

Southern Morocco

Naturetrek Tour Report

18 - 27 February 2011



Erg Chebbi sand dunes



House Bunting



Tristram's Warbler



White-crowned Black Wheatears

Report compiled by Rob Murray and Peter Dunn
Images by Peter Dunn



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Tour Summary

This tour took us through tremendously stimulating scenery packed with intriguing geomorphological and geological features. From high mountain passes with snow draped summits to stony, Hamada deserts, sandy deserts, marshes, estuaries and rivers. We took advantage of many opportunities to immerse ourselves in the culture of the country. We visited souks, markets, small villages bustling with local commercial activities involving donkeys, carts, camels and we even saw a mud brick making plant and a city bakery in action. The very special desert birds thrilled us. Houbara Bustard, Desert Sparrow, Brown-necked Raven, sandgrouse, Cream-coloured Courser. Thick-billed Lark, Desert lark and the inimitable Hoopoe lark were all thoroughly enjoyed. We also studied scorpions, beetles, digger wasps, dragonflies, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians and endearing mammals such as Gundis, Barbary Ground Squirrels and Fat Sand Rats. The weather was idyllic. We enjoyed sunshine every day with no rain at all and calm conditions. This was ideal for watching the varied and exotic wildlife of the region.

Day 1

Friday 18 February

Sunny and warm in Marrakech

The group arrived in Marrakesh at 11.30 and we met Muhammed our city guide. We walked to the vibrant and bustling square of Jemaa el Fna and the enveloping souks. We were immersed in a labyrinth of scented and brightly coloured alleyways with stalls flaunting enticing spices, clothes, leather goods and ceramics. We emerged like troglodytes clutching the hard bargained for purchases. A visit to the town bakery was fascinating. The Berber pharmacy assailed our nostrils with wonderful aromas. We were lead to an original, unrestored, caravanserai courtyard with imposing ornate, wooden doorways. Being immersed so deeply into Moroccan

culture had pushed any thoughts of birds to the recesses of the mind. Scant attention was paid to the myriads of Pallid Swifts screaming overhead. Little Swifts were seen zooming in and out of the impressive mosque tower of La Koutoubia. Common Bulbuls and House Buntings were in the gardens all around us.

Day 2

Saturday 19 February

Sunny, warm (26degrees) and calm

The crisp, clear, early morning air bestowed a wonderfully stark and sharp view to the snow-mantled Atlas Mountains. Our first stop was in the foothills just before Touama in coniferous woodland. Here we enjoyed the company of North African Chaffinches, Crossbills and Cirl Bunting. Moroccan Orange-tip butterflies graced the woodland. Our arrival at the cafe was timed perfectly to coincide with the spectacular morning display flight of a male Goshawk. Climbing higher we paused to admire the view from Ait Berrka across the rugged peaks. Clouds of 7-spot ladybirds swarmed over us but the irritation was soon forgotten when a superb Bonelli's Eagle sailed overhead. The temperature fell to 16 degrees as we wandered around the floor of the Tizi-N-Tichka pass. Over 120 Red-billed Choughs danced acrobatically in the up draughts. By 16.45 we had descended to the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi close to the ever expanding city of Ouarzazate. Here we encountered many familiar species but in exotic surroundings. Grey herons, grebes, Mallards and Marsh Harriers presented no identification challenges. Black Wheatears and White-crowned Black Wheatears were common here. It was just dusk when we arrived at our hotel in El Kelaa after travelling 275 km.

Day 3

Sunday 20 February

Sunny and warm (25 degrees). No wind. Some high wispy cloud.

Sunrise was at 7am. Some of us added Moussier's Redstart, Hoopoe and Sardinian Warbler to the list. It was very chilly in the hotel but as soon as brave Helios rose above the mountain crest his rays thawed our tense limbs. A vast, stony desert unfurled before us like a Berber carpet with intricate patterns of shrubs and shattered rocks. This is the Tagdilt Plain famed for exquisite birds such as Red-rumped Wheatear, Temminck's Lark, Trumpeter Finch and Long-legged Buzzard. Hoopoe larks sang mournfully, climbed to 30m, then plummeted head first to the ground in a bizarre display. Scorpions lurked beneath the stones and one was captured for closer appreciation. Fat Sand Rats peered from the sanctity of their refuges and Sundevall's Jirds skipped across the stones. Crowned Sandgrouse, Short-toed Eagle and Bar-tailed Desert Larks augmented our pleasure.

