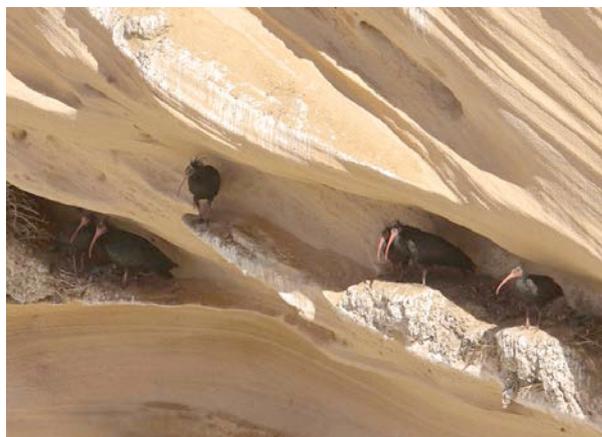


MOROCCO:

Autumn Birding in Agadir

Sat 31st October – Sat 7th November 2015



Trip photos (clockwise, from top): Northern Bald Ibis roosting on the cliffs near Tamri • One of several Red-rumped Wheatears seen near Goulmime • An elusive Black-crowned Tchagra at Oued Massa • The group enjoys the view from the cliffs near Tamri • A large group of Audouin's and Lesser Black-backed Gulls near Agadir • Fulvous Babbler were kind to us this year © top four photos by tour participant Roger Cresswell; lower two by leader Colin Bushell/Limosa

**report compiled by tour leaders:
Arnoud van den Berg & Colin Bushell**

MOROCCO | Autumn Birding in Agadir

Tour Leaders: Arnoud van den Berg & Colin Bushell

with Karen Allison, Alan Clark, Roger & Chrissie Cresswell, Jeff & Angie Currie, Reg Foreman & Sally Dearden, David Fosh, Janey McEwan and Tony & Greta Piper

Tour highlights

- Daily encounters of North African endemic species like Moussier's Redstarts and interesting subspecies.
- Over one hundred Northern Bald Ibis!
- Close encounters of five species of shearwaters and three skuas during the Agadir pelagic.
- Superb desert birding near Goulmime with 10+ Hoopoe Larks, sandgrouse and wheatears.
- Bonelli's Eagles appearing on cue as we waited for lunch at our restaurant near Imouzer.

Trip Diary

31 October

The Limosa Morocco tour starts with the whole group meeting at London Gatwick for the direct flight to Agadir. We left with a slight delay, landing in Morocco at 6.45pm with no need to adjust our watches. The transfer to the hotel only took little more than half an hour and by 8.30pm we were enjoying a buffet dinner in the restaurant.

Arnoud gave the group a briefing regarding our first full day in the field before we retired for the night.

1 November

Sunday morning began rather overcast with the sound of Common Bulbuls in the hotel grounds before breakfast. In no time at all we were ready to leave for a full day birding the coast, making our way north and stopping to scan flocks of birds on the beaches as the sky cleared and the morning became hotter.

A large flock of mainly Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*intermedius* birds) and Yellow-legged Gulls had a few Audouin's Gulls for company. However the whole flock was flushed and we lost the Audouin's all too quickly, making do with some nice close views of our first Thekla Larks of the trip. Taking time to note the bill structure (less pointed than Crested Lark's) and the bold drop-like streaks on the breast, before moving on we soon discovered there was no need to worry about the disappearance of the Audouin's Gulls. Only a few minutes' drive along the coast we found a large flock (maybe 2-300 birds), almost entirely consisting of Audouin's Gulls! Many were wearing rings from Spanish colonies and we enjoyed the opportunity to study adults and immatures at leisure as well as a few Yellow-legged Gulls as well as a smart adult Mediterranean Gull.

Continuing our way along the Atlantic Coast seeing Spotless Starlings, Desert Grey Shrikes and Stonechats from the bus, we stopped for a few quality birds at Taghazoute in the shape of Black Wheatear and the North African endemic Moussier's Redstart, the first of many seen during this tour.

