

Morocco

Agadir & Goulimime

Sat 26th Jan – Sat 2nd Feb 2013



(Photos, clockwise from top left): This day-roosting **Maghreb Tawny Owl** (*Strix [aluco] mauritanica*) was a great find at Immouzer • One of at least 10 **Balearic Shearwaters** seen on our regular pelagic boat trip out of Agadir • We found three pairs of **Thick-billed Larks** in the desert south of Goulimime • Fantastic views of Morocco's star bird, the wacky-looking **Bald Ibis** along the coast • The Viking-like **Temminck's Horned Lark** showed well, too! • If you've always dreamt of getting good views of **Storm Petrel** this could be the tour for you! © all photos taken on tour by Arnoud van den Berg/Limosa Holidays

report compiled by tour leader:
Arnoud van den Berg

Trip Diary

Tour Leader: Arnoud van den Berg

with Cecilia Bosman, Stuart Coleman, Roger Davies, Charles Gordon & David Wooldridge

This was the second consecutive year for this exciting mid-winter tour to Agadir, featuring excursions to the north (Tamri), west (the Atlantic by boat), south (Anti Atlas and the deserts at Goulimime) and east (Paradise Valley and Immouzer). More typically, birders tend to visit the southwest of Morocco at times of migration, either in spring (March-April) or autumn (September-October), but this January tour is different and not to be missed, offering some cracking mid-winter birding! It is really enjoyable, not only because of the fine weather but also because of the birding surprises: on most days, the weather was characterized as 'glorious', with temperatures in the low 20s Celsius. Every day was sunny and warm without much cloud cover and we were lucky to have no wind of any significance at all.

Saturday 26th January

After we all met at the Agadir airport at midday, we first went to our comfortable base, the Tulip Inn Oasis Hotel above the Agadir Marina, for lunch. In the afternoon, we made our first visit to the nearby Oued Souss river mouth. This tidal river always attracts a lot of migrants and every day one can find different species. Unfortunately, nowadays it is no longer allowed to watch birds in the last 1.5 km of the river mouth, south of the wall of the Royal Palace. However, further upriver, there is still plenty to see, depending on the tide. On the mudflats, while the tide was out, we had flocks of 10s of Greater Flamingos, White Storks, Grey Herons and two types of cormorant, five Spoonbills and just a handful of wader species. A mixed gull flock roosting on the nearby sand contained a surprising 24 first-winter Mediterranean Gulls and just one second-winter, as well as our first Slender-billed and Audouin's Gulls. An Osprey was also seen eating a big fish; there were wintering Meadow Pipits and White Wagtails, and at sunset, a Marsh Harrier, four Stone-curlews and a Desert Grey Shrike were seen.

Sunday 27th January

Today we drove north to search for Bald Ibises. We stopped to check gull flocks on beaches near Taghazoute and Tamri, and counted 36 and 200+ Audouin's Gulls, respectively. There were 1000s of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, mostly *intermedius* from the Low Countries and southern Scandinavia, and a few 10s of local Yellow-legged Gulls for comparison. We enjoyed trying to flush a few elusive Barbary Partridges from bushes along the road, while one appeared to look at our attempts from a rock on the other side, and watched our first Moussier's Redstarts. Before reaching Tamri, we discovered a flock of Bald Ibises busy foraging along the road amidst yellow flowers; we stopped and waited to see them approach, giving excellent views. Later that day, there was only one other individual seen, flying past. Apparently, in 2012, not a single young bird had been raised at the nearby colony, probably due to lack of rain and perhaps because of salination of the Tamri river, which is now connected to the sea due to a broken sand bank. Contrary to this, in the only other colony of this endangered species, to the south of Agadir, breeding results were as good as usual in 2012. The only other birds seen at the Tamri river mouth were a pair of Ruddy Shelduck, Grey Herons and Little Egrets, a few Coots, a flock of Kentish Plovers and Spanish Sparrows.

For lunch, we went to Arnoud's favourite tajine restaurant at Tamri village with a terrace overlooking the rocky slopes above the river, offering fine close-range views of Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush, Black Wheatear, Moussier's Redstart and House Bunting. On our way

back, a stop along the road at the Tamri river mouth produced our only Moroccan White Wagtail of the week.

