mobbed by a ring-tailed Hen Harrier which seemed miniscule compared to the eagle. We managed to get some video footage of the bird and tentatively identified it as a juvenile **Tawny Eagle**. The only possible confusion species being *Spanish Imperial Eagle*. The field characters appeared to suggest that this was a juvenile with worn plumage. The paleness of the wings recalling that of Egyptian Vulture! Another eagle then appeared which eventually landed on the hillside and was identified as a Bonelli's Eagle.

We eventually headed off further south to look for a small pond in cultivation mentioned in http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/WesternSahara2008_TP.pdf The pool mentioned therein was completely dry so we parked nearby at **GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676'**. This desert hillside adjacent to the cultivated plain was a magnet for Larks with 50 Thick-billed, 5 Temminck's Horned, 3 Short-toed and 3 Lesser Short-toed, a Desert (of nominate race *deserti*) and 12 Bar-tailed Desert Lark. 3 Cream-coloured Courser, 3 Trumpeter Finch, 2 Desert Wheatear and a Red-rumped Wheatear plus a Kentish Plover.

We then stopped briefly at a roadside irrigation pool at **GPS : N 28° 29.593', W 11° 13.651'** where 5 Trumpeter Finch, a Red-rumped Wheatear and 2 Long-legged Buzzard were seen.

The Oued Draa proved to be dry and the tracks out to the coast were only fit for a 4x4.

Therefore a short walk round only produced a pair of Black Wheatear, a Red-rumped Wheatear and a Moussier's Redstart. For a final stop we staked out a remote irrigation lake between Tan-Tan and Tan-Tan Plage (El Quatia) for Sandgrouse but without success.

Night spent in Tan-Tan Plage (El Quatia).

With a full moon and the tide in we noted a Caspian Tern with a dozen or so Sandwich Terns amongst the throng of gulls at 22:00!

January 22nd.

After a tip off from our hotelier we headed south 72 kms to just beyond Oued El Ouair to fill up on duty free fuel. After a coffee and boiled egg breakfast we returned to the Oued.

Here we counted 1,500 Audouin's Gull with which were 35 Sandwich and 2 Caspian Terns. Offshore were 10 Common Scoter and 2 Gannet. Also on the beach were 3 Sanderling and 4 Turnstone whilst 3 Black Wheatear were on the cliffs. We then set off back north stopping at Oued Ouma Fatma. 2 Greater Flamingo and 3 Cormorant (*of the Moroccan form maroccanus*) were on the Oued with 3 Common Sandpiper and a Grey Wagtail on the edge. On the beach were 300 Audouin's Gull together with 60 Sandwich Tern and a Caspian Tern as well as 350 Sanderling and a lone Whimbrel. Some 500 Common Scoter were close inshore. Another 3 Black Wheatear haunted the cliff edge. A brief stop at Oued Laaguig produced a flock of 40 Oystercatcher, 2 more Black Wheatear and a Long-legged Buzzard. We then headed off to Oued Chebika for an extended lunchtime sit and watch. This produced a fantastic sight of 600 Greater Flamingo flying in to loaf about. On the water were also 9 Cormorant (*of the Moroccan form maroccanus*), 3 Little Egret, 6 Audouin's Gull and our only 2 Black-headed Gull. Flying about were 3 Caspian Tern and 2 Osprey fishing. Along the shore edge we located 8 Kentish Plover, 8 Curlew Sandpiper, 3 Common Sandpiper, 5 Black-tailed Godwit, 3 Whimbrel, 2 Curlew and a Little Stint. On the rocky hillside were 2 Desert Wheatear and a Black Wheatear. We then drove on 58kms past Tan-Tan and stopped off at a point where I had seen Hoopoe Lark in December 2009 at **GPS : N 28° 39.725', W 10° 40.373'**. We again had superb views of a displaying bird plus a Red-rumped Wheatear and 3 Long-legged Buzzard. A further stop at 'Lark City' where park at **GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676'**. This time we saw 30 Cream-coloured Courser, an amazing 10 Hoopoe Lark, some almost within touching distance whilst sitting down. 2 Black Kite flew over as well as 3 Black-bellied Sandgrouse. On the ground amongst at least 50 White Wagtail were 7 Temminck's Horned Lark, 6 Lesser Short-toed Lark, 2 Northern Wheatear and 4 Red-rumped Wheatear, 10 Kentish Plover and a Southern Grey Shrike. We stopped off at Oued Boukila for a stakeout for Sandgrouse and again without any luck. We then departed for our hotel in Goulimine.