We finally reached the Tamri area and another brief stop at a lagoon yielded Ruddy Shelducks, an Osprey, a single Spoonbill as well as our first Moroccan Wagtail. Two North African Ravens on the ground up on the hillside were found during a search for our target species, the rare Northern Bald Ibis. But no luck here so we enlisted a little help from a local guide and this led to an immensely successful period where we saw well over 100 Northern

Bald Ibis, mainly roosting in the shade of their nest crevices on coastal cliffs. We also enjoyed some spectacular fly-bys with flocks of more than 60 set against the clear blue sky or glistening sea. One bird narrowly escaped a rather adventurous Barbary Falcon that stooped on it on more than one occasion! Another rather unexpected highlight of the morning was the Moroccan Shag on the cliffs here. Very similar indeed to 'our' birds, but with a smaller crest. Indeed we saw only one individual and Arnoud told us that this form may be critically endangered.

We enjoyed a splendid lunch in Tamri with a spectacular backdrop of the coastal cliffs before setting off again in the direction of Agadir. Rechecking some of the lagoons produced only a couple of Mediterranean Gulls so we headed inland, stopping at a pass with dense shrub cover near Alma in the late afternoon. Tristram's Warbler was our target here, another North African endemic species. This rather retiring *Sylvia* required a little encouragement to show, but after a few false alarms involving Sardinian Warblers we saw one very well indeed. Pied Flycatcher and another Moussier's Redstart were noted in the same area as well. A late search of a nearby track produced a brief encounter with a Rock Bunting before we headed back to Agadir and our hotel for dinner.

2 November

Today's half-day pelagic was extended a little. We left the hotel straight after breakfast and boarded our boat in calm and warm conditions. Heading north from Agadir we soon encountered our first 'large' shearwaters – obviously 'Cory's types' as well as individual Manx and Balearic Shearwaters sitting on the sea. We managed to identify Cory's and Scopoli's Shearwaters from the boat, admittedly with the aid of some very skilful photography and 'back-of-the-camera' views, throughout the course of the day.

We made our way north as far as Cap Rhir before lunch (which we ate on board) before returning to Agadir. Although there were quiet periods we nearly always had a few shearwaters to look at and on a few occasions our regulars were joined by a Great Shearwater or two. Northern Gannets were often close to the boat and Great Skuas accompanied us a little way before we stopped to watch a resting raft of around 80 shearwaters in calmer waters away from the swell. Drifting closer we could see that most were either Cory's or Scopoli's (very difficult to differentiate at rest) with a few Manx and individual Balearic and Great Shearwaters for comparison. They were soon joined by a Pomarine Skua, with another seen just as we left the raft.

Closer to the marina we found an even larger flock of shearwaters, again mostly 'Cory's types', maybe in excess of 200 birds. We estimated that Cory's probably outnumbered Scopoli's by about 4/1 during our pelagic trip. Returning to the marina we watched an Arctic Skua chasing gulls, a few Mediterranean Gulls and one of the last birds seen from the boat was a Kingfisher on the harbour wall.

Arriving at our hotel with a little time before log call and dinner a few decided to join Arnoud and me for a short stroll nearby. Apart from the usual Common Bulbuls and White Wagtails this late excursion added little to the trip list apart from African Blue Tit in the park. The vocalisations of this bird were immediately noticeably different to western European birds. The bird's appearance was quite striking as well, particularly the dark blue cap (accentuating the white cheeks) and the bib.

3 November

Bags were packed ready for our first transfer day of the trip this morning as we took breakfast in Agadir. Another fine morning greeted us as we boarded the buses for the morning excursion to Oued Massa with a short diversion to Sidi Bibi for some Little Swifts. It was quite extraordinary to see a small group of birders peering into a garage watching these diminutive, bat-like birds exiting their nests tucked in the corner of one of the service bays!

