

Autumn in Northern Morocco



Private Birding Tour 2018

Trip Report

6 - 13 October 2018 (8 days)



Juvenile Eleonora's Falcon flying next to the seaside colony

Text and pictures by Tour Leader: Yeray Seminario

Tour Summary

We designed this private trip according to a list of targets provided by the group. Autumn is probably the best time to find the main target: the Marsh Owl, so we started studying a collection of sites to have good chances to see the owl and the rest of species. We later adapted the itinerary to add a cultural touch with the visit to the historical sites of Volubilis and the Kasbah of the Udayas.

Some of the **highlights** of this trip were:

- Hitting one of the targets, and in good numbers, almost right out of the plane: we saw up to 11 **African Royal Terns**, a species recently split from the American Royal Tern, that can be seen at this time of the year in Morocco and the Sahara.
- Getting phenomenal views of one of the main targets of the trip: we had two adult **Lanner Falcons** at pleasure in our scopes, and also got great views of the birds in flight. That same morning we saw 2 Great Bustards from the last surviving population in Africa.
- Seeing up to nine **Marsh Owls** at dusk near the Merja Zerga Lagoon, the most desired species by the group, was certainly one of the best moments of the tour.
- The boat trip at Merja Zerga lagoon and the visit to a **Eleonora's Falcon** colony with excellent views and photography opportunities while the birds were playing and flying around.
- After some work, the Zaër Forest was productive, seeing our three targets on site: **Barbary Partridge, Double-spurred Francolin** and **Black-crowned Tchagra**.
- The visit to the old Roman city of Volubilis was a welcome addition to the trip.
- A couple of **Levaillant's Woodpeckers** provided some of the best experiences of the trip at Dayet Aoua, as well as hearing and seeing the **Maghreb Wood Owl**.
- The Zaida Plains provided a welcome change of scenery and some desert specialties including one of our main targets: the **Dupont's Lark**.
- Hitting all the targets while having a relaxed and friendly atmosphere (let's not forget the abundant and good food!), all made for a great trip to some of the most unexplored sites of Morocco.

Detailed itinerary

6 October, Day 1: Beginning of the tour in Tangier, drive along the coast and Asilah.

The tour started at the Tangier Airport at noon, where we got in our van expertly driven by Mouhamed. Our first destination was Sidi Kacen beach to look for gulls and terns, and specifically one of our main targets, the African Royal Tern. Now genetic data suggests that the African race *albididorsalis* is indeed distinct from race *maximus* from America. We saw some gulls, including **Mediterranean** and **Audouin's Gull**, but there were no African Royal Terns. So, we started driving south to Asilah and had another stop near Tahadart River Mouth and inspected the nearest flocks. Shortly afterwards we got our first **African Royal Tern**, conspicuously larger than the present Sandwich Terns. We ended up counting 11! and even found one **Lesser Crested Tern**. We also added **Slender-billed Gull** and **Caspian Tern** to the list.



We saw up to eleven African Royal Terns near Tahadart river mouth

Next, we were in Asilah, having our first Moroccan tajine in a traditional restaurant in town. With a little time to fresh up, we headed to the Plains of Asilah, with one main target in mind: Lanner Falcon. We started the afternoon with superb views of a **Black-winged Kite** catching a small rodent and feeding. We ended up seeing four of these

beautiful raptors in the afternoon. On the other side of the road, our first **Great Grey Shrike** of the subspecies *algeriensis* was showing well, and a bit further we got our first **Long-legged Buzzard**, which we ended up seeing five individuals in the afternoon. Not a bad start for our afternoon session! However, we didn't see any lanners, which would need to wait until the next day.

7 October, Day 2: Asilah Plains, Loukkos Marshes and Marsh Owl

We started early in the morning as we had a long day ahead of us. For starters we went back to the Plains of Asilah, this time a different area. We saw two **European Turtle Doves** on one of the tracks, and saw more **Black-winged Kites**, but had no luck with the Lanner. This didn't last long, as when we came onto a different dirt track and inspecting one of the power pylons, we immediately saw a **Lanner Falcon** sitting on it. We could see the falcon at pleasure on the scope, but not long after another Lanner flew right above us and perched even closer. We spent a long time watching this falcon, an adult male, on the scope. We kept driving on the dirt track finding some **Long-legged Buzzards** and **Tawny Pipits**, among other species. However the most remarkable find were two **Great**



Digiscoped picture of the adult male Lanner Falcon seen near Asilah

Bustards. The African population of Great Bustards hangs on the edge of the extinction, with just a handful of birds, and we were glad to find them feeding on the farming fields.

