Rare birds in Morocco: report of the Moroccan Rare Birds Committee (1998–2000)

Patrick Bergier, Jacques Franchimont, Michel Thevenot and the Moroccan Rare Birds Committee


Introduction

The first triennial report of the Moroccan Rare Birds Committee (MRBC) appeared in Bull. ABC in 2000. This second report includes the 129 records analyzed during 1998 to 2000 (see Table 1). Ninety-two have been accepted, including a species new for Africa (Stilt Sandpiper Micropalama bicoloratus), as well as four species: subspecies new for Morocco (White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscescens, Semi-palmated Sandpiper C. pusillum, Buff-breeched Sandpiper Tyto alba subminuta and Siberian Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita tristis). Annual reports for the period have been published in Fuglybird.6

The updated list of species considered by MRBC appears as Appendix I and includes true vagrants (ie species with fewer than 30 records) and rare or little-known species whose current status is inadequately known. We strongly urge visiting birdwatchers to submit descriptions of relevant species to the MRBC Secretary: Prof. Jacques Franchimont, Quartier Abbas Lemesni, n°6, n°22, 50-000 Meknes, V. N., Morocco. MRBC work in progress is accessible at: http://www.fuglybird.com/Morocco/South.

Three detailed records of a dark heron (Western Reef Heron Egretta gularis) and a dark morph Little Egret E. g. garzetta at Merzouga have been the subject of much discussion within the MRBC. They are presented below.

The dark egret/heron at Merzouga

On 22 April 1997, a group of ten ornithologists led by A van den Berg found a dark heron egret at Merzouga. The bird was within a group of six typical Little Egrets E. g. gularis and several excellent pictures were taken.

The species was recorded at two sites, a small pond to the east of Merzouga and another approximately 20 km to the south. The bird was clearly identifiable as a dark morph, with a black head and bill, a white ring around the eye and an orange tip. The most striking feature was the black wing coverts, which contrasted sharply with the white primary coverts. The bird was observed for several minutes, and several photographs were taken.

Table 1. Number of records analysed by the MRBC from 1998 to 2000

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Map showing the regions of Morocco used in this report.

Two days later, it was rediscovered by two other groups, (G2) with five birds led by T. Gullik, who approached the bird to a some 80 m, and (G3) led by N. Redman. The dark heron/egret was then with two Little Egrets.

Table 2 summarises the detailed descriptions that have been submitted by the three groups. Text in *italics* are extracted verbatim from their reports.

The differences in the descriptions between groups G1/G3 and G2 are striking, especially concerning the size and bill (the hypothesis that two different birds were present in April was discussed but ultimately rejected as G2 and G3 saw the bird on the same day).

The deliberations of the MRBC, and comments of Yves Kayser and Philippe J. Dubois, have also shown inconsistencies. Finally, MRBC decided that the identity of the dark heron/egret at Merzouga could not be specifically determined and it should be referred to as an *Egretta sp*. Van den Berg described his record in *Dutch Birds*.

### Presentation of data

The presentation of data follows the same pattern as used in the MRBC report for 1994–1997: for all species, the following sequence has been used:

- **English and scientific names of species**
- **Status according to codes presented in Appendix I**
- **Data details: year, MRBC file number, region (see map), place, number of birds involved (one unless otherwise stated), age, sex, other information applicable (diet of observation, and recorder(s) name(s)).**
- **Comments**

| Table 2 |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| **Group G1—22 April 1997** | **Group G2—24 April 1997** | **Group G3—24 April 1997** |
| **General colour** | upperparts and underparts dark grey, including elongated narrow dark grey feathers on back and breast. Belly slightly paler grey than breast. | dark slaty black | smoky-grey/black dark phase (much as Western Reef Heron). |
| **Jizz** | same size and structure as accompanying Little Egrets. | different and more 'stretched' stance (in relation to the two typical Little Egrets). | same size and structure (as the two typical Little Egrets). |
| **Bill** | black. | appearing heavier (in relation to the two typical Little Egrets) and more thick-billed with a droopy effect to the dirty yellowish bill (not black). | fairly slender as white birds, grey-black (tip pale base). Culmen slightly curved but same as white birds. Bill not deep at base, nor blunt-tipped. |
| **Legs** | tarsus black with some yellowish admixed towards ankle. Toes yellow. Claws black. | the black legs and yellow feet were common to all three birds (e. the dark egret/heron and the two typical Little Egrets). | legs dark brownish-black (grey upper tibia) with yellowish feet (up to 'ankle'), same as white birds. Legs not noticeably thicker or shorter than white birds. |
| **Head, throat, neck** | forehead white, motiled grey towards crown. Hindbrown, neck and neck dark grey. Dark lines. White feathers surrounding eye as broken eye-ring; Ear-coverts white, slightly motiled grey. | there were whitish feathers from the chin to halfway down the throat. | throat and chin white. |
| **Wings** | primaries dark grey with much white at base. Secondaries dark grey with some white motiling at base of outer. Tertials dark grey with little white at base. Greater primary-coverts largely white with some dark grey edges. Outer and two central greater coverts dark grey with little white at base. Median, lesser and underwing-coverts dark grey. Pink brownish hue on upperwing-coverts. | in flight, the dark egret showed whitish wing patches in area of primary wing-coverts. | in flight several primaries showed white webs giving curious pied effect. |
| **Tail** | dark grey. | dark head plumes (two) as white birds. | |
| **Plumage** | similar ornamental plumes (to typical Little Egrets). | similar ornamental plumes (to typical Little Egrets). | similar ornamental plumes (to typical Little Egrets). |