January 23rd.

Today was to be our exploration day on roads to Icht via Assa not mentioned in any reports that we could find. Our first stop was the village of Asrir. Cultivation surrounded the village and produced at least 3 calling Quail, 500 Spanish Sparrow, 100 Corn Bunting, a Fan-tailed Warbler, a Black Kite, a Moussier's Redstart and 8 Southern Grey Shrike. In the village it's self in a cactus plantation we discovered 2 pairs of nest building Fulvous Babbler, 4 Common Bulbul, 6 Sardinian Warbler, 2 Blue Rock Thrush, plus singles of Black Redstart, Redstart, Serin, Blackcap, Turtle Dove and Laughing Dove. On the hillside beyond the village we located 50 Trumpeter Finch, 3 Black Wheatear, 2 Red-rumped Wheatear, 12 Thekla Lark and a House Bunting. From here at **GPS : N 28°56.078', W 09°59.000'** we counted at least 27 Black-bellied Sandgrouse flying in to feed in the fields. At a road junction with a large tower on the Asrir to Fask road at **GPS : N 28°57.154', W 09° 55.521'** we found our first White-crowned Black Wheatear, 5 in all. Midway between Goulimine and Assa we diverted south to the oasis of Tadalt. Here we had brief view of a Lanner over a distant ridge. In the village were 6 White-crowned Black Wheatear, a Black Wheatear, 10 Trumpeter Finch, a Common Bulbul, Southern Grey Shrike and Moussier's Redstart. A stop between Targoumait and Assa yielded 10 Bar-tailed Desert Lark, 3 Desert Lark (of the Southern Moroccan form *payni*), a Desert Wheatear, 2 Black Wheatear, 2 Fulvous Babbler, 6 Trumpeter Finch and a Southern Grey Shrike. At a brief stop at the Oued Assa we saw a **Plain Tiger**, **Common Tiger Blue** and quite a number of **Crimson Speckled** moths which we photographed. On the drive from Assa to Icht we saw 2 each of White-crowned Black Wheatear and Laughing Dove plus at least 6 Southern Grey Shrike. Late in the day we chanced upon a Lanner sitting on a cairn very close to the road which afforded crippling views before flying off. We then drove on to the Berber encampment of Borj-Biramane at Icht. A wonderful place and an ideal stopover with superb food and English speaking French owners.

January 24th.

After a lie in and leisurely breakfast we departed north east towards Tata. Between Icht and Ait Hamane we saw 3 Hoopoe lark, 3 Desert Lark (of the Southern Moroccan form *payni*), 3 Spectacled Warbler 4 Desert Wheatear, 5 White-crowned Black Wheatear, 3 Black Wheatear, 2 Moussier's Redstart and a Fulvous Babbler. At Oued Ait Ouabelli we saw a Green Sandpiper and 4 Little Egret. Some 32 kms before Tata there starts a small black burned cliff on the left side of the road that runs for about 5 kms. At a point 29 kms before Tata we found a **Pharaoh Eagle Owl** resting in a crevice. A great find and we managed a number of photographs and video footage. Also here were 4 White-crowned Black Wheatear and a Spectacled Warbler. After checking into our hotel in Tata we went to the northern outskirts of the town for the rest of the afternoon. Here we saw 3 Long-legged Buzzard and 2 Peregrine over the adjacent mountain sides. In the desert terrain were 6 Trumpeter Finch, 5 White-crowned Black Wheatear, 2 Desert Lark (of the Southern Moroccan form *payni*), 3 House Bunting, a Southern Grey Shrike, Spectacled Warbler and Moussier's Redstart plus 4 Laughing Doves. Yet another evening stakeout for Sandgrouse by a roadside pool proved unsuccessful.

