

EASTERN MOROCCO



Jan 6 - Jan 15 2023

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Common Chaffinch

First page: African Desert Warbler

Summary

The trip was primarily organized by the Swedish bird tour company AviFauna (www.avifauna.se). We had a Swedish tour guide, a Moroccan bird guide and a Moroccan driver to take care of the 12 participants. Myself and my travel company Madeleine Danielsson arrived in Marrakesh on Friday the 6th of January 2023. We had a day in Marrakesh before the rest of the group arrived during the evening of the 7th. We spent that day walking a few parks and gardens in Marrakesh before the “real” birding started on the 8th.

The target for the trip was a number of eastern Morocco specialities in the Atlas mountains and the western parts of the Sahara desert along with some common birds in the area and some migrants from Europe. For me personally the potential number of new lifers was about 30 with a few less probable.

The route started by going southeast into the Atlas Mountains where we spent a bit more than a day before continuing east between the High Atlas Mountains and the Anti-Atlas Mountains into the Sahara desert where we spent a total of four days before heading back towards Marrakesh with a few birding stops during the way.

In total, the result was very good, and all the more likely target birds were seen very well. In total I got 27 new lifers, some nice locally breeding birds I have seen before and a number of European migrants interesting to see in their winter habitat. It is to be noted that the number of species is not very high in total. This was definitely a quality over quantity trip. The total trip list for the group was 107 species of birds.



Maghreb Magpie

Travel arrangements and preparations

Travelers

My travel party consisted of Madeleine Danielsson, a friend of mine who initially decided to go on this trip and told me there were spots available, and myself, Jens Stålberg from Sweden (jens.stalberg@gmail.com). Please contact me if you have any questions. For pictures from this or other trips, and my birding in general, please visit my website: www.mybirdies.se

The trip

The majority of the trip was organized and executed by AviFauna. Madeleine and I decided to book our plane tickets ourselves instead of paying AviFauna to do it. We flew with Air France from Copenhagen via Paris. The total cost for the trip including the AviFauna part, our hotel and transportation during the first day was about €2.000. The price for the traveling included transportation to and from the airport in Copenhagen was about €550.



Mistle Thrush

This was my first trip with AviFauna and the experience was good. Previously I have mostly planned my trips on my own and I think both ways of traveling have their benefits. The list of species will be longer if you go on an organized trip, but you can decide to spend time where you want in a better way than on an organized trip. There is a lot of focus on the trip list on an organized trip, but for

me personally, I don't really appreciate spending time in finding birds I can see when I look out my Swedish window. I would not care if the trip list lacked 20 of those species, I would rather have spent that time going for local birds that are hard or unlikely to find. With that said, the benefit of having 14 pairs of eyes is undoubtedly better if you are not familiar with

the surroundings. If I would have done the trip on my own I would have missed at least 30-40% of the species and if I had traveled with a guide of my own probably 15-20%. Our accommodations during the trip were decent. There were some issues with heating in the rooms and hot water in some locations. The standard was ok but nothing fancy. The food during the trip was in general good. A lot of chicken, olives and bread, spiced up with local pizza, meatballs and other dishes made the food part in general a pleasing experience. Water was the only available drink at most of the places. Beer and soft drinks could be bought at a couple of the hotels. Wifi was ok at most hotels, but was missing at a couple of rooms (available in the lobby) and, most predictably, when we stayed in a tent camp in the Sahara Desert.

Litterature, preparation and resources

I used **Collin's Bird guide** (*Fågelguiden* in Swedish) and that was more than enough for the destination. I used the latest edition of the book during the evenings and the app version during the days. There are some taxonomic changes done recently that are reflected in the latest version of the book and not the app, that could be good to know. **EBird** was used to try to check the probability of some of the birds. EBird does not seem to be used very widely in Morocco, but it gave good indications of the expectations to have, and corresponded well to our final species list. I searched for and read Trip reports from other Morocco travelers before the trip. The resources used were **www.club300.se** and **cloudbirders.com**. That gave a good indication regarding what birds to see, and helped with having the correct expectations, which at least to me is important to have as good of a journey as possible.



White Wagtail ssp Subpersonata

Locations

One of the benefits having a really experienced local guide is of course that the guide will take you to the best spots to find a specific species. Compared to my self organized travels we have visited more locations for shorter times than I would have done alone. That might also be due to the fairly low density of birds in general.

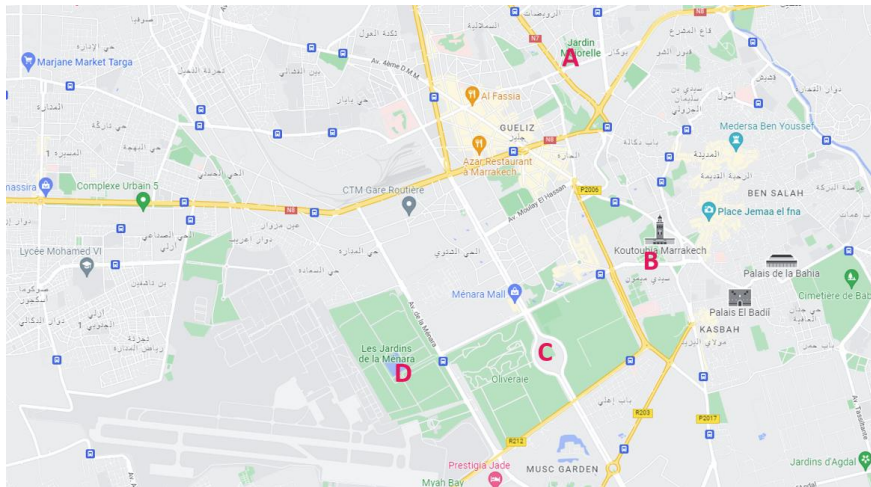
The trip was definitely as previously stated a quality over quantity trip. In this section I will describe the locations and areas visited during the trip. In some cases more detailed, and in some cases on a higher level more describing the area and biotopes visited.

