

Birding Morocco

Atlas mountains - Eastern deserts- Northern parts

April 2026



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Morocco, April 15th-25th 2026

Front cover

Male Western Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*, north of Ourika.

Participants

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Highlights

- Mountain scenery at Oukaïmeden with easy targets Atlas Wheatear, African Crimson-winged Finch and Atlas Horned Lark.
- Migrant passerines and first impressions of the desert at Amerzgane. Ortolan Bunting always a treat.
- Splendid Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters in the deserts.
- Larks at Tagdilt Track – Thick-billed Lark beeing the favourite.
- Finding a nesting pair of Pharaoh Eagle-Owl.
- Finding the localized target Maghreb Wheatear.
- A family of cheeky Streaked Scrub Warblers in the deserts.
- Desert birding at Merzouga starring Egyptian Nightjar, African Desert Warbler and Desert Sparrow.
- Finding the elusive Dupont's Lark at the fine plains of Zaida.
- Fresh Atlas Pied Flycatchers in sturdy oak forests at Ifrane.
- The last Marsh Owls of Morocco at Merja Zerga.
- Surprisingly high numbers of feeding shorebirds in Merja Zerga: 15.000+.
- Close encounter of a booming Common Buttonquail.
- Roadside Calandra Larks on the way back to Marrakech.



Tristram's Warbler on territory at Tizi n'Talghamt.



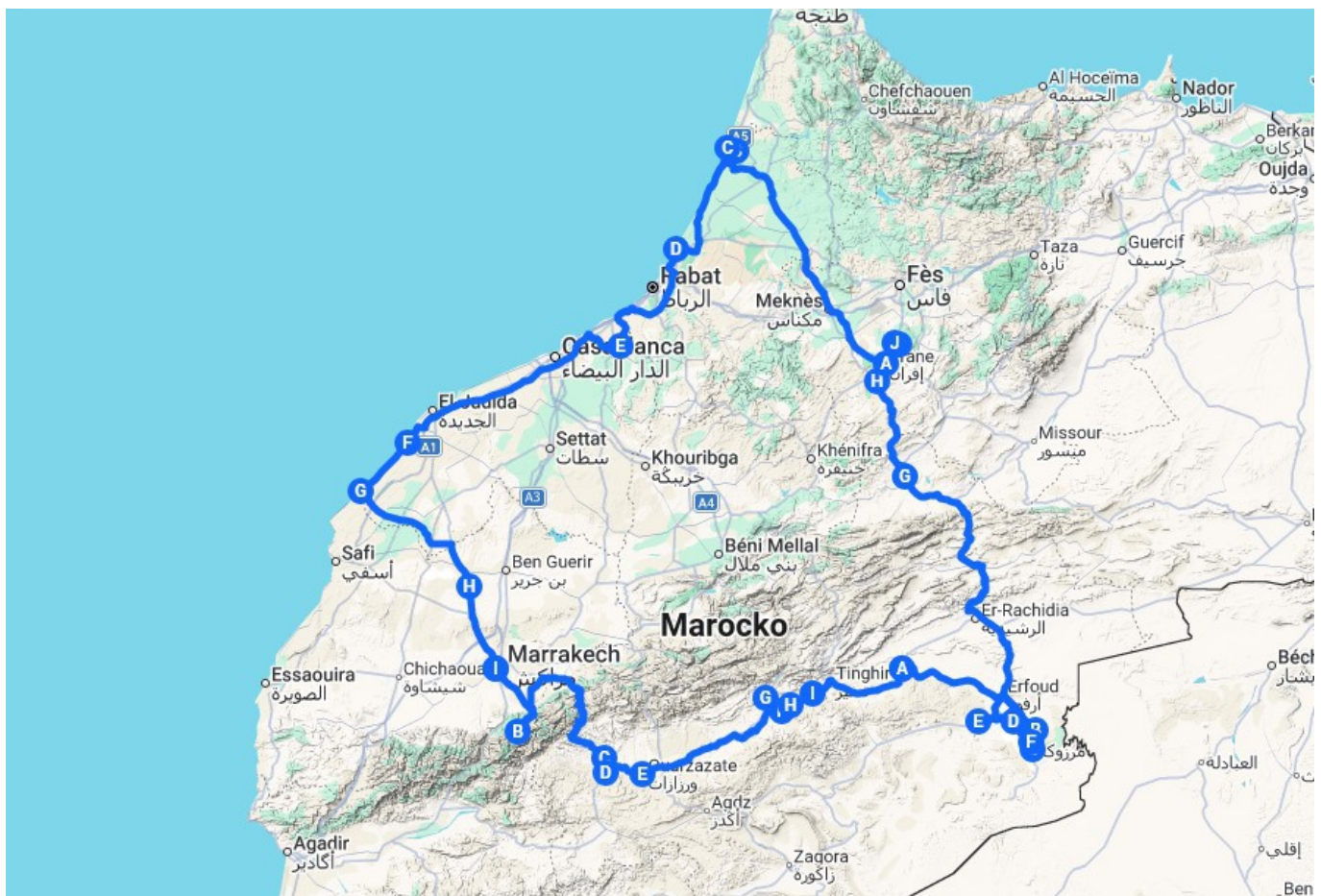
Atlas Pied Flycatcher, male at Fôret de Ben Smim, Ifrane.

Itinerary at a glance

15 Apr: Arrival at **Marrakech Airport** at 16.00. Car rental pick-up at Alamo. Drive to lower Ourika. Look-out spot NNE of Ourika 19.20-20.00. Night at Hôtel Villa des étoiles, Ourika.

16 Apr: **Oukaïmeden** 07.00-10.00, Park Oukaïmeden 10.15-11.15, Lower parts of Oukaïmeden until 12.45. Lunch in Ourika. Afternoon drive up to **Tizi n'Tichka** with two longer birding stops along the way. Arrival at Amerzgane 19.00. Evening birding until sunset at the dried river bed at Amerzgane. Night at Café Nour Dar Ait Ben Haddou, W of Amerzgane.