Monday 28th January

For our third day we had booked a boat trip from Agadir marina to go out for seabirds. The sea was calm as there was little wind, yet as soon as we left port we came across Storm Petrels, which would be with us most of the time. Once, we counted ten individuals together. No less than ten Balearic Shearwaters, one of the rarest seabirds in the world, was seen as well, showing the full range of pale and dark plumages. Twice we sailed past a couple of Manx Shearwaters too, a rarity for Morocco. We had close views of a few adult Gannets and a lot of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, which were attracted to fishing boats.

After a lunch on board the boat, at 4 km off Agadir, we returned after 14:00 to the harbour, and had a quick drive back to the nearby hotel. Some of us remained at the hotel while others went for a second visit to Oued Souss. Apart from many of the same birds as on the first day, including the Osprey with yet another big fish, we found an impressive roosting flock of 200 White Storks, a Marsh Harrier, a Sparrowhawk, four adult Slender-billed Gulls, a flock of Little Ringed Plovers and a solitary Great White Egret (another rarity for Morocco).

Tuesday 29th January

This morning we took our luggage as we were heading south to Goulimime. On the way south, we went to the Oued Massa mouth for the entire morning. Birding was excellent, with three Desert Little Owls, two Spectacled Warblers, two Barbary Partridges, a Black-crowned Tchagra, many Moussier's Redstarts and Laughing Doves, and an out-of-season Woodchat Shrike, which was not only singing but also showing all characters of the Balearic subspecies (a vagrant in Morocco, with c. 10 records). We had our picnic lunch at a tiny café with an artefact/museum annex, and continued south past Tiznit and across the scenic Anti Atlas. A birding stop near the pass resulted in sightings of Sardinian Warblers, Cirl Bunting, Linnets and African Chaffinches. In the late afternoon, we headed out to find some birds in the desert habitat close to Goulimime: we saw our first Trumpeter Finch, White-crowned Black and Desert Wheatears, but our best find was an adult Barbary Falcon that came to roost in a roadside pylon, giving excellent scope views. Our hotel offered an excellent dinner and rooms that rivalled those of the Tulip Inn in Agadir - a far cry from our visits here in days of old!

Wednesday 30th January

Today was devoted entirely to desert birding. In the morning, we went to the fields of Asrir, bordering a large palm tree oasis and open desert. In the nearby fields, tens of Black-bellied Sandgrouse arrived, first calling at a distance but later also giving good views. Scanning through our telescopes, we found the first of a handful of Atlas Long-legged Buzzards and a White Stork perched on pylons, while one by one various desert species walked past us, including Desert, Red-rumped and White-crowned Black Wheatears and two Bar-tailed Larks. There were a few Sky Larks and flocks of Corn Buntings and Spanish Sparrows feeding in the fields. In the far distance, a Fulvous Babbler on the watch from a bush was found by telescope. We walked towards this bird and got fine close views of its family of five.

Near Asrir, we explored a few scattered bushes where c. 370 (!?) days earlier a pair of Streaked Scrub Warblers was found by last year's Limosa group; our visit was a success, as the pair was busy feeding no less than four large young, jumping and running about non-stop, without paying attention to our presence. On our way back, we successfully scanned rocky slopes to find a few Desert Larks.

We were at our hotel for lunch at 12:30, and in the afternoon we drove south along the TanTan road, searching for other lark species in even more barren habitat. After quite a long drive, we glimpsed a large lark landing in one of the few areas that was not ploughed: no doubt a Thick-billed! We stopped and walked towards this stretch of desert to be rewarded with perhaps the best birding hours of the trip. A variety of larks and some other desert species appeared to be present in our 'lark field': not only three pairs of magnificent Thick-billed Larks, but also three pairs of Temminck's Horned Lark, two Bar-tailed Larks, some 20 Short-toed and two Lesser Short-toed Larks, several Trumpeter Finches, various wheatears and, last but not least, an inquisitive Fat Sand Rat. On the way back, we stopped at some pylons to view some large falcons, of which one turned out to be yet another Barbary (not a Lanner...). We were now close to Goulimime, watching 28 White Storks going to roost on the pylons, when we suddenly came across a flock of c. 200 Black Kites, which had settled to roost on the ground; the birds seemed disturbed by the traffic and moved on low, over the fields and out of sight.