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For accidental species, six numbers in brackets follow the status code. The first two indicate the number of records (and number of birds) in the files of the Centrale Ornithologique Marocaine (COM) prior to the formation of the MRBC. The second pair indicate the number of records (and number of birds) accepted by the MRBC and described in the first triennial report (1995–1997). The last pair indicate the number of records accepted by the MRBC from 1998 to 2000, and the number of birds involved. The systematic list follows the sequence of species for which details are required by the MRBC (Appendix 1).

List of accepted records

**Great Northern Diver Gavia immer** AV (3/3, 0/0, 1/1)
1986 (86 1) **Souss**, Souss estuary, first winter, 1–20 December, photo (H. Klemola & J. Kinnunen). This bird stayed over one month at the Souss estuary (it being present since at least 20 November—N. J. Redman).

**Manx Shearwater Puffinus (p.) puffinus** PM, OW (—, 0/0, 1/0+).
1999 (99 28) **Tarfaya**, Akbnennar and Tarfaya, 5–6 September (A. Jor & K. Jor et al.)

More than 70 individuals were reported between Akbnennar and Tarfaya on 5–6 September. These dates correspond to the known autumn migration pattern, which is from late August to late November. Of the three forms of small shearwaters, Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus (p.) mauretanicus* is the commonest off the Atlantic coast during migration; Manx Shearwater is rarer, while the occurrence of Yelkouan Shearwater *P. (p.) yelkouan* remains unestablished.

**White-faced Storm-petrel Pelagodroma marina** AV (4/33+, 0/0, 1/1)
1997 (97 17) **Souss**, 24 nautical miles off Agadir, 11 March, photo (K. Carlsson & al.)

**White-eyed Duck Oxyura leucocephala** WV, OB, PM (0/0, 8/17)
1997 (97 18) **Rharb**, Merja Barga, 30 May and 28 June, photos (C. Castro Roman et al.)

**Ring-necked Duck Aythya collaris** AV (9/13, 1/1, 1/1)

**White-headed Duck Oxyura leucocephala** WV, OB, PM (0/0, 8/17)
1999 (99 32) **Sais**, Doujeyt, three males and one female, 20 and 29 September (A. El Ghazi et al.)

2000 (00 02) **Sais**, Doujeyt, male, 24 December (A. El Ghazi et al.)

Breed in the marshes of the Rharb until the late 1950s; thereafter numbers dramatically decreased. Only four records in the 1960s–1970s; and since then only one, in 1985. White-headed Duck was regular at Doujeyt with the first breeding record in 2000, and further observations from there are not to be submitted to MRBC. On 13 July 1999, the six males were displaying and the females were with a female White Duck *O. jamaicensis* and a hybrid, a White-headed female. On 20 and 29 September, at least two hybrid White-headed males were with the group.