- 17 Apr: **Amerzgane** river bed 07.00-09.30. Driving south along P1505, small Oued 09.40-09.50. **Oued Anski** 10.00-11.00. **Oued Iriri** 10.15-11.05. Eastern **Ouarzazate** outskirts 11.30-12.30. Lunch in Ouarzazate. Barrage Mansour Eddahbi 15.00-15.15. The dump SE of Boumalne Dades 17.30-19.00. **Tagdilt Track** 19.00-20.00. Night at Kasbah la Famille Berbère, Gorges du Dades.
- 18 Apr: **Tagdilt Track** 06.50-08.40. **Falcon Nest Escarpment-area** 09.00-11.30. Site north of N10 12.00-12.30. Lunch in Tinghir. **Scrub Warbler stake-out** N of Tinejdad 15.40-16.40. **Hotel Yasmina** 19.00-19.50. Night at Hotel Yasmina.
- 19 Apr: **Desert tour** with guide Hassan 07.30-14.00. Lunch at Yasmina. **Igrane Oasis** 17.00-17.40. **Lake Merzouga** 18.00-19.55. Night at Hotel Yasmina.
- 20 Apr: Hotel Yasmina 06.30-08.00. **Oued Ziz** 10.00-11.00. M'Ifri n'Ighass 11.30-12.10, W Rissani 12.30-13.00. Lunch in Merzouga. **Merzouga Oasis** 16.00-17.00. **Igrane Oasis** 17.00-18.00. **Lake Merzouga** 18.00-19.00. Night at Hotel Yasmina.
- 21 Apr: **Hotel Yasmina** 07.00-09.00. Gorges du Ziz 11.30-12.15. Lunch at Er-Rich. **Tizi n'Talghamt** 15.00-16.00. Timnay 17.15-17.30. **Zaida Plains** 17.30-20.15. Night at Chalets OTO Atlas Timnay.
- 22 Apr: **Zaida Plains** 06.00-08.00. **Col du Zad** 09.30-10.00. Lac Aguelmame Sidi Ali 10.00-10.30. **Cèdre Gouraud** 11.00-12.00. **Fôret de Ben Smim** 12.20-14.30. Lunch at **Ifrane**. **Lac Zerouka** 15.30-16.00. **Dayet Aoua** 17.30-19.00. **Fôret de Ben Smim** 19.45-20.20. Night at Motel Ain Mersa, N of Ifrane.
- 23 Apr: Tizi Moucherkour, W of **Ifrane** 07.30-08.15. Meknès City 10.00. Péninsule de Douar Rouissia (Merja Zerga) 15.00-16.00. E **Merja Zerga** 16.30-19.00. Night at apartment in Kénitra (booking.com).
- 24 Apr: **Sidi Bourghaba** 07.00-08.45. Lunch at Bouznika. NE **Ben Slimane** 12.00-17.45. Dayat Dar Bouazza 19.20-19.50. Night in apartment in El Jadida (booking.com).
- 25 Apr: **Sidi Moussa** 07.00-09.00. Oulad Ghanem 09.15-09.45. **Salines de Oualidia** 10.00-11.20. Oualidia Beach 11.40-12.15. E.r. P3440 13.00. Evening flight from Marrakech back to Sweden.



Rough sketch of our trip starting and ending at Marrakech anti-clockwise.

General information

Morocco is a well-known birding destination for birdwatchers from both Europe and around the world. The country hosts large numbers of European birds, either wintering there or passing through on migration to and from sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, it is home to a variety of endemic and range-restricted species found in the Atlas Mountains and the desert regions.

Most birding trips to Morocco take place during the winter or spring. Our original plan had been to visit Saudi Arabia in the spring of 2026, but due to the unstable security situation we were forced to change our destination, and Morocco proved to be an excellent alternative. The timing of our trip also gave us a reasonable chance of seeing Atlas Flycatcher, a species that arrives remarkably late at its breeding grounds in the oak forests of the northern Atlas Mountains, often not until late April or early May.

Because of time constraints, we had to exclude the Agadir region and the desert areas of southern Morocco from our itinerary. Those will have to wait for another trip.

In general, Morocco has a well-developed road network, making it easy to travel independently. We were able to book most of our accommodation on the same day, allowing us to maintain maximum flexibility throughout the journey.

Temperatures were unexpectedly cool; only in the Merzouga area did it become very hot at times, while conditions were otherwise generally pleasant. At the mornings in higher elevations it was cooler, and a warm hat and thermal underwear were essential during the early morning in Oukaimeden.

The purpose of this report is to inspire future visitors and, where relevant, to provide up-to-date information on some of the key target species.

Car Rental & Driving

We rented an SUV, which proved to be more than adequate for the trip. Alamo provided a smooth rental experience. We were picked up at the airport and driven about five minutes to a nearby office, where the usual paperwork was completed. We had only one designated driver throughout the trip and opted for additional insurance. Over the course of ten days, we drove approximately 2,800 km.

Road conditions were generally very good. Traffic was mostly calm, although naturally somewhat busier and more hectic around the larger cities. Speed limits are generally well respected, probably because of the frequent police checkpoints. We had been told that most visitors are likely to receive at least one traffic fine during their trip, even when the alleged offence is rather unclear. We were therefore not particularly surprised when, at one checkpoint, we were informed that we had exceeded the speed limit "at some point." Rather than wasting time arguing, we paid the relatively modest fine. The officer initially asked for 300 MAD, but when I requested a receipt, the process suddenly became much slower, as everything had to be written out by hand, taking around 15 minutes. In the end, we paid 150 MAD and were free to continue our journey.

From Merzouga to Hotel Yasmia, there is no proper road—only a network of desert tracks, some more heavily used than others. Most vehicles travelling this route are 4x4 Jeeps. Driving the section was not particularly difficult, but it was slow and extremely bumpy. However, to reach the more remote desert east of Hotel Yasmia, including the waterhole frequented by sandgrouse, Desert Sparrow, African Desert Warbler, and Egyptian Nightjar, a four-wheel-drive vehicle is essential.

Some target species

This is not a comprehensive list of all targets. Just a few I thought worth mentioning. Many species are not difficult once you get into the right habitat. E.g. the mountain birds at Oukaimeden and the larks and specialties at Tagdilt Track.

Double-spurred Francolin

The classic site for the Francolin is around Sidi Betache which is south of Rabat. There are several spots on ebird to follow. We chose to visit another less well-known area for the Francolin which is north-east of Ben Slimane. We arrived mid-day and birded all afternoon, and only hear one sporadically calling (33.642362, -7.095795). I believe it should be quite straight-forward at both sites if you go for a morning visit!

Common Buttonquail

Still kept secret for some reason, the area for the Buttonquail is in cultivated coastal areas south of El Jadida. From what little I know they predominantly choose alfalfa crops or fields with pea plants. It's rather not possible to see them without flushing, the one we heard sat in crops and therefore completely out of reach. We heard one calling early morning at extremely close range <15 meters.

Egyptian Nightjar

Hotel Yasmina should be able to arrange for a guide to take you to the spot. I wouldn't recommend trying to find them by yourself. It's around 7 km north of Hotel Yasmina and you need a 4x4.

Marsh Owl

There is still a very small population of Marsh Owl around the eastern parts of Merja Zerga, the native grasslands is diminishing by the increasing crops and kettle fields. There are a few different spots on ebird (34.851889, -6.235019). If you go there before dusk you'll have a good chance seeing one. Many of the locals seem to know about the owl and about visiting birders. We were approached by a "guide" Yusuf who seemed to know about the birds and shared the concerns about the decreasing habitat, he spoke French and very little English. We tried a spot a little further south and were treated excellent views.

Pharaoh Eagle-Owl

The Falcon Nest Escarpment-area east of Tagdilt Track hold at least one pair of Eagle-Owls. The Lanner Falcon nest in the same area. Search suitable cliffs in the surroundings. The north-facing cliff (31.373944, -5.813716) at the Lanner Falcon site has been productive although the owls might change place from day to day. At the western entrance to the area (31.374057, -5.830366) we were approached by a local guide on a bike, he said he could show us the owl, Maghreb Wheatear on nest, but we wanted to find the birds by ourselves. However we were happy to pay him a gift to show us a Horned Viper which was amazing! Eventually we found a pair of Eagle-Owls and even three chicks! There is another known site (ebird) at cliffs SW of Rissani where Eagle-Owls are seen.

