

# Northern Morocco Trip Report

21.03.2009 – 28.03.2009



Av **Éric Roualet**.

For andre gang Marokko har blitt reisemål og første tur for NoF Travel i siste uke av mars. Til sammen 12 personer deltok på turen, inkludert reiselederne. Vi fløy direkte fra Gardermoen til Marrakech, transport i Marokko ble fullført med minibuss. Totalt ble det observert 165 fuglearter på turen. Gode tilbakemeldinger ga inntrykket at turen var vellykket.



*Gruppen ved Tinerhir, 23 mars 2009, Foto: Eli Sørensen*

## **Deltagerliste**

Trond Høvde

Eli Sørensen

Thomas Grønn

Ole Kristian Skimmeland

Karl Reinert Hetland

Sidsel Persdatter Hetland

Anne Kolstad

Ulf Michaelsen

Inger Berggren

Morten Brandsnes

Atle Helge Qvale (reiseleder)

Eric Roualet (reiseleder)

## **Lørdag 21. mars**

Avreise fra Oslo om formiddagen og ankomst i Marrakech om ettermiddagen, hvor vår lokal sjåfør, Ali ventet på oss. Transport til vårt hotell Sherazade inn i Medina. Praktiske gjøremåler og diverse behøve fra deltagerne ga muligheten å stopp underveis, hvor en rekke arter ble observert, bla: **småseiler**, **ravinespurv**, **hagebylbyl** . Ali droppet oss midt i Medina, med avtale å hente oss dagen etter. Vi ruslet gjennom trange gater i Medina for å nå hotellet. Seinere ble det avslapping og servert tradisjonell marokkansk middag .

## **Søndag 22.mars**

Vi møtet opp Ali, frokost ble kjøp i et bakeri før starten. Mange i bussen nyttet ferske bakkevarer mens vi kjørte ut fra Marrakech mot Oukaïmeden i den vestlig høy Atlas. Underveis fant vi en **berberspett** hann og vår første **diademrødstjert**.

Området ligger ca 2600 moh. med snø og ski anlegg ga oss mulighet å finne typisk arter som finnes her: **fjellerke**, **steinspurv**, **Seebohm's steinskvett**, **alpekråke**, **alpekaie**, **klippespurv**. Vi leitet etter rosenvingefink som var forventet å se her, men vi ikke fikk øye på arten, muligens at det var alt for mye folk der oppe den søndagen. Transport etappen brakt oss fra de grønne og frodige dallene i høy Atlas til neste hotellet Le Soleil Bleu i Boumalnes du Dadès via Tzini-n-Tichka passet, der ble det observert **dvergørn**, **svartsteinskvetter**. I Ouarzazatte hovedbyen i Dadès-Draa dalen hadde vi en kort pause, vår første **hvitkronesteinskvett**, **krattvarlser** og **ørkenlerke** ble også sett her.

## **Mandag 23. mars**

Tagdilt track steinete ørken i Sharo er berømt for sine representative ørkenarter og trekkfugler. Nordøstlig vind var ikke hjelpsom for å finne fugler, dessuten opplevde vi militær øvelser midt i sletten. Uansett arter vi bommet på, vi hadde fått med oss, **ørnvåk**, **svartglente**, **mørkehalelerke**, et par **ørkenlerke**, **hornlerke**, **krattoplerke**, **dverglerke**, **ørkensteinskvett**, **maskesanger**. På veien til Tinerhir, sjekket vi lokaliteten til **sørgesteinskvett**, minst 3 hann og 1hunn. Til lunch besøkt vi Todra gorges (kløftene) som var verdt å se. En route til Midelt via Er-Rachidia i den østlig delen av høy Atlas, fant vi to **blåkinnbieter**, og **hvitkronesteinskvett** underveis

## **Tirsdag 24.mars**

Fra Midelt til Zeida i høy Moulouya prøvde vi på dette området kjent for nattlerke, seint leiting eller feil sted ført til at det ble ikke observert lerken, området var bra med **flekkdverglerke**, **bebersteinskvett**, **markpiplerke**, **vannrikse**. Videre nordover mot innsjøene regionen, brukt vi tid å undersøke flere lokaliteter, bla. en midlertidig innsjø ved Âit Kemouss, der hadde vi **flamingo**, **rustand**, og en annen **sørgesteinskvett**. Ankomst i ettermiddagen ved Dayet Ifer , i området fikk vi sett : **slangørn**, **enghauk**, Dayet Aoua innsjøen ved overnatting sted ga oss de

første **knoppsothøne**, **rødtoppfuglenkonge** og en **kirkeugle** stod godvillig for de mest entusiastiske fotografer.



*Temporary lake at Âit Kemouss Foto: Éric Roualet*

### **Onsdag 25.mars**

Vi besøkt to av disse fuglerike innsjøer, store mengder av ender rastende her, **svarthalsdykker**, **rustand**, **taffeland**, **snadderand**, **skjeand**, **svartglente**, **ørnvåk** for å nevne noe arter. Vi dro i skogen og ruslet langs skogsbilveier for å få med oss bla. **berberhøne** som ble skremt opp ved kanten av veien, noen **rødstrupesanger** ble også notert, **kortkløtrekryper** med andre skogsarter. Videre bussen brakt oss innom Ifrane, deretter mot Meknes neste etappe, langs veien ble det oppdaget en koloni med **rødfalker**, fotostoppen var neste nødvendig, og opplevelsen var stort for mange. Rødfalker hadde vi også noen ved Meknes, mens vi kjørt forbi byen. Dessuten nord for byen fant vi noen **alperseiler** som hekker i området. Resten av dagen ble det transport til Moulay Boussehalm. Ankomst på stedet litt før kl.18.00, da bestemt oss å prøve å se **gressuglen** før det ble mørkt. En time seinere ble vi ledet av vår lokale guider for å vise oss uglen, på veien hadde vi en flott **svartvingeglente**. Spenning var høy for de fleste deltagerne, da gikk gressuglen opp fra gresset, lå foran oss, deretter fløy den og stå på en stubbe. Det var allerede mørkt da vi forlatte området med fornøyde fuglekikkerer i bussen.