On reaching the Massa area we stopped for a group of nine Eurasian Stone-curlews along the Sidi Rbat road. Standing rather regally in an arid field with low scrub cover, they were easily observed from the road with telescopes. We also found our first Western Cattle Egrets of the trip mingling with sheep on a heat hazy hillside. Desert Little Owl was next on the agenda and this individual gave Arnoud the opportunity to explain some of the discoveries made by the Sound Approach team during his many research trips to Morocco. We expect to see these Desert Little Owls renamed 'Cucumiau' in the not too distant future. Moussier's Redstart, House Bunting and the interesting Moroccan Magpie were also seen, the latter with its blue bare orbital skin but lacking the usual green sheens to the tail exhibited by the birds we are familiar with in western Europe.

By now it was very hot with just a light easterly breeze and no cloud cover at all. We finally made our way to the river mouth of the Oued Massa and it appears that the location is heavily saline this winter, indicated by the lack of wildfowl present. Our main target birds for Massa, the Black-crowned Tchagra, was definitely present though, obvious from the fluty meandering songs from the riverside Tamarisk trees. However we struggled to see one at first but perseverance rewarded us later with some nice, if semi-concealed views of a bird near the national park entrance.

Cetti's Warblers also remained elusive but the same cannot be said of the many Sardinian Warblers flitting around. Blue Rock Thrush (male and female), Zitting Cisticolas, Pied Flycatcher, Cirl Bunting, Spanish Sparrows and Laughing Doves kept us busy enough during the morning as we searched for the Tchagra. A lone Marsh Harrier patrolled the hillside, sporting wing tags and very obvious in the cloudless blue sky as it banked suddenly. We have recently learned that this bird was tagged in Norfolk, UK. Waterbirds were a little scarce apart from a flock of 11 Ruddy Shelducks, a couple of Great Egrets (scarce in Morocco) and a lone Common Sandpiper. The second Kingfisher of the tour was also seen and an Osprey was perched on a partly submerged post.

Leaving Massa we stopped at one of Arnoud's regular cafes where they allowed us to eat our picnic lunch and use the bathrooms in exchange for purchase of drinks and some nice omelettes to supplement our snacks.

Our destination was Goulimime and arriving earlier than expected we found ourselves with some birding time to spare just outside of town. The bus journey had been largely uneventful for wildlife observations but did allow us to add White-crowned Black Wheatear to our tally. The desert along the Fask road was quite busy with birdlife including some very smart Red-rumped Wheatears (both male and female seen well), a Northern Wheatear, a very smart male Desert Wheatear and a few Desert Larks. A Scrub Warbler appeared all too briefly before disappearing into some low bushes. Despite giving a brief burst of song this individual was never seen again, but we headed into town and checked into the hotel all very satisfied with yet another great day's birding in Morocco.

4 November

We started our full day in the desert near Goulimime with some noisy Fulvous Babblers. They were in the first bit of scrub we checked and there were many distractions as well, including a perched Barbary Falcon, Atlas Long-legged Buzzard and several Red-rumped Wheatears. Desert Wheatears were also around for handy comparison and of course the snazzy Moussier's Redstarts are always hard to ignore!

A short trip to Asrir produced some good views of White-crowned Black Wheatears. We were able to note the tail pattern clearly – a feature so important to separate the black-headed immature birds from the Black Wheatears. Most of the desert had been disturbed a little, mainly by agriculture, but we managed to find some good spots. Roadside Bar-tailed Larks prompted us to search one area, which proved very productive indeed. Shortly after leaving the bus we were watching five Black-bellied Sandgrouse, some all-to-brief Greater Short-

toed Larks and then we were delighted to see a pair of Thick-billed Larks in the same fields. We watched these birds for quite some time feeding alongside the Bar-tailed Larks in a strip of ploughed ground. Making our way back to Goulmime for lunch we found some migrant Northern Wheatears, a Whinchat and Crag Martin before entering town.