Areas visited for a specific target bird might not be included in the location descriptions, but a short description of where the bird was found is in the species list at the end of this report.



Overview of all the 7 main areas we visited.

Marrakesh (1)



During our initial stay in Marrakesh, we visited a number of parks and gardens to try to get the most out of the city birds. We started at **Jardin Majorelle (A)**, the former private garden of the fashion icon Yves Saint-Laurent. He spent many years

in Marrakesh and his previously personal garden and house is now a botanical garden and a museum open to the public. The garden and its surroundings gave good views of local birds like **House Bunting**, **Common Bulbul** and **Spanish Sparrow**. A few species of migrating birds like **Eurasian Blackcap** and **Grey Wagtail** were seen as well, along with widespread birds like **Common Wood Pigeon** and **House Sparrow**.

The next park we visited was **Parc Lalla Hasna (B)**. We were there during Sunday and there were a lot of people in the park. We only found a few common species like **Common Blackbird**, **Eurasian Collared Dove** and **Common Kestrel**, but it could be better for warblers and other birds if there were not so many people in the park.

Parc Ghabat Chabab (C) (the young forest) was the next place visited. It is a newly opened park built to increase the amount of green areas in the city of Marrakesh. It consists of thousands of olive trees and newly planted bushes, flowers and other trees. It was almost no people at our visit and found local birds like **Common Chaffinch** (ssp africana), **European Greenfinch** (ssp voousi), **Sardinian Warbler**, **White Stork**, **European Stonechat**, **Great Grey Shrike** (ssp elegans, according to Swedish taxonomy still known as Southern Grey Shrike) and **Mahgreb Magpie** along with migrating birds like **Common Chiffchaff**, **Eurasian Blackcap** and **White Wagtail** (ssp alba).

The last park we visited was **Les Jardins de la Menara (D)**, and it was a nice park but really crowded with people having a Sunday picnic. **Maghreb Magpies** and a few **Kestrels** was pretty much what we saw, but it could be good for a lot more if less people are visiting.

Ourika Valley (2)

After going southeast from Marrakesh on road P2017, when the High Atlas Mountains starts, the road goes along the Ourika river through the Ourika Valley. There are several spots to stop along in the valley, and we had several individuals of the target species no 1 in the area, **Levaillant's Woodpecker**. Other birds seen in decent numbers were **African Blue Tit**, **Eurasian Jay** etc.

Oukaimeden (3)



The ski resort of Oukaimeden was our main site to look for the high altitude species during our trip. Oukaimeden is located about 50 kilometers south of Marrakesh, the altitude is about 2.000-2.500 meters. When we were there, there was no snow, but in a normal year there might be pretty much snow and the guide was a bit worried. But it turned out fine and we actually had better numbers of the target birds than it usually is when there is snow.

When entering Oukaimeden, there is a small **lake (A)**, with some birds in and around it. One of the main target species, **African Crimson-winged Finch**, was found here. Later on we found another group of about 15 birds, but this was the best close up view we got. Around the lake we also found a couple of **Water Pipits** and **Common Coot**.

Above the lake, there is a big **open area (B)** where lots of birds were spotted, species like **Horned Lark** (ssp. atlas, by some authorities considered a subspecies of the newly split species Mountain Horned Lark, *Eremophila penicillata*), **Rock Sparrow**, **Rock Bunting**, **Black Redstart**, **Long-legged**

Buzzard (ssp cirtensis, might be considered ssp of Common Buzzard in the future) , **Common Raven** and **Red-Billed Chough** and **White-throated Dipper** (ssp minor). We also did a couple of walks to higher altitudes to look for a couple of target species. At **(C)** we found 3 **Alpine Accentors** and at **(D)** we found the first **Black Wheatears**. The Lookout point **(E)** is also a very impressive spot to visit, with a nice view over the highest peak in North Africa, Jbel Toubkal (4.167 m).

High Atlas Mountains (4)

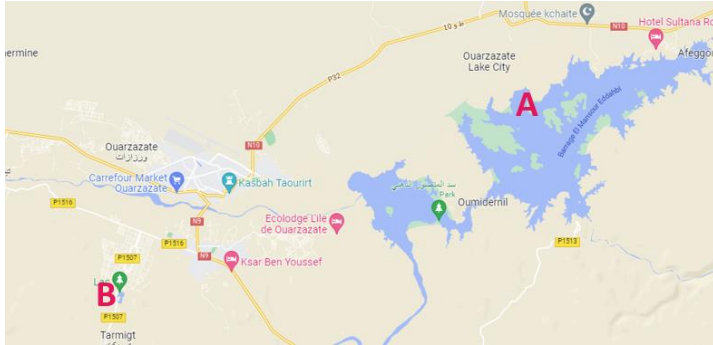


During our two trips over the high Atlas mountains we used Road N9, we stayed at a number of spots to look for birds. We stayed a bit longer at two spots that covered most of the species we saw. First it was the **Café and Restaurant Tafraout Toufliht (A)** where we made a stop both on our way towards the Sahara Desert and on our way back towards Marrakesh. We took a short walk along the road south of the café and it was a good spot for a decent number of species like Red Crossbill (ssp poliogyna), **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Firecrest**, **Grey Wagtail** and **Eurasian Siskin** among others. We also had a **Bonelli's Eagle** soaring over the mountains in the distance.

The other spot we visited was **Café Resto Targa (B)**. Just east of the café is a small path down towards the river bed. When we visited there was no snow, but there had been some rain the previous days and there were some puddles for the birds to find water in. There is a bridge over the river bed that was a good vantage point. We saw **Rock Bunting**, **Cirl Bunting**, **Common Chaffinch** (ssp africana), **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and some other nice birds from this location, well worth a stop.