### **Torsdag 26. mars**

Arrangert båttur i Merja Zerda , ble litt forsinket pga. tjukk tåke som lå i hele området. Vi tok ganske god tid til frokost før vi ble guidet i Merja Khala, frodige strøk av sjøen med et rike mangfold. Noen vadere ble observert der og her, mest **tundraløer**, **hvitbryslø**, Atle oppdaget den første **brakksvale** som var nydelig ankommet i Marokko.



*Inn i Merja Zerda, Foto: Inger Berggren*

Seinere var båtturen i gang med første stopp på en sandbank hvor rastet her **middelhavsmåker**, **sildemåke** (*graellsii*) og noen **splitterner**. Vi ble droppet på små øyer midt i Merja Zerda, her i fjæren beskuet vi mange vadere, terner og mer, det ble notert **steinvender**, **polarsnipe**, **sandløper**, **myrsnipe**, **gluttsnipe**, **lappspove**, **rovterne**, **svartterne**, **gulerle**, **sivhauk**, **skjestork**...

Vi forlatt Merja Zerda med gode miner av stedet. Ali frakt oss sørover mot Temera, via en annen fuglelokalitet. På veien hadde lunch på en restaurant, hvor vi nyttet velsmakende spidd og marokkansk salsa. Der ble det litt fuglekikking også, vi fikk med oss minste 4 hanner av **rødstrupesanger** i buskene rundt stedet og noen **armusvaler** på trekk. Sjøen Sidi Bourhaba ga oss **dvergdykker**, **taffeland**, flere **rodhodeand**, noen **hvitøyeand**, **vendehals** singende, flere **sivhauker**, Ole fant de mest forventet ender man kan se her, ikke minst 6 **marmorand**! Blant de små fugler hadde vi **sørnattergal**, **turteldue**, og **sivsanger**. Avslutning av dagen rundt middags bordet med gode mat og vin!

### **Fredag 27. mars**

Zaër området er skogskledd åser med åpent kulturlandskap, regionen er kjent for **hvitbrynnfrankolin**. Gruppen spredt seg i eikeskogen, det ble i hvert fall sett frankolin av noen deltagerne, men for de fleste den ble kun hørt. Andre arter som **kjernebiter**, **svartkronesjagra**, **eikesanger**, **trelerke**, **svartglente**, **dvergørn** og **berberhøne**. Jeg kan nevne også at vår jeger fant villsvin i bushen! Resten av dagen ble det transport etappe til Marrakech, underveis hadde vi pauser til lunch og fuglekikking. Om kvelden ble det middag og spasing på Djemal Efna plassen.

## **Lørdag 28. mars**

Vi prøvde å kjøre opp til Oukaïmeden for å få med oss rosenvingefinken, været var i hvert fall ikke med oss, kraftige regnskyll skapt ras på veien, vi måtte snu og avlyse turen. I stedet for besøkt vi Majorelle hagene i Marrakech. Visning, shopping og fuglekikking var en avslappende kombinasjon for gruppen. Der vi fant hekking av **mauresanger**. Før avreise mot flyplassen gruppen fikk som lunch den nasjonal marokkansk rett "couscous" på plassen.

## **Artsliste**

### **1- *Tadorna ferruginea* Ruddy Shelduck, Rustand**

First seen 30 inds at a temporary lake km 17, Âit Kemouss, later 4 other birds on a small temporary puddle after Boulemale on 24.

At the region of the lakes, 2 birds at Dayet Ifrah on 25.

### **2- *Anas strepera* Gadwall, Snadderand**

At the region of the lakes a pair at Dayet Aoua on 24.

At least 20 birds at Dayet Ifrah on 25.

### **3- *Anas platyrhynchos* Mallard, Stokkand**

3 males at the temporary lake km 17, Âit Kemouss on 24.

Common around the region of the lakes with some counts:

over 20 males at Dayet Aoua on 24 , 20 ex. at Dayet Ifrah and 10 ex. at Dayet Hachaf on 25.

Only 3 birds at Merja Zerga, ca 10 birds at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

At the Royal hunting reserve 6 birds were seen flying over on 27.

### **4- *Anas clypeata* Shoveler, Skjeand**

An approximate count of 200 birds at Dayet Ifrah and 20 birds at Dayet Hachaf on 25.

Ca 10 birds at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

### **5- *Marmaronetta angustirostris* Marbled Teal, Marmorand**

Around 6 birds at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

### **6- *Netta rufina* Red-crested Pochard, Rødhodeand**

Ca 100 birds at Sidi Bourhaba lake, as well a pair with 10 juveniles were seen on 26.

### **7- *Aythya ferina* Pochard, Taffeland**

Around 16 birds at the temporary lake , Âit Kemouss on 24.

50 birds at Dayet Ifrah on 25.

100 ind.at Sidi Bourhaba lake, a female with 8 chicks was also noted on 26.



8- *Aythya nyroca* **Ferruginous Duck, Hvitøyeand**

Sidi Bourhaba lake was the only place, we found this species, 4 males and 2 females on 26.

9- *Alectoris chukar* **Chukar, Beberhøne**

2 birds flushed near Dayet Ifer on 24.

4 birds seen at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya on 27.

10- *Francolinus bicalcaratus* **Double-spurred Francolin, Hvitbrynfrancolin**

Most heard than seen at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya, a total of 5 birds was present on this place on 27.

11- *Coturnix coturnix* **Quail, Vaktel**

A singing bird heard along the road R 203 to Tahanaoute north from Marrakech on 28.