In the afternoon we marvelled at the sculpturing effects of sub-aerial erosion on the granite at the mouth of the Dades Gorge. Fists of fingers protruded skywards. Our buses dropped us off at the top and we ambled down the meandering road, round hairpin bends with spectacular views. Looking down upon Crag Martins is an unusual experience. Three Tristram's Warblers surrendered to our patient scrutiny and four Bonelli's Eagles soared majestically along the fretted ridge. Gundis squatted on rock ledges peering dolefully at us, while Barbary Ground Squirrels were much more alert and acrobatic. One Gundi sprang to life when pursued by a determined Weasel. It was a delight to see pure, genetically uncontaminated, clean and wary Rock Doves.

Day 4

Monday 21 February

Sunny (25 degrees). No wind. Some diffuse high cloud

The rising sun cast a warming, pink glow to the snow-capped mountains as we departed for further exploration of the Hamada desert. We encountered hundreds of Black-bellied Sandgrouse. At an oasis we saw a small, mud-brick manufacturing plant which seemed primitive but was very effective. Fresh bricks had been added to a nearby dwelling under construction. Our attention was abruptly diverted to a huge raptor soaring above. It was an immature Golden Eagle. A very good record indeed!

We devoured another tasty and appetizing lunch prepared by Halim and Alal at the dramatic Todra Gorge where Blue Rock Thrushes, Crag Martins and Black Redstarts kept us alert. We journeyed on towards Erfoud and across the Marrha Plain. I knew that there remained only one last chance to find Thick-billed Lark. We made our final stop of the day at what appeared to be suitable habitat. We scanned and scanned. Hope was fading when suddenly there they were! Six immaculate Thick-billed Larks were strutting across a cultivated patch of desert.

Day 5

Tuesday 22 February

Beautiful clear blue sky with sunshine all day. No wind. 26 degrees.

Our team of five 4x4 jeeps was assembled and set to depart at 5am. Under the scrutiny of Orion and his faithful hound, Sirius we followed the Morning Star towards the sunrise. Venus seemed to twinkle and dance in the knowledge that we were closing in on the treasures of the desert. Two Cream-coloured Coursers caught in the headlights were enjoyed by all. By 6.30am Orion and Venus had been burned to oblivion by the rising sun. The landscape was washed in the hues of a water colour artist's palette. The coeruleum sky; raw sienna and cadmium yellow sand; burnt umber and Payne's grey rocks. In this fresh morning light we were thrilled by the proximity of two obliging Houbara Bustards. An oasis with water was a rare sight this year as the winter has been dry. However, our drivers found one and we beheld flock after flock of Crowned Sandgrouse circling around and dropping in to drink. A long, low rocky outcrop caught our attention. As we scrambled over it we discovered perfectly preserved fossils of an elongated ammonite-like mollusc that seemed to have been straightened out. They are known as *Orthoceras* and they swam around this area in warm seas of the Devonian era some 450 million years ago. The appearance of Brown-necked Ravens indicated our proximity to the settlements of Merzouga and the Café Yasmina. However, there was one more stop to make before coffee. It was at an Acacia tree that held three Desert Sparrow's nests. The occupants emerged and gave us good views. The tranquillity of the desert was rudely interrupted by the sudden appearance of a long line of French rally drivers. They certainly kicked up some dust but amused us with their foolhardiness as several veered off the track to become marooned in the sand with wheels spinning and no forward or backward progress being possible. The local tractor owner enjoyed all his birthdays at once!

A little further on we experienced the classic desert mirage of huge lakes either side of us, only to see them regress into the beyond as we arrived at where we thought they existed. There was a Tristram's Warbler in the tamarisk scrub at the cafe, but the most intriguing find was botanical. Yellow-flowered Broom-rape had burst through the sandy crust to thrust upwards in a colourful spike that attracted many bees. It was parasitizing the roots of Tamarisk trees. Lunch was at the Berber Carpet house in the village. Most people were fascinated at the range of carpets and listened attentively to the descriptions of how they are made. Many other items were for

sale and certainly worth browsing at. We spent much longer here than expected, but as the desert lake was non-existent this year, we had the time to spare. It was 4.30pm when we returned to our hotel in Erfoud. This left enough time for the energetic ones to walk over to the River Ziz for more birding. We were rewarded with great views of Black-winged Stilts, Moussier's Redstart and Moroccan Wagtail.