There are dozens of similar cafés and restaurants along the N9, and most of them have similar surroundings that will probably be good for a short stop and some birding.

Ouarzazate area (5)



South east of the High Atlas Mountains is the city of Ouarzazate located. We drove past the city on our way towards the Sahara Desert, and on our way back towards Marrakesh. We primarily visited two spots here.

The Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi (A) is located east of the city and was the biggest lake we visited during the trip. We did not find many local specialities here, but a good variety of birds to add to the trip list like **Northern Shoveler**, **Mallard**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Grey Heron**, **Great Egret**, **Osprey**, **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Common Sandpiper** and **Black-headed Gull**.

South of the city is another lake that was almost completely dry during our visit, **Tarmigt Lake (B)**. Due to the lack of water, the lake was not as attractive as normally for the birds according to the guide, but we got good views of a few species like **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Meadow Pipit** and **White Wagtail** (both possible subspecies, the European alba and the local subpersonata).

Boumaine Dades area (6)

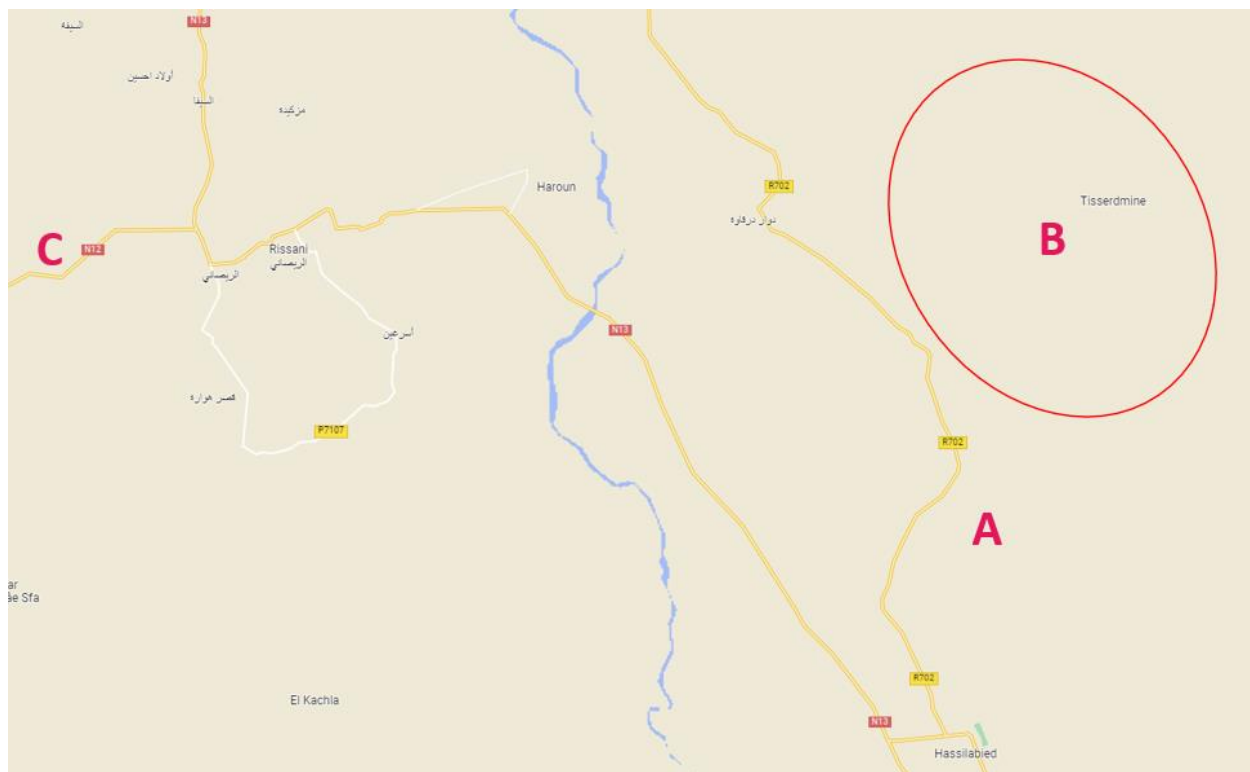
Further east is the small city of Boumaine Dades, where we spent a couple of days. In our hotel in the southern part of the city we saw birds like Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Common Kestrel, Little Owl, Great Spotted Woodpecker and House Bunting.

Just east of the city there is a dump, and as unpleasant the area was for humans, as nice it seemed to be for the birds, where we had the opportunity to see a lot of the target birds for the trip. Birds like **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**, **Thick-billed Lark**, **Temminck's Lark**, **Red-rumped Wheatear** and **Great Grey Shrike** (ssp elegans).

Not far from the city there was a canyon where the guide could show us a species of another big target for the trip, **Pharaoh Eagle-owl**, and at the same location we saw **Maghreb Wheatear**.

For obvious reasons the exact location will not be shared, but several pairs of the Eagle-owl breeds in the canyons in the area. Not far from that spot we also had a pair of **Lanner Falcons**, that also breeds with a few pairs in the area.

Rissani area (7)



The small city of Rissani is considered the gate to the Sahara Desert, and we spent a couple of days in the area to see the target birds of the desert. In the area where our hotel was situated (**A**), we had nice views of **Tristram's Warbler** and **Trumpeter Finch**.

Just north of this spot, we visited a couple of spots within an area (**B**) famous for a lot of the trips target birds like **Spotted Sandgrouse**, **Crowned Sandgrouse**, **Greater Hoopoe-lark**, **Bar-tailed Lark**, **African Desert Warbler** and **Desert**

Sparrow. The last spot we visited was just west of the Rissani (C). This was a gorge with a dry river bed where the target bird was at this point highly sought after **Moussier's Redstart**. We also saw **Brown-necked Raven**, **Black Redstart** and **Tristram's Warbler** at this spot.