12- *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **Little Grebe, Dvergdykker**

A probable pair, one singing on the small pool before Zeida on 24.

One singing bird at Dayet Ifrah on 25 and 2 at Dayet Hachaf on 25.

More than 10 birds seen at Sidi Bourhaba lake, a pair was seen feeding two almost fullfledged chick on 26.

13- *Podiceps cristatus* **Great Crested Grebe, Toppdykker**

One at the temporary lake Âit Kemouss on 24.

30 ex. at Dayet Aoua on 24.

One at Dayet Ifrah, 6 birds at Dayet Hachaf on 25.

10 birds at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

14- *Podiceps nigricollis* **Black-necked Grebe, Svarthalsdykker**

Only recorded at the region of the lakes, with 20 birds Dayet Ifrah, 10 birds at Dayet Hachaf on 25.

15- *Phalacrocorax carbo* **Cormorant, Storskarv**

25 birds at Merja Zerga, 20 birds gathering at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

16- *Bubulcus ibis* **Cattle Egret, Kuhegre**

Fairly common, several thousand birds seen during the trip.

At Midelt about 200 birds were noted in two different colony on 24.

more than 50 birds at Dayet Aoua on 24. Widespread in the north from Meknes to Moulay Boussehalm, also along the coast to Rabat.

17- *Egretta garzetta* **Little Egret, Silkehegre**

Only recorded around Moulay, with 20 birds at Merja Zerga on 25 and 26.

18- *Ardea alba* **Great White Egret, Egretthegre**

Merja Zerda was also the best place to see this species, 5 birds on 25, 2 on 26.

19- *Ardea cinerea* **Grey Heron, Gråhegre**

10 birds at Merja Zerga on the 26. 3 birds at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

20- *Ciconia ciconia* **White Stork, Stork**

Common, 8 birds seen at Marrakech on 23, 5 couples recorded at Midelt town near Hotel Elayachi, two at Dayet Aoua on 24. Several birds seen in the north from Meknes to Moulay Boussehalm. 80 birds on migration on 26 at Moulay.

21- *Platalea leucorodia* **Spoonbill, Skjestork**

13 on migration at Merja Zerga on 25, 5 on migration on 26 at the same place.  
33 birds seen leading north at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

22- *Phoenicopterus roseus* **Greater Flamingo, Flamingo**

First seeing with 3 inds. at the temporary lake, Âit Kemouss on 24.  
More than 100 birds present at Merja Zerga, a single bird at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

23- *Elanus caeruleus* **Black-winged Kite, Svartvingeglente**

Recorded near Dayet Ifer on 24.  
3 birds seen north to Merja Zerda around Moullay Boussehalm on 25.

24- *Milvus migrans* **Black Kite, Svartglente**

On migration at Tagdilt track with 5 birds on 23.  
Commoner in the region a of the lakes, 2 birds at Dayet Ifrah, 1 at Dayet Hachaf, a total of 6 birds counted before Ifrane on 25.  
5 birds at Merja Zerda and at least 8 birds at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.  
A pair with vocal emission at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya, 1 bird near Sidi Ben Slimen on 27.

26- *Circaetus gallicus* **Short-toed Eagle, Slangeørn**

Between 4-5 birds near Dayet Ifer on 24, only one at the same place on 25, 2 other birds around Ifrane the same day.

27- *Circus aeruginosus* **Marsh Harrier, Sivhauk**

A male recorded in the cultivated fields just after Meknes (road 413) on 25.  
A second male with 6 other birds (most female or immature) seen at Merza Zerda, 6 birds recorded at least 3 different males (one 2 cy, one 3 cy possibly breeding and 1 adult, the other probably female or 2 cy ) at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.  
An additional male was seen in cultivated fields around Sidi Ben Slimen (road 404) on 27.  
One seen along the road to Oukaïmeden on 28.

28- *Circus pygargus* **Montagu's Harrier, Enghauk**

A couple seen hunting at Tagdilt track on 23.  
A female seen in fields at the region of the lakes (road 503) on 24, one female seen after Ifrane ( road 707) on 25.  
One seen north east to Merja Zerda on 26.  
A 2 cy female seen along the road R 203 to Tahanaoute north from Marrakech on 28.

29- *Accipiter nisus* **Sparrowhawk, Spurvehauk**

First seen before Dayet Aoua, adult female 3 cy hunting on 24.  
A 2 cy female seen hunting at Merja Khala on 26.

One female adult along the road R 203 to Tahanaoute north from Marrakech on 28.

30- *Buteo rufinus* **Long-legged Buzzard, Ørnvåk**

Two records at Tagdilt track , two other birds seen between Boumalne du Dadès and Tinerhir on 23. 3 records at the region of the lakes on 24 and 25.

One observed at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya on 27.

31- *Aquila pennata* **Booted Eagle, Dvergørn**

A light morph bird seen at Tzini-n- Tichka on the 23.

A couple, a light and a dark morph birds observed in a cliff near the temporary lake km 17, Âit Kemouss on 24, displaying flight was noted her.

At least 5 birds at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya on 27.

32- *Falco naumanni* **Lesser Kestrel, Rødfalk**

A small colony found along the road 707 after Ifrane, ca 30 birds at their breeding site, a small farm (picture), mating was noted her. Some birds was seen also over the city of El-Hajeb. Around 20 birds seen at Souk-El- Arba du Rharb on 25.

8 birds recorded at Mediouna south east from Cassablanca on 27.

33- *Falco tinnunculus* **Kestrel, Tårnfalk**

The commonest raptor seen daily, with between 2-3 birds each days, around 10 birds seen from Ifrane to Moulay Boussehalm on 24 and 25, often seen in couple, mating noted at Marrakech on 22, at Zeida on 24.

34- *Rallus aquaticus* **Water Rail, Vannrikse**

A bird heard at the small pool near Zeida on 24.

