SPAIN & MOROCCO
Across the Strait of Gibraltar
7 – 16 April 2016

TOUR REPORT

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Clockwise from top left: Our wonderfully obliging marsh owl • Seawatching at the strait • Birding in Andalucia • A friendly Barbary Ape in Morocco’s oak forest. Photos ©Fernando Enrique
Thursday 7 April
After a trouble-free flight from Heathrow, the group arrived on time at Gibraltar Airport. With no time to waste, we headed towards our hotel for the next three nights, stopping a couple of times along the way. These stops allowed us to become familiar with some of the more common species in the area. White stork, cattle egret, lesser kestrel and corn bunting were common along the road. The landscape was superb, since the weather conditions allowed us to see both sides of The Strait and migrating raptors such as black kite, booted eagle and short-toed eagle were nice additions, while noisy flocks of bee-eaters filled the air with their calls. Right on time we arrived at our hotel, where we enjoyed a lovely dinner.

Friday 8 April
As soon as we left our rooms we found common nightingale, European serin and European greenfinch singing in the garden, plus a skulking male Sardinian warbler that finally gave us excellent views. After breakfast we hit the road but, when we arrived at our first destination, a fog bank was covering the cliff that we were supposed to visit. So instead of wasting our time there, we decided to visit some coastal wetlands. This strategy paid off as soon we left the mountains, with blue sky and very nice weather.

When we arrived at the salt pans at Barbate, we were welcomed by a group of northern bald ibis, one of the rarest birds on Earth. After a successful reintroduction program, these strange-looking birds are breeding again in the area, serving as a backup population just in case something happens to the Moroccan birds. We saw them here and also we visited the breeding colony near Vejer de la Frontera, where we had amazing views of the birds sitting on their nests.

The salt pans had good numbers of Audouin’s gulls, greater flamingos, Eurasian spoonbills and waders. But the most common bird here was collared pratincole, with at least 200 birds. We managed to find scarcer species such as gull-billed tern, Eurasian stone-curlew, great egret and greater short-toed lark. The tamarisk trees around the salt pans were teeming with migrant passerines. Including Eurasian hoopoe, subalpine warbler, Sardinian warbler, common whitethroat, woodchat shrike, willow warbler and common Redstart. With a whole bunch of new species added to the list, we paid a quick visit to one of the migration lookouts in the area before lunch. It wasn’t very spectacular, but we managed to get some eye-level views of booted and short-toed eagles coming from Africa.

After lunch, we visited La Janda, a huge agricultural area that once was one of the biggest lakes and wetlands in Europe, with a surface of 3,700 hectares. Unfortunately, a process of drainage started a few decades ago, destroying this wetland paradise. Even so, today it still retains important natural values and big numbers of birds. In the rice fields and channels we found birds such as purple heron, squacco heron, Eurasian spoonbill, glossy ibis and purple swamp hen, while in the agricultural fields, we saw a nice array of raptors, including great views of Bonelli’s eagle, Montagu’s harrier and black-winged kite. After a long day in the field, we arrived at our hotel with 100 new species on the list. What a full first day!!!

Saturday 9 April
The weather forecast was very promising, so we decided to again try the cliffs that we visited the previous day. Once we arrived, the sky was blue and full with hundreds of bee-eaters migrating north. These cliffs are probably the most important griffon vulture colony in The Strait, with several dozen pairs and also form one of the most scenic places in this area. Although the vultures are the main attraction, we managed to find many rock-dwelling species, including Egyptian vulture, blue rock thrush, Eurasian crag martin and even two unexpected little swifts. Other birds here included Iberian green woodpecker, subalpine warbler and cirl bunting.