Our post lunch trip to the desert along the Tan Tan road was surprisingly good given the very warm and rather breezy conditions and especially as we travelled some way in the bus without seeing any birds at all! Our first scan of some rather unpromising-looking desert fields yielded two Hoopoe Larks – one of most wanted birds of the tour. Understandably we spent quite some time with these before moving on to watch a pair of Lanner Falcons from the opposite side of the road. We were able to observe one bird enjoying a tasty meal (probably Fat Sand Rat) on a pylon as well as some spectacular hunting action.

The rest of the afternoon was spent checking more fields. In all we saw around ten Hoopoe Larks (a very respectful haul indeed for this species), our first Crested Lark of the tour and best of all nine Cream-coloured Coursers. Although distant, the latter were watched through 'scopes and their plover-like gait could be seen clearly. Unfortunately all efforts to get closer proved fruitless as they flew off just before we reached their feeding area. Another eventful day in the Moroccan deserts came to an end with a deep orange sunset once again.

5 November

We started the day south of Goulmime in a favourite spot for Scrub Warbler with very good results indeed. At least two birds were very territorial and seven Eurasian Stone-curlews wandered around the desert scrub as we watched the tiny prinia-like birds. Indeed Arnaud explained his reasoning (plumage and vocalisations) for considering this Scrub Warbler different from those in the Middle East. A nearby Boukila water filtration plant held a nice selection of water birds. Our only issue was with the distance from which we could view the tanks, but we could easily see at least 50 Ruddy Shelducks on the banks. Trickier to make out was the flock of Marbled Ducks and harder still were the Kentish Plovers!

It was now time to make our way back to Agadir but our journey was punctuated by a few stops including one for a fine juvenile Golden Eagle of the subspecies *homeyeri*. This was a bit of a surprise, but a scheduled stop produced a flock of Crag Martins and good looks at Black Wheatears – most useful after our study of White-crowned Black Wheatears earlier. Lunch in the coastal town of Agrou was superb and we all enjoyed the fish Tagine immensely. Before driving to Agadir we stopped at the Massa River where we found some Plain Martins and watched flocks of Glossy Ibis (at least 300) flying upriver.

6 November

Our last full day in Morocco and we headed into the foothills of the Atlas Mountains near Imouzer. A Little Owl perched by the roadside made our first stop but there was little else here to delay us so we carried on higher into the Atlas foothills. Black Wheatear, Black Restart and our first North African Chaffinches were found as we searched the deep valleys en route to Imouzer and the pine forests at around 1100m above sea level. One brief stop allowed us to watch Tristram's Warblers at very close range indeed, with even better views than our previous sighting.

There was little to stop us as we gained height on the windy road apart from three Barbary Partridges flushed by the side of the road. On reaching Imouzer we set about walking the forest clearing seeing Moroccan Jay with its rather plain face and neat streaked cap, a Tree Pipit and some Moussier's Redstarts. The latter is always well received by the group, no matter how many we see. The Moroccan Common Crossbill was of great interest here though with its subtly different calls to Common Crossbill we are familiar with in Europe. We managed some good 'scope views of these, both high in the pines and also at a water pipe where our best views yet of North African Chaffinch were obtained. We had another chance to see African Blue Tit here too.

Descending a little for lunch, we stopped at a nice local restaurant with a good vista over some crags. In no time at all we were watching a pair of Bonelli's Eagles, even before our tagine arrived on the table! In the afternoon we made our way back to Agadir by way of a few short stops at shops including an Argan shop where there also happened to be a male Cirl Bunting in song for those not purchasing.

7 November

We had enough time today before departure to go birding at the Oued Souss. Fine and sunny yet again but still with plenty of bird activity, we added a few species to our trip list. Scanning the river as the tide rose we managed to see at least 38 Greater Flamingos as well as a flock of more than 20 Spoonbills. Wader numbers were generally low but included a nice variety of shorebirds including Eurasian Curlew, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, Grey Plovers, fourteen Greenshank, 50+ Common Redshanks, a few Dunlin, two Red Knot and a Little Stint. No rarities this year (the last Limosa tour here found a Great Knot!) but a good selection of 'trip ticks'.