January 25th.

After driving some distance north out of Tata instead of east we eventually turned back to Tata to encounter a Lanner sitting nonchalantly atop a roadside pylon and offering superb views. Our main hope of Sandgrouse was always to be the Oued Tissint in the gorge either side of Tissint. Yet again this was fruitless but proved to be a good birding location with 125 Little Egret, a Cattle Egret, 25 Grey Heron, 10 Ruddy Shelduck, 5 Teal, a Pintail, 13 Green and 3 Common Sandpiper, 3 Little Ringed Plover, a Lapwing and a Grey Wagtail all on the river. In the village were 30 Trumpeter Finch, 12 House Bunting, 4 Blue Rock Thrush, 2 Black Redstart, 4 White-crowned Black Wheatear, 2 Common Bulbul, a Laughing Dove and a Desert Lark (of the Southern Moroccan form *payni*). We then headed further east and with the vast openness before us we hurtled along the 70 kms to Fom-Zguid. About 17 kms before the town at approx. **GPS : N 29° 47.600', W 07° 34.500'** RB made an emergency stop together with a loud scream. I was looking at a map and thought we must have almost run over a shepherd! A frantic high speed reversal saw us watching, to our utter disbelief, a

Houbara Bustard making a swift getaway over the stony desert. After firing off a few photographs and a video we set off in hot pursuit of our prize. We had further good scope views but the heat haze prevented any further photography. Eventually after a kilometre or so the Houbara dropped down a ridge and was lost to sight. Despite much searching we did not see the bird again, which is not surprising considering the vastness of the desert hereabouts. Elated, we drove into Fom-Zguid for a celebratory coke and fresh orange juice. The 100 kms north to Tazenakht passed by uneventfully and we booked into our hotel before going out for an evening hunt for Sandgrouse. Our luck certainly deserted us with not a single sighting of either of the hoped for Crowned or Spotted Sandgrouse. However we did see rather surprisingly on the little bit of water outside of town a Squacco Heron and 6 Cattle Egret whilst on the plain were 6 Desert Lark (of the Southern Moroccan form *payni*) and a Long-legged Buzzard. At over 1,500 mtrs above sea level our hotel room was freezing so we slept with all of our birding gear on under a pile blankets!

January 26th.

Our last day and we headed off to be at Tizi-n-Taghatine for 06:30. Situated at 1,886 mtrs above sea level and with a lot of rain expected it was certainly going to be a very cold start to the day. We spent 2 hours searching unsuccessfully for Dupont's Lark, however we did see 40 Thekla Lark, 40 Lesser Short-toed and 20 Short-toed Lark, 15 Thick-billed Lark, a Desert Lark (of the Southern Moroccan form *payni*), 6 Trumpeter Finch and 4 Black-bellied Sandgrouse. When the rains came we departed west towards Taliouine. At the Oued just before entering the town we stopped as there was now plenty of water about. On the river bed were 2 each Green Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plover plus 3 cracking **White Wagtail (of the form *subpersonata*)**. In the surrounding bushes were 20 Common Bulbul, 6 Blackcap and 3 very photogenic African Blue Tit. Taking the opportunity of another cloud burst we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast of tomato and onion omelette and coffee in Taliouine main thoroughfare watching the locals combat the floods. We stopped off at some interesting olive groves 18 kms west of the town and found 8 Barbary Partridge, an African Chaffinch and a Black Redstart. We then took the southerly back road towards Taroudant. Due to the torrential rain we could only watch from the car, but in one of our many stops we had brief views of a Black-winged Kite. When the rain relented a short walk on a hillside near Freija produced another 2 Barbary Partridge and a Southern Grey Shrike. We then drove on through considerable floods into the walled city of Taroudant where we saw 2 Little Swift plus at least 40 Pallid Swift. Afterwards we drove west out of town and onto a track along the north side of the Oued Souss and parked at **GPS : N 30° 26.295', W 08° 54.152'**. In the rough grassland we found at least 3 Black-winged Kite and 2 Barbary Falcon eating prey over our heads. Also seen were a Southern Grey Shrike and a migrating Sand Martin. We decided to haul up 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at **GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'** to sort out our luggage. Much to our surprise a short walk around these cultivations and orchards produced 2 **Black-crowned Tchagra**, 4 Common Bulbul, a Magpie (of the form *mauritanica*), Redstart, Sardinian Warbler and a Black-winged Kite.