Tawny ('Maghreb') Owl

Formerly split ssp *mauritanicus* of Tawny Owl is not an uncommon resident of the forested areas of the Atlas mountains. There are many sightings in ebird showing it's quite an abundant bird. Many people connect with one in Ourika Valley on the way to Oukaïmeden. We had great views of at least two or three calling birds in Fôret de Ben Smim in Ifrane. As we walked the path into the forest a bird called even though it was still good light, well before dusk.

Levaillant's Woodpecker

Another rather well-spread and numerous bird in the forest areas in the Atlas mountains. We failed to find one on the way down from Oukaïmeden but never gave it too much time since we were pretty confident we would see one in Ifrane. We heard many and eventually had great views both at Fôret de Ben Smim, around Dayet Aoua and west of Ifrane.

Black-crowned Tchagra

Normally a bird most people catch up with in the Agadir-area in southern Morocco where it is present in Oued Massa. There are some reports from the same general area where you look for Double-spurred Francolin, both Sidi Betache and NE of Ben Slimane, in the end we heard one bird singing. A morning visit would probably increase the chance of seeing one tremendously.

Dupont's Lark

There are several territories of Dupont's Lark at the Zaida Plains. They are calling especially before dawn but also more randomly just after dawn and before dusk. The matter of actually seeing one is more challenging. You need a lot of patience. They are constantly moving also when singing, and the loud song can be surprisingly difficult to precisely locate. With time, there is a good chance to eventually connect with one. We saw Dupont's Lark both on our first evening (although briefly) and better during the morning hour. Note that there are known territories both west and east of the main road (N13). The classical site is to the east, uphill, until you reach a plateau (32.794660, -4.930788), from here it's relatively easy to scan downhill the plains facing south. Around this general area also Mediterranean Short-toed Larks are abundant and it's a good chance of seeing Cream-colored Courser. During a winter visit it's reportedly freezing cold.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

The Saharan ssp *reiseri* of the Eastern Olivaceous Warbler arrive in good numbers in the deserts and around dried river beds around Merzouga from mid- to late april and onwards. It was a quite common bird by song. We had many birds around Hotel Yasmina and e.g. at Oued Ziz (31.264372, -4.154691) walking the valley north from the bridge.

Western Olivaceous Warbler

Arrive almost a month before Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and move to breeding habitats a bit further up the mountain valleys in the Atlas mountains, in mainly riparian woods along the rivers where we had encounters of territorial birds on the way to Tizi n'Tichka (31.371793, -7.397933) and at Vallée du Ziz (32.146833, -4.370383). Without song they are very hard to separate from Eastern Olivaceous Warbler on plumage, however they lack obvious down-ward repeated tail-flicking and have a broader convex bill shape. According to the bird ringing data from Yasmina they migrate through the deserts well into May. So a non-calling Olivaceous Warbler in the desert by late April should be treated with great care.

Streaked Scrub Warbler

There is a well-known stake-out north of Tinejad along N10 (31.586516, -4.989970) or a little further north where we found a family group (31.602864, -4.991286). At the latter spot where we stopped, we also had Fulvous Babbler.

African Desert Warbler

On the desert tour from Yasmina with a 4x4 Jeep we encountered African Desert Warbler in three different locations. In total nine birds were seen, they can be quite mobile, so keeping track of them can be a bit tricky.

Tristram's Warbler

Not uncommon in suitable habitat in scrub and semi-open areas in the Atlas mountains. We had a territorial bird both on the way down from Oukaïmeden (31.280604, -7.797319) and going north toward Zaida Plains passing Tizi n'Talghamt (32.609513, -4.530822). Tizi n'Talghamt also produced Western Orphean Warbler on territory and Moussier's Redstart.

Atlas Pied Flycatcher

Said to arrive late in their breeding grounds in the northern Atlas mountains around Ifrane, even into May. We had no trouble at all finding birds at April 22nd-23rd. The earliest report in ebird during the last 10 years from Ifrane is at April 18th. We observed at least two very territorial males at Fôret de Ben Smim (33.486988, -5.144836) and at least five birds including females west of Ifrane (33.550557, -5.170588).

Mourning ('Maghreb') Wheatear

Formerly split, now lumped, but in the pipeline of getting split again(!). One of the trickier targets. The guide we met at the Falcon Nest Escarpment-area said he could show us an active nest which I believe was true. Most sightings of Maghreb Wheatear are from the general area (31.369497, -5.824594), as they seem to favour rockier/steeper areas and will not easily be found out in the plains. Another ebird-spot that seem interesting is north of N10 (31.445782, -5.661717) where we tried but failed to find one.

Desert Sparrow

At least five birds were seen at the remote Kam Kam Dunes resort (31.173131, -3.940377) which we visited on our guided day with a 4x4 Jeep, otherwise this would be an unreachable area. Desert Sparrow no longer occurs at Hotel Yasmina, at least not regularly.

'Moroccan' White Wagtail

A random stop at some river-beds at Gorges du Ziz (32.146066, -4.371759) produced a distinct male of the local ssp *subpersonata* on apparent breeding grounds. This was our only observation during 10 days, so it's not an easy bird to get. It might be easier earlier in the winter and especially in the Agadir-area. It could possibly be expected at almost any river bed across the country.



Posing Saharan form of Streaked Scrub Warbler at classic stake-out north of Tinejad.



Desert Sparrow at Erg Chebbi.



Two Egyptian Nightjars present at stake-out north of Hotel Yasmina.



The last of the desert-targets: African Desert Warbler at Erg Chebbi.



Scanning the slopes of Oukaïmeden. Easy birding along the road.



Searching for migrants in the dried riverbed at Amerzgane.

List of birds: Morocco, April 15th-25th 2026

Following AviList: The Global Avian Checklist, v2025 (<https://doi.org/10.2173/avilist.v2025>). In total: 215 species (6 heard only (HO)), 7 species on The IUCN Red List for Threatened Species (2014.3). Subspecies notations are foremost literature-based.

- 1 **White-headed Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* **EN**
60 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4), 2m Dayat Dar Bouazza (24.4).
- 2 **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
Seen on 4 days, max 150 Lake Merzouga (19.4).
- 3 **Marbled Teal** *Marmaronetta anguirostris* **NT**
4 Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 4 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 4 **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*
50 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4), 25 Dayat Dar Bouazza (24.4).
- 5 **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* **NT**
5 Lake Merzouga (19.4), 15 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4), 5 Dayat Dar Bouazza (24.4).
- 6 **Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*
Hybrid Ferruginous Duck x Common Pochard *Aythya nyroca x ferina*
1m Sidi Bourghaba (24.4) apparently a hybrid between these two species.
- 7 **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera strepera*
3 Lac Zerouka (22.4), 1 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 8 **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*
Seen on 2 days.
- 9 **Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix coturnix* HO
3h Sidi Moussa (25.4), 1h Oulad Ghanem (25.4).
- 10 **Barbary Partridge** *Alectoris barbara ssp*
2h NNE Ourika (15.4), 2 just below Oukaïmeden (16.4), 2 e.r. Tizi n'Tichka (16.4), 1 Oued Anski (17.4), 1 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 11 **Double-spurred Francolin** *Pternistis bicalcaratus ayesha* HO
1h NE Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 12 **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*
Max 65 Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 50 Merja Zerga (23.4), 150 Salines de Oualidia (25.4).
- 13 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*
Seen on three locations.
- 14 **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*
Seen on four locations.
- 15 **Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus bangsi* HO
2h lower Oukaïmeden (16.4).
- 16 **Spotted Sandgrouse** *Pterocles senegallus*
60 at Sandgrouse drinking-spot NE Erg Chebbi (19.4), 1 small pond W of Hotel Yasmina (19.4).
- 17 **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles orientalis orientalis*
12 The dump SE Boumalne Dades (17.4), 2 Zaida Plains (22.4).
- 18 **Crowned Sandgrouse** *Pterocles coronatus coronatus*
20 Sandgrouse drinking-spot NE Erg Chebbi (19.4).
- 19 **Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis phoenicophila*
Seen on 6 days.
- 20 **European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur ssp*
(breeding birds ssp *arenicola*) Pleasantly regular sightings on 8 days.
- 21 **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
- 22 **Common Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus palumbus*
- 23 **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
- 24 **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus aquaticus*
1 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 25 **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*
Seen on four locations.