35- *Gallinula chloropus* **Moorhen, Sivhøne**

4 birds, 2 couples at the small pool near Zeida on 24.

2 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.

4 ind. at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

36- *Fulica atra* **Coot, Sothøne**

ca 100 birds at the Hassan-Addakhil Dam near Er-Rachidia on 23.

4 birds at the small pool near Zeida, one bird at the temporary lake, Âit Kemouss. At the region of the lake, less numerous than crested coot, with 2 birds at Dayet Aoua on 24, and 2 birds at Dayet Ifrah on 25.

Five birds at Merja Zerda, 10 ind. at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

37- *Fulica cristata* **Crested Coot, Knoppsothøne**

Five pairs at Dayet Aoua on 24.

More frequent at Dayet Ifrah with more than 50 ex.on 25.

20 ind. at Sidi Bourhaba lake, an adult with 3 young birds were noted on 26.

38- *Himantopus himantopus* **Black-winged Stilt, Stylteløper**

First seen, one bird at the temporary lake, Âit Kemouss, 4 birds present at Dayet Aoua on 24.

4 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.



39- *Glareola pratincola* **Collared Pratincole, Brakksvale**  
Only one record at Merja Khala on 26.

40- *Charadrius dubius* **Little Ringed Plover, Dverglo**  
4 birds seen at the temporary lake, Âit Kemouss on 24.  
5 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.  
One birds found along a small river near Ben-Slimane on 27.

41- *Charadrius hiaticula* **Ringed Plover, Sandlo**  
Two birds seen at Dayet Ifrah on 25.  
20 at Merja Zerda on 26.

42- *Charadrius alexandrinus* **Kentish Plover, Hvitbryslø**  
At least 30 birds at Merja Khala on 26.

43- *Pluvialis apricaria* **Golden Plover, Heilo**  
5 birds found among Grey plover at Merja Zerda on 26.

44- *Pluvialis squatarola* **Grey Plover, Tundralo**  
Numerous at Merja Zerda, with 150 birds on 26.

45- *Vanellus vanellus* **Lapwing, Vipe**  
5 birds at Merja Khala on 26.

46- *Calidris canutus* **Knot, Polarsnipe**  
50 birds, at Merja Zerda on 26.

47- *Calidris alba* **Sanderling, Sandløper**  
30 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.

48- *Calidris alpina* **Dunlin, Myrsnipe**  
30 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.

49- *Gallinago gallinago* **Snipe, Enkeltbekkasin**  
4 birds in the marshes north for Merja Khala on 26.

50- *Limosa lapponica* **Bar-tailed Godwit, Lappspove**  
One at Merja Zerda on 26.

51- *Numenius arquata* **Curlew, Storspove**  
10 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.

52- *Tringa nebularia* **Greenshank, Gluttsnipe**  
100 birds approximately counted Merja Zerda, one heard on migration at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26. One bird with colors rings was noted,

**Colors code was:** bird seen in front on the left foot one green ring, on the right foot one yellow ring and one blue bellow the yellow.

53- *Tringa ochropus* **Green Sandpiper, Skogsnipe**

3 ex resting along the shore of Dayet Aoua on 24.

One at Dayet Ifrah on 25.

2 birds in the marshes north for Merja Khala on 26.

54- *Tringa glareola* **Wood Sandpiper, Grønnstilk**

Birds heard on migration on the morning along the coast at Moulay Boussehalm on 26.

55- *Actitis hypoleucos* **Common Sandpiper, Strandsnipe**

One at the Moulay harbor at Merja Zerda on 26.

56- *Arenaria interpres* **Turnstone, Steinvender**

ca 100 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.

57- *Larus ridibundus* **Black-headed Gull, Hettemåke**

30 birds at Merja Zerda . More than 200 birds present in the Oued Sebou on 26.

58- *Larus genei* **Slender-billed Gull, Smallnebbmåke**

2 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.

59- *Larus audouinii* **Audouin's Gull, Middelhavsmåke**

100 birds at the resting site along the channel near Moulay on 26.

60- *Larus fuscus* **Lesser Black-backed Gull, Sildemåke**

100 birds at Merja Zerda . Several at Oued Sebou on 26.

61- *Larus michahellis* **Yellow-legged Gull, Gulbeinmåke**

Common along the coast.

62- *Sterna nilotica* **Gull-billed Tern, Sandterne**

10 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.

63- *Sterna caspia* **Caspian Tern, Rovterne**

2 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.

64- *Sterna sandvicensis* **Sandwich Tern, Splitterne**

30 birds at Merja Zerda on 26.

65- *Chlidonias niger* **Black Tern, Svarterne**

A 2 cy found at Merja Zerda on 26.

66- *Pterocles ssp*, **Sandgrouse, Sandhøns**

A group with 10 birds in flight seen from the bus before Amerzgane on 23.

67- *Columba livia domestica* **Feral pigeon, Bydue**  
Common.

68- *Columba livia* **Rock Dove, Klippedue**  
50 birds seen at the Todra gorges on 23.  
Breeding birds seen in the cliff near the temporary lake, Âit Kemouss on 24.

69- *Columba palumbus* **Woodpigeon, Ringdue**  
5 to 6 birds seen in Marrakech, 5 birds at Tizi-n-Tichka pass on 22.  
2 birds, one singer at Dayet Ifrah on 25.  
Noted at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya on 27.  
3 birds at Majorelle gardens on 28.

70- *Streptopelia decaocto* **Collared Dove, Tyrkerdue**  
Seen daily, except at the region of the lake. Mating observed at Marrakech on 22. Birds building nest noted at Moulay on 26.

71- *Streptopelia turtur* **Turtle Dove, Turteldue**  
First seen with 3 birds before Moulay on 25.  
A singer observed at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.  
One bird noted at Sidi Ben Slimen on 27.