Buddy x White-headed Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* x Q. leucocephala AV (0/0, 3/4, 2/5)

1998 (36) Sais. Douyet, three males, 25 April (Franchimont & A El Ghazi)

1999 (42) Sais. Douyet, two females, 25 December (Franchimont et al)

The presence of this duck continues to threaten the establishment of White-headed Duck at Douyet.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* RB (0, 0, 1/1)

1999 4* 1 Sais. 10 km east of Oudad Berahil, immature, 2 April

Recorded at the agrarian parkland frontier, an original environment which is rapidly disappearing due to encroaching agriculture.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* RB (0, 0, 3/3)

1998 (9) 3 Sais. Tafingoud, 2 May (J. Franchimont & A El Ghazi)

1999 (1) 4 Sais. near Arzazane, subadult, 12 September (H Dufourmy & B Gauquie)

Barbary Falcon *Falco peregrinus* pellegrinoides RB poorly known (0, 14/5, 13/17)

1998 (6) 11 Tarfaya, Skinsouth of El Oudad estuary, immature, 11 August (J Franchimont & F Touati Malhi)

1999 (4) 12 Tarfaya, 16 km south of Tartan Plage, immature, 11 August (J Franchimont & F Touati Malhi)

1999 (1) 13 Tarfaya, 11 km south of Sidi Itti, immature, 12 August (J Franchimont & F Touati Malhi)

1999 (6) 6 Doukkala, Sidi Moussa-Oualidia, 8 April (V Schol-laert & L Langemendies)

1999 (3) 7 Haha, Tamri, 5 April (V Schol-laert et al)

1999 (6) 14 Western High Atlas, Tizert-Ticha, pair, 27 March (V Schol-laert et al)

1999 (4) 19 Sais. Sidi Moussa, 28 April (L Herbecc et al)

1999 (4) 21 Sais. Sidi Moussa, two juveniles, 13 September, one juvenile, 19 September (H Dufourmy & B Gauquie)

1999 (4) 29 Sais. Sidi Moussa, juvenile, 3 September (V Schol-laert et al)

1999 (4) 80 Western Middle Atlas, Daret Aoua, two juveniles, 16 September (V Schol-laert et al)

1999 (3) 31 Doukkala, Khemis Zemoura, juvenile, 1 September (A Joris et al)

1999 (3) 32 Plains of Eastern Morocco, El Aouin, Oudjda, two adults, 21 September (V Schol-laert et al)

1999 (4) 16 Western Anti-Atlas, Tizert, 11 May (J El Ghazi & J Franchimont)

Most records are from southern Morocco and the Atlantic coast between Doukkala and Tarfaya, but it may be a more widespread breeder in many areas in northern Morocco, less frequently visited by birdwatchers, eg there are also two records from the Western High Atlas and Western Middle Atlas. Its distribution overlaps with *Falco peregrinus minor* in Tafilt, and of *F. p. atlantis* along the Haha coast and in the Souss.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana* PM, OW (0, 0, 2/8+)

1998 (4) 1 Sais. Massa estuary, 28 February (C Bowden & G Manners)

1999 (9) 1 Doukkala, Sidi Moussa-Oualidia, 8 April (V Schol-laert & L Langemendies)

These were probably early migrants. Spring passage occurs in late February forearm. Spotted Cranes migrate on a broad front, eg there are seven records from the Tafilt in south-east Morocco.

Little Crane *Porzana parva* PM (0, 0, 2/15+)

1998 (3) 1 Doukkala, Sidi Moussa, at least five males and seven females, 16 April (H Dufourmy et al)

1998 (4) 21 Sais. Massa estuary, at least one male, 26 March, two females, 27 March (L de Thiessart et al)

Some spring migrant with most records in March. Many records are from the Massa estuary, but the species migrates on a broad front, from the Atlantic coast to eastern Morocco.

Ballion's Crane *Porzana pusilla* PM, BM, OW (0, 0, 1/1)

1997 (4) 20 Plains of Eastern Morocco. Barrage Mechra Homadi, adult male, 23 March (G Jerez Abad & R Ramirez Esparza)

This was probably a spring migrant, but the species has bred in the Plains of Eastern Morocco at the Moulaya estuary in the 1950s and in 1989.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* AV (0, 0, 1/1)

1999 (3) 1 Dadès-Draa. Zaouiat Sidi Salim, 50 km south of Zagora, 1 March (P Yousouf & M South)

Third record. The two previous ones were at Merzouga in 1990 and at Merzouga in 1997. This was the first one east of Merzouga.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* AV (0, 0, 1/1)

1998 (4) 20 Sais. Sidi Moussa-oualidia, winter plumage, 16–17 May (C Bowden & R Dawson)

Second record in Morocco. The first was also at the Sidi Moussa estuary, on 25 April 1997.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* AV (0, 0, 0, 2/2)

1995 (4) 24 Sais. Sidi Moussa-oualidia, adult, 5 May (M Andrews)

1999 (5) 21 Doukkala, Sidi Moussa-Oualidia, 8 April (V Scholl-laert & L Langemendies)