As said initially, some birds were found outside the areas we used for more extensive birding, and those locations if applicable will be described in the species list.



Tristram's Warbler

Itinerary

The itinerary will contain some references to the locations described above in the format of number = main location and letter = detailed location.

2023-01-06

We arrived at Marrakesh airport in the afternoon, taking a taxi to our apartment in the city center. The first birds were spotted during the taxi ride, we saw species like **Cattle Egret**, **Common Bulbul** and **House Sparrows**. From our balcony we could tick a few more birds like **Rock Dove**, **Spotless Starling** and **House Bunting**. A short walk before it got dark gave us a few **Spanish Sparrows**.



Spanish Sparrow

2023-01-07

In the morning we walked the short distance from our apartment to Jardin Majorelle (1A) where we had breakfast at a café just outside the garden before entering, paying an entrance fee of about 15 €. The garden was already pretty crowded and the vegetation is pretty dense, but we got good views of **Eurasian**

Collared Dove, Grey Wagtail, Common Bulbul, Eurasian Blackcap and **Common Chiffchaff** in the garden, and **House Bunting, House Sparrow, Spanish Sparrow** and **Spotless Starling** just outside the garden.

After a quick hotel change we had lunch and then took a taxi to the Parc Lalla Hasna (1B) where the first **Kestrel** of the week was seen, along with **Eurasian Blackcaps** and **Common Blackbirds**.



Eurasian Blackcap

From this park it was just a five minute walk to the best spot we found in Marrakesh during our short stay, Parc Ghabat Chabab (1C). At the entrance we saw the trip's first **Maghreb Magpies** and **White Wagtails** (ssp alba). We had about a two hour walk through the park from the east gate to the north west corner. It was about a 3,5 kilometer walk. The first part of the park consisted mostly of olive trees and lower bushes, and gave birds like **Great Grey Shrike** (ssp elegans), **European Greenfinch, Common Chiffchaff, Sardinian Warbler**. A couple of White Storks were seen in the sky over the city as well. In the north west corner of the park, it is a bit greener with more "garden like" vegetation and

we saw **European Stonechat**, **House Bunting** and **Spanish Sparrow** along with more of the earlier seen species.



European Stonechat

The last spot we visited was Les Jardins de la Menara (1D). It was a Saturday afternoon, and the park was crowded with people having a stroll or a picnic. We just saw a few birds like more **Maghreb Magpies**, **Common Kestrels** and **Sardinian Warblers**. After that it was back to the hotel to wait for the group to arrive and have dinner before the “real” birding was about to start the next day.

2023-01-08

We left the hotel in the morning heading southeast towards the High Atlas Mountains. Before we left some of the group members got to see some of the birds we had seen the day before out just outside the hotel, like **Spotless Starling** and **House Bunting**.

We drove through the Ourika Valley (2) on the way up to the mountains and made a few stops. We got a real target bird in **Levaillant's Woodpecker** and also got to see **Eurasian Crag Martin**, **Eurasian Jay** and **African Blue Tit**.



African Blue Tit

The next stop was the ski resort of Oukaimeden (2) that gave us a lot of good birds in various locations (described in the locations area) in the village. Many in the group got lifers with birds like **Long-legged Buzzard** (ssp *cirtensis*), **African Crimson-winged Finch**, **Red-billed Chough**, **Rock Bunting**, **Rock Sparrow**, **Alpine Accentor** and **Black Wheatear**.

Other good birds in the area were **Horned Lark** (ssp *alpina* of the *Penicillata* group, might be split to Mountain Horned Lark), **White-throated Dipper**, **Black Redstart** and **Common Chaffinch** (ssp *africana*).

We then drove down to the hotel in Ourika Valley (2) for dinner and a pretty early night.

2023-01-09

The next morning, just after breakfast, we had wonderful sightings of **Levaillant's Woodpecker** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker** in the hotel garden before leaving.



Levaillant's Woodpecker

The plan for the day was to cross the High Atlas Mountains and go to the city of Boumaine Dades. We made a first stop on our way down towards Marrakesh, before heading towards the pass over the mountains, to look for **Barbery Partridge**. It was a successful stop and we saw a few birds. At this stop we also had **Crested Lark** and the trip's first **Moussier's Redstart**. The only issue is that it was a bad sighting and the bird was not identified until we came home and checked the photos, so at this point, we were still looking for one of the real target birds of the trip.

Along the road we saw some birds like **Long-legged Buzzard**, **Little Owl** and **Blue Rock Thrush** before making a stop at the café (4A) to pick up some water and go for a short walk. **Red Crossbill** and **Eurasian Siskin** were new species

for this spot, along with good numbers of other birds. In the next village the lunch packages for the day got picked up and we drove over the pass to the south side of the High-Atlas Mountains, before stopping at a smaller road on our way towards Ouarzazate to have lunch and do some birding. New Species for this spot were ***Thekla's Lark***, ***Desert Lark*** and ***White-crowned Wheatar***.

The final birding stop of the day was done at the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi (5A) (by the guide called Ouarzazate Lake) where we saw the first species tied to water. Here we got species like ***Ruddy Shelduck***, ***Mallard***, ***Eurasian Teal***, ***Common Coot***, ***Great Crested Grebe***, ***Little Grebe***, ***Eurasian Spoonbill***, ***Great Egret***, ***Grey Heron***, ***Great Cormorant***, ***Osprey***, ***Western Marsh Harrier***, ***Common Kestrel***, ***Common Sandpiper***, ***Black-headed Gull***, ***Little Owl***, ***White Wagtail*** (ssp *alba* and *subpersonata*) and a few more birds. It was a nice stop after a pretty long trip and the last stop before the about 1,5 hour drive to our hotel in Boumaine Dades for dinner, the daily walk-through of today's species and a good night's sleep.