It was time to get to the Loukkos marshes, where we found low water levels but still a significant number of waders, including good numbers of **Black-tailed Godwit** and **Ruff**, as well as some **Spotted Redshanks**. Our main target for the Loukkos was, however, the **Plain Martin** *ssp. mauritanica*. We stood near to an area where they have bred in the past, and waited. We didn't have to wait long, after a short while we spotted a single small, compact martin flying low, and shortly afterwards, another one. They even perched on some bushes and gave us the opportunity to have very close views of the smallest hirundine in the region.

After seeing the **Plain Martin** it was time to go to Moulay Bouselham and meet our local guide Hassan, who would take us to see the endangered *tingitanus* subspecies of **Marsh Owl** at dusk. Before going to the owl site we even got the chance to add **Laughing Dove** to our list while having an excellent, super-sweet Moroccan Coffee, and enjoy the wonderful song of the **Common Bulbul**. Then, Hassan took us to the owl site and we waited. For a while, only a **Western Marsh Harrier** and a few passerines made appearance. Then, out of nowhere, a herd of cows started walking in the middle of the tall vegetation flushing five **Marsh Owls**. Later some sheep flushed another one and before we left we counted up to nine birds seen in a relatively small area. We went back to our hotel and had a good meal to celebrate we got our three main targets of the day!

8 October, Day 3: Merja Zerga Boat Trip and Eleonora's Falcon colony.

We drove to Moulay Bouselham in the morning, the town by the side of the Merja Zerga Lagoon. We had a pleasant and easy morning on Hassan's boat, seeing 41 species of birds, including some new ones for our trip, like **Whiskered** and **Lesser Crested Tern**. There were some good numbers of waders on the mudflats surrounding the lagoon also, including **Eurasian Curlew**, **Kentish Plover** and **Red Knot**. You can see the full list of birds seen [here](#).

We had a good lunch and the mandatory Moroccan Mint Tea and then explored the proximities of Moulay Bouselham. We were successful finding a good number of **Stone-curlews** and adding some seabirds to our list: **Northern Gannet**, **Cory's Shearwater** and **Pomarine Skua**.

Then, we drove towards Rabat, in time to stop to the near colony of **Eleonora's Falcons**. This is the right time to see these falcons, right before they start migrating to their



We had close views of two Lesser Crested Terns at the Merja Zerga Lagoon

wintering quarters in Madagascar, and with most the young birds already flying and playing aerobatics. It was certainly a highlight for the trip to see the falcons at pleasure. It also gave us the opportunity to, not only take picture of these birds, but to see a fantastic **Peregrine Falcon** right in front of our noses and get another main target for the group: the **Maghreb Magpie**. Up to six birds were seen flying around the falcons' colony: a great way to end our day.

9 October, Day 4: Sidi Boughaba and Zaër Forest

Today we would have a more "relaxing" day, visiting two sites. First, we went to the renowned Sidi Boughaba. An inner lagoon near the coast and an excellent birding hotspot in northern Morocco. We got 54 species in about two hours, including some interesting species: **Ferruginous Duck**, **White-headed Duck**, **Red-knobbed Coot**, **Western Swamphen**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *ssp. mauritanicus* and **Iberian Chiffchaff**, for instance. We also got good numbers of one of the main targets for the group, the **African Blue Tit**. It was, overall, a very enjoyable morning.