Scanning through some loafing gulls on the mudflats produced nine Sandwich Terns, at least 35 Mediterranean Gulls (all first winter birds) and five Slender-billed Gulls including a bird with a nice pink flush to its breast. Probably the best birds of the morning were not associated with the river though. A perched Short-eared Owl was certainly a surprise and by simply standing in one small clearing in the scrub we saw many good birds including several European Serins, a Black-crowned Tchagra and best of all a White-spotted Bluethroat. Our final drive of the morning was to the stretch of river frequented by the flamingos where we found a few Black-winged Stilts. A worthy last addition to the trip list indeed.

Late morning saw us returning to the hotel to freshen up before a tasty lunch in Agadir and then the short drive to the airport for the flight back to Gatwick. Our UK bound flight left Agadir fairly punctually, arriving late evening and with all luggage safely collected the group went their separate ways after a bird-filled and very educational tour of Morocco.

A big "Thank you!" to the whole group and we look forward to seeing you on another Limosa tour very soon.

Arnoud van den Berg & Colin Bushell

Tour itinerary:

31-10 London-Agadir

01-11 Tamri & Alma

02-11 pelagic northward up to Cap Rhir

03-11 from Agadir via Oued Massa and Anti-Atlas to Goulimime

04-11 Goulimime

05-11 from Goulimime via Agrou and Oued Massa to Agadir

06-11 Imouzer

07-11 Oued Souss and in evening Agadir-London

Systematic List of Bird Species Recorded (n=133)

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*

On 6/11, half of our group watched three running and flying off from the roadside of Vallee de Paradis while ascending to Imouzer.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

On 1/11, four were seen at Tamri; on 3/11, we counted 11 at the mouth of Massa; and on 5/11, up to 50 were present at the reservoir south of Goulimime at Boukila.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

On 1/11, 20 were present at Tamri. On 5/11, one was seen at the Boukila reservoir and three at Massa.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

On 1/11, one was swimming with a Wigeon on a pool at the beach of Taghazoute. Also on 1/11, two were present at Tamri. On 5/11, c 10 were mixed with Marbled Ducks at the reservoir south of Goulimime.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

On 1/11, four were swimming with four Ruddy Shelducks at the river mouth of Tamri.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

On 1/11, one was swimming with a Northern Shoveler on a pool at the beach of Taghazoute.

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

On 5/11, c 40 were giving distant views at the Boukila reservoir south of Goulimime.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

On the Agadir pelagic of 2/11, four singles were sighted flying past.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

On the Agadir pelagic of 2/11, a total of 10 was photographed, flying and swimming..

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

On the Agadir pelagic of 2/11, a total of six were sighted flying past.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

On the Agadir pelagic of 2/11, 100s were seen in flight and swimming, and many were photographed; in total, more than 500 including Scopoli's were counted, probably 80% being Cory's.

Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

On the Agadir pelagic of 2/11, more than 100 were seen and some photographed, in mixed flocks with the more numerous Cory's Shearwater.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

A flock of 40 adults with five juveniles was present at Oued Souss on 7/11.

Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*

On 1/11, we were lucky to be guided to the breeding colony where 46 were roosting on the cliffs (not nesting); moreover, additional numbers flew past in large groups. The total number was 90 to 120.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

In the afternoon of 5/11, large flocks flew upstream over the Massa river; in total, we watched more than 300 individuals.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Single juveniles were seen at Tamri on 1/11 and at Massa on 5/11. On 7/11, a roosting flock of 30, some colour ringed, were present at Oued Souss.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Common south of Agadir from 3/11 to 7/11.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Common in small numbers of ones and twos, and seen on every day except 6/11 (Imouzer).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Common at river mouths and seen on every day except 6/11 (Imouzer).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Numerous at sea and seen on all days we were looking over the Atlantic shore (e.g., 1/11 and 5/11); we watched more than 100 during the pelagic off Agadir on 2/11.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

Small number seen along the sea coast on every day except 4/11 and 6/11.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus/maroccanus*

On 1/11, two were seen at the Tamri cliffs. On 3/11, several were present at Agadir harbour.