Eurasian Crag Martin

2023-01-10

The next day started with one of the more “interesting” places we visited, the city dump just east of Boumaine Dades (6). It was smelly, dirty, broken glass everywhere, but also lots of really interesting birds. The first species we found when arriving in the pretty cold morning was **Red-rumped Wheatear**, and then shortly after that **Temminck’s Lark**, **Thick-billed Lark**, **Thekla’s Lark**, **Eurasian Crag Martin**, **White-crowned Wheatear** and **Great Grey Shrike** in good numbers. In the distance we also had a flock of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** flying by as well as the first **Mediterranean Short-toed Lark** flying by. The birding was really great, the surroundings, not so much.



Thick-billed Lark

After lunch back at the hotel and a nice close-up sighting of a **Little Owl** we drove about half an hour out of the city to look for two more highly wanted species for the trip. We came to a canyon and just as we arrived the first of the two appeared just as we started walking, a **Maghreb Wheatear** was seen very nice. While we watched the Wheatear, our guide went in advance to look for the other target species and just ten minutes later he came back and we could see from his smile he had struck gold. And there it was, the **Pharaoh Eagle-Owl**, sitting in a crevice well hidden if you did not know exactly where to look. After that we took a walk in the surroundings that gave some more sightings of **Thekla's Lark** and **Desert Lark**. The last bird found at the spot was a group of **Trumpeter Finches**.



Desert Lark

2023-01-11

The next day's target was to birdwatch our way east, to end up in the Sahara desert in the afternoon. We started after breakfast and just outside the city of Boumaine Dades we found a pair of **Lanner Falcons** in an electricity pole. Our first real stop of the day was the Todra Gorge just north of the city of Tinghir. The target species for this stop was **Tristram's Warbler**. We found a female that displayed pretty good just next to the upper parking lot. **Rock Bunting** was seen as well.



Lanner Falcon



Rock Bunting

We continued east and just south-west of the city of Goulmina we stopped to have our lunch sandwiches and to look for a very special bird. We started walking into the sandy area with some low bushes and it did not take long before the first of somewhere between four and six birds appeared.

Running like mice just making small jump like flights between bushes we saw the **Scrub Warblers** (ssp *saharae*, by some authorities considered a separate species). The first **Bar-tailed Lark** of the trip also flew over while we were watching the warblers.

Just outside the village of Melaab we found the first group of **Fulvous Babblers** during the trip, next to the road, so we made a short stop to look at them and

take a few pictures. A couple of **European Greenfinches** were present at that stop as well.



Scrub Warbler



Bar-tailed Lark

The last stop of the day before arrival at our hotel was about an hour east of the previous stop. It was just a little parking lot but there was some water present that attracted birds. We got really good views at another target bird, **Maghreb Lark** as well as really good sightings of **Bar-tailed Lark**. We took a walk to look for some other target species and found one, **Desert Wheatear**. After arriving at the hotel in the Sahara Desert (7A) we took a short walk just outside the hotel and found **Common Chiffchaff** and a nice male **Tristram's Warbler**.



Maghreb Lark

2023-01-12

We started the morning in 4x4 cars in the area north of the hotel (7B) for three stops in the Sahara Desert and five target birds of the trip. The first stop was a bedouin camp where the people living there are feeding birds, and we did not get disappointed. Both **Greater Hoopoe-lark** and **Desert Sparrow** in good numbers were found and seen on distances down to just a couple of meters.



Desert Sparrow

A five minute drive away we found the two species of Sandgrouse that came in groups to find some water. The most numerous of the species at our visit was **Spotted Sandgrouse**, but we also saw a flock of **Crowned Sandgrouse**.



Spotted Sandgrouse

Another five minute drive away was the third stop, and the first bird we found was a good sign, a ***Desert Wheatear***. For some reason, our target bird often follows the Wheatears around, and that was the case this time, when we found first one, and then at least one more ***African Desert Warbler***. In the area we also found a male ***Tristram's warbler*** and the always present ***White-crowned Wheatears***.



Desert Wheatear



Brown-necked Raven

After having lunch at our local guide's family restaurant, the afternoon stop of the day was a gorge just west of Rissani (7C) to look for the last of the trip's target birds. We found some ***Common Chiffchaffs*** and a ***Lanner Falcon*** flew over before we struck gold. A beautiful male ***Moussier's Redstart*** was found and we could watch and take pictures of it for a good 30 minutes. In the area we also found another male ***Tristram's Warbler***, a few ***Black Redstarts***. A couple of ***Brown-necked Ravens*** flew by as well as a ***Common Kestrel***.

2023-01-13

From this day it was time to set the target for Marrakesh again, and birdwatch our way westward. Just outside the hotel we saw a group of Trumpeter Finches before the bus left.

The first stop we did was the place where we picked up lunch, a restaurant in the town of Alnif. We took half an hour to walk in the garden and surroundings behind the restaurant and found several interesting birds. Good views of

Laughing Dove and **Fulvous Babbler**, as well as the first **Common Hoopoe** for the trip were seen, and we also found a female **Moussier's Redstart**.



Fulvous Babbler
Common Hoopoe

After a few more hours we came to the city of Ouarzazate and again we visited the Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi (5A). The first bird seen was another male **Moussier's Redstart**. Once we found the first one, it seemed to be easier to find the species when we had found the first one. We also found the 100th species for the trip with a group of **Northern Shovelers** in the lake. Otherwise it was pretty similar to the birds we had at the first visit.

2023-01-14

After a night in Ouarzazate we packed the bus to start our journey back to Marrakesh. In the hotel surroundings before leaving we found some **Eurasian Blackcaps**, **Garden Bulbuls**, **House Buntings** and on many masts and towers in the city we could see **White Storks**.

The first birding stop of the day was Tarmigt Lake (5B) where we stayed for about an hour. We had hoped to see some more Sandgrouse but they did not turn up as expected. A new species for the trip was **Green Sandpiper**, and besides that we saw **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Common Kestrel**, **Meadow Pipit**, **White Wagtail** (ssp alba and subpersonata), **European Stonechat** and a few other birds.