Sidi Boughaba had good numbers of waterfowl including abundant Red-knobbed Coots

After a nice lunch at our beautiful accommodation and a short break, we went on to explore the Zaër Forest. Here, we had three main targets in mind: the sometimes elusive Barbary Partridge, the skulking Black-crowned Tchagra, and the very scarce and localized Double-spurred Francolin. We had the afternoon and the following morning in case we failed any of these, so we started to explore the area with confidence. We didn't have to go very far to see our first **Barbary Partridge**, a small group feeding in the distance could be seen in the scope. The other two species proved to be more difficult. We heard at least three tchagras, two of them quite close to us, but we couldn't put our eyes on them. The francolins were also resisting. However, the first was found by Steve in the scope when scanning for the tchagra! Then, we got to see five more birds walking a dirt path and even flying while crossing the main road. The tchagras never showed up, we needed to get back the next day.

10 October, Day 5: Zaër Forest, Volubilis and a night with the owls

We went back to Zaër, this time with the Black-crowned Tchagra as the main target. We were rather optimistic, as we'd heard them the day before rather close. However, the birds were rather quiet in the morning, with only distant brief calls heard. We explored

the vicinities and saw **Common Chaffinch** *ssp. africana*, good numbers of waterbirds in a pond and a nice flock of **Barbary Partridge**. It wasn't until we finally gave up and were leaving the forest when we heard a very close tchagra's song. We stopped immediately and searched until Mike had one on view. We ended up seeing at least four individuals!

We finally left Zaër in good spirits and started driving east for a visit to the historical site of Volubilis. This is an impressive excavated Roman city near Meknes. We learned about the history, architecture and art of this UNESCO site and even had time to add some species to our list! **Lesser Kestrel, Grey Wagtail, Hawfinch** and **Cirl Bunting**.



The old Roman city of Volubilis is an impressive historical site that deserves a visit

It was almost dusk by the time we left Volubilis so we got to our accommodation in Azrou, had a delicious Tajine and went right out of the premises in search for the North African species of Tawny Owl, now considered a full species by many authorities due to its vocal, morphological and genetic differences with its European counterpart and therefore deserving its own name: Maghreb Wood Owl. After some time hearing nothing or some suspicious calls that we couldn't figure out, we heard a **Barn Owl** screech. A nice addition but not what we were looking for (or should we say "listening for"?). Then we got some very distant *Strix* calls. Surely a **Maghreb Wood Owl**, but still

not fully satisfactory, as it was far and the constant barking of dogs nearby made our hearing difficult. It took almost two hours, but when we almost had given up and going back to our rooms, heard one very close. We got out and started looking, finding a single male hooting from the top of a building, later flying and perching in a tree right in front of us! We had good views and could point out the main differences from the Tawny Owl. Mainly, the densely barred underparts and overall darker appearance. A poor recording of this individual can be found [here](#). Despite its quality, you can listen to the double note on the second part of the hoot as it's been pointed out by M. Robb on the Undiscovered Owls book from the Sound Approach.

11 October, Day 6: Ifrane, Dayet Aoua, Cedar Forest and Zaida Plains

We had another long day ahead of us, so we started early and went to Ifrane and explored a nearby pond. There were good numbers of **Ferruginous Duck** and **Red-knobbed Coot** and added **Gadwall**, **Woodlark** and **Mistle Thrush** to our list. In Dayet Aoua our main target was the Levillant's Woodpecker, but before we even started walking we had impressive numbers of **Mistle Thrush** and **African Chaffinch** flying



The Cedar Forest near Azrou is the most renowned site to see the endangered Barbary Macaque

around. We even got to see a male **Common Crossbill**, later succeeded by three more individuals. This is a potential candidate for a future split, due to strong divergence from European populations and had even named **Atlas Crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra poliogyna*). You can find an article on the subject on [MaghrebOrnito](#). We started walking until we unintentionally flushed a bird from the ground that perched nearby - it was certainly a male **Levaillant's Woodpecker**, which we enjoyed at pleasure. A bit later, we found a female inspecting a hole in a tree. It was a great sighting of one of the most desired species for the group.

Then we turned our way south to the Zaida plains, our last destination on this trip. We made a strategic stop at the Cedar Forest in order to see the **Barbary Macaque** and add some forest species, such as **Coal Tit**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Short-toed Treecreeper** and **Common Firecrest**. The scenery started to change dramatically further south, now getting into the stony desert between the Middle and the High Atlas. We stopped at one gorge by Oued Guigou, getting our first views of another main target: **Moussier's Redstart**, as well as **Black Wheatear** and **Blue Rock Thrush**. Later we got to see more of this beautiful redstarts near Sidi Ali, together with more than one hundred **Ruddy Shelducks** and a small flock of **Red-billed Chough**.