Systematic List

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus bassanus*
El Oued Ouaar : 2 - 22.01.11

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus*
Oued Ouma Fatma : 2 - 22.01.11
Oued Chebika : 9 - 22.01.11

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*
Oued Massa : 1 - 20.01.11
Tazenakht : 6 - 25.01.11
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis ibis*
Tamri : 1 - 20.01.11
Agadir : 15 - 20.01.11

Oued Massa : 100 - 20.01.11
Oued Tissint : 1 - 25.01.11
Tazenakht : 6 - 25.01.11

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta garzetta*
Tamri : 100 - 20.01.11
Oued Ouma Fatma : 3 - 22.01.11
Oued Chebika : 3 - 22.01.11
Oued Ait Ouabelli : 4 - 24.01.11
Tata : 4 - 24.01.11
Oued Tissint : 125 - 25.01.11

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea cinerea*
Oued Ouma Fatma : 7 - 22.01.11
Oued Ait Ouabelli : 1 - 24.01.11
Oued Tissint : 25 - 25.01.11
Oued on outskirts of Taliouine : 1 - 26.01.11

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
Agadir : 20 - 20.01.11

Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*
Tamri : 101 - 20.01.11

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*
Oued Massa : 3 - 20.01.11

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*
Oued Massa : 1 - 20.01.11
Oued Ouma Fatma : 2 - 22.01.11
Oued Chebika : 600 - 22.01.11

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
Oued Boukila : 2 - 21.01.11
Oued Tissint : 10 - 25.01.11

Teal *Anas crecca*
Oued Tissint : 5 - 25.01.11

Pintail *Anas acuta*
Oued Tissint : 1 - 25.01.11

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*
Oued Massa : 33 - 20.01.11

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*
El Oued Ouaar : 10 - 22.01.11
Oued Ouma Fatma : 500 - 22.01.11

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
Hillside near Freija : 1 - 26.01.11
Taroudant (north side of the Oued Souss) at *GPS : N 30° 26.295', W 08° 54.152'* : 3 - 26.01.11
Cultivation 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at *GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'* : 1 - 26.01.11

Black Kite *Milvus migrans migrans*

Oued Massa : 2 - 20.01.11

Oued Boukila : 1 - 21.01.11

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 2 - 22.01.11

Asrir (cultivations) : 1 - 23.01.11

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Oued Boukila : 1 - 21.01.11

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus cirtensis*

Oued Boukila : 3 - 21.01.11

Irrigation Pool at GPS : N 28° 29.593', W 11° 13.651' : 2 - 21.01.11

Oued Laaguig : 1 - 22.01.11

58 kms north of Tan-Tan at GPS : N 28° 39.725', W 10° 40.373' : 3 - 22.01.11

Oued Boukila : 1 - 22.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 3 - 24.01.11

Tazenakht : 1 - 25.01.11

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

Oued Boukila : 1 - 21.01.11

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila pennata*

Oued Boukila : 1 - 21.01.11

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

Oued Chebika : 2 - 22.01.11

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*

Oued Boukila : 3 - 21.01.11

Lanner *Falco biarmicus erlangeri*

Assa to Foug El Hisn : 1 - 23.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 1 - 25.01.11