We then made a stop at Café Resto Targa (4B) to take a short walk in the area. We found the first **Cirl Bunting**s for the trip as well as **Levaillant's Woodpecker**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Rock Bunting** and **Common Chaffinch** (ssp africana).



Cirl Bunting



Ruddy Shelduck

Before stopping for lunch another new species for the trip was found from when a **Bonelli's Eagle** was found soaring in the distance. A quick stop and everyone got to see it before we headed to Café and Restaurant Taфраout Toufliht (4A). We started with a short walk and a new species for the trip was **Short-toed Treecreeper**, otherwise it was similar to the last visit. Just after lunch on the restaurant terrace, another **Bonelli's Eagle** was found in the distance, just as the first one, it was an older bird. The last birding with our guide was a short walk from the restaurant to look for **Firecrest**, and as in many other cases during the trip, he did not disappoint us. We were just about to give up when a bird came and displayed really nice in some trees just along the road.

Back at the hotel after checking in, we spent a little time on the roof, looking for Swifts, and found both **Common Swift** and **Little Swift**. Some people visited the Marrakesh Souk and they also had **Little Swift** soaring over the city.

So that was it for the birding of the week. Lots of good birds, good food and nice company had to come to an end, and after a short night's sleep at the hotel, we made our way back to Europe, in our case via Paris.

Species List

The total number of bird species seen by the participants was 107, I personally saw the 106 in the list below. The missing one was a Maghreb Owl (ataskattuggla, *Strix mauritanica*), heard in Ourika Valley by one of the other trip participants. A few mammals were also seen, as well as some Butterflies and Dragonflies, they are not present in the list. I will present the list in English, Swedish and Latin to improve the quality for the mostly Swedish readers. The list also contains names of subspecies if applicable.

No. **English name**, *Swedish name*, Latin name if interesting including subspecies.
Location **No. if applicable**, date if applicable (quantity, per visit if applicable).

1. **Ruddy Shelduck**, *rostand*, *Tadorna ferruginea*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (8 & 14) and Tarmigt Lake **5B** (2)
2. **Mallard**, *gräsand*, *Anas platyrhynchos*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (10 & 10)
3. **Eurasian Teal**, *kricka*, *Anas crecca*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (4 & 15)
4. **Northern Shoveler**, *skedand*, *Spatula clypeata*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A**, 230113 (8)
5. **Barbary Partridge**, *klipphöna*, *Alectoris barbara spatzi*
North slopes of High Atlas towards Marrakesh (4)
6. **Little Swift**, *stubbstjärtseglare*, *Apus affinis galilejensis*
Over Marrakesh **1**, 230114 (32)
7. **Common Swift**, *tornseglare*, *Apus apus*
Over Marrakesh **1**, 230114 (100)
8. **Spotted Sandgrouse**, *ökenflyghöna*, *Pterocles senegallus*
North of the Sahara Hotel **7B**, (100)
9. **Blackbellied Sandgrouse**, *svartbukig flyghöna*, *Pterocles orientalis*
City dump east of Boumaine Dades **6**, (20)

10. **Crowned Sandgrouse**, *kronflyghöna*, *Pterocles coronatus*
North of the Sahara Hotel **7B** (15)



Crowned Sandgrouse

11. **Rock Dove**, *klippduva*, *Columba Livia*
Abundant, seen in large numbers all day, both more domestic types in towns, and more “wild” looking in the dry mountain areas.
12. **Common Wood Pigeon**, *ringduva*, *Columba Palumbus*
Common north of the High Atlas mountains, seen most days
13. **Eurasian Collared Dove**, *turkduva*, *Streptopelia decaocto*
Abundant, seen in large numbers all days.
14. **Laughing Dove**, *palmduva*, *Spilopelia senegalensis phoenicophila*
Seen most days in villages in and south of the High Atlas Mountains
15. **Eurasian Coot**, *sothöna*, *Fucila atra*
Oukaimeden lake **3A** (4), Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (20+ & 8)
16. **Little Grebe**, *smådopping*, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (10+ & 4)
17. **Great Crested Grebe**, *skäggdopping*, *Podiceps cristatus*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (100+ & 200)

18. **Common Sandpiper**, *drillsnäppa*, *Actitis hypoleucos*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi 230109 **5A** (1)
19. **Green Sandpiper**, *skogssnäppa*, *Tringa ochropos*
Tarmigt Lake **5B** (2)
20. **Black-headed Gull**, *skrattnås*, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (10+ & 45)
21. **Great Cormorant**, *storskarv*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (7 & 5)
22. **White Stork**, *vit stork*, *Ciconia ciconia*
Common, seen most days in villages.



White Stork

23. **Eurasian Spoonbill**, *skedstork*, *Platalea leucorodia*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (6 & 7)
24. **Cattle Egret**, *kohäger*, *Bubulcus ibis*
Common, seen most days in various habitats
25. **Grey Heron**, *gråhäger*, *Ardea Cinerea*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (10 & 5)
26. **Great Egret**, *ägretthäger*, *Ardea Alba*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (1 & 1)

27. **Osprey**, *fiskgjuse*, *Pandion haliaetus*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (2+1)
28. **Bonelli's Eagle**, *hökörn*, *Aquila fasciata*
Seen in the High Atlas Mountains **4** 230114 (2)
29. **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, *sparvhök*, *Accipiter nisus*
Seen with a few individuals south of the High Atlas Mountains
30. **Western Marsh Harrier**, *brun kärrhök*, *Circus aeruginosus*
Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A** (3)
31. **Long-legged Buzzard**, *örnvårk*, *Buteo rufinus cirtensis*
Seen most days in different habitats, (~20)
32. **Little Owl**, *minervauggla*, *Athene noctua saharae*
Seen most days along roads and in villages (~12)
33. **Pharaoh Eagle-owl**, *ökenuv*, *Bubo ascalaphus*
Seen 20 minutes from Boumaine Dades **6** (1)