- 26 **Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra atra*
Max 50 Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 50 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4), 15 Oulad Ghalem (25.4).
- 27 **Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*
9 Lac Zerouka (22.4), 20 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4), 10 Dayat Dar Bouazza (24.4).
- 28 **Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio porphyrio*
2 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4), 1 Dayat Dar Bouazza (24.4).
- 29 **Eurasian Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedicephalus ssp*
2 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4).
- 30 **Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
2 Lake Merzouga (19.4), 180 Merja Zerga (23.4), 20 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 31 **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
- 32 **Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*
1 Péninsule de Douar Rouissia (Merja Zerga) (23.4), 10 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4).
- 33 **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*
200+ Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 100+ Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 34 **Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula ssp*
5 Lake Merzouga (19.4), 8000+ Merja Zerga (23.4), 50 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 50 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 35 **Little Ringed Plover** *Thinornis dubius curonicus*
2 E Ouarzazate (17.4), 1 E Hotel Yasmina pond (19.4), 2 Oued Ziz (20.4).
- 36 **Kentish Plover** *Anarhynchus alexandrinus alexandrinus*
Max 15+ Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 2 Oualad Ghanem (25.4).
- 37 **Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
6 Péninsule de Douar Rouissia (Merja Zerga) (23.4), 40 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 20 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 38 **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica ssp*
5 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4).
- 39 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
Seen on 6 days.
- 40 **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
2 Lake Merzouga (20.4).
- 41 **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
27 Lake Merzouga (20.4).
- 42 **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus totanus*
8 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4).
- 43 **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
2 Lake Merzouga (20.4), 2 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4).
- 44 **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres interpres*
100+ Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 20 Oualad Ghanem (25.4), 10 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4)
- 45 **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus ssp*
30 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4).
- 46 **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*
1 Lake Merzouga (20.4), 1 Oualad Ghanem (25.4).
- 47 **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
1 Oued Iriri (17.4), max 6 Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 500+ Merja Zerga (23.4), 10 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 10 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 48 **Sanderling** *Calidris alba alba*
1 Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 100+ Merja Zerga (23.4), 50+ Sidi Moussa Lagoon to Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 49 **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina ssp*
10000+ Merja Zerga (23.4), 400 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 500 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 50 **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*
Max 200+ Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 100+ Merja Zerga (23.4), 80 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 80 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 51 **Common Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvaticus sylvaticus* HO
1h coastal area S of El Jadida (25.4).

- 52 **Cream-colored Courser** *Cursorius cursor cursor*
7 Tagdilt Track (18.4), 5 Zaida (22.4).
- 53 **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola pratincola*
8 E Ouarzazate (17.4), 2 Lake Merzouga (19.4), 8 Merja Zerga (23.4), 2+2 e.r. Oualidia – Marrakech (25.4).
- 54 **Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons albifrons*
50 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 50 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 55 **Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*
2 Merja Zerga (23.4), 1 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4), 1 Oualidia Beach (25.4).
- 56 **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochlidon nilotica*
1 E Hotel Yasmina pond (18-20.4), 60+ Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 2 Merja Zerga (23.4).
- 57 **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida hybrida*
Max 10 Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 1 Péninsule de Douar Rouissia (Merja Zerga) (23.4).
- 58 **Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis sandvicensis*
20+ Péninsule de Douar Rouissia (Merja Zerga) (23.4), 10 Oualidia Beach (25.4).
- 59 **Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis emigratus*
2 Oualidia Beach (25.4).
- 60 **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo hirundo*
1 Lake Merzouga (20.4).
- 61 **Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei*
1 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 15 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 62 **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
2 Lake Merzouga (20.4), 250 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4).
- 63 **Audouin's Gull** *Ichthyophaga audouinii* **VU**
50 Péninsule de Douar Rouissia (Merja Zerga) (23.4), 3 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4).
- 64 **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis michahellis*
e.g. 100+ Péninsule de Douar Rouissia (Merja Zerga) (23.4), 100 Sidi Moussa – Oualidia (25.4).
- 65 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus ssp*
e.g. 200+ Péninsule de Douar Rouissia (Merja Zerga) (23.4), 30 e.r. (24.4), 50 Sidi Moussa – Oualidia (25.4).
- 66 **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia ciconia*
Commonly seen on 8 days.
- 67 **Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus*
1 3cy migr N Oualidia Beach (25.4).
- 68 **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo ssp*
(ssp *sinensis*): 1 Lac Zarouka (22.4), 1 Merja Zerga (23.4), 4 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
(ssp *maroccanus*): 5 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 69 **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
1 Lake Merzouga (20.4), 100+ Merja Zerga (23.4), 200+ e.r. Ben Slimane (24.4), 20+ e.r. (25.4).
- 70 **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*
15 e.r. Ben Slimane (24.4), 1 Sidi Moussa Lagoon (25.4), 15 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 71 **Little Bittern** *Botaurus minutus minutus*
1m Oued Iriri (17.4).
- 72 **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta garzetta*
Seen on 6 days.
- 73 **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*
20 migr N Amerganze (16.4), 2+ Merja Zerga (23.4), 1 Dayat Dar Bouazza (24.4).
- 74 **Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*
2 Merja Zerga (23.4), 1 Dayat Dar Bouazza (24.4).
- 75 **Great Egret** *Ardea alba alba*
2 Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 76 **Western Cattle Egret** *Ardea ibis*
Seen on 10 days.
- 77 **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea purpurea*
2 Merja Zerga (23.4), 3 Dayat Dar Bouazza (24.4).
- 78 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea cinerea*
1 Barrage Mansour Eddahbi (17.4), 6 Oualed Ghalem (25.4).