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Tata (northern outskirts) : 2 - 24.01.11

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*

Taroudant (north side of the Oued Souss) at GPS : N 30° 26.295', W 08° 54.152' : 2 - 26.01.11

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*

Olive groves 18 kms west of Taliouine : 8 - 26.01.11

Hillside near Freija : 2 - 26.01.11

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Asrir (cultivations) : 3 - 23.01.11

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Oued Massa : 2 - 20.01.11

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

Coot *Fulica atra atra*

Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata*

17 kms west of Foug-Zguid at approx. GPS : N 29° 47.600', W 07° 34.500' : 1 - 25.01.11

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*
Oued Laaguig : 40 - 22.01.11

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicanus oedicanus/saharae*
Sidi-Ouassai : 3 - 20.01.11

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor cursor*
Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 3 - 21.01.11
Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 30 - 22.01.11

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius curonicus*
Oued Tissint : 3 - 25.01.11
Oued on outskirts of Taliouine : 2 - 26.01.11

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*
Taghazout : 10 - 20.01.11
Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 1 - 21.01.11
Oued Chebika : 8 - 22.01.11
Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 10 - 22.01.11

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
Oued Tissint : 1 - 25.01.11

Sanderling *Calidris alba*
El Oued Ouaar : 3 - 22.01.11
Oued Ouma Fatma : 350 - 22.01.11

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
Oued Chebika : 1 - 22.01.11
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
Oued Chebika : 8 - 22.01.11

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa limosa/islandica*
Oued Chebika : 5 - 22.01.11

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica lapponica*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*
Tamri : 1 - 20.01.11
Oued Ouma Fatma : 1 - 22.01.11
Oued Chebika : 3 - 22.01.11
Curlew *Numenius arquata arquata*
Oued Massa : 6 - 20.01.11
Oued Chebika : 2 - 22.01.11

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Oued Massa : 1 - 20.01.11
Oued Ait Ouabelli : 1 - 24.01.11
Oued Tissint : 13 - 25.01.11
Oued on outskirts of Taliouine : 2 - 26.01.11

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Oued Ouma Fatma : 3 - 22.01.11

Oued Laaguig : 2 - 22.01.11

Oued Chebika : 3 - 22.01.11

Oued Tissint : 3 - 25.01.11

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres interpres*

El Oued Ouaar : 4 - 22.01.11

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Oued Chebika : 2 - 22.01.11

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

Taghazout : 200 - 20.01.11

El Oued Ouaar : 1500 - 22.01.11

Oued Ouma Fatma : 300 - 22.01.11

Oued Chebika : 6 - 22.01.11

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii/intermedius*

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis atlantis?*

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Tan-Tan Plage : 1 - 21.01.11

El Oued Ouaar : 1500 - 22.01.11

Oued Ouma Fatma : 1 - 22.01.11

Oued Chebika : 3 - 22.01.11

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis*

Tan-Tan Plage : 12 - 21.01.11

El Oued Ouaar : 35 - 22.01.11

Oued Ouma Fatma : 60 - 22.01.11

Oued Chebika : 1 - 22.01.11

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

Oued Boukila : 1 - 21.01.11

Sandy Plains at **GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676'** : 3 - 22.01.11

Asrir hillside at **GPS : N 28°56.078', W 09°59.000'** : 27 - 23.01.11

Tizi-n-Taghatine : 4 - 26.01.11

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Tamri : 50+ - 20.01.11

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Oued Massa : 2 - 20.01.11

Asrir village : 1 - 23.01.11

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis phoenicophila/senegalensis*