Day 6

Wednesday 23 February

Sunny and warm all day (up to 29 degrees). Cloudless, blue sky

We left Erfoud at 8am and began our long journey westwards following the south side of the Anti-Atlas through spectacular and varied desert landscapes. This is some of the most stunning scenery in Morocco. We made a brief stop at the Oued Ziz which used to be a beautiful spot, but now it has been bulldozed and a major road flyover is being built. However, we did see Moroccan Wagtails, Ruddy Shelduck and White Storks. It was with rising excitement and anticipation that we drove off the road along the foot of an escarpment to search for the Pharaoh's Eagle Owl. As we walked the final stretch to the site we stumbled upon belemnites and even ammonites underfoot. Despite being under the protective eye of a self-appointed warden, some local village boys had stoned the owls and they had deserted. At an alternative sight we encountered two Peregrines .

We stopped for coffee in Ainif, a bustling local market town and then ate our lunch in an acacia lined oued east of Tazzarine where we found a few Fulvous Babblers, Tristram's Warblers and Desert Larks. On our way to the Draa valley we watched several dust devils spiralling and twisting as they wisped up dust and debris seemingly to the troposphere! At the bridge we stumbled upon our first definite Long-billed crested Lark or Maghreb Lark as it is soon to be called. We continued the tortuous ascent of the Tinifit pass rising to 1660m. At a view point we enjoyed a spectacular vista in the company of a Blue Rock Thrush and Black Wheatear. The descent to the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi crossed beautiful countryside and we arrived with enough time to savour a variety of species on the water. Two Ospreys, two Temminck's Stints and Marbled Duck were the highlights.

Day 7

Thursday 24 February

Sunny all day long. (25 degrees)

The barrage was our first port of call as it is just a couple of minutes drive from the hotel. We added Squacco Heron and were amazed by the number of trumpeter Finches flying around. It was worth a brief stop at the film studios where Cleopatra was made from both a cultural and ornithological point of view. A Blue Rock Thrush perched on the head of an Egyptian deity was an amusing sight. Between here and Taznakt we made impromptu stops to stretch out and to enjoy a few birds such as Desert Wheatear and Moussier's Redstart. Near to Oued Irri a wonderful Bonelli's Eagle flew at low level across our path. From now on the terrain became increasingly barren and bird less until we arrived at the Saffron Tea House where a complimentary cup of the local brew revived us. Exploring the plantation was most interesting. We were shown saffron growing and saw the elongated corms from which the saffron is extracted. A singing male Firecrest was a big surprise.

Now we entered the zone of the endemic Argan forest. This spinaceous tree bears fruits used for oil manufacture. To see goats ascending the thorny, dense canopy with such ease was remarkable. The run in to Taroudant takes us through 80km of flat agricultural land with tall trees, orchards and some industrial development. This is prime habitat for Black-winged Kite. Thanks to the sharp eyes of Halim in the leading bus

we had superb views of one hovering and gliding over an open, bushy habitat. There were Corn Buntings here too. We arrived at the fascinating hotel in Taroudant just as dusk fell after a trip of 305km.

Day 8

Friday 25 February

Early morning fog cleared to give a cloudy day but sunny later on. (24degrees).

The call to prayer and competing cockerels gave an atmospheric alarm wake-up at 5.30 am. We drove through fog for about an hour, but still saw Maghreb Magpies, Little Owl and Spotless Starlings. From Agadir we headed north up the coast road past Cap Rhir to Tamri. The sun was shining when we ambled towards the lagoon. Resplendent Audouin's Gulls loafed about on the spit and an Arctic Skua was resting offshore. A Moroccan Cormorant attracted attention, but the highlight was the discovery of 24 Northern Bald Ibises feeding on the bank opposite. Many Broom-rape plants were scattered throughout the dunes. They attracted several magnificent Striped Hawk-moths which were like giant Hummingbird Hawk-moths seeking nectar from the yellow flowers. A couple of Praying Mantids were stationed beneath the flower clusters and made grabs for the moths. It was fascinating to witness. Beyond Tamri we found more Bald Ibises and Barbary Partridge.

After lunch we checked into the hotel and had a siesta before making our evening trip to the Oued Souss. Here we secured the best views of the trip of Maghreb Magpie. The blue triangle behind the eye showed perfectly. An Osprey perched on a low dead tree on the mud flat to feast on a fish it had captured. A Grey Heron stalked closer and closer but with great hesitation and reluctance to attempt the final act of theft. It just peered longingly up at the disinterested raptor. As dusk enveloped the estuary Stone-curlews began calling eerily and soon Red-necked Nightjars cranked up their mechanical, stuttering churr sounding like a car engine that won't turn over when you switch the ignition on. We were lucky to see two of them darting between the trees and along the gravelly track.