- 79 **Egyptian Nightjar** *Caprimulgus aegyptius saharae*
2 on day-roost NE Yasmia, NE Erg Chebbi (19.4).
- 80 **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba tuneti*
30 Meknès (23.4).
- 81 **Little Swift** *Apus affinis galilejensis*
4 e.r. N Ourika (16.4), 2 E Ourazazate (17.4), 2 Mekines (23.4), 5 Bouznika (24.4).
- 82 **Common Swift** *Apus apus apus*
5 Ifrane (22.4).
- 83 **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus brehmorum*
Seen on 7 days.
- 84 **Little Owl** *Athene noctua ssp*
(ssp *glauca* in the north) 3 Oukaimeden (16.4), 5 e.r. Merja Zerga (23.4), 2 Sidi Moussa (25.4), 1 e.r. Oualidia (25.4).
- 85 **Eurasian Scops Owl** *Otus scops mallorcae*
2 seen + 1h N Boumalne Dades (31.418489, -6.005732) (17.4), 1h N Ifrane (22.4).
- 86 **Marsh Owl** *Asio capensis tingitanus* CR
2 E Merja Zerga (23.4).
- 87 **Pharaoh Eagle-Owl** *Bubo ascalaphus*
1 pair + 3 1cy Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4).
- 88 **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco mauritanica*
2m+1f Fôret de Ben Smim (22.4).
- 89 **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*
2 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 90 **Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus gallicus*
1 E Ourazazate (17.4), 1 E Boumalne Dades (17.4), 1 Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4), 2 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4), 1 N Ifrane (22.4), 1 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 91 **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*
3 Ourika (16.4), 1 e.r. (17.4), 2 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4), 1 N Ifrane (22.4), 1 e.r. (23.4), 3 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 92 **Bonelli's Eagle** *Aquila fasciata fasciata*
1 ad Park Oukaimeden (16.4), 1 2cy along N10 (18.4).
- 93 **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus punicus*
1 lower Oukaimeden (16.4), 1 Col du Zad (22.4), 1 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4).
- 94 **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*
1 2cy-male Tagdilt Track (18.4), 1 2cy-f W Erfoud (18.4), 1 e.r. (23.4), 4 Merja Zerga (23.4).
- 95 **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
(breeding birds ssp *harterti*) 10 birds seen on 5 days.
- 96 **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans migrans*
Seen on 7 days.
- 97 **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus cirtensis*
1 Park Oukaimeden (16.4), 1 ad+1cy at nest Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4), 1 along N10 (18.4), 10 e.r. (22.4), 2 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 98 **Common Hoopoe** *Upupa epops epops*
Seen on 5 days.
- 99 **European Roller** *Coracias garrulus garrulus*
1 Fôret de Ben Smim (22.4), 20 Dayet Aoua (22.4), 2 Ifrane (23.4), 1 e.r. (23.4).
- 100 **European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
Seen on 8 days.
- 101 **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus chrysocercus*
Seen regularly in the deserts from Amerzgane to Merzouga on 5 days.
- 102 **Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla ssp*
1 Merzouga Oasis (20.4).
- 103 **Levaillant's Woodpecker** *Picus vaillanti*
2 Fôret de Ben Smim (22.4), 4 Dayet Aoua (22.4), 2 W Ifrane (23.4).
- 104 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major mauritanus*
1 Fôret de Ben Smim (22.4), 1 W Ifrane (23.4), 3 Ben Slimane (24.4).

- 105 Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*
15 Ifrane (22.4).
- 106 Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*
Seen on 9 days.
- 107 Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo subbuteo*
2 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 108 Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus ssp*
Ssp: 1 2cy Amerzgane (16.4).
Ssp *pelegrinoides*: 1 ad Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4).
Ssp *minor*: 6 seen on 4 days in the north.
- 109 Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus erlangeri* **NT**
1 ad Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4).
- 110 Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus cucullatus* HO
1h Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 111 Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor ssp*
Ssp *algeriensis*: Seen regularly north of the Atlas mountains on 3 days.
Ssp *elegans*: Seen regularly in the deserts on 5 days.
- 112 Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator senator*
Seen daily, max 10+ (18.4).
- 113 Alpine Chough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus graculus*
50+ Oukaïmeden (16.4).
- 114 Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax barbarus*
50+ Oukaïmeden (16.4), 2 Lac Aguelmame Sidi Ali (22.4).
- 115 Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*
Ssp *minor*: 3 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4).
Ssp *whitakeri*: 1 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 116 Maghreb Magpie** *Pica mauritanica*
Seen north of the Atlas mountains on 5 days.
- 117 Western Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula spermologus*
Seen on 3 days.
- 118 Brown-necked Raven** *Corvus ruficollis*
Seen on 4 days in the deserts.
- 119 Northern Raven** *Corvus corax tingitanus*
10 Oukaïmeden (16.4), 2 Tizi n'Tichka (16.4), 25 Col du Zad e.r. (22.4).
- 120 African Blue Tit** *Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus*
Seen on 4 days.
- 121 Great Tit** *Parus major excelsus*
Seen on 4 days.
- 123 Coal Tit** *Periparus ater atlas*
10 Park Oukaïmeden (16.4), 20 Col du Zad (22.4).
- 124 Greater Hoopoe-Lark** *Alaemon alaudipes alaudipes*
2 Tagdilt Track (17.4), 3 Tagdilt Track (18.4), 8 NE Erg Chebbi (19.4), 1 e.r. (20.4).
- 125 Thick-billed Lark** *Ramphocoris clotbey*
1m the dump SE of Boumalne Dades (17.4), 1 pair Tagdilt Track (18.4), 1m N of N10 (18.4).
- 126 Bar-tailed Lark** *Ammomanes cinctura arenicolor*
1 the dump SE of Boumalne Dades (17.4), 1 Tagdilt Track (18.4), 1 N Tinejad (18.4), 7 NE Erg Chebbi (19.4),
2 M'Ifri n'Ighass (20.4), 1 Lake Merzouga (20.4), 1 e.r. (21.4).
- 127 Desert Lark** *Ammomanes deserti payni*
3 S Amerzgane (17.4), 2 Tagdilt Track (17.4), 15+ Tagdilt Track (18.4), 5+ N of N10
(18.4), 2 M'Ifri n'Ighass (20.4), 4 e.r. (21.4).
- 128 Woodlark** *Lullula arborea pallida*
1h lower Oukaïmeden (16.4), 5 Col du Zad (22.4), 1 Ifrane (23.4).
- 129 Thekla's Lark** *Galerida theklæ ssp*
Seen on 6 days.
- 130 Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata ssp*
Seen on 9 days. Including several 'Maghreb' ssp *macrorhyncha* in the deserts.

