



Birdwatching Holidays in Spain, Morocco & more...

BOLETAS Birdwatching centre

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"Birders on the Desert Storm"

Heavy rains during two days in the desert seriously affected our birding there. The dry sandy wadis (river beds) were flooded and the muddy desert was difficult to negotiate, even in our 4 x 4 vehicles. Consequently, we missed some desert birds as we were unable to explore the areas where they were likely to be.



TOUR	DATES
Morocco	22 March to 1st April 09

<p>Party: M W Kilby, David Broadley, Jane Rowse, Jenny Shalom, Bruce Maclaren, Kathy Bousi, Susan Turner, Peter Harrison, Steve Boyce, David Jennings.</p> <p>Tour Leader : Josele J. Saiz</p>
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Total Number of Species : 163

Weather & Sites:

Day 1 –	Sunny and warm - Marrakesh, Agadir
Day 2 –	Sunny and hot - Sous Massa – Sous Massa Plains – Oued Souss
Day 3 –	Sunny and warm - Agadir – Tamri – Paradise Valley – Souss River Bank - Tadourant
Day 4 –	Sunny and pleasant - Tadourant – Souss River in Aoulouz – Tamsint – Ouazarzate Reservoir
Day 5 –	Sunny and pleasant - Tagdilt Track – – Boulmane Dades
Day 6 –	Sunny and rainy all night - Tagdilt Track – Todra Gorge – Merzouga Oasis
Day 7 –	Heavy storms and some sun - Merzouga Desert – Merzouga Lake
Day 8 –	Cloudy and cold - Merzouga Oasis – Risanni – Boulmane Dades – Ouazarzate
Day 9 -	Sunny and rains - Dar Daif – Ait Benhadou – Tizi ´n Tichka Pass- Arbalou – Boletas Raptor Watch Point
Day 10-	Sunny and pleasant - Okaimenden – Atlas Mountains

Money for conservation has gone to : Merja Zerja wetland in northwest Morocco is the last spot where Slender-billed Curlew was reported. Its marshes are rapidly disappearing due to the human activity. We will help local conservation groups to conserve this wetlands.

#	0.	Species	Scientific Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		x					x			
	2.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				3			x			
	3.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus</i>		x	x	x						
	4.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		x	x			x				
	5.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		x	x	x		x	x	x		x
	6.	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				3						
	7.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>				x	x				x	x
	8.	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	x	x		x				x	x	10+
	9.	Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>			120							
	10.	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		43+								
	11.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		15+								
	12.	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>		1					70+			
	13.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			2	1			30+			
	14.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		x		x						
	15.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>							8			
	16.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		x					x			
	17.	Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>		8					3			
	18.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>							x			
	19.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		2								
	20.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	1			14	2	x				1
	21.	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>									2	
	22.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus harterti</i>	1			3	4		1	x		
	23.	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>										
	24.	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		1f			5		7	x		
	25.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus punicus</i>		1								1
	26.	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>										1
	27.	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus cirtensis</i>			1		6	2			1	2
	28.	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>						2		2		
	29.	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>				3					6	2
	30.	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	31.	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus erlangeri</i>				1	5		1	1		
	32.	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides</i>				2			1	1		
	33.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus minor</i>								1		
	34.	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara spatzi</i>			1							
	35.	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		h	h							
	36.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		x	x							
	37.	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		x	x				x			
	38.	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		x								
	39.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							x			
	40.	Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus saharae</i>		2	h							
	41.	Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>		1		1			15+	2		
	42.	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		x								
	43.	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							2			
	44.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			1				x			
	45.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		1								
	46.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		x								
	47.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		x								
	48.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		x								
	49.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			x							
	50.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			x							
	51.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos Hypoleucos</i>				x			x			
	52.	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			x							
	53.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>							x			
	54.	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>			6							
	55.	Western Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans michahellis</i>	x	x	x							

#	Species	Scientific Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
162.	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata sahari</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
163.	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>										1
#	Other Sightings											
	Wild Board											
	Barbary Ground Squirrel											
	Egyptian Mongoose											
	Spanish Terrapin											
	Moroccan Turtle											
	Sahara Green Frog											
	Spinny Tailed Lizard											
	Brown Hare											
	Mauritanian Toad											
	Green Toad											

RECOMMENDED SIGNS:

Vista/Seen (X) Oida/Heard (H)Abundant (XXX) Common (XX) Rare (+) Juvenile (Juv) Immature (Inm) Adult (ad) Female Male

Only recorded birds seeing at least by two people



Favourite bird of the tour

M W Kilby,	Leavaillant´s Woddpecker
David Broadley,	Desert Sparrow
Jane Rowse,	Spotted Sandgrouse
Jenny Shalom,	Temminks Lark
Bruce Maclaren,	Hoopoe Lark
Kathy Bousi,	Levaillant Woodpecker
Susan Turner,	Tristam´s Warbler
Peter Harrison,	Hoopoe Lark
Steve Boyce,	Desert Eagle Owl
David Jennings.	Desert Sparrow
Josele J. Saiz	Spotted Sandgrouse

My thanks to everyone for their good humour and company throughout. The trip was high quality birding , despite the rains in the desert. Il sincerely hope you all enjoyed your Moroccan adventure as much I enjoyed being with you for third time.

Josele J. Saiz

Some pictures above by D Frost in 2008