Oued Massa : 10 - 20.01.11

Asrir village : 1 - 23.01.11

Assa to Fom El Hisn : 2 - 23.01.11

Tata : 3 - 24.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 1 - 25.01.11

Tissint : 1 - 25.01.11

Pharaoh Eagle Owl *Bubo ascalaphus*

29 kms south of Tata : 1 - 24.01.11

Little Owl *Athene noctua glaux*

Sidi-Ouassai : 10 - 20.01.11

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Taroudant : 40 - 26.01.11

Little Swift *Apus affinis galilenjensis*

Taroudant : 2 - 26.01.11

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Oued Massa : 3 - 20.01.11

Bar-tailed Desert Lark *Ammomanes cinctures arenicolor*

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 12 - 21.01.11

Targoumait to Assa : 10 - 23.01.11

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti deserti/payni*

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 1 - 21.01.11 (*deserti*)

Targoumait to Assa : 3 - 23.01.11 (*payni*)

Icht to Ait Hamaine : 3 - 24.01.11 (*payni*)

Tata (northern outskirts) : 2 - 24.01.11 (*payni*)

Tissint : 1 - 25.01.11 (*payni*)

Tazenakht : 6 - 25.01.11 (*payni*)

Tizi-n-Taghatine : 1 - 26.01.11 (*payni*)

Hoopoe Lark *Alaemon alaudipes alaudipes*

58 kms north of Tan-Tan at GPS : N 28° 39.725', W 10° 40.373' : 1 - 22.01.11

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 10 - 22.01.11

Icht to Ait Hamaine : 3 - 24.01.11

Thick-billed Lark *Ramphocoris clotbey*

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 50 - 21.01.11

Tizi-n-Taghatine : 15 - 26.01.11

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla brachydactyla/longipennis/rubiginosa*

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 3 - 21.01.11

Tizi-n-Taghatine : 20 - 26.01.11

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens minor*

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 3 - 21.01.11

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 6 - 22.01.11

Tizi-n-Taghatine : 40 - 26.01.11

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Tamri : 20+ - 20.01.11

Taghazout : 6 - 20.01.11

Olive groves 18 kms west of Taliouine : 2 - 26.01.11

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae erlangeri/ruficolor/aguirrei/superflua/carolinae*

Oued Boukila : 20 - 21.01.11

Oued Draa : 2 - 21.01.11

Oued Laaguig : 1 - 22.01.11

Asrir hills at **GPS : N 28°56.078', W 09°59.000'** : 12 - 23.01.11

Tizi-n-Taghatine : 40 - 26.01.11

Temminck's Horned Lark *Eremophila bilopha*

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 5 - 21.01.11

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 7 - 22.01.11

Brown-throated Sand Martin *Riparia paludicola mauritanica*

Oued Massa : 3 - 20.01.11

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Taroudant (north side of the Oued Souss) at **GPS : N 30° 26.295', W 08° 54.152'** : 1 - 26.01.11

Swallow *Hirundo rustica rustica*

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Oued Massa : 2 - 20.01.11

Oued Tissint : 2 - 25.01.11

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*

Oued Massa : 1 - 20.01.11

Oued Ouma Fatma : 1 - 22.01.11

Oued Tissint : 125 - 25.01.11

Tazenakht : 1 - 25.01.11

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Taghazout : 1 - 20.01.11

Oued Boukila : 10 - 21.01.11

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 12 - 21.01.11

El Oued Ouaar : 2 - 22.01.11

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 50 - 22.01.11

Moroccan White Wagtail *Motacilla alba subpersonata*

Taghazout : 1 - 20.01.11

Agadir : 1 - 20.01.11

Oued on outskirts of Taliouine : 3 - 26.01.11

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus barbatus*

Tamri : 5 - 20.01.11

Oued Massa : 30 - 20.01.11

Asrir village : 4 - 23.01.11

Tadalt Oasis : 1 - 23.01.11

Oued Tissint : 2 - 25.01.11

Oued on outskirts of Taliouine : 20 - 26.01.11

Cultivation 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at **GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'** : 4 - 26.01.11

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Cultivation 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at *GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'* : 1 - 26.01.11