72- *Streptopelia senegalensis* **Laughing Dove, Palmedue**  
2 birds at Amerzgane on 23.  
2 birds seen at Imiter on 23.

73- *Cuculus canorus* **Cuckoo, Gjøk**  
Only one record, a singing bird heard near Dayet Ifer on 25.  
Sound recording shows an unusual song than the European bird *canorus* have, this bird could belong to the ssp *bangsi*.

74- *Athene noctua* **Little Owl, Kirkeugle**  
One discovered near Le Gite Dayet Aoua on 24, song recorded at night (22:00), also early on the next day (06:00) . A browner bird seen Merja Khala on 26.  
An another record near Ben-Slimane on 27.

75- *Asio capensis* **Marsh Owl, Gressugle**  
Help from the guards of the reserve was useful to localize the owl. The restricted small area near the channel in the south west of Merja Zerda, seems to be the lasted remains habitats for this species. One bird seen at dusk on 25.  
Personal communication indicate that 5 birds still present in this area.

**Marsh Owl at dusk, Merja Zerda**  
**Videograb: Éric Roualet**



76- *Apus melba* **Alpine Swift, Apleseiler**

Recorded at Boufakrane with 4-6 birds, seen also after Meknes with 2 birds on 25.

77- *Apus apus* **Swift, Tårnseiler**

Seen almost daily, several hundred birds seen at Marrakech on 21 and 22. 10 birds noted at Ouarzazatte, one bird at Boumalne du Dadès, and an other one at Todra gorges on 23. 10 at Merza Jerda on 26. Several birds near Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

78- *Apus pallidus* **Pallid Swift, Gråseiler**

Recorded also at Marrakech, with around 100 birds on 21.

Some birds noted at Ouarzazatte on 23.

10 birds noted at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

79- *Apus affinis* **Little Swift, Småseiler**

3 birds at Marrakech airport, 10 birds at Marrakech on 21.

3 to 4 birds at Djemal Efna place on 28.

80- *Merops persicus* **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Blåkinnbierter**

Two birds seen along the road to Er-Rachidia on 23.

81- *Merops apiaster* **Bee-eater, Bieter**

Mostly heard than seen, several hundred perhaps more on migration from 21 to 28 march.

6 birds at Marrakech on 21. 20 on migration at Marrakech heading north west on 22.

50 on migration at Marrakech on 28.

82- *Upupa epops* **Hoopoe, Hærfugl**

One seen near Zeida, another at Boulemale on 24.

5 records in the Zaër region on 27, song also noted Sidi Ben Slimen on 27.

83- *Jynx torquilla* **Wryneck, Vendehals**

A singing bird heard at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

84 *Picus vaillantii* **Levaillant's Green Woodpecker, Berberspett**

A male singing and showing well at Aghbalou on the Oukaïmeden road on 22.

85- *Dendrocopos major* **Great Spotted Woodpecker, Flaggspett**

A bird seen in the city of Zeida on 24.

One heard near Dayet Ifer on 24.

Bird heard at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya on 27.

86- *Ammomanes cinctura* **Bar-tailed Desert Lark, Mørkehalelerke**

2 birds at Tagdilt track on 23.

2 records near Zeida on 24.

87- *Ammomanes deserti* **Desert Lark, Ørkenlerke**

A bird seen near Ouarzazatte on 22.

A pair observed at Tagdilt track, an another pair found at km 26 Tinerhir, one also found at Todra gorges on 23.

88- *Calandrella brachydactyla* **Short-toed Lark, Dverglerke**

30 birds found at Tagdilt track on 23, two different plumage was studied on some birds, some had a very pale plumage.

4 birds at Zeida on 24.

One bird found near the road R 203 to Tahanaoute north from Marrakech on 28.

89- *Calandrella rufescens* **Lesser Short-toed Lark, Flekkdverglerke**

Seems to be common near Zeida, 10 birds were noted here on 24.



*Lesser Short-toed Lark, near Zeida Foto: Morten Brandsnes*

90- *Galerida cristata* **Crested Lark, Topplerke**

Common, seen daily.

Recorded in the fields between Dr-Caid-Ouriki and Âit-Ourir on 22.

Noted at Boulôjoul with 2 singing birds on 24.

Noted between Ifrane and Meknes with several singer on 25.

Noted at Moulay Boussehalm and Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

Observed in the Zaër region on 27.



91- *Galerida theklae* **Thekla Lark, Krattopplerke**

10 birds at Tagdilt track on 23.

10 birds seen from the bus between Boumalne du Dadès and Er-Rachidia.

10 birds near Zeida, one near the temporary, Âit Kemouss on 24.

2-3 singer in the rocky plain north to Marrakech (road R 203 to Tahanaoute) on 28.



*Krattopplerke, Foto: Eli Sørensen*

92- *Lullula arborea* **Woodlark, Trelerke**

2 singing birds heard at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya on 27.

93- *Alauda arvensis* **Skylark, Sanglerke**

A bird seen in displaying flight before Âit-Ourir on 22.

2 singing birds in the fields at Merja Khala on 26.

94- *Eremophila alpestris* **Shore Lark, Fjellerke**

Around 15 birds present at Oukaïmeden, song noted on 22.

4 birds near Zeida on 24.

95- *Eremophila bilopha* **Temminck's Horned Lark, Hornlerke**

8 birds seen at Tagdilt track, nest with 3 young (aged ca. 5 days) on 23.

5 birds near Zeida on 24.

96- *Riparia riparia* **Sand Martin, Sandsvale**

One seen near Zeida on 24.

97- *Ptyognoprogne rupestris* **Crag Martin, Klippesvale**

2 birds at Tizi-n-Tichka pass on 22.  
Ca 30 birds at the Todra gorges on 23.  
5 birds at the cliff the temporary, Âit Kemouss on 24.  
5 birds on Oukaïmeden road on 28.