After a nice drive we got ourselves on the Zaida Plains. Here we had one of the most difficult targets for our group and the last one on our list, the Dupont's Lark. We drove into one of the tracks and started walking, finding first a nice addition to our list, a couple of **Red-rumped Wheatear**, later good numbers of **Greater Short-toed Lark** and a few **Trumpeter Finches**. However, there was no sign of the Dupont's and we didn't have much time left. Then, we had a quick glimpse of two rather large larks behind the vegetation, which felt promising. It took a little while for the whole group to have good views of the birds, which ended up being three **Dupont's Larks** - our last target bird! After a much satisfying day we headed to our near accommodation for a deserved rest.

12 October, Day 7: Zaida Plains and drive to Rabat

Having succeeded with our list of target birds, we had a relaxed morning back at the Zaida Plains. We added **Thekla Lark** *ssp. ruficolor*, which created some confusion at first, due to the similar vocalizations with the Crested Lark; a good flock of **Lesser Short-toed Lark**; a few **Rock Sparrows** and **Western Yellow Wagtail** *ssp. flava* with at least one dark-headed individual (probably an eastern subspecies that we couldn't determine). We also saw **Berber Toad** and **Leopard Fringe-fingered Lizard**, two nice additions to our non-bird list. A last surprise before leaving Zaida was hearing a **Dupont's Lark** singing with the sun



We got to see good number of Thekla Larks of the *ssp. ruficolor* like the one on the picture

already high in the sky - these birds are believed to sing exclusively at the crack of dawn! The rest of the day was spent driving back to Rabat for our last night (and our last CousCous!) in Morocco.

13 October, Day 8: Morning at Rabat, Kasbah of the Udayas and Departure

Our last morning we dedicated it to explore the streets of the Rabat Medina and most specially the Kasbah of the Udayas, a beautiful UNESCO site that was built by the Almohads in the 12th century. Here we had some good views of **House Bunting**, a great last bird to say Morocco good by until the next time!

Annotated list of birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1 Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	100+ at Sidi Ali and along the road from Azrou to Zaida
2 Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Small numbers in most of the ponds and lagoons
3 Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	2 birds near Ifrane
4 Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Common near fresh water
5 Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	15+ at Sidi Boughaba, single birds in Ifrane and Zaida
6 Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	10+ at Sidi Boughaba, 30+ at Sidi Ali
7 Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Small numbers in most of the ponds and lagoons
8 Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	32 near Ifrane and 4 at Sidi Boughaba
9 White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	6 at Sidi Boughaba
10 Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>	35+ at Zaër Forest
11 Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>	6 birds at Zaër Forest
12 Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Abundant at Loukkos, Merja Zerga and Sidi Boughaba
13 Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Fairly common in most of the ponds and lagoons
14 Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Fairly common in most of the ponds and lagoons
15 Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Feral form very common throughout
16 Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	4 birds at Zaër Forest
17 Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Fairly common near wooded areas
18 European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2 near Asilah
19 Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common in towns and cities
20 Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	2 at Moulay Bouselham
21 Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>	2 in Asilah Plains
22 Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Big flock of 50+ in Meknes
23 Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	A few birds in Asilah

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
24 Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	1 heard at Loukkos and 1 near Ifrane
25 Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Fairly common in most of the ponds and lagoons
26 Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Very common in Merja Zerga, fewer numbers in the rest of ponds and lagoons
27 Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Abundant in Sidi Boughaba and near Ifrane
28 Western Swampen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	3 at Sidi Boughaba
29 Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	11 near Moulay Bouselham
30 Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	40+ at Loukkos and Sidi Boughaba
31 Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	10+ at Loukkos, 4 at Sidi Boughaba
32 Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	40+ at Merja Zerga
33 Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	40+ at Merja Zerga
34 Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1 at Loukkos marshes
35 Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	25+ at Merja Zerga
36 Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	5 at Loukkos and 60+ at Merja Zerga
37 Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	1 bird at Loukkos, 1 heard flying over Zaër and 2 near Zaida
38 Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	10+ at Merja Zerga
39 Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	50+ at Merja Zerga
40 Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	25+ at Merja Zerga
41 Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	35 at Loukkos and 2 at Merja Zerga
42 Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	8 at Merja Zerga
43 Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	2 at Merja Zerga
44 Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	25 at Loukkos
45 Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	80+ at Sidi Kacem, 50+ at Merja Zerga
46 Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	35+ at Merja Zerga
47 Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	3 at Loukkos
48 Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	3 at Loukkos, 1 at Merja Zerga
49 Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	4 at Loukkos, 1 at Sidi Boughaba
50 Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	4 at Loukkos