Day 9

Saturday 26 February

Sunny and hot and bright all day. (26 degrees). No wind.

After breakfast we set off from Agadir and made our way south towards Oued Massa. This picturesque river valley and estuary supports a wealth of wildlife and plants. We stopped by a rubbish tip which as usual yielded some good birds; Sub-alpine Warbler and bizarre digger wasps being the highlights. We parked by the river and we had not walked far before the beautiful, fluty song of the Black-crowned Tchagra enchanted us. It sat in full view to gasps of delight from all around. Three Mongooses played around in a rowing boat on the far bank. They slunk about like otters. Adjacent to our picnic site lays a bushy area where we found two amazing chameleons, each displaying a different colour, matching the background we found them on.

After lunch we moved back to the village of Massa and visited a new concrete bridge spanning the river. Here we found Plain Martins. Bill Oddie describes them as one of the most difficult birds to see in the Western Palearctic, but one of the most boring when you do! Personally, I rather like their characteristic, fluttery flight. All the marshes were bone dry so we struggled with water birds. One Glossy Ibis flew by but that was it. We tried a new location where there was some water but found only Pond Terrapins and a Kingfisher. An early return to the hotel was much appreciated by those who wanted to have a sauna and massage or to do some additional shopping.

Day 10

Sunday 27 February

Sunny, bright and warm (24 degrees).

Most people opted for a bit of a lie-in this morning. We had to leave the hotel by 9.15 to check in at 10am for our 12 pm flight to London. Anyone extra keen could have fitted in an hour of seawatching, but there were no takers! Our plane was on time, but brought the depressing news of rain and extremely low temperatures in London. We were all a little sad and subdued as our wonderful drivers; Halim and Alal left us at the airport after a very special experience of their magnificent country and people.

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Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only; ✓ = commonly recorded but not counted)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feb									
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>			13					2	1	
2	Common Quail	<i>Cortunix cortunix</i>									H	
3	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>						40	5			
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		3				4	2			
5	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>						1	3			
6	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>						4	3			
7	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		3			2	6		7	5	
8	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		2				2				
9	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	12	65	8	2		164	70	3	60	3
10	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>								33		
11	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>									1	
12	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>								1	5	
13	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>							12			
14	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	1	60	20	15			42	11	17	2
15	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		3		1	3	5	20	25	5	
16	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1	1				140	25	6	10	
17	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>								1		
18	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		2				162	31	15	7	
	Moroccan Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus</i>								1	1	
19	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						3	1	1		
20	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>							2			
21	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					2					
22	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			1							
23	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1		1	1	7	4		2	
24	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		1								
25	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		1	3	8			4			
26	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				1						
27	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>		1	4				1			
28	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	1					2				