After a very successful morning, we spent the rest of the day enjoying the spectacular migration across The Strait of Gibraltar, where thousands of raptors and other soaring birds find the narrowest point (14km) between Europe and Africa. We ended up seeing several hundred raptors of 12 different species, most of them booted and short-toed eagles, black kites, Eurasian sparrowhawks and griffon vultures, some of them
providing excellent eye-level views and fantastic photographic opportunities. The sea in front of us was full of birds as well, with hundreds of gulls, most of them Yellow-legged, but also with good number of Balearic shearwaters, northern gannets, a few Great skuas and an immature European shag. Exhausted after so much action, we went back to the hotel for a well-deserved rest.

Sunday 10 April
Despite the strong winds and rain, we went out to maximize our time before taking the ferry to Morocco. A quick visit to Los Lances beach produced a nice array of waders, including grey plover, little stint and whimbrel, plus good numbers of yellow-legged and Audouin’s gulls. A lone greater flamingo was a nice addition. But after a few minutes of heavy rain, we gave up and tried to find a more sheltered place. We drove south, trying to escape from the rain and visited nearby woodland, where our main target was Iberian chiffchaff. Again, despite the weather, we managed to get excellent views of a singing male. Unfortunately, we had to leave this area to get our ferry to Morocco. The ferry trip produced a black tern, a couple of European storm petrels and some great skuas.

Oussama, our driver, picked us up at the port and we headed straight away towards Asilah. The agricultural landscape around Asilah is the last great bustard stronghold in Africa, but with a population of just 20-30 birds, it is likely they will disappear in the next 10 or 15 years. Using our telescopes with such a strong wind proved very difficult, but we managed to find one of the last great bustards in this area. Other interesting birds were Eurasian golden oriole, common quail, southern (desert) grey shrike and black-winged kite.

On a very small wetland near the road we found our first red-knobbed coots of the trip, plus purple swamphen, purple heron, marsh harrier and dozens of glossy ibis. Once we had arrived at our hotel, we found several little swifts coming to roost, some of them right under our windows.

Monday 11 April
Arguably one of the best days of the trip, not only in terms of diversity - 101 species - but also in terms of quality, with several Moroccan specialities seen. Right after breakfast, we headed south along the Atlantic coast towards Larache. Here, we visited one of the most important wetlands in Morocco, the river Loukkos marshes. A close encounter with a pair of lanners on the way to our destination was an unexpected bonus.

The water levels this year were particularly good, so our expectations were high and the area didn’t disappoint. The flooded plains and reedbeds were teeming with birds: red-crested pochards, red-knobbed coots, hundreds of glossy ibis, squacco herons and over 50 marbled ducks were found on the open water, while smaller birds like spotted crake, moustached warbler, Savi’s warbler and the local race of reed warbler were seen in the reedbeds. These Moroccan reed warblers are smaller, with shorter wings and they stay all year round in the area. And may well be “split” as a separate species in future. Another highlight of the visit was the presence of at least 20 brown-throated martins feeding in the area, some of them allowing superb views.

After a very productive morning, we left the area reluctantly and headed towards our next destination, Merja Zerga “The Blue Lagoon”, where we met our local guide, Hassan, who joined us in search of one of the most endangered and enigmatic species in Morocco, the marsh owl. This owl is only found in a few places in the Western Palearctic, all of them in the Atlantic coast of Morocco. Leaving our vehicle close to some strawberry fields, we walked for 15 minutes until we reached more suitable habitat. At dusk, one Marsh Owl came out of the vegetation and landed on top of a post in front of us, allowing superb views. Most of the group agreed that this was probably THE highlight of the trip. After this wonderful day, we drove all the way back to Asilah, where we spent one last night.

Tuesday 12 April
As in previous trips, the first thing I saw when I looked out of the window was a nice male house bunting feeding in one of the terraces in front of our hotel. The calls of several common bulbuls were filling the air while a small flock of little swifts flew above the nearby park. After breakfast, we re-visited Merja Zerga,
where Hassan was waiting for us at the small port, in order to take a small boat into the heart of this wonderful wetland. But before that, we scanned the tamarisk trees along the shore, where we found a few laughing doves, two western Bonelli’s warblers and a very active melodious Warbler. Merja Zerga is the most important stopover for most of the waders that migrate along the Atlantic coast and it is not unusual to find flocks of several thousand birds during migration.