Moroccan Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis riggenbachi*

On 1/11, one adult was photographed at the Tamri cliffs.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common and at least a few to more than 10 seen on every day.

Lanner *Falco biarmicus erlangeri*

On 4/11, four were seen south of Goulimime, with a juvenile eating prey.

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*

On 1/11, one flew past the Bald Ibis colony; above the ocean, it attacked a flying Bald Ibis, which was separated from a flock but was then left alone, unharmed. On 4/11, one was perched on a pylon near Asrir. On 5/11, two were seen along the road between Sidi Ifni and Agrou Plage, one getting a prey on a cliff.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Three singles were seen: at Tamri on 6/11, at Oued Massa on 3/11 and at Oued Souss on 7/11.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

On 3/11, a juv/fem with a pale green wing tag on each wing flew past Oued Massa; photographed – tagged in Norfolk, UK. On 7/11, a juv/fem flew past Oued Souss.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Three singles were seen in flight: at Alma on 1/11, at Oued Massa chasing starlings on 5/11 and at Imouzer on 6/11.

Atlas Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus cirtensis*

In total, eight were seen on two days: six south of Goulimime on 4/11 and two along the Sidi Ifni on 5/11.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*

On 6/11, a pair of adults perched on top of a high ridge above our lunch restaurant at Imouzer.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos homeyeri*

On 5/11, an immature was seen above the road to Sidi Ifni.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

On 1/11, eight were swimming at the river mouth of Tamri. Several were present at Oued Massa on 5/11.

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicanus*

Two roosting flocks were found: nine along the Sidi Rbat road of Oued Massa on 3/11, and seven in a bushy area 10 km south of Goulimime on 5/11.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

At Oued Souss mouth, 20 were foraging on 7/11.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

At Oued Souss, five were seen on 7/11.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

At Oued Souss mouth, five were present on 7/11.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

On 5/11, a few were seen at a huge distance at the Boukila reservoir south of Goulimime.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

On 5/11, a few were seen at a huge distance at the Boukila reservoir south of Goulimime.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

On 5/11, at least two were identified at a huge distance at the Boukila reservoir south of Goulimime.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

At the Oued Souss mouth, more than 25 were foraging on 7/11.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

At the Oued Souss mouth, one was observed in a group of Black-taileds.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

At the Oued Souss mouth, five were seen on 7/11.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Common at the Oued Souss mouth on 7/11, with more than 50.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

At the Oued Souss mouth, at least 10 were seen on 7/11.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

A total of 10 was seen on five days, with six at Tamri.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

On 7/11, two were present at Oued Souss mouth.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

On 7/11, one was seen at Oued Souss.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

At the Oued Souss mouth, 30+ were present on 7/11.

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

On 4/11, a flock of nine was foraging at a huge distance along the Tan Tan road south of Goulimime. When we tried to get closer, they flew off.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

At the Oued Souss mouth, five were present on 7/11.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

One was seen at Oued Massa on 3/11. At the Oued Souss mouth, c 50 were present on 7/11.

Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii*

On the beaches between Agadir and Tamri, on 1/11, a total of more than 1000 were counted in roosting flocks. We photographed 10-15 individuals with colour rings from Spain.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

On 1/11, one adult and two first-winters were found with roosting flocks of Audouin's Gull between Agadir and Tamri. On 2/11, a total of four first-winters flew past our boat off Agadir.

On 7/11, we counted 35 first-winters at the Oued Souss mouth.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Numerous and seen on every day except on 4/11 at Goulimime.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii/intermedius*

Numerous (even much more so than Yellow-legged Gull) and seen on every day except on 4/11 at Goulimime.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

On 1/11, three were seen off the Tamri river mouth. During our pelagic, more than 10 were noted, including first-years. During our lunch at Agrou Plage on 5/11, there was a steady stream passing south (more than 50 in total). On 7/11, we noted 50 at the Oued Souss mouth.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

During our pelagic on 2/11, an immature attacking Sandwich Terns was photographed during the pelagic off Agadir.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

During our pelagic on 2/11, a total of two adults and two immatures were flying and swimming past our boat.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

During our pelagic on 2/11, we had four sightings of moulting adults, which were photographed.