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*

Oued Massa : 1 - 20.01.11

Asrir village : 1 - 23.01.11

Tissint : 2 - 25.01.11

Olive groves 18 kms west of Taliouine : 1 - 26.01.11

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Asrir village : 1 - 23.01.11

Tadalt Oasis : 1 - 23.01.11

Cultivation 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at *GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'* : 1 - 26.01.11

Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*

Tamri : 4 - 20.01.11

Oued Massa : 6 - 20.01.11

Oued Boukila : 1 - 21.01.11

Oued Draa : 1 - 21.01.11

Asrir (cultivations) : 1 - 23.01.11

Icht to Ait Hamaine : 2 - 24.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 1 - 24.01.11

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus rubicola*

Tamri : 4 - 20.01.11

Oued Massa : 20 - 20.01.11

Asrir village : 2 - 23.01.11

Tadalt Oasis : 1 - 23.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 1 - 24.01.11

Oued Tissint : 1 - 25.01.11

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 2 - 22.01.11

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti homochroa*

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 2 - 21.01.11

Oued Chebika : 2 - 22.01.11

Targoumait to Assa : 1 - 23.01.11

Icht to Ait Hamaine : 4 - 24.01.11

Red-rumped Wheatear *Oenanthe moesta moesta*

Oued Boukila : 6 - 21.01.11

Irrigation Pool at *GPS : N 28° 29.593', W 11° 13.651'* : 1 - 21.01.11

Oued Draa : 1 - 21.01.11

58 kms north of Tan-Tan at *GPS : N 28° 39.725', W 10° 40.373'* : 1 - 22.01.11

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 4 - 21.01.11

Asrir hillside at *GPS : N 28° 56.078', W 09° 59.000'* : 2 - 23.01.11

White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga leucopyga*

Road junction (Asrir 8km/Fask 12km) at *GPS : N 28°57.154', W 09° 55.521'* : 5 - 23.01.11

Tadalt Oasis : 6 - 23.01.11

Assa to Fom El Hisn : 2 - 23.01.11

Icht to Ait Hamaine : 5 - 24.01.11

29 kms south of Tata : 4 - 24.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 5 - 24.01.11

Oued Tissint : 4 - 25.01.11

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura syenitica*

Taghazout : 1 - 20.01.11

Oued Draa : 2 - 21.01.11

El Oued Ouair : 3 - 22.01.11

Oued Ouma Fatma : 3 - 22.01.11

Oued Laaguig : 2 - 22.01.11

Oued Chebika : 1 - 22.01.11

Asrir hillside at *GPS : N 28°56.078', W 09°59.000'* : 3 - 23.01.11

Tadalt Oasis : 1 - 23.01.11

Targoumait to Assa : 2 - 23.01.11

Icht to Ait Hamaine : 3 - 24.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 2 - 24.01.11

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius solitarius*

Oued Massa : 1 - 20.01.11

Asrir village : 2 - 23.01.11

Tissint : 4 - 25.01.11

Blackbird *Turdus merula mauritanicus*

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Cultivation 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at *GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'* : 1 - 26.01.11

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis*

Oued Massa : 10 - 20.01.11

Asrir (cultivations) : 1 - 23.01.11

Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta theresae*

Oued Boukila : 2 - 21.01.11

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

Oued Massa : 1 - 20.01.11

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata conspicillata*

Tamri : 5 - 20.01.11

Oued Boukila : 2 - 21.01.11

Icht to Ait Hamaine : 3 - 24.01.11

29 kms south of Tata : 1 - 24.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 1 - 24.01.11

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala melanocephala*

Tamri : 3 - 20.01.11

Oued Massa : 10 - 20.01.11

Asrir village : 6 - 23.01.11

Cultivation 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at *GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'* : 1 - 26.01.11

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Taroudant (north side of the Oued Souss) at *GPS : N 30° 26.295', W 08° 54.152'* : 1 - 26.01.11

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Asrir village : 1 - 23.01.11