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
51	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	10+ at Loukkos, 20+ at Merja Zerga, 1 near Zaër and 1 at Dayet Aoua
52	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	8 at Loukkos, 50+ at Merja Zerga
53	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	1 from Moulay Bouselham
54	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	2 near Tahadart, 15+ at Merja Zerga
55	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Fairly common near water
56	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	5 at Sidi Kacem, 4 near Asilah
57	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>	1 at Sidi Kacem, 10 at Merja Zerga
58	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Common along the coast
59	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Fairly common to very common along the coast
60	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	1 near Tahadart, 4 at Loukkos, 8 at Merja Zerga
61	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	1 winter plumage bird at Merja Zerga
62	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	11 birds roosting near Tahadart
63	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Common along the coast
64	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	1 bird near Tahadart, at least 3 birds, maybe 4, at Merja Zerga
65	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	3 birds in total off the coast near Rabat and Moulay Bouselham
66	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Fairly common throughout, particularly near the coast
67	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	35+ off Moulay Bouselham and 2 more from Sale
68	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	20+ at Loukkos, 10+ at Sidi Boughaba
69	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Fairly common throughout
70	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 at Loukkos, 1 at Merja Zerga
71	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Fairly common near water
72	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Common throughout
73	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Fairly common near water
74	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	30+ at Loukkos, 25+ at Sidi Boughaba

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
75 Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2 near Asilah, 1 near Lixus, 2 at Merja Zerga, 1 at Sidi Boughaba, 1 at Zaër
76 Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	5 at Asilah Plains, 1 near Volubilis
77 Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Fairly common throughout
78 Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1 near Asilah, 3 at Sidi Boughaba, 2 at Zaër
79 Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	<i>ssp. cirtensis</i> . 8 at Asilah Plains, several more throughout
80 Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1 heard at night in Azrou
81 Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	6 at Asilah Plains, several more throughout
82 Maghreb Wood Owl	<i>Strix mauritanica</i>	2 heard and 1 seen at night in Azrou
83 Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>	9 seen at Merja Zerga
84 Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1 at Merja Zerga, 3 at Sidi Boughaba
85 Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	<i>ssp. mauritanica</i> . 1 at Sidi Boughaba, 1 at Zaër, 1 at Dayet Aoua, 1 at Cedar Forest
86 Levillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus vaillantii</i>	1 male and 1 female at Dayet Aoua
87 Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	A flock of 23 seen near Volubilis
88 Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Fairly common throughout
89 Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	30+ at colony near Sale, 1 at Sidi Boughaba
90 Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	2 adult birds, probably 1 female and 1 male, at Asilah Plains
91 Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1 adult at Asilah Plains, 2 adults near Sale, 1 adult at Volubilis
92 Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>	7+ birds detected at Zaër, 4 birds seen
93 Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	<i>ssp. algeriensis</i> . 20+ at Asilah Plains, 2 at Zaër
94 Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	5 at Zaër
95 Maghreb Magpie	<i>Pica mauritanica</i>	6 near Sale, 5 at Sidi Boughaba
96 Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	5 near Sidi Ali
97 Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Common throughout
98 Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Fairly common throughout
99 Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	15+ at Zaida Plains