The first record in Morocco that in May 1995 was described in *Bull. ABC*. The only other African record was at Banc d’Arguin, Mauritania.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* AV (0, 0, 0, 1/1)

1999 (4) 20 Prêtré, Barrage Idriress 1, 21 September (V Schol-laert et al)

First record from Morocco. The species breeds in the Canadian Arctic, and winters in South America; it is a regular in some European countries and has also been recorded in the Azores, Madeira and Canaries.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* AV (5/5, 0/0, 2/3)

1998 (3) 20 Sais. Sidi Moussa, two juveniles, 25 September, one until 2 October (R Dawson & A Edmond)

1999 (1) 27 Bahr. Lower Loukos marshes, juvenile, 17 September (G Willern & V Schol-laert et al)

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Sixth and seventh records since the first mention by Smith. All are from the Atlantic coast, in September–October.

Purple Sandpiper Calidris maritima AV (8/12, 0/0, 2/3)
1998 (99 147) Zaiz, S. Hajar, 8 April (M. Gosselé & J. Ponderlick)
All but one previous record were also along the Atlantic coast in October–February; the April record is the latest ever and that at Essaouira is the southernmost in Morocco, but the species has been recorded once much further south, at the Banc d'Arguin National Park, northern Mauritania.

Broad-billed Sandpiper Limicola falcinellus AV (8/12, 2/5, 1/4)
1999 (99 41) Tarfaya, Khiniss, 27 July (G. Léonard & O. Chaliné)
One of the southernmost records in Morocco, probably an early autumn migrant.

Stilt Sandpiper Micropalama himantopus AV (0/0, 0/0, 1/1)
1996 (96 43) Sousa, Sousa estuary, 28 March (1 Rowlands et al.)
Breeds in tundra of North America. Several Neartic waders reached Europe and Macaronesia in September 1996, eg this species was also recorded in the Canaries and the Azores.

Great Snipe Gallinago media PM, OW (6/6, 1/7)
1999 (99 33) Tafilalet, Oued Ziz, 12 March (1 Schiottl & L. Langhendries)
The most recent record was in 1985. Great Snipe is an accidental winter visitor and rare passage migrant, which has been noted in late September–early April, mainly in northern Morocco.

Siender-billed Curlew Numenius tenuirostris AV (0/0, 1/1)
1996 (96 5) Rhar, Merja Zerga, at least one, 11 February (M & A Parent)
First record since winter 1994–95. The species' Moroccan status has been extensively described in recent years.

Spotted Sandpiper Actitis macularia AV (1/1, 0/0, 2/2)
1995 (95 25) Sousa, Sousa estuary, adult summer plumage, 5 May (M Andrews)
1999 (99 80) Sousa, Sousa estuary, 5 April (V. Schiottl & L. Langhendries)
Second and third records of this North American wader. The first was at Khiniss lagoon, 10 April 1990 (F. Cuzin). A description of the 1995 bird was published in Bull. ABC.

Sabine's Gull Larus sabini PM, OW (5/6, 1/7)
1998 (98 17) Sousa, Sousa estuary, immature, 1 April (H. Dufourmy et al.)
1998 (98 24) Haha, Oued Tindjet estuary, 17 April, photo (P. Morris et al.)
Spring passage off the Atlantic coast largely occurs well offshore, from late March to late May.

Ring-billed Gull Larus delawarensis AV (22/22, 6/7, 5/8)
1998 (98 8) Sousa, Sousa estuary, second-summer, 17 April (H. Dufourmy et al.)
1999 (99 10) Sousa, Sousa estuary, first-winter, first-summer, 5–7 April (V. Schiottl et al.)
1999 (99 18) Chidiama, Khos estuary, first-summer, 29 April, photo (H. Dufourmy et al.)
2000 (00 18) Tangier Peninsula, Tahada estuary, four adults, 16 October (J. Franchiment et al.)
In 1999, others were noted at Essaouira (Kehoestuary) in March and May (Blandy World 12: 101, 2001) and details of these were not submitted to MBRC. Together with Larus saltuarius and Khos estuary, the Sousa estuary is one of the best places for this species in Morocco. The record at Tahada estuary is the largest ever group in Morocco.