Thursday 31st January

After breakfast at our excellent hotel, we first drove 10 km south from Goulimime to search for birds at a well-vegetated desert area, but the only birds we found were six Stone-curlews. During the rest of the morning, we drove back north, across the Anti Atlas, and had lunch at the Musée cafe. From here, we turned left for Tassila to follow the Massa River. Our first bird near the river was a beautiful Black-winged Kite perched in a tree. Further down the river, we found a flock of Pallid Swifts and a pair of Plain Martins. From an elevated position, we had a good view over a secluded part of the river where we counted over 100 Glossy Ibises and quite a few Tufted Ducks and Coots; at the final bridge we visited, another flock of Glossy Ibises flew overhead. Of course, we watched the usual Massa species as well, including many Moussier's Redstarts, Stonechats and Zitting Cisticolas.

Friday 1st February

On our last full birding day we drove uphill into the Atlas range from Agadir, past Paradise Valley, to the scenic mountain village of Immouzer, where one of our first stops was... at a fossil shop. In the woods and scrub on the slopes, we flushed several Barbary Partridges and heard a Tristram's Warbler singing. The warbler came close and perched on top of a bush for less than 30 seconds. At Immouzer village, we walked amidst old pines to see birds such as "Moroccan" Crossbills, "Moroccan" Jays, Cirl Bunting and, one of the best birds of the tour, a day-roosting Maghreb Tawny Owl (larger and greyer than the European form). There were wintering Siskins and Black Redstarts as well. We heard many African Blue Tits, but it took an excellent lunch at the Palmeraie to get this species in full view.

On our way back down, we stopped at Paradise Valley, which had suffered from a surge of water that destroyed much of the vegetation. We found some Grey Wagtails and had a brief view of a Rock Bunting. A coffee stop with a panoramic view did not produce a single raptor, but presented us with our first sighting of a bright *voousi* Greenfinch and some other passerines. Further down, we stopped again at the fossil shop but apart from a Sardinian Warbler and some Tristram song, we had no success. At sunset, we reached the pass between Alma and Agadir to try at another good Tristram's spot; indeed, the song of one was heard and with some tricks we could get it to fly over the road. Meanwhile, a Little Owl was singing, the final bird of our winter break.

Saturday 2nd February

Some of us did a little pre-breakfast birding at the beach below our hotel (e.g., watching a flock of flamingos migrating north) before we left for the airport at 09:00 and said goodbye to our excellent driver, Mohammed.

Arnoud van den Berg

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED

(total of 118 species recorded by the group)

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*

On 27/1, two singles were seen along the main road north of Cap Rhir. In the late afternoon that day, three were flushed at Alma above Agadir. Two were seen at Oued Massa on 29/1.

On 1/2, five were flushed at a fossil shop on the road to Immouzer.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

On 27/1, a pair was present at the Tamri river mouth.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

On 28/1, a male flew out of the golf course pool of Oued Souss. On 29/1, four were seen in the Massa river.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

On 26/1 and 18/1, upto five were swimming at the golf course pool of Oued Souss.

Teal *Anas crecca*

On 29/1, two were seen at a distance at Oued Massa.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

On 31/1, a total of 30 was seen in the Massa river.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

On 28/1, at sea c. 4 km off Agadir, on two occasions two swimming individuals were photographed.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

On 28/1, a total of at least 10 were photographed 4 km off Agadir; these included a flock of three dark-morph individuals flying together.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

On 28/1, at sea from 100 m to c. 4 km off Agadir, one or more individuals could be seen from our boat most of the time, with a maximum of ten together. The total number of birds must have been over 100, with some being surprisingly close to the harbour piers.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

On 26/1, five were present at the golf course pool of Oued Souss. On 31/1, five were noted at Oued Massa.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

At Oued Souss mouth, up to 35 were present on 26/1 and 28/1, including four adults. On 2/2, a flock was seen by Stuart flying north over the coast at our hotel.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

At Oued Souss mouth, a flock of 80 was roosting on 26/1 and 200 on 28/1. South of Goulimime, 28 were roosting on pylons in the late afternoon of 30/1.

Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*

On 27/1, we had excellent views of a flock of eight foraging along the road south of Tamri.

One flew over the mouth of Tamri river.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

On 31/1, a total of 175 was seen at the Massa river.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

At Oued Souss mouth, up to eight were present on 26/1 and 28/1.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Surprisingly scarce with only two seen on 31/1. A year earlier, it was an abundant bird with 100s seen on most days.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Common and seen on every day except at Goulimime, with more than 100 at Oued Souss on 26/1 and 28/1, and a handful at Tamri on 27/1.