Long-legged Buzzard



Little Owl



Pharaoh Eagle-owl

34. **Eurasian Hoopoe**, *härfågel*, *Upupa epops*
Alnif (1)
35. **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, *större hackspett*, *Dendrocopos major mauritanus*
Seen in several locations in the Atlas Mountains **2, 4** (~8)

36. **Levaillant's Woodpecker**, *atlasgröngöling*, *Picus vaillantii*
Seen in several locations in the Atlas Mountains **2, 4** (~7)
37. **Common Kestrel**, *tornfalk*, *Falco tinnunculus*
Common, seen all days with several individuals
38. **Lanner Falcon**, *slagfalk*, *Falco biarmicus erlangeri*
Seen 20 minutes from Boumaine Dades **6** and at **7C** (2 & 1)
39. **Great Grey Shrike**, *varfågel*, *Lanius excubitor elegans*
Common, seen all days with several individuals



Great Grey Shrike

40. **Eurasian Jay**, *nötskrika*, *Garrulus glandarius minor*
Seen and heard in several locations in the Atlas Mountains **4,6** (~5)
41. **Maghreb Magpie**, *maghrebskata*, *Pica mauritanica*
Common in Marrakesh **1** and Ourika Valley **2**
42. **Red-billed Chough**, *alpråka*, *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax barbarus*
Common in mountainous areas **3,4,5**
43. **Brown-necked Raven**, *ökenkorp*, *Corvus ruficollis*
Common in the desert locations **6,7**
44. **Common Raven**, *korp*, *Corvus corax tingitanus*
Common in the mountainous areas **3,4,5**

45. **Coal tit**, *svartmes*, *Periparus ater atlas*
Café and Restaurant Tafraout Toufliht **4A** (5 & 3)
46. **African Blue Tit**, *koboltmes*, *Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus*
Common in Marrakesh and on the north side of the High Atlas Mountains **1,2,3**
47. **Great tit**, *talgoxe*, *Parus major excelsus*
Common in Marrakesh and on the north side of the High Atlas Mountains **1,2,3**
48. **Greater Hoopoe-lark**, *härfågellärka*, *Alaemon alaudipes*
North of the Sahara hotel **7B**, (~10)



Greater Hoopoe-lark

49. **Thick-billed Lark**, *tjocknäbbad lärka*, *Ramphocoris clotbey*
Dump east of Boumaine Dades **6**, (~15)
50. **Desert Lark**, *stenökenlärka*, *Ammomanes deserti payni*
Common in desert areas south and east of the High Atlas Mountains. Seen all days spent in the area. **5,6,7** (~30)
51. **Bar-tailed Lark**, *sandökenlärka*, *Ammomanes cinctura arenicolor*
Seen in desert areas in and close to the Sahara Desert. **7** (~30)
52. **Thekla's Lark**, *lagerlärka*, *Galerida theklae*
The crested lark seen in and south of the High Atlas Mountains. Seen daily in these areas. **4,5,6** (~50)

53. **Crested Lark**, *tofslärka*, *Galerida cristata*
The crested lark seen north of the High Atlas Mountains. Seen in good numbers in these areas. **1,2** (~10)
54. **Maghreb Lark**, *maghreblärka*, *Galerida macrorhyncha*
The crested lark seen in and close to the Sahara Desert. **7** (~15)
55. **Horned Lark**, *berglärka*, *Eremophila alpestris atlas* (by some auth. *E penicillata atlas*)
Oukaimeden **3**, (~15)
56. **Temminck's Lark**, *ökenberglärka*, *Eremophila bilopha*
Dump east of Boumaine Dades **6**, (~20)



Horned Lark



Temminck's Lark

57. **Mediterranean Short-toed Lark**, *medelhavsdvärglärka*, *Alaudala rufescens minor*
Seen in groups on several locations around Boumaine Dades **6**, (~100)
58. **Common Bulbul**, *trädgårdsbulbyl*, *Pycnonotus barbatus*
Abundant, seen all days in many type of habitats
59. **Eurasian Crag Martin**, *klippsvala*, *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
Common, seen all days in many type of habitats
60. **Barn Swallow**, *ladusvala*, *Hirundo rustica*
Seen most days on different locations in groups of Crag Martins. (~5)
61. **Common House Martin**, *hussvala*, *Delichon urbicum*
Seen a couple of days in groups of Crag Martins (~3)

62. **Scrub Warbler**, *snårsångare*, *Scotocerca inquieta saharae* (by some auth. *S saharae*)
Southwest of Goulmina (6)
63. **Common Chiffchaff**, *gransångare*, *Phylloscopus collybita*
Common, seen all days in different biotopes.
64. **Eurasian Blackcap**, *svarthätta*, *Sylvia atricapilla*
Common, seen at many locations in Marrakesh **1** and the High Atlas Mountains **2,3,4**
65. **African Desert Warbler**, *saharasångare*, *Curruca deserti*
Area north of our Sahara Desert hotel **7B** (2)
66. **Tristram's Warbler**, *atlassångare*, *Curruca deserticola maroccana*
Todra Gorge (1), several locations in the Sahara Desert **7** (~6)
67. **Sardinian Warbler**, *sammetshätta*, *Curruca melanocephala*
Many locations in Marrakesh, in and south of the High Atlas Mountains **1,2,3,4,5,6** (~20)
68. **Fulvous Babbler**, *saharaskriktrast*, *Argya fulva maroccana*
Melaab (5), Alnif (6)
69. **Common Firecrest**, *brandkronad kungsfågel*, *Regulus ignicapilla balearicus*
Café and Restaurant Tafraout Toufliht **4A**, (1)