- 131 Temminck's Lark** *Eremophila bilopha*
4 the dump SE of Boumalne Dades (17.4), 12+ Tagdilt Track (17-18.4), 3 Zaida Plains (21-22.4).
- 132 Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris atlas*
10 Oukaïmeden (16.4).
- 133 Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla rubiginosa*
40+ Tagdilt Track (17.4), 15+ Tagdilt Track (18.4).
- 134 Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra calandra*
4 P3440 N of Youssoufia(32.474118, -8.566479) (25.4).
- 135 Dupont's Lark** *Chersophilus duponti duponti* **VU**
1 seen Zaida Plains (21.4), 1 seen +1h Zaida Plains (22.4).
- 136 Mediterranean Short-toed Lark** *Alaudala rufescens minor*
3 Tagdilt Track (17.4), 20+ Zaida Plains (21-22.4).
- 137 Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis juncidis*
1 E Ouarzazate (17.4), 5 Merja Zerga (23.4), 2 Dayat Dar Bouazza (24.4).
- 138 Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*
1 Amerzgane (17.4), 1 Merzouga Oasis (19.4), 1 Lac Aguelmame Sidi Ali (22.4), 4 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4).
- 139 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna pallida reiseri*
Seen regularly singing mainly along dried riverbeds in the deserts on 5 days.
- 140 Western Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna opaca*
Only confidently observed singing in bushes along Atlas mountain rivers: 1 N Tizi n-Tichka (16.4), 5 Gorges du Ziz (21.4), 1 Chalets ITO Atlas Timnay (22.4).
- 141 Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus shoenobaenus*
1 Oued Iriri (17.4), 1 Hotel Yasmina (21.4), 1h Oualed Ghanem (25.4).
- 142 Common Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
4 Oued Iriri (17.4), max 1 Hotel Yasmina (18-21.4).
- 143 Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides luscinioides*
1 seen singing at Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 144 Common Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia naevia*
1h singing Amerzgane (17.4), 1 seen Oued Anski (17.4).
- 145 Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia riparia*
2 Lake Merzouga (20.4), 3 migr N Sidi Moussa (25.4).
- 146 Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
3 Oukaïmeden (16.4), 3 Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4).
- 147 Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica rustica*
- 148 Western House Martin** *Delichon urbicum ssp*
20 Oukaïmeden (16.4), 2 Hotel Yasmina (21.4), 3 e.r. (24.4), 5 migr N Sidi Moussa (25.4).
- 149 European Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis rufula*
5 Oukaïmeden (16.4), 1 migr N Salinas de Oualidia (25.4).
- 150 Streaked Scrub Warbler** *Scotocerca inquieta saharae*
2 ad + 6 1cy on stake-out N of Tinejad (18.4).
- 151 Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti cetti*
2 Oued Anski (17.4), 3 Oued Iriri (17.4), 3h Gorges du Ziz (21.4), 1h e.r. (22.4), 5 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 152 Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
7 Erg Chebbi-area (19.4), 6 Erg Chebbi-area (20.4), 1 Meknès (23.4).
- 153 Western Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Seen on 7 days, migrants in the deserts. Max 5+ Amerzgane (17.4) and 5+ Oued Iriri (17.4).
- 154 Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus ssp*
Single migrants seen on 5 days.
- 155 Iberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus ibericus*
1 Igrane Oasis (20.4). Based on appearance, no sounds, so could be shaky.
- 156 Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita ssp*
1 Merzouga Oasis (20.4), 1h Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 157 Common Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus barbatus*
- 158 Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin borin*
1 Amerzgane (17.4), 1 Oued Anski (17.4).

- 159 Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla* HO
1h Dayet Aoua (22.4).
- 160 Western Orphean Warbler** *Curruca hortensis hortensis*
1m Tizi n'Talghamt (21.4), 1m Cèdre Gouraud (22.4).
- 161 African Desert Warbler** *Curruca deserti*
9 E-NE Erg Chebbi (19.4).
- 162 Tristram's Warbler** *Curruca deserticola maroccana*
4 lower Oukaïmeden (16.4), 2 Tizi n'Talghamt (21.4).
- 163 Common Whitethroat** *Curruca communis communis*
1 Amerzgane (16.4), 1 Oued Iriri (17.4), 1 Hotel Yasmina (18.4), 1 Igrane Oasis (19.4).
- 164 Spectacled Warbler** *Curruca conspicillata conspicillata*
1m small oued along P1505 (17.4), 1 Barrage Mansour Eddahbi (17.4).
- 165 Sardinian Warbler** *Curruca melanocephala melanocephala*
1m N Ourika (15.4), 1m lower Oukaïmeden (16.4), 1 e.r. Tizi n'Tichka (16.4), 30+ Ben Slimane (24.4), 5h Sidi Moussa (25.4).
- 166 Western Subalpine Warbler** *Curruca iberiae*
Seen on 6 days in the Atlas and in the deserts. Max 5+ Hotel Yasmina (18-21.4).
- 167 Fulvous Babbler** *Argya fulva maroccana*
1 N Tinejad (18.4), 4 W Erfoud along R702 (31.514678, -4.586828)(18.4), 4 E Erg Chebbi (19.4).
- 168 Common Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla balearicus*
6 Park Oukaïmeden (16.4), 10 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4), 5 W Ifrane (23.4).
- 169 Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea hispaniensis*
10 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4), 1 W Ifrane (23.4).
- 170 Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla mauritanicus*
1 Park Oukaïmeden (16.4), 10+ Cèdre Gouraud (22.4), 5 W Ifrane (23.4).
- 171 Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes kabyloorum*
1h Oukaïmeden (16.4), 2h Ifrane (22-23.4), 1 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 172 Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor*
Seen on 7 days north of the Atlas mountains.
- 173 Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus deichleri*
2 Park Oukaïmeden (16.4), 8 Col du Zad (22.4), 15 W Ifrane (23.4).
- 174 Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula mauritanicus*
- 175 Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes galactotes*
1 Amerzgane (16.4), 5 Amerzgane (17.4), 2 E Ouarzazate (18.4), 1 E Boumalne Dades (18.4), 1 NE Erg Chebbi (19.4), 1 Igrane Oasis (19.4), 1 Oued Ziz (20.4), 1 Hotel Yasmina (20.4), 1 Merzouga Oasis (20.4), 1 Igrane Oasis (20.4).
- 176 Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata striata*
Single migrants seen on 6 days.
- 177 European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula witherbyi*
1h Park Oukaïmeden (16.4), 10 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4).
- 178 Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos megarhynchos*
Seen or heard on 8 days.
- 179 Atlas Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula speculigera*
2m Fôret de Ben Smim (22.4), 7 Tizi Moucherkour, W of Ifrane (23.4).
- 180 European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca ssp*
Migrants seen on 6 days. Max 20+ Merzouga and Igrane Oasis (20.4).
- 181 Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltarensis*
5 Oukaïmeden (16.4).
- 182 Moussier's Redstart** *Phoenicurus moussieri*
3 Oukaïmeden (16.4), 3 Tizi n'Talghamt (21.4), 7 Col du Zad (22.4), 1 Dayet Aoua (22.4).
- 183 Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Seen on 5 days in the deserts, and 5 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4).
- 184 Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius solitarius*
2 Oukaïmeden (16.4), 1m Lac Aguelmame Sidi Ali (22.4).
- 185 Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*
Single migrants seen on 5 days.