Great White Egret *Casmerodius albus*

Singles were photographed at Oued Souss on 28/1 and at Oued Massa on 29/1.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Common and seen on every day except 30/1 (Goulimime), with more than 40 at Oued Souss.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Numerous off Tamri on 27/1. At sea off Agadir on 28/1, more than ten were noted.

Interestingly, all were adults or subadults.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

This subspecies was more common than the *lucidus/maroccanus* subspecies combined with up to 100 at Oued Souss, 20 at Tamri on 27/1, a handful at Agadir on 28/1, and a few at Oued Massa.

White-breasted & White-necked Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus & maroccanus*

Noted on every day except 30/1 and 1/2, with up to ten at Oued Souss, four at Tamri and four at Oued Massa.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common and up to 10 were seen on every day.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

On 30/1, a juvenile perched on a pylon south of Goulimime was seen at a large distance.

It may have been a hybrid as an adult Barbary Falcon was present in the same area.

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*

In the late afternoon of 29/1, we had excellent views of an adult flying to roost into a pylon next to the road between Goulimime and Fask. A large falcon seen on a pylon south of Goulimime on 30/1 was first thought to be a Lanner, but upon close inspection it too appeared to be an adult Barbary.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One bird was eating a large fish on a high pylon at Oued Souss, both on 26/1 and 28/1.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

On 31/1, one was perched in a tree next to the Tassila road of Oued Massa.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

In the late afternoon of 30/1, when we stopped south of Goulimime to look at a perched Atlas Long-legged Buzzard, a huge flock of 200 Black Kites took off. Apparently, the birds had just landed in the open fields to roost for the evening and were still a bit nervous. They flew on quite a distance to the northwest, presenting an impressive sight.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

On 26/1 and 28/1, a female-type was seen at Oued Souss.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

On 28/1, one flew over the broken bridge of Oued Souss.

Atlas Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus cirtensis*

Both on 30/1 and 31/1, at least five were seen in the Goulimime area.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

On 31/1, we noted more than 10 Oued Massa.

Coot *Fulica atra*

On 27/1, six were swimming at the Tamri mouth. On 29/1, three were seen on the sea side of Oued Massa and on 31/1 more than 50 were present a bit further inland at Oued Massa.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oediacnemus*

In the late afternoon of 26/1, four flew overhead at Oued Souss, and the species was heard here on 28/1. On 31/1, six were flushed from the roadside south of Goulimime.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

On 26/1 and 28/1, four were present at Oued Souss.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

On 27/1, one flew over the Tamri beach.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

On 28/1, a flock of at least eight was foraging and later flying past at the broken bridge on the Oued Souss.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

On 27/1, at least 10 were seen at the Tamri river mouth.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Singles were seen at Oued Souss on 26/1 and at Oued Massa on 29/1.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Two present at Oued Souss both on 26/1 and 28/1, and five were seen at Oued Massa on 31/1.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Singles were found at Oued Souss on 26/1 and 28/1.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Up to five were present at Oued Souss on 26/1 and 28/1. One was foraging at Tamri on 27/1.

Up to two were found at Oued Massa on 29/1 and 31/1.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

At Oued Souss, an adult was seen on 26/1 and three adults on 28/1.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Numerous at Oued Souss on 26/1 and 28/1 (more than 100) and several were seen at Oued Massa mouth on 29/1.

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

On 26/1, one was found in a mixed gull flock roosting at Oued Souss. On 27/1, along the main road north from Agadir we had a flock of 36 (mostly adults) at Taghazoute and more than 200 at the Tamri river mouth.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

On 26/1 and 28/1, no less than 25 were roosting at Oued Souss, all first-winters except for one second-winter. On 29/1, we found one at the Oued Massa mouth.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Numerous; 10s seen every day except 30/1 (Goulimime); also in the hotel's swimming pool.

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

Abundant, especially on the beaches between Agadir and Tamri, and at Oued Souss. Recorded every day except 30/1 (Goulimime). Also in the hotel's swimming pool!

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

On 26/1, five were roosting at Oued Souss. On 28/1, one flew along the Agadir harbour.

On 29/1, two were seen at the Oued Massa mouth.

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

On 30/1, we enjoyed a wonderful early morning performance by a total of 35 birds flying in from the desert and landing at irrigated fields near Asrir; 10 birds were seen up close.