Common Gull Larus canus WV (5/5, 5/9)
1997 (97 24) Sousa, Sousa estuary, 22 and 23 January (M. Leivo & H. Konkkanen)
1998 (98 20) Sousa, Sousa estuary, two adults, 29 April, one, 30 April (T. D. R. Veron)
1998 (98 34) Sousa, Sousa estuary, adult, second-summer and first-summer, 15 April, adult and first-summer, 16–18 April (H. Dufourmy et al.)
1998 (98 51) Sousa, Sousa estuary, first-winter, 23 and 25 November, adult, 30 November (H. Dufourmy et al.)
1998 (98 57) Haha, between Agadir et Cap Rhir, first-winter, 23 November (H. Dufourmy et al.)
Now known to be a regular winter visitor in small numbers along the Atlantic coast south to Agadir, but rare in the Strait of Gibraltar and along the Mediterranean coast. From 1999 onwards, only records from the Strait and the Mediterranean need to be submitted to MBRC.

Great Black-backed Gull Larus marinus WV (0/0, 3/4)
1998 (98 40) Tarfaya, Khiniss, two subadults, 15 October (P. Destefano & M. Tihkault)
2000 (00 02) Sousa, Sousa estuary, first-winter, 23 February (P. Lansdown)
Until the 1960s there were very few records, but since 1963 there have been nearly 70 records from the Atlantic coast, mainly north of the Sousa region. There have been only a few further south, including one at Khiniss lagoon, in December 1985–March 1986, with others at Maunatla, 1987, and the Canaries.

Roseate Tern Sternula dougalli PM (1/1, 1/3)
1999 (99 15) Sousa, Sousa estuary, three adults, 27 April (H. Dufourmy et al.)
Roseate Tern generally passes far offshore, and is thus rarely seen from the Atlantic coast. Spring passage is mainly from mid-April to mid-June.

Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea PM, OW (0/0, 1/1)
1999 (99 11) Sousa, Sousa estuary, adult, 4 April (V. Schiottl & L. Langhendries)
Thirteenth spring record. Probably a common passage migrant offshore but rarely recorded from the coast. Spring passage noted from mid-March to late May.
Ring-necked Parakeet Psittacula krameri

ARABI (00, 1/1)

2000 (00, 0/7) - Plains of Eastern Morocco. Beni Enzar. Nador, adult male. 28 January (1) Jerzez Abou & Raimax

First record in the Mediterranean coast. Along the Atlantic coast, a small flock population has been established since 1999 in the Anti-Atlas district of Guelmim, at 11:00. Two very rare records of unknown origin, at Latif I, 1 May 1985, G. J. Goosen and Asilah 1 January 1999.

Short-eared Owl Asio flammeus WV. PM (00, 0/0, 1/1)

1998 (08, 14) - Sousa, southern estuary. 24 November (1) D. Fouix et al.

Uncommon winter visitor. 20 records but rare on both passages, with only eight records in spring and 11 previous records in autumn. The majority of autumn records are in November, with just two in September and none in October.

Plain Swift Apus unicolor RV. OB, WV? (00, 0/0, 1/6)

1998 (09, 04) - Hala. Skim north of Taghazout, ch. 29 April (1) F. L. Verdon

Status in Morocco unclear. The occurrence of small dark swifts was first reported from the Atlantic coast of Morocco in 1967 by K. Smith. Since then, there have been numerous sightings which have all been identified as Plain Swift, but specimens are required to confirm this. Breading suspected along the Hala coast since 1986.

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark Eremopterix nigriceps RB (00, 1/16)

1999 (09, 12) - Oued Ad-Dechb, Oued Jena. 200 km south-east of Dakhla, 8 October (1) V. Schollaert, H. Dubois, Y. W. Hamid

First record following those of Valverde in 1975 in the Négara region, near Shayera, at 25N. Tourism has quite recently been permitted in Western Sahara, and the number of records should increase in the future.

African Rock Martin Hirundo fulgida RB, BM (00, 0/0, 4/7+)

1999 (09, 02) - Dades-Draa. Oued Thelichista, south-west of Zagora. Mor., 25 February (P. Yeou & M. Smith)

1999 (09, 02) - Dades-Draa. Palmers of Ouadadi Driss, Mhamid, 3-4. 28 February (P. Yeou & M. Smith)

2000 (00, 12) - Sarhro. Tazzarine. 16. 25-26 December (J. Franchimont & F. Touati Malti)

2000 (00, 12) - Dades-Draa. Oued Draa. 23 km east of Agulz. c50, 26 December (J. Franchimont & F. Touati Malti)

In light of his recent observations, P. Yeou has withdrawn a previous observation from the High Atlas, at Ighern in 1996, which was accepted by MBBC. In Morocco, Craig Martin H. nigric etc. is not nominate race or there exists difficulty to separate from African Rock Martin race proserpina in the field and great care should be taken in identifying these two.