- 186 European Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola rubicola*
1m e.r. N Meknès (23.4).
- 187 Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti homochroa*
Commonly seen in the deserts on 6 days.
- 188 Western Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*
4 N Ourika (15.4), 4 N Ourika (16.4), 1m E Boumalne Dades (17.4), 10 e.r. Oualidia – N Youssoufia (25.4).
- 189 Atlas Wheatear** *Oenanthe seebohmi*
10 Oukaimeden (16.4), 8 Col du Zad (22.4).
- 190 Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe ssp*
3 S Amerzgane (17.4), 3 E Boumalne Dades (17.4), 4 Tagdilt Track (18.4).
- 191 Red-rumped Wheatear** *Oenanthe moesta*
5 the dump SE Boumalne Dades (17.4), 2 Tagdilt Track (17.4), 3 Tagdilt Track (18.4), 1 2cy-m N of N10 (18.4).
- 192 Mourning Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugens halophila*
1m+1f Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4).
- 193 Black Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucura riggenbachi*
6 Oukaimeden (16.4), 2+ NW Amerzgane (16.4), 5 Gorges du Ziz (21.4), 2 Col du Zad (22.4).
- 194 White-crowned Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucopyga leucopyga*
Commonly seen in the deserts on 6 days.
- 195 Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia petronia*
20+ Oukaimeden (16.4), 1 Oued Anski (17.4), 10 Col du Zad (22.4).
- 196 Desert Sparrow** *Passer simplex saharae*
5 E Erg Chebbi (19.4).
- 197 Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis hispaniolensis*
1 pair Amerzgane (17.4), 1m Oued Iriri (17.4), 1m Merzouga Oasis (20.4).
- 198 House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus tingitanus*
Seen daily.
- 199 Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*
2 e.r. Tizi n'Tichka (16.4), 1 Lac Zerouka (22.4).
- 200 Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava ssp*
Ssp iberiae: 1 singing male E of Ouarzazate (18.4).
Migrants (*ssp flava* and *thunbergi*) seen on 5 days.
- 201 White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba ssp*
Ssp alba: 1 E of Ouarzazate (18.4).
Ssp subpersonata: 1m Gorges du Ziz (21.4).
- 202 Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis trivialis*
1 Amerzgane (17.4), 6 Igrane Oasis (19.4), 1 Oued Ziz (20.4), 2 Merzouga Oasis (20.4), 2 Igrane Oasis (19.4).
- 203 African Chaffinch** *Fringilla spodiogenys africana*
Seen on 8 days.
- 204 Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes buvryi*
15+ Ifrane and Dayet Aoua (22.4), 5 Ifrane (23.4).
- 205 Crimson-winged Finch** *Rhodopechys sanguineus alienus*
10 Oukaimeden (16.4).
- 206 Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus zedlitzi*
1 Amerzgane (16.4), 2 Amerzgane (17.4), 10 S Amerzgane (17.4), 15+ Tagdilt Track (18.4), 15+ Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4).
- 207 European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*
Ssp voousi (Atlas): Max 5 Amerzgane (17.4).
Ssp vanmarli (n Morocco): 2 E Merja Zerga (23.4).
- 208 Common Linnet** *Linaria cannabina mediterranea*
Seen on 6 days.
- 209 Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra polioygna*
3 1cy Chalets ITO Atlas Timnay (22.4), 1m Dayet Aoua (22.4), 1h e.r. 23.4 (23.4).
- 210 European Serin** *Serinus serinus*
Seen on 9 days.

211 House Bunting *Emberiza sahari sahari*

Seen on 8 days.

212 Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra calandra*

10+ N Ourika (15.4), 1 e.r. N Ourika (16.4), 10+ e.r. Merja Zerga (23.4), 10+ e.r. Ben Slimane (24.4), 40+ e.r. Oualidia – N Youssoufia (25.4).

213 Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia cia*

1 Park Oukaïmeden (16.4), 2 lower Oukaïmeden (16.4).

214 Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

4 Amerzgane (16.4), 1 Amerzgane (17.4), 2 Oued Iriri (17.4).

215 Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

1f N Ourika (15.4), 1 N Tizi n'Tichka (16.4), 1 pair Chalets ITO Atlas Timnay (21.4), 1m Dayet Aoua (22.4).

Comments on some birds NOT seen

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse

Rarely seen among flocks of other drinking Sandgrouse at the known waterhole east of Hotel Yasmîna reached by 4x4.

Dunn's Lark

Rarely seen, believed to be nomadic, there are recent observations, although very few, around Merzouga during late spring.

Alpine Accentor

Possibly easier earlier in the season at Oukaïmeden and during the winter months when they move a bit down from their high altitude breeding grounds. Sometimes seen at Tizi n'Tichka also.

Golden Oriole

Arrives in Ifrane in higher numbers a little later in April and especially in May.



Maghreb Owl at Fôret de Ben Smim, Ifrane.



Pharaoh Eagle-Owl at the Falcon Nest Escarpment-area.



Marsh Owl, critically endangered in Morocco, superb views in evening light at Merja Zerga.

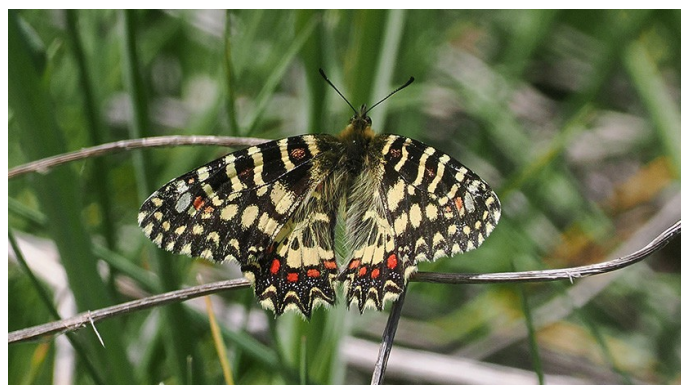


Eurasian Scops Owl north of Boumalne Dades.

List of butterflies: Morocco, April 15th-25th 2026

Following Butterflies of Britain and Europe (Tolman & Lewington, 1997, Collins)

- 1 **Spanish Festoon** *Zerynthia rumina africana*
1 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4).
- 2 **Small White** *Artogeia rapae*
1 Col du Zad (22.4), 1 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 3 **Western Dappled White** *Euchloe crameri*
4 Oukaimeden (16.4), 2 Col du Zad (22.4).
- 4 **Green-striped White** *Euchloe belemia*
2 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 5 **Clouded Yellow** *Colias crocea*
Several sightings incl: 2 Tizi n'Tichka (16.4), 1 Tizi n'Talghamt (21.4), 1 Ben Slimane (24.4)
- 6 **Cleopatra** *Gonepteryx cleopatra*
1 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 7 **Chapman's Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys avis*
1 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4).
- 8 **Moroccan Hairstreak** *Tomares mauretanicus*
1 Col du Zad (22.4).
- 9 **Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas*
1 Ben Slimane (24.4)
- 10 **Long-tailed Blue** *Lampides boeticus*
5+ Merzouga Oasis (20.4).
- 11 **African Grass Blue** *Zizeeria knysna*
1 Erg Chebbi (19.4).
- 12 **Brown Argus** *Aricia agestis*
1 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 13 **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus*
1 Ifrane (22.4), 1 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 14 **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*
1 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 15 **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui*
1 Ben Slimane (24.4).
- 16 **Spanish Fritillary** *Euphydryas desfonainii desfonainii*
1 Lac Zerouka (22.4).
- 17 **Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus*
1 Lac Zerouka (22.4).
- 18 **Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria*
1 Oualidia (25.4).
- 19 **Small Skipper** *Thymelicus sylvestris*
1 Ben Slimane (22.4).



Spanish Festoon at Cèdre Gouraud.



Spanish Fritillary at Lac Zerouka.



Chapman's Green Hairstreak at Cèdre Gouraud.



Moroccan Hairstreak at Col du Zad.