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

In the morning of 4/11, two were foraging and five flying past at Asrir.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Noted on all days.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

On 3/11, one flew over Sidi Bibi. On 6/11 (Imouzer) and 7/11 (Oued Souss) quite a few were seen.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Numerous and seen on every day in every settlement.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Numerous at Oued Massa on 3/11 and 5/11. On 4/11, more than 20 were noted in the Asrir area.

Cucumiau (Desert Little Owl) *Athene noctua*

On 3/11, one was seen at Oued Massa. On 6/11, north of Alma, one perched on a dead tree along the road to Imouzer.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

On 7/11, one roosting on top of a bush on the southern side of Oued Souss could be photographed; it concerns a rarity for Morocco.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

On 3/11, three were seen near a breeding site in a garage between Agadir and Oued Massa. On 6/11, a handful was foraging above the cliffs near Imouzer.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A total of five individuals were seen and/or heard on four days.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

On 3/11, six were heard and two seen at Oued Massa. On 6/11, we heard two along the road to Imouzer. On 7/11, one was seen and two heard at the Oued Souss mouth.

Desert Grey Shrike *Lanius elegans algeriensis*

Common and seen on every day except 2/11, with a maximum of more than 20 noted on 4/11 and 5/11.

Moroccan Jay *Garrulus glandarius minor*

On 6/11, two singles were well seen foraging in pines at Imouzer.

Moroccan Magpie *Pica mauritanica*

Common and, especially at Oued Souss, numerous. Not seen around Goulimime on 4/11.

North African Common Raven *Corvus corax tingitanus*

A pair and a single bird were seen near Tamri on 2/11.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Noted on three days; at Oued Massa and at Imouzer.

African (Ultramarine) Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus*

In the afternoon of 2/11, a few of us watched one close to our Agadir hotel. On 6/11, two were found at Imouzer.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*

On 5/11, a total of 20 was seen close to Tassila.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

On 4/11, one was seen at Asrir. On 5/11, some 20 flew along a cliff north of Sidi Ifni. On 6/11, two were present along the Imouzer road.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

On 3/11, five singles were seen south of Agadir. On 4/11, one flew past at Asrir. On 5/11, five singles were noted at Oued Massa.

Hoopoe Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*

A remarkable total of more than 10 were found along the Tan Tan road south of Goulimime on 4/11.

Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*

On 4/11, four were seen in the Asrir area and three along the Tan Tan road south of Goulimime.

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*

On 3/11, a pair and a single bird were seen along the road from Goulimime and Fask.

Thick-billed Lark *Ramphocoris clotbey*

On 4/11, a pair was watched at close range near Asrir.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

On 4/11, two flew past, calling, at Asrir.

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Alaudala rufescens*

On 4/11, twice a single calling bird flew over head at Asrir.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

On 4/11, one was seen along the Tan Tan road; it may have been a Large-billed *G macrorhyncha*.

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

Common and seen on every day.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Numerous and seen (and heard) on every day.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Numerous at Oued Massa near Sdi Rbat on 3/11.

Scrub Warbler *Scotocercaettia cetti*

In the late afternoon of 3/11, one was briefly seen and heard by a few of us along the road from Goulimime to Fask. In the morning of 5/11, all of us had good views of two 10 km south of Goulimime.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Numerous though only heard at Oued Massa on 3/11 and 5/11.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

On 4/11, one survived a window collision at our Goulimime hotel and could be watched recovering in a roadside bush.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common and seen on most days.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

On 3/11, three females were noted at Oued Massa. On 6/11, several were seen at Imouzer.

Tristram's Warbler *Sylvia deserticola*

In the late afternoon of 1/11, a pair was found at Alma, above Agadir. On 6/11, we had excellent views of two foraging along the road to Imouzer.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Common and seen on every day (and more were heard).