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feb									
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	6	2	2	1	3	15	8	30	1
30	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						2				
31	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>			1							
32	Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>					2					
33	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>									6	
34	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						50	✓		8	
35	Eurasian Stone-Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>								H		
36	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>									1	
37	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					14					
38	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>							1			
39	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								4		
40	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					7	3	1	2	H	
41	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		5						3		
42	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>								1		
43	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								2		
44	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								3		
45	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		3			5	3	2	2		
46	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						1	1	6		
47	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>						2				
48	Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>					3					
49	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						40	6	78	25	
50	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyophaga atricapilla</i>								46		
51	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>								✓	✓	✓
52	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>								✓	✓	✓
53	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								20		
54	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>								1		
55	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>								1		
56	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>			60	200						
57	Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>			10		300					
58	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			6			5				
59	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	1	✓	1	1	1				9	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feb									
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
61	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>			3	2	4	6	2		8	
63	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				2				1	9	
64	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>								2		
65	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓	6					30	6	50	40
66	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	8						15			
67	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						1			3	
68	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			2	1	2	1	1	1	1	
69	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>									4	
70	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>									3	
	Southern Grey Shrike [algeriensis]	<i>Lanius meridionalis algeriensis</i>		1	1	10	6	25	20	5		
	Southern Grey Shrike [elegans]	<i>Lanius meridionalis elegans</i>		1					1			
71	North African Magpie	<i>Pica pica mauritanica</i>	1	20						2	12	2
72	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		140								
73	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>					100	25	2			
74	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		2			1			1		
75	Coal Tit [atlas]	<i>Periparus ater atlas</i>		6								
76	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	H	1		H			4		1	
77	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus</i>		6	5	2				2		2
78	Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>			9	5	7					
79	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>				6						
80	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>			3	3	2					
81	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>					40	17	15			
82	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			30	30						
83	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>				15						
84	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		6	6	20	5	6	30	8	✓	3
85	Maghreb Lark	<i>Galerida macrorhyncha</i>						2				
86	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			2	2						
87	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		3								
88	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			3							
89	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>			6	3						
90	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	50	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feb									
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
91	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>									4	
92	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>								2	1	
93	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1	30	15			1	10	40	120	4
94	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		10	30	20		1				
95	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	2						4	2	2	
96	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	3					1	H	
97	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				2						
98	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	3	2	4	4	6	10	20	16	40	3
99	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>						1	3	✓	25	H
100	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulva</i>						5				
101	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1							1	1	1
102	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserti</i>					2					
103	Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>			3		2	1				
104	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>					2			1	4	
105	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>								1	3	
106	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	3	1	1	2		1	7	5	✓	1
107	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>							1			
108	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1								
109	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	12						55	20	6
110	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	8	12	6	1	1	20	✓	✓	2
111	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1						1	1	
112	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1		2	3		1	3		1	
113	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>					1		12	3	15	
114	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		2	1	1			2	1	2	
115	Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>			20	16						
116	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>									3	
117	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>					1					
118	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>					8		3			
119	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>		7		10	20	47	2			
120	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>		6	6	6	5	15	10	2		
121	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				2		1	3			
122	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feb									
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
123	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>					9				5	
124	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>					3					
	Yellow Wagtail sp.	<i>Motacilla flava</i>								1	1	
125	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>						4	1	1		
126	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		2	3	4			2			
127	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	2	5	4	11	17	160	20	9	20	2
	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>					3	5		2		
128	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>									2	
129	African Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>		20					14	1	2	
130	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	1	15	17	18	1		12	12	15	2
131	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2	2					5		5	
132	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		4	2	2	1	1	2		12	
133	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				6	4			2	6	
134	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>				5	19	3	60	6		
135	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		2								
136	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		2					1	3	H	6
137	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			5	H						
138	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		1							1	
139	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	20	2	9	4	1	2	3	7	10	2
140	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>								1		

Mammals

Egyptian Mongoose
Common Weasel
Barbary Ground Squirrel

Herpestes ichneumon
Mustela nivalis
Atlantoxerus getulus

Sundevall's Jird
Fat Sand Rat
Common Gundi

Meriones crassus
Psammomys obesus
Ctenodactylus gundi

Butterflies & Moths

Scarce Swallowtail
Large White
Small White
Bath White
Morocco Orange Tip

Iphiclides podalirius
Pieris brassicae
Artogeia rapae
Pontia daplidice
Anthocharis belia

Brimstone
Plain Tiger
Large Tortoiseshell
Painted Lady
Wall Brown

Gonepteryx rhamni
Danaus chrysippus
Nymphalis polychloros
Vanessa cardui
Lasiommata megera

Clouded Yellow
Striped Hawk-Moth
A tiger moth (like a clearwing)

Colias croceus
Hyles livornica
Amata mogadorensis

Humming-bird Hawk-Moth
Silver Y

Macroglossum stellatarum
Autographa gamma

Dragonflies

Emperor Dragonfly

Anax imperator

Lesser Emperor

Anax parthenope

Other taxa

Chameleon, Pond Tortoise, Side-striped Terrapin, Tortoise sp. Agama Lizard, various sand/wall lizard sp., Tiger beetle sp., Dung beetle sp.; 7-spot Ladybird, Millipede; Scorpion (*Buthus tunetanus*); Toad grasshoppers sp (*Trachypetrella* sp.); Red Flashwing; *Megascolia bidens* (a parasitic wasp that preys on large beetles).

Sample of Plants Species (courtesy of Jennie Grange)

Wall Pennywort, Hounds-tongue, Asphodel species, Prickly Juniper, Aleppo Pine, Yellow Dodder sp., Yellow Toadflax sp., Caster Oil Plant, *Euphobia* sp., *Salvia* sp., Henbit, Shepherd's Purse, Black Nightshade, Barbary Nut, Red Pheasant-eye, Crown Daisy, Carob Tree, Argan Tree, Sea Lavender, Walnut tree.