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Noted on all days.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Common at Agadir, Oued Souss, Oued Massa.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Numerous and seen on every day, in every settlement.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

On 29/1 and 31/1, common at Oued Massa, with at least 10 seen. On 30/1, one was found at Asrir.

Maghreb Tawny Owl *Strix (aluco) mauritanica*

On 1/2, one showing exceptionally well at midday, roosting in a pine tree at Immouzer.

Desert Little Owl *Athene (noctua) glaux*

On 29/1, three were found along the road to the Oued Massa mouth. In the late afternoon of 1/2, one was calling on the pass between Alma and Agadir.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

In the late afternoons of 27/1, 28/1 and 29/1, a flock of up to 20 was calling above the Oasis hotel in Agadir. On 31/1, a flock was foraging at Tassila, Oued Massa.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

On 29/1, one was seen, giving full views while singing, near the Oued Massa mouth; a few others were heard.

(Balearic) Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator badius*

Singing at Oued Massa.

Desert Grey Shrike *Lanius elegans algeriensis/elegans*

The first was found in the late afternoon of 26/1 at the broken bridge of Oued Souss. Along the road from Agadir to Tamri, we had a total of more than 10. Near Goulimime, we found six on 29/1 and 30/1. On 31/1, between Goulimime and Massa, we also counted more than 10 along the road.

(Moroccan) Jay *Garrulus glandarius minor*

On 1/2, at Immouzer, we watched two scolding the Tawny Owl and we photographed one at a water tap.

Moroccan Magpie *Pica (pica) mauritanica*

Common around Agadir (including Oued Souss and Oued Massa) and seen on every day except 30/1 (Goulimime).

Great Tit *Parus major*

Noted on two days: at lunch near Tamri on 27/1 and in Anti Atlas on 29/1.

African (Ultramarine) Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus*

On 1/2, we heard many and watched two during lunch at Immouzer.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola mauritanica*

On 31/1, two together and a single one were foraging above Oued Massa.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

On 27/1, two were flying back and forth at our lunch restaurant near Tamri.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Numerous and seen on all days, with maxima of at least 30 at Goulimime.

Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis*

On 29/1, a few were present in the fields of Asrir, near Goulimime.

Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*

On 30/1, two were seen near Asrir in the morning and two in our 'lark field' along the TanTan road south of Goulimime.

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*

On 30/1, two and one were seen along the road from Goulimime to Fask.

Thick-billed Lark *Ramphocoris clotbey*

On 30/1, three pairs were seen in our 'lark field' along the TanTan road south of Goulimime.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

On 30/1, up to 20 were found in our 'lark field' along the TanTan road south of Goulimime.

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*

On 30/1, two were found in our 'lark field' along the TanTan road south of Goulimime.

Temminck's Horned Lark *Eremophila bilopha*

On 30/1, three pairs were found in our 'lark field' along the TanTan road south of Goulimime.

[Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

In the late afternoon on 26/1, we identified three birds at the broken bridge of Oued Souss as Crested Lark; in a second visit on 28/1 we found Thekla Larks here, which casts doubts on our first identification.]

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

Numerous and seen on every day in all areas.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Numerous and seen (and heard) on every day in all gardens.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Singing at Oued Souss and Oued Massa, where the species was numerous. Only one was noted at Tamri river and none was found at Goulimime (30/1) or in the Immouzer hills (1/2).

Streaked Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta*

One of the highlights of the tour. We followed closely a foraging family of six (!) for a long time at Asrir on 30/1.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Heard at Oued Massa on 29/1 and 31/1 (when one was seen as well).

(Moroccan) Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus cf*

On 31/1, one was calling, not singing, at the Tassila bridge, Oued Massa.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Numerous and seen on every day in all areas (except on 30/1 in Goulimime area).

[Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*

On 26/1, at Oued Souss, one was tentatively identified as an Iberian Chiffchaff because of its colours and longish wings.]

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

On 29/1, five were seen on a walk into the Anti Atlas along the road between Agadir and Goulimime.

Tristram's Warbler *Sylvia deserticola*

On the morning of 1/2, one was singing on the road to Immouzer, and seen by most of us.

In the late afternoon that day, another was singing along the road from Alma down to Agadir, giving a few glimpses when flying between bushes.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

On 29/1, two were seen (and calling) along the road to the Oued Massa mouth.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Numerous and seen on every day, despite its skulking habits, in all areas.