Common Bulbul



Common Firecrest

70. **Eurasian Wren**, *gårdsmyg*, *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Several locations in Ourika Valley **2**, (~5)

71. **Short-toed Treecreeper**, *trädgårdsträdskrypare*, *Certhia brachydactyla mauritanica*
Café and Restaurant Tafraout Toufliht **4A**, (1)
72. **Spotless Starling**, *svartstare*, *Sturnus unicolor*
Common in Marrakesh and lower altitude locations **1,5**
73. **Mistle Thrush**, *dubbeltrast*, *Turdus viscivorus deichleri*
Oukaimeden **3** (1), Café and Restaurant Tafraout Toufliht **4A**, (1)
74. **Common blackbird**, *koltrast*, *Turdus merula mauretanicus*
Abundant, seen all days in many different biotopes.
75. **European Robin**, *rödhake*, *Erithacus rubecula*
Common in Marrakesh and the High Atlas Mountains **1,2,3,4**
76. **Black Redstart**, *svart rödstjärt*, *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Common, seen all days in most biotopes
77. **Moussier's Redstart**, *diademrödstjärt*, *Phoenicurus moussieri*
Seen in different biotopes **2,5,6,7** (~6)



Moussier's Redstart

78. **Blue Rock Thrush**, *blåtrast*, *Monticola solitarius*
Seen in and south of the High Atlas Mountains **4,5,6** (~8)
79. **European Stonechat**, *svarthakad buskskvätta*, *Saxicola rubicola*
Common, seen on lower altitudes south and north of the High Atlas Mountains,
1,5,6 (~15)
80. **Desert Wheatear**, *ökenstenskvätta*, *Oenanthe deserti homochroa*
Sahara Desert **7** (2)
81. **Red-rumped Wheatear**, *berberstenskvätta*, *Oenanthe moesta*
Dump east of Boumaine Dades **6** (~8)
82. **Black Wheatear**, *svart stenskvätta*, *Oenanthe leucura riggenbachi*
High altitudes in the High Atlas Mountains **3,4** (~20)



Red-rumped Wheatear



Black Wheatear

83. **White-crowned Wheatear**, *vitkronad stenskvätta*, *Oenanthe leucopyga aegra*
Abundant on lower altitudes, **1,5,6,7**

84. **Maghreb Wheatear**, *maghrestenskvätta*, *Oenanthe halophila*
Boumaine Dades **6** (2)



White-crowned Wheatear



Maghreb Wheatear

85. **White-throated Dipper**, *strömstare*, *Cinclus cinclus minor*
Oukaimeden **3** (2)
86. **Rock Sparrow**, *stensparv*, *Petronia petronia barbara*
Oukaimeden **3** (~20), Café Resto Targa **4B** (1)
87. **Spanish Sparrow**, *spansk sparv*, *Passer hispaniolensis*
Common in Marrakesh **1** (~20), Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A**, 230113 (2)
88. **House Sparrow**, *gråsparv*, *Passer domesticus*
Abundant, seen all days in all biotopes.
89. **Desert Sparrow**, *ökensparv*, *Passer simplex saharae*
Sahara Desert **7B** (~15)
90. **Alpine Accentor**, *alpjärnsparv*, *Prunella collaris*
Oukaimeden **3C** (3)



Rock Sparrow

Desert Sparrow

Alpine Accentor

91. **Grey Wagtail**, *forsärta*, *Motacilla cinerea*
Common in Marrakesh and the High Atlas Mountains **1,2,3,4,5**
92. **White Wagtail**, *sädesärta*, *Motacilla alba* (*alba* & *subpersonata*)
Ssp *alba* present in all biotopes (~30), ssp *subpersonata* **5A,5B** (~4)
93. **Meadow Pipit**, *ängspiplärka*, *Anthus pratensis*
Ouarzazate **5A,5B** (~15)

94. **Water Pipit**, *vattenpiplärka*, *Anthus spinoletta*
Oukaimeden lake **3A** (1)
95. **Common Chaffinch**, *bofink*, *Fringilla coelebs africana*
Common in Marrakesh and the High Atlas Mountains **1,2,3,4**
96. **African Crimson-winged Finch**, *afrikansk bergsökenfink*, *Rhodopechys alienus*
Oukaimeden **3A, 3B** (~20)



African Crimson-winged Finch

97. **Trumpeter Finch**, *ökentrumpetare*, *Bucanetes githagineus zedlitzi*
Desert and desert like locations south of the Atlas Mountains **5,6,7** (~40)
98. **European Greenfinch**, *grönfink*, *Chloris chloris*
Marrakesh **1** (~10), Melaab (2), Café and Restaurant Tafraout Toufliht **4A**, (1)
99. **Common Linnet**, *hämpling*, *Linaria cannabina*
Oukaimeden **3** (~20), Barrage El Mansour Eddahbi **5A**, 230113 (10)
100. **Red Crossbill**, *mindre korsnäbb*, *Loxia curvirostra polioygyna*
Café and Restaurant Tafraout Toufliht **4A**, (8 & 3)
101. **European Serin**, *gulhämpling*, *Serinus serinus*
Ourika Valley **2** (1), Ouarzazate Lake **5A** (1)

102. **Eurasian Siskin**, *grönsiska*, *Spinus spinus*
Café and Restaurant Tafraout Toufliht **4A**, (~5)
103. **Corn Bunting**, *kornsparv*, *Emberiza calandra*
Common north of the High Atlas Mountains (~20)
104. **Rock Bunting**, *klippsparv*, *Emberiza cia*
Oukaimeden **3** (2), Todra Gorge (3), Café Resto Targa (3)
105. **Cirl Bunting**, *häcksparv*, *Emberiza cirlus*
Café Resto Targa 4B (6)
106. **House Bunting**, *hussparv*, *Emberiza sahari*
Common in most biotopes



Red Crossbill



House Bunting