Although numbers weren’t as good as in previous visits, due to the high level of water caused by the strong winds the day before, the diversity was amazing and included Eurasian oystercatcher, bar-tailed godwit, common greenshank, whimbrel, Eurasian curlew, ruddy turnstone and several species of Calidris sandpipers. The numbers of slender-billed and Audouin’s gulls were good, with several Caspian terns among them. Greater flamingos and Eurasian spoonbills were very common as well, while four marbled teals were a nice addition.

After some fresh fish in a local restaurant, we headed south to Kenitra, where we stopped at another protected reserve, Sidi Bourghaba. This wetland is probably the only place in Morocco where you can find marbled, white-headed and ferruginous ducks all in the same flock. Although we found good numbers of marbled and ferruginous, the white-headed ducks stole the show. At least 200 birds were present in the lagoon during our visit. An amazing number considering that a few years ago there were no white-headed ducks at all in this area.

The Mediterranean forest around the lagoon was full of small birds, including African blue tit, Sardinian warbler, willow warbler and ‘African’ chaffinch, while a lone Eurasian hobby hunting dragonflies around the lagoon was a nice addition. The sun was coming down when we arrived at our hotel at Skhirat, where we enjoyed a lovely sunset on the beach before a fantastic Moroccan dinner.

**Wednesday 13 April**

A very early start was required in order to reach our destination before dawn, the Sidi Bettache forest. This area is the last stronghold for one of the rarest birds in the Western Palearctic, the double-spurred francolin. Once we arrived, we were welcomed by a lovely morning chorus, with birds singing everywhere. Birds such as African blue tit, melodious warbler, ‘African’ chaffinch and the elusive black-crowned tchagra, which – unsurprisingly - provided brief views. We spent the rest of the morning scanning the surrounding valleys and tracks, but didn’t see any francolins, although we heard them several times. A flock of barbary partridge was a nice consolation prize.

After lunch we hit the open road again, our next destination was Chefchaouen (or Chaouen for short), one of the most beautiful towns in Morocco. We made several stops along the way, adding new birds to our list, including the Moroccan race of white wagtail with its distinctive head pattern. Once we arrived in Chaouen, we left our luggage in our rooms and visited the local medina, with its white and blue streets, and the main square, where some people in the group were tempted to buy one of the local colorful hats.

**Thursday 14 April**

Our last full day in Morocco was spent in splendid Algerian oak forest. This forest is one of the best kept secrets in Morocco, home to one of the most diverse communities of breeding birds in North Africa, including some regional specialities like Iberian chiffchaff and Atlas pied flycatcher as well as probably the healthiest population of Barbary apes in the Rif Mountains.

As soon as we got to the forest, we were welcomed by an impressive Atlas long-legged buzzard sitting in a dead tree. Once we stepped out of the car we were surrounded by new birds for the trip: Dartford warbler, “Atlas” coal tit, “Moroccan” short-toed treecreeper, mistle thrush, firecrest and woodlark were all common. We were walking along a small track leading to a fast-flowing creek when we saw a whole group of Barbary apes in front of us. As soon as they saw us they run to a safer place, some of them climbing and jumping along nearby trees. We spent the rest of the day in this impressive forest looking for our target
species, Levailrant’s woodpecker. This can be a tricky species to find and we managed to hear three or four different birds and had brief views of one individual.

On the way back to Chaouen we found at least two long-legged buzzards, several ‘desert’ grey shrikes, one black-winged kite and a couple of spectacled warblers. Back in town, we visited the medina again and after that, enjoyed our last Moroccan dinner of the trip.