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
100	Dupont's Lark	<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>	At least 3 birds seen at Zaida and 1 heard the following morning near the same location
101	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala rufescens</i>	25+ at Zaida Plains
102	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	At least 2 near Ifrane
103	Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	8+ at Zaida Plains
104	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Fairly common in farmland and open areas
105	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	7 at Loukkos
106	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	1 near Asilah, 3 at Zaër
107	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Several seen on migration throughout
108	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	2 at Loukkos
109	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	2 at Cedar Forest, 1 heard at forest near Sidi Ali
110	African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>	Fairly common in forest areas
111	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Fairly common in forest areas
112	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	1 at Cedar Forest
113	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	1 heard at Dayet Aoua, 4+ at Cedar Forest,
114	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	Common throughout
115	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	2 at Cedar Forest
116	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard at Loukkos, 1 seen at Sidi Boughaba and 2 more heard, 1 heard at Volubilis
117	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	5+ at Sidi Boughaba
118	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	2 at Sidi Boughaba
119	African Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	2 birds heard singing at Loukkos were presumed to correspond to A.baeticatus taxon
120	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Fairly common throughout
121	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	2 at Zaër
122	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Common throughout, except in the southeast
123	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	4+ at Sidi Boughaba, 4+ at Zaër
124	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	1 at Sidi Boughaba, 1 at Zaër

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
125	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	3 at and near Sidi Ali
126	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	2 at Sidi Boughaba, 3 at Zaër
127	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	2 at Asilah Plains, 1 at Oued Guigou Gorge
128	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1 near Moulay Bouselham
129	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Fairly common throughout
130	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	2 at Oued Guigou Gorge, 2 at Zaida
131	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Fairly common throughout
132	Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>	6 at Zaida
133	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	3 near Ifrane and an impressive flock of 80+ at Dayet Aoua
134	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Fairly common throughout
135	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Common throughout
136	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1 at Sidi Boughaba, 1 at Volubilis, 1 near Ifrane
137	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Few birds seen at different locations, including Merja Zerga, Zaër, Sidi Ali and Zaida. Birds from <i>Iberiae</i> , <i>flava</i> and a single Black-headed Wagtail (<i>feldegg</i>) seen.
138	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	2 at Asilah Plains
139	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	<i>ssp. africana</i> , fairly common to very common in forest areas
140	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	2 at Volubilis, 1 at Dayet Aoua
141	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>	9 at Zaida
142	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Fairly common throughout
143	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	7 near Asilah, 30+ at Zaër
144	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	4 at Zaër, 2 at Cedar Forest
145	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2 near Asilah, 15+ at Dayet Aoua
146	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Fairly common throughout
147	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	350+ near Asilah, and fairly common throughout
148	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	1 bird seen near Sidi Ali

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
149	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	1 heard at Volubilis, 2 seen near Ifrane and 3 at Dayet Aoua
150	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	1 in Asilah village an 12+ in Rabat
151	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common throughout
152	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	6 at Zaida

Annotated list of Mammals

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Barbary Macaque	<i>Macaca sylvanus</i>	Several at the Cedar Forest, some fed by tourists
2	Fat Sand Rat	<i>Psammomys obesus</i>	2 at Sidi Ali

Annotated list of Amphibians and Reptiles

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1	African Green Toad	<i>Bufoes boulangeri</i>	1 at night near our accommodation in Azrou
2	Berber Toad	<i>Sclerophrys mauritanica</i>	Also known as Berber Toad . 1 see at Zaida plains near a reservoir.
3	Spotted Fringe-fingered Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus maculatus</i>	1 at Loukkos
4	Leopard Fringe-fingered Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus pardalis</i>	2 at Zaida
5	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	2 near Rabat
6	Spanish Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>	Very common at Loukkos and Sidi Boughaba
7	Common Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	1 near Rabat

Annotated list of Insects

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1 Crimson Speckled	<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>	1 at Zaida
2 Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	-
3 Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio macaon</i>	Several throughout
4 Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	1 near Zaida
5 Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	1 seen from the boat at Merja Zerga
6 Two-tailed Pasha	<i>Charaxes jasius</i>	3+ near Zaër
7 Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	-
8 Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis</i>	1 seen at Zaida
9 Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	-
10 Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Fairly common near the coast
11 Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	A few seen along the coast
12 Long Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum trinacria</i>	Several at Loukkos and Zaër
13 Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>	-
14 Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>	1 at Zaër
15 Violet Dropwing	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>	-
16 Orange-winged Dropwing	<i>Trithemis kirbyi</i>	-
17 Iberian Bluetail	<i>Ischnura graellsii</i>	-
18 Small Bluetail	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>	Several at pond in Zaër Forest