Fulvous Babbler *Turdoides fulva*

On 30/1, a group of five was found at Asrir.

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

Numerous and flocks were seen on every day.

(Moroccan) Blackbird *Turdus merula mauritanicus*

Common to numerous and seen on every day.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

On 27/1, one was heard in scrub along the road from Agadir to Tamri.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*

On 26/1, a male was perched on the wall of the golf course at Oued Souss. On 29/1, one was seen in the Anti Atlas. On 1/2, we had views of at least a female and a male on the road to Immouzer.

Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*

On 27/1, 10+ were seen along the road from Agadir to Tamri and at our lunch restaurant near Tamri. The species was common at Oued Massa on 29/1 and 31/1, with more than 10, and along the road through the Anti Atlas on 29/1 and 31/1 (more than 10). In the Goulimime desert, single birds were found. It was also common along the road to Immouzer on 1/2.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Common and seen every day in every area, with more than 10 on 27/1.

Red-rumped Wheatear *Oenanthe moesta*

Common in the Goulimime desert on 30/1 and 31/1.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Singles were found on 29/1 (Massa), 30/1 (Fask road) and 31/1 (TanTan road).

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

In the late afternoon of 29/1, our first one was a male along the road to Fask. The species was regular in the Goulimime area on 30/1 (five) and 31/1 (two).

White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*

In the Goulimime area, one was seen in the afternoon of 29/1, six were found on 30/1 and two in the morning of 31/1.

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*

On 27/1, twice a pair was seen at the Tamri area, also at the lunch restaurant. On 29/1, towards Goulimime, we had a pair in the Anti Atlas and a pair along the Fask road.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

On 27/1, we had two females, one perched on a building at the lunch restaurant near Tamri.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common to numerous and seen on every day in all suitable areas.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Common and seen on most days (except 26/1 and 28/1 at Oued Souss, and not along the road to Immouzer on 1/2). Most numerous, being present in large flocks, to the east and south of Goulimime on 30/1 and 31/1.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

On 1/2, a total of 10 was seen along the road to Immouzer.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Abundant and seen on every day in all areas.

Moroccan Wagtail *Motacilla (alba) subpersonata*

On 27/1, we found one along the road near Tamri.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A handful seen at Oued Souss on 26/1 and 28/1. On 1/2, we flushed two along the road to Immouzer.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs coelebs*

On 26/1, at least one was heard at Oued Souss.

"North African" Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs africana*

Numerous and seen on every day except 30/1 (Goulimime).

Serin *Serinus serinus*

Common and seen on every day except 30/1 (Goulimime).

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris voousi*

Heard and flying past on most days except 30/1 (Goulimime); only one seen perched, along the Immouzer road on 1/2.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

On 1/2, one was seen (perched) and several heard at Immouzer.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis parva*

Common and heard on most days except on 26/1 and 28/1 (Oued Souss) and 30/1 (Goulimime); a flock of six was found at the northern edge of Goulimime on 29/1.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Heard on most days; on 29/1, five were seen at Oued Massa mouth and two in Anti Atlas.

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*

In the late afternoon of 29/1, two were found along the road between Goulimime and Fask.

On 30/1, eight were present in our 'lark field' along the TanTan road.

(Moroccan) Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra poliogyna*

On 1/2, more than 50 were sunning, drinking and sunning in the pine woods at Immouzer.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

On 30/1, several flocks were foraging at the Asrir fields.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

On 1/2, one was first calling and then flying overhead at Paradise Valley along the Immouzer road.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirrus*

On 29/1, a male was well seen at a garden along the Anti Atlas road to Goulimime. On 1/2, one was present at Immouzer.

House Bunting *Emberiza (striolata) sahari*

Numerous and seen on every day in suitable habitat, including hotels and lunch stops.

MAMMALS

Barbary Ground Squirrel *Atlantoxerus getulus*

Common in suitable habitat (rocks) and seen on three days: 29/1 six at the Anti Atlas pass and near Goulimime; 31/1 six in the Anti Atlas; and 1/2 three along the Immouzer road.

Fat Sand Rat *Psammomys obesus*

On 30/1 and 31/1, singles were seen near Goulimime.

REPTILES

Spanish Turtle *Mauremys leprosa*

Common at Oued Massa on 31/1.

Changeable Agama *Trapelus mutabilis*

One was noted on 29/1.