**Friday 15 April**
Mostly a transfer day, we took advantage of the first couple of hours of light to walk along the cliffs surrounding Chefchaouen. This morning walk produced a nice array of birds, including blue rock thrush, ‘African’ chaffinch, African blue tit, common bulbul, long-legged buzzard and a pair of black wheatears which performed extremely well for us. We could almost touch the male!!! We said goodbye to Chefchaouen and, after a couple of hours, we arrived in Tangiers, where we took the ferry back to Spain. A huge female peregrine was an unexpected bonus when we were leaving the harbor.

This return trip was quite productive, with several Scopoli’s shearwaters, a few Northern Gannets and one European storm petrel. Before going back to the hotel, we stopped on a sheltered valley near Tarifa, where we found a very tame great spotted Cuckoo feeding on caterpillars. In ten minutes he trapped at least eight huge hairy caterpillars. We’re still wondering how he was able to fly after that!

**Saturday 16 April**
We rose early in order to pack then hit the road again in search of some missing species. We re-visited La Janda, a local hotspot that never disappoints and this time we found a nice array of birds. New additions to the list were birds such as Spanish imperial eagle, little bittern and black-eared wheatear. But we also had excellent views of several great reed warbler, a tricky species on this trip. At one point we had Spanish imperial, booted and short-toed eagles, griffon and Egyptian vultures, black kites and a Montagu’s harrier flying above us at the same time! WHAT AN END TO THE TRIP!

After such a fantastic morning we headed for Gibraltar, where we arrived back at the Airport in plenty of time and the group took their flight home to London. It had been a wonderful and bird-filled tour and I really enjoyed every day of the trip.
ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED
195 species

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
One bird seen at Barbate Marshes

Gadwall *Anas strepera*
Seen on most Moroccan wetlands

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Common and widespread. Seen on most days.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
Several seen on 11th

Garganey *Anas querquedula*
A male seen on 11th

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*
A flock of 52 birds seen at Oued Loukkos, four birds at Merja Zerga and at least 10 birds at Sidi Bourghaba

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
Fairly common in Moroccan wetlands

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
Seen at Sidi Bourghaba

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
Good numbers at Sidi Bourghaba

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*
+150 birds at Sidi Bourghaba

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*
Seen on most days in Morocco

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*
Fairly common around Tarifa area

Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus*
A couple of birds heard on 13th

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*
Heard almost daily

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*
Common where introduced around La Janda

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Several birds from the ferry

Scopoli’s Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*
Several birds seen from the ferry on 15th

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*
Good numbers seen from the coast on 9th

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Common on most wetlands

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
Common at Sidi Bourghaba

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*
Seen almost daily on most coastal wetlands

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
Very common, seen on most days

Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*
At least 10 birds at Barbate Marshes and 16 birds at the breeding colony near Vejer de la Frontera

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Very common, seen daily
Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Small numbers to fairly large groups present on most wetlands

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*
One bird on the last morning at La Janda

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
One bird seen on 11th

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*
Seen at most wetlands. Very common at Oued Loukkos

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Very common, seen daily

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Common on most wetlands

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Seen at most wetlands

Great Egret *Egretta alba*
Seen at La Janda and Barbate Marshes

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Common, seen on most wetlands

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*
Several individuals seen offshore in The Strait and a few more from our hotel in Skhirat

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
One immature bird seen on 9th

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Seen on both sides of The Strait

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Two birds on 11th at Oued Loukkos

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
Fairly common with one or two birds seen daily

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*
One adult bird on 9th and one immature bird on the 16th

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*
Seen in good number around the Strait

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*
Common. Seen almost daily

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*
Arguably the most common raptor during our visit, seen daily. Dozens migrating across The Strait

Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*
One adult bird flying above us near La Janda

Bonelli’s Eagle *Aquila fasciata*
One immature bird at La Janda

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Several birds crossing The Strait

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
Seen daily

Montagu’s Harrier *Circus pygargus*
Seen almost daily on both sides of The Strait