Oued on outskirts of Taliouine : 6 - 26.01.11

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita collybita*

Oued Massa : 25 - 20.01.11

Oued Boukila : 2 - 21.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 2 - 24.01.11

Oued Tissint : 15 - 25.01.11

Fulvous Babbler *Turdoides fulvus maroccanus*

Asrir village : 4 - 23.01.11

Targoumait to Assa : 2 - 23.01.11

Icht to Ait Hamaine : 1 - 24.01.11

African Blue Tit *Cyanistes ultramarinus*

Oued on outskirts of Taliouine : 3 - 26.01.11

Great Tit *Parus major*

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

Oued Massa : 3 - 20.01.11

Cultivation 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at *GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'* : 2 - 26.01.11

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis algeriensis/elegans*

Tamri : 3 - 20.01.11

Taghazout : 2 - 20.01.11

Oued Massa : 2 - 20.01.11

Oued Boukila : 4 - 21.01.11

Sandy Plains at *GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676'* : 1 - 22.01.11

Asrir (cultivations) : 8 - 23.01.11

Tadalt Oasis : 1 - 23.01.11

Targoumait to Assa : 1 - 23.01.11

Assa to Foug El Hisn : 6 - 23.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 1 - 24.01.11

Hillside near Freija : 2 - 26.01.11

Taroudant (north side of the Oued Souss) at *GPS : N 30° 26.295', W 08° 54.152'* : 3 - 26.01.11

North African Blue-eared Magpie *Pica pica mauritanica*

Agadir : 5 - 20.01.11

Oued Massa : 10 - 20.01.11

Cultivation 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at *GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'* : 1 - 26.01.11

Raven *Corvus corax*

Between Agadir and Massa : 2 - 20.01.11

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

Agadir : 20 - 20.01.11

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus domesticus/tingitanus*

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Oued Massa : 25 - 20.01.11

Oued Boukila : 10 - 21.01.11

Asrir (cultivations) : 500 - 23.01.11

Icht to Ait Hamaine : 20 - 24.01.11

African Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs Africana*

Tamri : 4 - 20.01.11

Oued Massa : 1 - 20.01.11

Olive groves 18 kms west of Taliouine : 1 - 26.01.11

Serin *Serinus serinus*

Oued Massa : 5 - 20.01.11

Asrir village : 1 - 23.01.11

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris aurantiiventris/chloris*

Tizi-n-Taghatine : 17 - 26.01.11

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis parva/carduelis/Britannica*

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Tamri : 20+ - 20.01.11

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus zedlitzi*

Oued Boukila : 4 - 21.01.11

Irrigation Pool at **GPS : N 28° 29.593', W 11° 13.651'** : 5 - 21.01.11

Sandy Plains at GPS : N 28° 49.305', W 10° 18.676' : 3 - 21.01.11

Asrir hillside at **GPS : N 28°56.078', W 09°59.000'** : 50 - 23.01.11

Tadalt Oasis : 10 - 23.01.11

Targoumait to Assa : 6 - 23.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 6 - 24.01.11

Tissint : 30 - 25.01.11

Tizi-n-Taghatine : 6 - 26.01.11

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

Oued Massa : 2 - 20.01.11

House Bunting *Emberiza sahari*

Tamri : 10 - 20.01.11

Oued Massa : 8 - 20.01.11

Asrir hillside at **GPS : N 28°56.078', W 09°59.000'** : 1 - 23.01.11

Tata (northern outskirts) : 3 - 24.01.11

Tissint : 12 - 25.01.11

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra calandra*

Oued Boukila : 10 - 21.01.11

Oued Laaguig : 12 - 22.01.11

Asrir (cultivations) : 100 - 23.01.11

Olive groves 18 kms west of Taliouine : 6 - 26.01.11

Cultivation 5 kms west of Al Massira airport at **GPS : N 30° 20.069', W 09° 27.220'** : 1 - 26.01.11

A total of 120 species recorded.

Peter Gluth

04.02.11