98- *Hirundo rustica* **Swallow, Lâvesvale**

10 ex. at the Marrakech airport on 21.  
5 inds. in the fields between Dr-Caid-Ouriki and Âit-Ourir on 22.  
10 birds on migration at tagdilt track .Migration noted at Tinerhir with 25 birds heading north east on 23. 15 birds near Zeida on 24.  
3 birds near Moulay, several on migration heading north near Kenitra, 5 ex. at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26. Noted at at Ben-Slimane on 27.  
10 bird sin cultivated fields north to Marrakech (road R 203 to Tahanaoute) on 28.

99- *Delichon urbicum* **House Martin, Taksvale**

5 birds after Aghbalou village on the Oukaïmeden road on 22.  
One at Zeida town on 24.  
5 birds at Boufakrane town on 25.  
3 birds at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.  
At least 10 birds on breeding site at Ben-Slimane on 27.

100- *Cecropis daurica* **Red-rumped Swallow, Armursvale**

First seen after Aghbalou village on the Oukaïmeden road, an another one before Âit-Ourir on 22. Noted on migration with 5 birds near Kenitra on 26.  
1 to 2 inds. at Ben-Slimane on 27.

101- *Anthus campestris* **Tawny Pipit, Markpiplerke**

Only found at the plains south to Zeida with 3 birds on 24.

102- *Anthus trivialis* **Tree Pipit, Trepiplerke**

2 birds heard at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya on 27.

103- *Anthus pratensis* **Meadow Pipit, Heipiplerke**

One noted at Oukaïmeden on 22.  
Second record, one ex. at Dayet Aoua on 24.  
At least 20 birds on migration at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.  
Noted on migration at the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya on 27.

104- *Motacilla flava* **Yellow Wagtail, Gulerle**

One on migration at Tagdilt track on 23.  
2 to 3 birds *ssp iberiae* at Dayet Ifrah, 3 ex. resting on a small puddle near Moulay on 25.  
10 birds observed at Merja Zerda, most *iberiae* recorded. One at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.  
On the 28 at Marrakech, seen and heard on migration, birds heading NNE with SW wind, 7 birds recorded from 05.30 to 06.05, including *ssp thunbergi* (2) and *iberiae* (5).



105- *Motacilla cinerea* **Grey Wagtail, Vintererle**

Two pair noted at Todra gorges on 23.

One seen along a stream on the Oukaïmeden road on 28.

106- *Motacilla alba* **White Wagtail, Linerle**

Few records for this species, one in Marrakech on 21.

2 ex. at Moulay Boussehalm on 25.

3 ex. at Merja Zerda, one at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

One along the Oukaïmeden road on 28.

107- *Pycnonotus barbatus* **Common Bulbul, Hagebylbyl**

Fairly common, seen daily.

108- *Troglodytes troglodytes* **Wren, Gjerdesmett**

2 inds. heard on the Oukaïmeden road on 22.

2 singing birds at Dayet Ifrah on 25.

109- *Erithacus rubecula* **Robin, Rødstrupe**

3 ex. noted at Dayet Hachaf, several heard at the region of the lake on 24-25.

3 birds heard at Merja Khala on 26.

110- *Luscinia megarhynchos* **Nightingale, Sørnattergale**

First 2 birds only heard Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

At least 3 singer the Royal hunting reserve Sidi Yaya, one near Ben-Slimane on 27.

111- *Phoenicurus ochruros* **Black Redstart, Svartrødstjert**

More than 10 birds seen at Oukaïmeden, most males, but a few females were also seen on 22.

One at the Todra gorges on 23.

One male on the riff near Zeida on 24.

112- *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* **Redstart, Rødstjert**

One male at Tagdilt track, an another male at Todra gorges on 23.

113- *Phoenicurus moussieri* **Moussier's Redstart, Diademrødstjert**

10 birds seen during the trip to Oukaïmeden on 22.

3 males at Tagdilt track on 23. 4 ex. the plains south to Zeida on 24.

114- *Saxicola torquatus* **European Stonechat, Svartstrupe**

Two males seen in favorable habitat along the Oukaïmeden road on 22.

115- *Oenanthe oenanthe* **Wheatear, Steinskvett**

10 ex. at Tagdilt track on 23. At the region of lake, around 10 birds were noted, particularly around Dayet Ifrah, where a breeding pair was noted at nest site in a small rocky house on 25.

116- *Oenanthe (oenanthe) seebohmi* **Seebohm's Wheatear**

2 males seen at Oukaïmeden on 22.

117-*Oenanthe hispanica* **Western Black-eared Wheatear, Midelhavssteinskvet**

2 males of the pale throat morph at Tagdilt track on 23, around 6 males at Zeida on 24. Last seen a male near Ben-Slimane on 27.

118- *Oenanthe deserti* **Desert Wheatear, Ørkensteinskvet**

15 birds most males at Tagdilt, one seen before Er-Rachidia on 23. Common south to Zeida, 10 males notes on 24.

119- *Oenanthe moesta* **Red-rumped Wheatear, Berbersteinskvet**

Expected to be common at Tagdilt, we found only one male, two other male seen en route to Er-Rachidia on 23. At Zeida, 8 singing males, were noted, in addition a pair at nest was found on 24.



*High Atlas near Zeida. Foto: Inger Berggren*

120- *Oenanthe (lugens) halophila* **Western Mourning Wheatear, Sørgesteinskvet**

At km 26 near Tinerhir, 2 to 3 males and a female was present at this characteristic site for this species on 23. 2 other birds were seen on 24, one male before Zeida, an another male just after the temporary lake at Âit Kemouss.

121- *Oenanthe leucopyga* **White-crowned Black Wheatear, Hvitkronesteinskveitt**

First found at Ouarzazatte on 22, 2 other records after Tinerhir on 23.