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Common on migration

‘Atlas’ Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus cirtensis*
Several birds along the Riff mountains

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
A few birds on the Spanish side of The Strait
Great Bustard *Otis tarda*
One bird seen on the 10th

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*
At least two different birds at Oued Loukkos

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Common. Seen on the Loukkos marshes, Sidi Bourghaba and La Janda

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Seen on most wetlands

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*
Common around Asilah, Loukkos marshes and Sidi Bourghaba

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
Common

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*
Several birds seen on 8th and 14th

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*
Seen at Merja Zerga

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Very common, seen on most wetlands

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Several birds on the Loukkos and Barbate marshes

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
Seen at Merja Zerga

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
Seen on most coastal wetlands

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Very common, seen on most wetlands

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Fairly common around the Loukkos marshes

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Seen on most coastal wetlands and beaches

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Several individuals in La Janda and Loukkos marshes

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Good numbers on the Loukkos marshes

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
Several birds at Merja Zerga

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Seen in several places, but was especially common on the coast in front of our hotel in Skhirat

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*
One bird seen in the saltpans south of Larache and several birds at Merja Zerga

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Seen almost daily

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Seen on most wetlands

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Small numbers on most wetlands

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Good number on the Loukkos marshes

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Small numbers on most wetlands

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Common along the coast, particularly in front of our hotel in Skhirat
Sanderling  *Calidris alba*
Common along the coast, particularly in front of our hotel in Shkirat

Little Stint  *Calidris minuta*
Seen on Los Lances beach and again at Merja Zerga

Curlew Sandpiper  *Calidris ferruginea*
Seen on the Los Lances beach and again at Merja Zerga

Dunlin  *Calidris alpina*
Seen on most wetlands, very common at Merja Zerga

Ruff  *Philocamachus pugnax*
Several birds on the Loukkos marshes

Collared Pratincole  *Glareola pratincola*
Very common on the Spanish side of The Strait, with several hundred seen

Slender-billed Gull  *Chroicocephalus genei*
Good number at Merja Zerga

Black-headed Gull  *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Common along the coast

Audouin’s Gull  *Ichthyaetus audouinii*
Common along the coast, particularly at Merja Zerga

Yellow-legged Gull  *Larus michahellis*
Very common, seen daily

Lesser Black-backed Gull  *Larus fuscus*
Common along the coast

Gull-billed Tern  *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Seen at Oued Loukkos, La Janda and Merja Zerga

Caspian Tern  *Hydroprogne caspia*
Good numbers in Merja Zerga and Oued Loukkos

Sandwich Tern  *Thalasseus sandvicensis*
Common along the coast

Little Tern  *Sternula albifrons*
One bird close to our hotel in Skhirat

Common Tern  *Sterna hirundo*
Several seen at Merja Zerga

Whiskered Tern  *Chlidonias hybridas*
Several birds at Sidi Bourghaba and Oued Loukkos

Black Tern  *Chlidonias niger*
One bird seen from the ferry on 10th

Great Skua  *Stercorarius skua*
At least three birds seen from the ferry on 10th

Rock Dove  *Columba livia*
Wild birds seen near Tarifa

Common Wood Pigeon  *Columba palumbus*
Common throughout the trip

European Turtle Dove  *Streptopelia turtur*
Seen almost daily in Morocco

Eurasian Collared Dove  *Streptopelia decaocto*
Seen daily

Laughing Dove  *Streptopelia senegalensis*
At least five different birds around Moulay Bousselham

Great Spotted Cuckoo  *Clamator glandarius*
Great views of one bird feeding on caterpillars near Tarifa on 15th

Common Cuckoo  *Cuculus canorus*
Several heard and seen
Little Owl *Athene noctua*
One or two birds seen almost daily

**Marsh Owl** *Asio capensis*
Highlight of the trip. One bird landed in front of us, allowing superb views at Merja Zerga on 11th