Dunnock Prunella modularis WV (00, 0/0, 1/1)

1982 (02, 11) - Jhala. Barrage of Onziane. 1 February (1) Franchimont

There are only 35 records involved 40 birds since 1971, from mid-September to late April. Most were in northern Morocco with the southernmost in the Sousa.

Isabelline Wheatear Oenanthe isabellina PM (18/19, 1/1, 2/2)

1997 (07, 28) - Dadès-Draa. Ouarzazate. 25 January (M. Leivo & H. Komikorsu)

2000 (00, 0/0) - Tafelt. Merzouga. 1 February (P. Landworth) Twenty new and 21st records for Morocco. All from southern Morocco from Tafelt (ten), Dadès-Draa (six), and Dadès-Draa (four) and Oued Ad-Dechb (two) most in spring (February - April) and only two in January. Now considered a scarce spring passage migrant.

Fieldfare Turdus pilaris AV (15/20, 1/2, 2/2)

1999 (09, 10) - Sousa, Al Melloul. 20 December (P. Landworth & J. E. P. Weber)

The 1999 record is the second south of the High Atlas; this bird stayed at least three weeks at the International Foundation for Conservation and Development of Wildlife (Al Melloul). The 2000 record is the latest for Morocco, previous records were only to late February.

Aquatic Warbler Acrocephalus paludicola PM (00, 0/0, 1/1)

1998 (09, 21) - Hala. Tanit, first winter. 20 October (D. Walsh & C. Edgington)

Previously more common on spring and autumn passages, but now much rarer and only four recent autumn records (including this one). The 28 recent records are from February (four), March (eight) and April (12). then from September (one) and October (three), including this one. That Walter*** mentioned Aquatic Warblers captured by Elomou in a Falconiforme near Essaouria from 23 August.

Marsh Warbler Acrocephalus palustris AV (00, 0/0, 1/1)

1999 (09, 12) - Dadès-Draa. Ouarzazate. 2-4 April (V. Schollaert)

There are four previous records, including the recovery of a German-ringed bird, but Dowsett & Demarne & Dowsett*** assumed the latter was a misidentified Reed Warbler. A. sibilans. None of the subsequent records, including four mist-netted birds, was convincing substantial and therefore the species occurrence is only considered possible in the forthcoming Check-List of the Birds of Morocco. This record is the first accepted for Morocco; it is also the first record for North Africa west of Egypt.

Lesser White-throat Sylvia curruca PM, OW (00, 0/0, 1/1)

1998 (08, 7) - Western Anti Atlas. Oued Noun. 5 May (J. Franchimont & A. El Ghazal)

Thirty-four acceptable records in Morocco, most (30) during spring migration, with only four in autumn. One of the latest spring records, as most occur in April (21 records, including one trapped) was the latest on 8 May.

Siberian Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita tristis AV (00, 0/0, 1/1)

1998 (08, 44) - Sousa. Massa estuary, mist-netted. 16 March, photos O. Bulens & A. Le Dru

First record in Morocco. This race breeds east of the Pechora River and Urals and over most of Siberia. Racial determination difficult in the field (see also Duives, Vises et al. ** for differences between tristis and other Chiffchaffs) but this one was trapped and photographed.


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Records not accepted


References

Il n'y a que deux catégories qui sont présentes dans le tableau suivant:

- Vautours (Aegypius monachus)
- Hirondelles (Hirundo rustica)

Figure 1. Great White Egret *Egretta alba*. Merzouga. 27 December 1989 (H. Dufourny).

Figure 2. Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* is now considered a scarce but regular spring passage migrant through Morocco (G. Willem).

Figure 3. Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Pterocles oriaphus* occurs in the Western Sahara, a region which has been only recently opened to tourism (G. Willem).

Figure 4. First Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita traumatinus* in Morocco, Massa estuary, 16 March 1998 (P. Buelens & A. Le Dru).

Figure 5. The dark egret/ibis at Merzouga. April 1997 (A. van den Berg).

Figure 6. The argan forest of the Souss region is a relict habitat which has produced most of the recent Dark Chanting Goshawk Melierax metabates and Tawny Eagle Aquila rapax records E. Rousseau.

Figure 7. The Ziz Valley, Tafilet, is followed by many migrants. A Great snipe Gallinago media was recorded here on 30 March 1999 (F. Forniau).

Figures 8–9. The lagoons of Sidi Moussa–Oualidia (left) and the marshes and estuary of the Massa (right) are two of the most famous birding sites in Morocco (R. Vernon and E. Rousseau).

