

Morocco: Birding & Nature Species List | April 1 – 15, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**With clients Ron, Erica, Pat, John, Richard, Celia, Anne, Michael, and Patty,
and host Rick Weiman and local guide Victor Porras**

Our Naturalist Journeys tour to Morocco was a combination of rich birdlife, dramatic landscapes, cultural insights and tours, and delicious food choices. Tajines anyone? On our first full day we explored Marrakech's famous Medina and Souk with a local cultural guide. Subsequent days took us on a journey across the highest pass in the High Atlas Mountains, and 3 days birding the breathtaking Sahara Desert in 4x4 vehicles, tallying species like Egyptian Nightjar, Greater Hoopoe-Lark, and Crowned and Spotted Sandgrouse.

Some other tour highlights were experiencing the varied habitats of the High Atlas Mountains, from lush green vegetation to sparse steep slopes. We traveled up to Oukaïmeden, a ski resort in the High Atlas Mountains, in search of high mountain species like Atlas Wheatear and Crimson-winged Finch. This year had the most rain in the Sahara Desert region in the past 10 years so ponds and reservoirs were filled with water loving species like Pied Avocets, Greater Flamingoes, and Black-necked Stilts. We visited the geologic wonder of Gorges du Dades, a stunning, deep-sided valley, and explored the coastal town of Agadir and the Oued Souss Massa National Park and its two rivers filled with Eurasian Spoonbills, and many species of shorebirds, gulls, and terns.

The species report eBird link is below and details the 158 species of birds our group either observed or heard during the main tour.

[Morocco: Birding & Nature | April 1-15, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

If you're new to eBird, be sure to click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the list as this will expand the report to show you where and when all of the birds were seen and how many.

The following is a list of additional mammal and reptile species we were also lucky enough to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS (3):

Fat Sand Rat *Psammomys obesus*— Only the slightest glimpse for most.

Barbary Ground Squirrel *Atlantoxerus getulus*— Seen several times in rocky areas on the tour.

Dromedary Camel *Camelus dromedarius*— We came across multiple herds of wandering camels in the Sahara, perhaps some were wild or their owners were nowhere to be found.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5):

Greek Tortoise *Testudo graeca*— One was wandering around an outdoor restaurant and walked across Pat's shoe.

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa*— One was seen basking at the Al Mansour Reservoir.

Bibron's Agama *Agama impalearis*—It was seen hiding under a small ledge during our Falcon Nest escarpment wadi area excursion.

Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizard *Uromastix nigriventris*—During the tour we misidentified this lizard as an agama. It was seen basking in the Flacon Nest escarpment wadi area.

Margarita's Fringe-fingered Lizard *Acanthodactylus margaritae*—Spotted on a rock wall near a rest stop by the Gorges du Dades.