**Common Swift** *Apus apus*
Several flocks were seen during the trip

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*
Several flocks were seen during the trip

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
Very common in Asilah, where they were nesting in our hotel. Two birds seen at La Zarga on 9th

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
One or two birds seen at Oued Loukkos, Merja Zerga and La Janda

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
Very common. Seen and heard daily

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
Surprisingly, only one bird seen on 8th

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
One heard on 13th

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*
Common in the Algerian Oak forest

**Iberian Green Woodpecker** *Picus sharpie*
Several seen and heard on 9th

**Levaillant’s Woodpecker** *Picus vaillantii*
At least three birds were heard on the Algerian Oak forest on 14th

**Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*
Seen almost daily

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
Common, seen daily

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*
One bird at Sidi Bourghaba

**Lanner** *Falco biarmicus*
A pair seen on the 11th

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*
One bird on the 9th and another on 15th

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*
Many heard singing on the 13th but only one seen

‘Desert’ **Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius [meridionalis] algeriensis*
Common in Morocco, seen daily

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*
Very common migrant, seen daily

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*
One male seen on the 10th

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*
A couple of birds in the Algerian Oak forest on the 14th

‘Maghreb’ **Magpie** *Pica [pica] mauritanica*
This distinctive subspecies of Eurasian Magpie was particularly common around Sidi Bourghaba on the 12th with several birds recorded in other locations

**Western Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*
Common, seen almost daily

**Northern Raven** *Corvus corax*
Fairly common, seen almost daily in Morocco

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater atlas*
Several seen in the Algerian Oak forest on the 14th
African Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus*
   Seen on most days in Morocco

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*
   Common

Great Tit *Parus major*
   Common

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*
   Two or three birds singing in the Algerian Oak forest on the 14th

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*
   Seen on the 8th and 14th

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*
   Common, seen daily

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
   Several birds seen around Barbate

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*
   Very common around La Janda

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*
   Seen daily in Morocco

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola*
   Several birds seen around their breeding colony in the Loukkos Marshes

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
   Migrating birds seen on several dates

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
   Very common. Seen daily

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
   Seen around Zahara de los Atunes

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*
   Common

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
   Seen on the 18th, 24th, 25th and 26th

Cetti’s Warbler *Cettia cetti*
   Heard almost daily with a few birds seen

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
   Common migrant

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
   One bird seen at Barbate on the 8th

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*
   Great views of a singing bird on the 10th

Western Bonelli’s Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*
   Several migrating birds on various dates

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
   Heard on several dates and finally seen on the 16th

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon*
   Several birds heard singing and two of them seen in the Loukkos marshes

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
   One or two birds seen on the 11th

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
   Common on most wetlands in the Spanish side of The Strait and a few birds of the Moroccan race in the Loukkos marshes

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*
   Seen on most days in Morocco

Savi’s Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*
   Several seen and heard at Oued Loukkos

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Zitting Cisticola  *Cisticola juncidis*
   Seen daily

Eurasian Blackcap  *Sylvia atricapilla*
   Common

Garden Warbler  *Sylvia borin*
   Several migrating birds on various dates

Common Whitethroat  *Sylvia communis*
   One bird in Barbate and two singing males at La Janda

Western Orphean Warbler  *Sylvia hortensis*
   One bird seen on the 11th

Dartford Warbler  *Sylvia undata*
   One bird seen on the 14th

Spectacled Warbler  *Sylvia conspicillata*
   One singing male on the 8th and a pair near Bouhachem on the 14th

Western Subalpine Warbler  *Sylvia [cantillans] iberiae/inornata*
   Common migrant. Several birds seen

Sardinian Warbler  *Sylvia melanocephala*
   The most common warbler of the trip, seen daily

Common Firecrest  *Regulus ignicapilla*
   Abundant in the Algerian Oak forest

Eurasian Wren  *Trogloides troglodytes*
   Heard on most dates and seen on the 14th and 15th