Figure 10. The sea cliffs of the Souss-Massa National Park are habitat for one of the most endangered birds in the world, Northern Bald ibis Geronticus eremita.
Turnix sylvatica Little Button Quail, Turnix africana
Porzana porzana Spotted Crane, Marouette pochueule
Porzana carolina Sons, Marouette de Caroline
Porzana parva Little Crane, Marouette poussin
Porzana pusilla Bailon’s Crane, Marouette de Bailon
Crax crex Comor Crake, Râle des gendres
Porphyry albinus Albin’s Galiatine, Taille d’Albin
Anthus petrosus White-throated Prinia, Grain demoiselle
Ardeola ralloides Arabian Baitad, Oustarde arabe
Rostratula benghalensis Greater Painted Snipe, Rynchete perete
Gallinago nenni Black-winged Phalarope, Galléole à ailes noires
Gallinago nettudini Kittlitz’s Plover, Pluvier pâtre
Pluvialis (d) dominica American Golden Plover, Pluvier bronze
Chersisus gregars Sociable Plover, Vanneau sociable
Vanellus leucurus White-tailed Plover, Vanneau à queue blanche
Calidris tenellus Great Knot, Grand Bécasseau marinblanc
Calidris pusilla Semipalmated Sandpiper, Bécasseau semipalmée
Calidris fuscaics White-rumped Sandpiper, Bécasseau blanccap
Calidris melanocephalus Pectoral Sandpiper, Bécasseau batache
Calidris maritima Purple Sandpiper, Bécasseau violet
Limicoa lapponica Broad-billed Sandpiper, Bécasseau faunique
Macroura hirundopitpus Stilt Sandpiper, Bécasseau échassiers
Tygnites subSaltus Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bécasseau roussant
Gallinago media Great Snipe, Bécasseau double
Limnodromus scolopaceus Long-billed Dowitcher
Bécassins à long bec
Numerous tundrara Siberian-billed Curlew, Courlis à bec grele
Tringa flavigea Lesser Yellowlegs, Petit Chevalier à pattes jaunes
Xenus cinereus Terek Sandpiper, Bargette de Terek
Actitis macularius Spotted Sandpiper, Chevalier privé
Aphanopus carbo Wilson’s Phalarope, Phalarope de Wilson
Aphanopus lobatus Red-necked Phalarope, Phalarope à bec érot
Stercorarius longicaudus Long-tailed Skua, Labbe à longue queue
Larus atricilla Laughing Gull, Goliath articole
Larus pipixcan Franklin’s Gull, Mouette de Franklin
Larus sabini Sabini’s Gull, Mouette de Sabini
Larus phalaropus Bonaparte’s Gull, Mouette de Bonaparte
Larus circumpolaris Grey-headed Gull, Mouette à tête grise
Larus delawarensis Ring-billed Gull, Goeland à bec cerclé
Larus canus Common Gull, Goeland cendré
Larus argentatus Herring Gull, Goeland argenté
Larus glaucoides icterid Gull, Goeland à ailes blanches
Larus glaucocrescens Glaucous-winged Gull, Goeland à ailes grises
Larus hyperboreus Glaucous Gull, Goeland bourgeois
Larus marinus Great Black-backed Gull, Goeland marin
Sterna hirundo Roseate Tern, Steine de Douglaz
Sterna paradisaea Arctic Tern, Steine artique
Sterna anaethetides Brighed Tern, Steine bride
Sterna fuscata Sooty Tern, Steine fulgineux
Rynchops flavirostris African Skimmer, Beec-eclaireur d’Afrique
Uria aalge Guillotin, Guillemot de Trollet
Oena capensis Namaqua Dove, Tourterelle à masque de fer
Pattallac crenat a Ring-necked Pigeon, Perroquet à collier
Bubo bubo African Spotted Eagle, Eagle d’Afrique
Bubo bubo africanus Eagle Owl, Grand-duc d’Afrique
Alopecis rainier Harvey’s Stork, Echoué de Rainier
Apus apus Swift Swift, Martinet colibri
Apus caffar White-rumped Swift, Martinet cafra
Eremopteryx ritchiei Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Alouette-moineau à front blanc
Hirundo fuligula African Rock Martin, Hirondelle sauvage
Anthus novaeseelandiae Richard’s Pipit, Pipit de Richard
Anthus petrosus European Rock Pipit, Pipit marinblanc
Motacilla cinerea Cinnabar Wagtail, Bergeronnette chine
Prunella modularis Dunnock, Accenteur mocheul
Oenanthe isabelline Isabelline Wheatear, Traquet isabelline
Turdus pilaris Fieldfare, Grive timée
Locustella fluviatilis Eurasian River Warbler, Locustelle fluviatilis
Acrocephalus paludicola Marsh Warbler, Reuetteerdorfe veldekar
Acrorhyncus paludicola Aquatic Warbler, Phragmite aquatique
Hippopassa icterina Icterine Warbler, Hypolais icterine
Sylvia sarda Marmora’s Warbler, Faucette sard
Sylvia cinerea Lesser Whitethroat, Faucette tabardine
Phylloscopus collybita trista (Siberian) Chiffchaff, Pouillot sibérien
Phylloscopus collybita ibericus (Iberian) Chiffchaff, Pouillot ibérique
Phylloscopus proregulus Pallas’s Warbler, Pouillot de Pallas
Phylloscopus inornatus Yellow-browed Warbler, Pouillot à grands sourcils
Phylloscopus fuscatus Dusky Warbler, Pouillot brun
Regulus regulus Goldcrest, Rolleté hoche
Ficedula parva Red-breasted Flycatcher, Gobemouche ravin
Ficedula albicilla Collared Flycatcher, Gobemouche à collar
Parnius bicarmatus Bearded Tit, Parure à moustaches
Aegithalos caudatus Long-tailed Tit, Mésange à queue longue
Parus cristatus Crested Tit, Mesange hoche
Tichodroma muraria Wallcreeper, Tichodrome échellette
Remiz pendulinus Penduline Tit, Remiz penduline
Lanius collurius Red-backed Shrike, Pie-grièche écorcheur
Conus regius Carrion Crow, Corneille noire
Lagonosticta senegalensis Red-billed Firefinch, Amante du Sénégal
Vireo olivaceus Red-eyed Vireo, Viréo aux yeux rouges
Serinus citrinella Chiffchaff, Pouillot citrine
Carduelis flammea Common Redpoll, Sizir flamé
Carduelis chloris Greenfinch, Sizir vert
Carpodacus erythrinus Common Roselink, Roseloin crimso
Pyrhilia pyrula Bullfinch, Bouvreuil crimso
Platycercus rufus Red-backed Swallow, Brun des neiges
Emberiza citrinella Yellowhammer, Brunant jaune
Emberiza pusilla Little Bunting, Brunant rain
Emberiza melanocephala Black-headed Bunting, Brunant mélanosphate