List of dragonflies: Morocco, April 15th-25th 2026

Following Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain and Europe (Dijkstra, Schröter & Lewington, 2020, 2nd ed, Bloomsbury)

- 1 **Migrant Spreadwing** *Lestes barbarus*
1 Sidi Boughaba (24.4).
- 2 **Iberian Bluetail** *Ischnura graellsii*
4 in pairs Lac Zerouka (22.4).
- 3 **Sahara Bluetail** *Ischnura saharensis*
1m Lac Zerouka (22.4).
- 4 **Common/Desert Bluet** *Enallagma cyathigerum/deserti*
2 Lac Zerouka (22.4).
- 5 **Azure Bluet** *Coenagrion puella*
1m Lac Zerouka (22.4).
- 6 **Blue Emperor** *Anax imperator*
1 Ben Slimane (24.4)
- 7 **Lesser Emperor** *Anax parthenope*
2 Ben Slimane (24.4)
- 8 **Vagrant Emperor** *Anax ephippiger*
1 Tagdilt Track (17.4), 20+ Lake Merzouga (20.4).
- 9 **Red-veined Darter** *Sympetrum fonscolombii*
1 NE Hotel Yasmina (19.4), 100+ Lake Merzouga (19-20.4), 1 Ben Slimane (24.4)



Sahara Bluetail at Lac Zerouka.



Iberian Bluetail at Lac Zerouka.



Vagrant Emperor at Lake Merzouga.



Red-veined Darter at Lake Merzouga.

List of reptiles: Morocco, April 15th-25th 2026

No proper field guide used. Check out www.moroccoherps.com. This list might need to be revised.

- 1 **North-African Water Frog** *Pelophylax saharicus*
25 Oued Anski (17.4).
- 2 **African Green Toad** *Bufo boulengeri*
20+ Merzouga Oasis (20.4), 20+ Igrane Oasis (20.4).
- 3 **Spur-thighed Tortoise** *Testudo graeca*
1 lower Tizi n'Tichka (16.4).
- 4 **Spanish Terrapin** *Mauremys leprosa*
10 Oued Iriri (17.4), 1 Sidi Bourghaba (24.4).
- 5 **Vaucher's Wall Lizard** *Podarcis vaucheri*
2 Park Oukaimeden (16.4), 2 Fôret de Ben Smim (22.4).
- 6 **Bosc's Fringe-toed Lizard** *Acanthodactylus boskianus*
1 Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4), 1 Erg Chebbi (19.4).
- 7 **Dumeril's Fringe-toed Lizard** *Acanthodactylus dumerilii*
1 E of Ouarzazate (18.4), 1 Erg Chebbi (19.4).
- 8 **Long Fringe-fingered Lizard** *Acanthodactylus longipes*
2 Erg Chebbi (19.4), 3 Oued Ziz (20.4).
- 9 **Spiny-footed Lizard** *Acanthodactylus erythrurus*
1 Cèdre Gouraud (22.4).
- 10 **Large Psammodromus** *Psammodromus algirus*
1 Fôret de Ben Smim (22.4).
- 11 **Böhme's Agama** *Trapelus boehmei*
1 Erg Chebbi (19.4).
- 12 **Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizard** *Uromastix nigriventris*
1 Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4), 1 N of N10 (18.4), 1 N of Tinejad (18.4), 1 M'Ifri n'Ighass (20.4).
- 13 **Moroccan Eyed Lizard** *Timon tangitanus*
1 Col du Zad (22.4).
- 14 **Horned Viper** *Cerastes cerastes*
1 Falcon Nest Escarpment-area (18.4).

List of mammals: Morocco, April 15th-25th 2026

Following Illustrated Checklist of the Mammals of the World (Burgin et al, 2020, Lynx edicions). Notations are foremost literature-based.

- 1 **Cape Hare** *Lepus capensis ssp*
1 Tagdilt Track (17.4).
- 2 **Lesser Egyptian Jerboa** *Jaculus jaculus*
1 Zaida Plains (21.4).
- 3 **Fat Sand Rat** *Psammomys obesus*
5 Tagdilt Track (18.4).
- 4 **Barbary Ground Squirrel** *Atlantoxerus getulus*
2 lower Oukaimeden (16.4), 1 N of N10 (18.4).
- 5 **Eurasian Wild Pig** *Sus scrofa alirus*
1 ad+4 juv Ben Slimane (20.4).
- 6 **Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes barbara*
1 Tagdilt Track (18.4).

Additional record shots



A splendid Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, just east of Ouarzazate.



European Roller at Ifrane.



Adult Bonelli's Eagle overhead at Park Oukaimeden.



Male Lesser Kestrel at Ifrane.



Female Atlas Wheatear at Oukaimeden.



Female Maghreb Wheatear at Falcon Nest Escarpment.



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler ssp reiseri at Oued Ziz.



Western Olivaceous Warbler at Tizi n'Tichka.



Probable Iberian Chiffchaff at Igrane Oasis, Merzouga.



Ortolan Bunting at Amerzgane.



Western Orphean Warbler at Tizi n'Talghamt.



Barbary Partridge at lower parts of Oukaïmeden.



Thick-billed Lark, SE of Boumalne Dades



Maghreb (Crested) Lark at Amerzgane



Calandra Lark, NW of Marrakech.



Dupont's Lark at Zaida Plains.



Black-bellied Sandgrouse, SE of Boumalne Dades.



Spotted Sandgrouse, E of Hotel Yasmina, Erg Chebbi.



Cream-colored Coursers at Tagdilt Track.



Fulvous Babbler along R702, west of Erfoud.



Horned Viper at Falcon Nest Escarpment.



Mediterranean Short-toed Lark at Tagdilt Track.



Lesser Crested Tern at Oualidia Beach.



Levaillant's Woodpecker at Dayet Aoua, Ifrane.



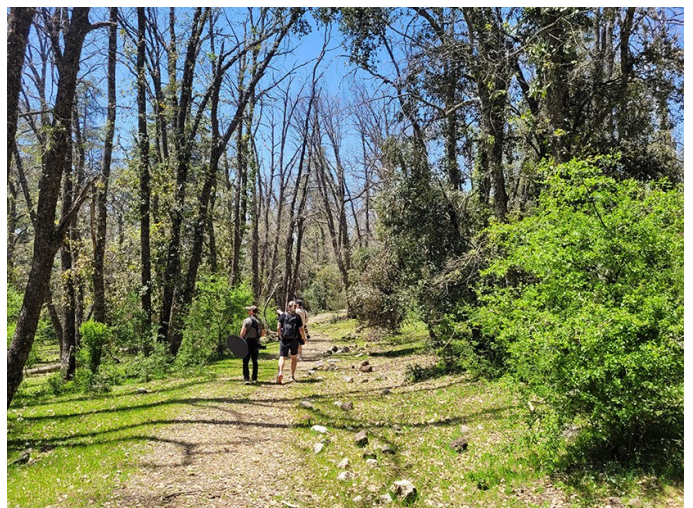
Sunset at Tagdilt Track, displaying Greater Hoopoe-Lark just found.



Photographing Great Grey Shrike ssp elegans in the desert.



Sound-recording singing Western Orphean Warbler at Tizi n'Talghamt.



Having just located the first Atlas Flycatcher in Ifrane, success!