Eurasian Nuthatch  *Sitta europaea*
   Abundant in the Algerian Oak forest

Short-toed Treecreeper  *Certhia brachydactyla*
   Several at Los Lances

[Moroccan] Short-toed Treecreeper  *Certhia brachydactyla mauritanica*
   Common in the Algerian Oak forest

Spotless Starling  *Sturnus unicolor*
   Very common, seen daily

Common Blackbird  *Turdus merula*
   Common

Mistle Thrush  *Turdus viscivorus*
   A few birds seen in the Algerian Oak forest on the 14th

European Robin  *Erithacus rubecula*
   Common

Common Nightingale  *Luscinia megarhynchos*
   Very common, heard daily with several birds seen

European Pied Flycatcher  *Ficedula hypoleuca*
   Migrating bird on 14th

Common Redstart  *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
   Several migrating birds at Barbate Marshes

Blue Rock Thrush  *Monticola solitaria*
   Seen in most rocky areas

European Stonechat  *Saxicola rubicola*
   Very common. Seen daily

Northern Wheatear  *Oenanthe oenanthe*
   Migrating birds seen on most days

Black-eared Wheatear  *Oenanthe hispanica*
   Two birds on 16th

Black Wheatear  *Oenanthe leucura*
   Amazing views of a pair near Cheffchauen on 15th
House Sparrow  *Passer domesticus*
  Very common
Spanish Sparrow  *Passer hispaniolensis*
  A few birds with House Sparrow at La Janda
Western Yellow Wagtail  *Motacilla flava*
  Common migrant, seen almost daily
Grey Wagtail  *Motacilla cinerea*
  Seen on fast flowing streams in the Riff mountains
“Moroccan” White Wagtail  *Motacilla alba subpersonata*
  Several birds seen on various locations
Tawny Pipit  *Anthus campestris*
  Several birds around La Janda and Tarifa
Common Chaffinch  *Fringilla coelebs*
  Common in forested areas in the Spanish side of the Strait
‘African’ Chaffinch  *Fringilla [coelebs] Africana*
  Common in forested areas in the Moroccan side of the Strait
European Greenfinch  *Chloris chloris*
  Seen almost daily
Common Linnet  *Linaria cannabina*
  Common
European Goldfinch  *Carduelis carduelis*
  Seen almost daily
European Serin  *Serinus serinus*
  Very common, seen daily
Corn Bunting  *Emberiza calandra*
  Common, seen daily
Cirl Bunting  *Emberiza cirlus*
  Two males and a female on 9th
House Bunting  *Emberiza sahari*
  One bird seen in front of our hotel in Asilah on the 11th

**BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS**

Bath White  *Pontia daplidice*
Large White  *Pieris brassicae*
Small White  *Artogeia rapae*
Clouded Yellow  *Colias crocea*
Red Admiral  *Vanessa atalanta*
Large Tortoiseshell  *Nymphalis polychloros*
Giant Emperor Moth  *Saturnia pyri*

**DRAGONFLIES**

Lesser Emperor  *Anax parthenope*
Red-veined Darter  *Sympetrum fonscolombii*
Broad Scarlet  *Crocothemis erythraea*

**REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**

Spur-thighed Tortoise  *Testudo graeca*
Spanish Terrapin  *Mauremys leprosa*
Moorish Gecko  *Tarentola mauritanica*
Andalusian Wall Lizard  *Podarcis vaucheri*
Large Psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus*
Moroccan Green Frog *Pelophylax saharicus*

**MAMMALS**

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*
Barbary Macaque *Macaca sylvana*
European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus sp*
Egyptian Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon*

**ORCHIDS**

Two-leaved Gennaria *Gennaria diphylla*
Sawfly Orchid *Ophrys tenthredinifera*
Small-flowered Tongue-Orchid *Serapis parviflora*