Appendix 2. Possible accidental visitors to Morocco.
Species for which none or more records have been claimed but not confirmed (AV?).
Gavia adamsi White-billed Diver, Pongeon à bec blanc
Podiceps grisegena Red-breasted Grebe, Grebe pugrun
Phalacrocorax carbo Black-headed Gull, Goeland noir
Ibraeychus exilis Least Bittern, Petit Bongiois
Alopochen aegyptiacus Egyptian Goose, Cie d’Égypte
Mergus albellus Shov. Hawkes pietto
Catharacta aura Turkey Vulture, Ourdou à tête rouge
Porzana marginata Striped Crake, Marouette rayée
Burhinus sayicolor Senegal Thick-knee, Oedème ou du Sénégal
Charadrius leschenaulti Greater Sand Plover, Pluvier de Leschenault
Limnodromus griseus Short-billed Dowitcher, Bécassin à bec court
Ala alba Little Auk, Mergine minuscule
Straptpelia rossignolli African Colared Dove, Tourterelle noire
Strix woodfordii African Wood Owl, Chouette africaine
Caprimulgus nubicus Nubian Nightjar, Engoulevent de Nubi
Caprimulgus eximius Golden Nightjar, Engoulevent doré
Ceyx rubio Red Kingfisher, Aleporyne
Coracias abyssinica Abyssian Roller, Rollard d’Abyssine
Luscinia luscinia Thrush Nightingale, Rosignal progré
Oenanthe leucopyra Pied Wheatear, Traquet pie
Locustella crystallina Pallas’s Grasshopper Warber, Locustelle de Pallas
Ficedula semitorquata Semi-collared Flycatcher, Gobemouche à demi-collar
Passer luteus Golden Sparrow, Moneau doré
Monticola saxatilis Slate Skimmer, Vardé de l’Atlas
Selenops moluccus Moluccan Warbler, Faucette mouqueul
2 Except at Douayet, Mejia Baghna and Mejia Hallouka.
3 Only in the Strait of Gibraltar and on the Mediterranean coast.