Fulvous Babbler *Turdoides fulva*

On 4/11, three groups were found in the Asrir area.

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

Numerous and seen on every day, except in the Goulimime area on 4/11.

(Moroccan) Blackbird *Turdus merula mauritanicus*

Common to numerous and seen on every day.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Common though only a few seen, on four days (not in the Goulimime area on 4/11).

White-spotted Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica cyanecula*

On 7/11, one showed itself a few times at a pool at Oued Souss.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*

On 6/11, two singles were seen along the Imouzer road.

Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*

Common and seen on every day (except on 2/12).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

On 4/11, one was found near Tighmert.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Common to numerous and seen on every day (except 2/12).

Red-rumped Wheatear *Oenanthe moesta*

Common in the Goulimime area with a pair along the Fask road on 3/11 and more than 10 at Asrir and the Tan Tan road on 4/11.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common with more than 10 south of Goulimime on 3/11, 4/11 and 5/11.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

In the late afternoon of 3/11, a male was found along the road from Goulimime to Fask. On 4/11, a total of six was noted south of Goulimime.

White-crowned (White-tailed) Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*

On 3/11, two were seen north of Goulimime. On 4/11, a total of 10 was noted in the Asrir, Tighmert and Tan Tan road areas. On 5/11, six were present 10 km south of Goulimime.

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*

Common and one to eight (3/11) seen on almost every day except 2/11 (pelagic) and 7/11 (Oued Souss). At Goulimime, only one was found on 4/11.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

On 3/11, two were found along the Sdi Rbat road of Oued Massa.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Singles were seen at Alma on 1/11 and (two) at Oued Massa on 3/11.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common to numerous and seen on every day.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

On 3/11, two males were found at Sdi Rbat, Oued Massa. On 4/11 and 5/11, remarkably numerous in the Goulimime areas. Also several near Sidi Ifni and Oued Massa on 5/11.

White-throated Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) cinereocapilla*

On 7/11, one was heard south of Goulimime.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

At least three were seen at Imouzer and in the 'paradise valley', on 6/11.

Moroccan Wagtail *Motacilla (alba) subpersonata*

On 1/11, one was seen along the road near Tamri.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Common and seen on every day, numerous in the Asrir area on 4/11.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A few seen or heard on four days, and a flock of 30 foraging along Oued Souss on 7/11.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

At Imouzer, one was seen on 6/11.

North African Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs africana*

One or two seen on 1/11 (Alma) and 5/11 (Oued Massa). On 6/11, more than 10 were noted at Imouzer.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

At Oued Souss mouth, a flock of 20 was seen at a pool near the royal palace. Singles were heard or seen in flight at Oued Massa on 3/11 and 5/11.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris voousi*

Seen on four days: at Alma on 1/11, at Oued Massa on 3/11, at Imouzer on 6/11 and (10) at Oued Souss on 7/11.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis parva*

Noted at Tamri on 1/11 and (two) at Goulimime on 4/11. On 6/11, five were drinking at the canal in the pine wood above Imouzer.

Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*

At Imouzer, twice a couple was seen on 6/11. On 7/11, five flew over at Oued Souss.

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Noted on 1/11 (Tamri) and 3/11 (Oued Massa).

Moroccan Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra polioygyna*

On 6/11, common at Imouzer with many singing and calling and a few seen perched in tree tops or drinking at a canal.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

On 4/11, more than 30+ were present at the Asrir area.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

Heard on 1/11 (at Alma) and on 6/11 (at Imouzer).

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

On 3/11, one was singing at Oued Massa. On 6/11, one was heard and seen along the Imouzer road.

House Bunting *Emberiza (striolata) sahari*

Common and seen on every day, also at our hotels.

Mammals**Barbary Ground Squirrel *Atlantoxerus getulus***

Common at Massa on 3/11 and 5/11, and at Imouzer on 6/11.

Fat Sand Rat *Psammomys obesus*

Several were seen at Goulimime on 4/11.

Turtles**Spanish Turtle *Mauremys leprosa***

Common at Oued Massa on 8/11.