122- *Oenanthe leucura* **Black Wheatear, Svartsteinskveitt**

On the Tizi-n-Tichka road, with 5 birds, a pair recorded before Ouarzazatte on 22. 5 birds noted between Boulmanes du Dadès and Tinerhir, seen at the Todra gorges on 23. Seems to be common north to Er-Rachidia to Zeida on 24. One found at Dayet Ifrah on 25.

123- *Monticola solitarius* **Blue Rock Thrush, Blåtrost**

2 birds and a couple at Oukaïmeden on 22. 2 males at Todra gorges on 23.

124- *Turdus merula* **Blackbird, Svarttrost**

5 in Marrakech on 21, More than 10 birds along the road to Oukaïmeden on 22. 5 birds at Todra gorges on 23. Noted at Zeida town on 24. Common at the region of the lake on 25, noted at Merja Zerda and Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26. Noted at the Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27.

125- *Turdus philomelos* **Song Thrush, Måltrost**

Only heard, one at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26. At least 3 birds at the Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27.

126 *Turdus viscivorus* **Mistle Thrush, Duetrost**

2 singing bird at Oukaïmeden on 22. Common at the region of the lake, 10 birds heard on 24 and 25. Noted at the Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27. One singing on the Oukaïmeden road on 28.

127 *Cettia cetti* **Cetti's Warbler, Cettisanger**

First heard at Todra gorges on 23. No records at Merja Zerda on 25 and 26! At least 10 singing ind. around Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26. Some birds singing in favorable habitat along the road to Tahamaoute, one singer at Majorelle gardens on 28.

128- *Cisticola juncidis* **Fan-tailed Warbler, Cistussanger**

Fairly common at Merja Khala, high density of singer on 100 m (6 birds were counted). Some birds noted Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26. Also noted in cultivated fields near Sidi Ben Slimen on 27. Noted singing birds in favorable habitat along the road to Tahamaoute on 28.

129- *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* **Sedge Warbler, Sivsanger**

At the small pool near Zeida, two birds have been heard on 24. These birds were noted as Reed warbler, but sounds records showing Sedge warbler calls. On 26 at Sidi Bourhaba lake, subsong was noted.

130- *Hippolais opaca* **Western Olivaceous Warbler, Mauresanger**

Breeding confirmed at Majorelle gardens on 28, male singing on the nest relayed by the female incubating.





***Western Olivaceous Warbler. Majorelle gardens***  
**Foto: Morten Brandsnes**



131- *Sylvia atricapilla* **Blackcap, Munk**

One bird calling at Todra gorges on 23.  
 One singing at Meknes , a male seen at Moulay Boussehalm on 25. Some singer along the road to Tahamaoute and Oukaïmeden on 28.

132- *Sylvia communis* **Whitethroat, Tornsanger**

One seen at Merza Djerda on 26.

133- *Sylvia conspicillata* **Spectacled Warbler, Maskesanger**

Only one record a male at Tagdilgt track on 23.

134- *Sylvia cantillans* **Subalpine Warbler, Rødstrupesanger**

First heard singing near Dayet Ifer on 24. 2 other birds heard at the same place on 25. Near Kenitra on 26, 4 birds, all males seen together in bushes near the coast. One singer at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

135- *Sylvia melanocephala* **Sardinian Warbler, Svarthodesanger**

2 ind. heard at Moulay Boussehalm on 25. Commoner along the coast from Kenitra to Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26. 2-3 birds noted at the Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27.

136- *Phylloscopus bonelli* **Bonelli's Warbler, Eikesanger**

The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27, produced several birds calling and singing, at least more than 30 birds recorded there.

137- *Phylloscopus trochilus* **Willow Warbler, Løvsanger**

First seen at Merja Khala on 26. Several birds on migration, noted in small group, gathering with 3-4 birds, total estimated more than 50 birds at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27

138- *Regulus ignicapilla* **Firecrest, Rødtoppfuglenkonge**

4 birds seen near Dayet Aoua on 24. Birds seen and heard singing near Dayet Ifer on 25.

139- *Periparus ater* **Coal Tit, Svartmeis**  
4-5 birds noted near Dayet Ifer on 25.

140- *Cyanistes teneriffae* **Maghrebian Tit, Kalottmeis**  
2 birds seen at at Tzini-n- Tichka on 22. Near Zeida at the smalls dams, 5 birds were noted , 5 inds. noted near Dayet Ifer on 24. Recorded at Merja Zerda and Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26. 2-3 birds noted The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27. 3 birds noted along the road to Tahamaoute and Oukaïmeden on 28.

141- *Parus major* **Great Tit, Kjöttmeis**  
Noted on the road to Oukaïmeden on 22. One singing in Midelt town on 24  
5 birds at Dayet Ifer on 24 and 25. Observed at Merja Zerda and one singing heard at Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26. Common, some singer at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27.

142- *Certhia brachydactyla* **Short-toed Treecreeper, Kortklotrekryper**  
The region of the lake, also near Ifrane was the best place to see this species, 5 birds observed on the road near Dayet Ifrah on 25.

143- *Tchagra senegalus* **Black-crowned Tchagra,**  
Only one record, a singing bird at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27.

144- *Lanius meridionalis* **Southern Grey Shrike, Krattvarsler**  
Fairly common in particular from Marrakech toward east to Er-Rachidia, 2 birds seen from the airport to Marrakech on 21. 3 records between Dr-Caïd-Ouriki to Âit-Ourir, 2 other seen before Ouarzazatte on 22. One at Tagdilt track from Boumalnes du Dadès to Er-Rachidia 20 birds were noted, from the bus 11 birds were counted on 50 km from Goulmina to Er-rachidia on 23. One seen north from Zeida on 24.

*Southern Grey Shrike, Tagdilt track 23 march 2009 Foto: Éric Roualet*



145- *Lanius senator* **Woodchat Shrike, Rødhodevarlser**

First seen en route to Oukaïmeden, 3 birds noted from Dr-Caïd-Ouriki to Boumalne du Dadès on 22. 2 inds at Tagdilt, 2 from Tinerhir to Er-Rachidia on 23. 2 birds at Merja Zerda on 25. Seems to be commoner in Zaër region, 10 birds were observed on 27. 2 inds noted at Asni valley on 28.

146- *Garrulus glandarius* **Jay, Nøtteskrike**

At the region of the lake, 3-4 birds seen near Dayet Ifrah on 25.  
2 ex. seen at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27.

147- *Pica pica* **Eurasian Magpie, Skjære**

One record en route to Oukaïmeden, also two birds before Ouarzazatte on 22.  
The area around Sidi Bourhaba lake, produced several birds, at least 10 ex.  
Nest noted in low scrub on 26. 4 birds present at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27. 2 inds at Asni valley on 28.

148- *Pyrrhonorax graculus* **Alpine Chough, Alpekaie**

Oukaïmeden was the best area to see alpine chough, more than 100 birds noted on 22.

149- *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax* **Chough, Alpekåke**

As alpine chough, 30 inds noted at Oukaïmeden on 22.

150- *Corvus monedula* **Jackdaw, Kaie**

5 ex. observed at El- Hajeb on 25.  
50 birds observed and heard north from Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26.

151- *Corvus corax* **Raven, Ravn**

Five noted at Oukaïmeden. One bird seen at Tzini-n- Tichka on 22.  
50 inds. observed north to Boulemale on 24.  
4 ex. noted at Dayet Ifrah on 25.  
One seen west to Sidi ben Slimen on 27.

152- *Sturnus unicolor* **Spotless Starling, Middelhavstær**

Common in towns and villages, noted at Marrakech on 22, 30 breeding bird at Dayet Aoua on 24, observed at Ifrane, and 20 birds at the lesser kestrel colony on 25.  
Recorded at Merja Zerda, Sidi Bourhaba lake on 26, and Zaër area on 27.

153- *Passer domesticus* **House Sparrow, Gråspurv**

Common, a colony with 15 birds found at the smalls pools near Zeida, Nest in tree, like Spanish sparrow. Males building nest were noted on 24.  
Night roost with more than 50 birds at Gite Dayet Aoua on 25.

154- *Petronia petronia* **Rock Sparrow, Steinspurv**

At Oukaïmeden, 30 birds seen, pair building nest was also noted on 22.  
Around 10 birds noted in cultivated fields with stony patches at Boulôjou on 24.  
2 inds at Dayet Ifrah, 4 at Dayet Aoua on 25.

155- *Fringilla coelebs* **Chaffinch, Bokfink**

Fairly common, in particular in the region of the lake. Also noted on the Oukaïmeden and Asni road, at Moulay, at Sidi Bourhaba lake and at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër.

156- *Serinus serinus* **Serin, Gulirisk**

Common, observed daily.

157- *Chloris chloris* **Greenfinch, Grønnfink**

Few records

8 birds 10 km before Er-Rachidia on 23.

5 inds. at Boulemale on 24.

2 at Dayet Aoua on 24.

5 at Moulay on 26.

2-3 ex at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27

One at Majorelle garden on 28.

158- *Carduelis carduelis* **Goldfinch, Stillits**

Common, but not numerous, noted

4 birds at Tzini-n- Tichka on 22.

2 at Tagdilt track , max, 16 birds at Tinerhir and Gorges du Todra on 23.

5 ex at Boulemale on 24.

2 birds at Dayet Ifrah, 2 at Ifrane on 25.

noted at Moulay on 25-26.

5 birds at Sidi Bourhaba lake 26.

2 birds at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27.

One at Majorelle gardens on 28.

159- *Carduelis cannabina* **Linnet Tornirisk**

Fairly common at the pools near Zeida, at least 25 birds were present here on 24.

2 birds at Dayet Ifrah on 25.

2 at Moulay, 3 Sidi Bourhaba lake at on 26.

4 at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27.

160- *Loxia curvirostra* **Crossbill, Grankorsnebb**

Only recorded at the region of the lake, with 2-3 birds near Dayet Ifrah on 25.

161- *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* **Hawfinch, Kjernebiter**

2 heard at The Royal hunting reserve Zaër on 27.

162- *Emberiza cirrus* **Cirl Bunting, Hekkspurv**

Recorded singing at the Marrakech airport on 21.

One male singing observed at Tahamaoute on 28.

163- *Emberiza cia* **Rock Bunting, Klippspurv**

4 birds and a couple at Oukaïmeden on 22.



164- *Emberiza sahari* **House Bunting, Ravinespurv**

Common, daily observed, a female incubating at the hotel on 21, several singer at Marrakech on 22. 6 birds, with male collecting herbs to the nest at Tagdilt track on 23.

Noted at the Todra Gorges. 2 birds at Dayet Aoua gite on 25.

165- *Emberiza calandra* **Corn Bunting, Kornspurv**

One recorded at the pools near Zeida, 3 singer at Boulôjoul on 24. Common with 10 singing males at Merja Zerda and Moulay, 2 singer at Sidi Bourhaba lake at on 26. Several singing birds in the Zaër region on 27. Recorded at Asni valley on 28.

**Unconfirmed records**

*Tyto alba* **Barn Owl, Tårnugle**

At dawn at 05.45 on 22, two birds were seen entering in the tower of the Koutoubia Mosquée. No feral pigeon were seen during this time.

*Scotocerca inquieta* **Scrub Warbler, Krattsanger**

A small bird similar to scrub warbler was briefly observed at Tagdilt track on 23.



*Spotted Fringe-fingered Lizard (Acanthodactylus maculatus)* Foto: Éric Roualet