

Morocco

With Naturalist Journeys



Guides Peg Abbott, Peter Jones, and local expert Brahim Mezane with 11 participants:
Andrew, Jaye, Liz, Zosia, Joseph, Bruce, Patti, Steve, Lise, Cathy, and Erica

Annotated Species List and eBird Trip List compiled by: Peg Abbott

Summary:

Our group was overjoyed to be traveling again after delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In Morocco at last we feasted on scrumptious local foods, incredible scenery, a rich sense of culture and history and beautiful birds. Highlights were seeing three species of sandgrouse including the beautiful Pin-tailed, Cream-colored Coursers with chicks, nesting Lanner Falcon, sorting out endemic and near-endemic larks, wheatears, and sparrows, watching electric-colored bee-eaters and rollers, finding Levillant's Woodpecker, and learning so much from Peter about the wheatear taxonomy - 7 species, wow! This is a brilliant tour for those that love to frame their bird-finding with beauty.

Morocco is part of the Maghreb eco-region, countries of Northwest Africa tied together by the Atlas Mountains. There are a number of important subspecies and specialties for this region so rich in history and culture. Nothing like birding below the kasbah where they filmed "Game of Thrones"! The mix of species is wonderful, favorites being Hoopoe Lark, Egyptian Nightjar, Cream-colored Courser and Pharaoh Eagle Owl. Our dates are great to feature migrant as well as resident species. This year we logged 134 species, plus several important subspecies, and many were new to all in our group. Our future tours should show more species as we are adding a few more days to this already amazing route, to feature coastal habitats and the endangered Northern Bald Ibis, one of the world's rarest species, cliffside roost areas at Agadir. Also, severe drought was occurring in 2022 and there were no lagoons in the desert area to explore, with rains they add a number of waterbird species.

Find a map of our route and details on species here:

eBird Trip List: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/60028>

Annotated List:

BIRDS (134 species in 44 families)

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (2)

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*— (1) One individual seen in the scopes, feeding along the shore of the large reservoir near Ouarzazate.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*— (1) Two individuals seen swimming along the windswept lakeshore at the large reservoir near Ourzazate.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*— (2) One individual was seen well from the bus along the road to Zagora in an agricultural area on the 16th, and then they were seen again as we purposefully walked the rock-walled edge of fallow fields in lower elevations - after we crossed the high pass on the 21st. We spotted them as pairs and they would take abrupt flight, so views were quick.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*— (1) Two individuals looked like little corks out on the windswept reservoir we stopped at, seen in the scopes below us.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*— (1) One larger and elegant individual was in a bit less-windy cove of the large reservoir outside of Ouarzazate.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (5)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*— (10) Common, seen daily

Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus*— (6) Seen at close range in the gardens of our hotel, one of the first species spotted in Morocco. We saw them in lush habitats, mostly around human settlements.

European Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia turtur*— (7) Good views on our hotel grounds in Marrakesh, at some of the other riads with gardens and near Ouarzazate.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*— (10) Very common, seen in travel and around our hotels.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*— (5) Seen in some of the stops in agricultural areas.

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae (3)

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*— (1) Just one individual, a wonderful surprise among the more abundant Spotted and Crowned at a small waterhole that we went to our first day in the Sahara.

Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus*— (1) A highlight of the trip was a stop at a waterhole where we had time to watch them fly in, then march in lines toward the water. They drank, dipped their breast feathers to take water back to nests, then were gone, with the next shift right behind them. Wonderful!

Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus*— (1) Mixed in with the Spotted, about equal in number, males and females of both species present.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (1)

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*— (2) Our first views were at a roadside stop as we left Marrakesh - we got this lone bird in the scope. Later in the trip Steve pointed out one in flight, its long wings impressive.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*— (1) We found this species with the help of a local gentleman dedicated to their nesting success. A herder, he keeps his eye on adults and chicks and was able to show us both. We had two chicks each hiding under shade, and an adult that had flown and came back in - as she landed, we got good views of this bird out on the open sand.

SWIFTS: Apodidae (4)

Common Swift *Apus apus*— (8) This species was common around Marrakesh often in flocks with other swifts. We also saw them over some of the larger river crossings.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*— (7) Best seen from our hotel in Marrakesh.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*— (3) First two were seen from our hotel among the far more numerous Pallid, they were then seen less frequently but in large numbers when we encountered them.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*— (1) This sub-Saharan species extends north into Morocco and Spain and we saw a group working the palms outside of the plazas we toured on our cultural walk in Marrakech.

RAILS, CRAKES AND ALLIES: Rallidae (2)

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*— (1) One individual seen from a long bridge where water flowed along lush bank vegetation.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*— (1) A small group was present on the high elevation lake we passed going to the Oukaimeden ski area of the Atlas Mountains.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*— (1) Two were seen along a river crossing stop we made after we crossed the Atlas Mountains on the 15th.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (4)

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*— (1) Three individuals were with a group of shorebirds we scoped at a distance, on a small strip of land at the edge of a bay at the reservoir near Ouarzazate.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*— (1) With no water in the desert this year, the dam near Ouarzazate proved to be an important stop for shorebirds, one Dunlin was in the group that we scoped.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*— (2) Seen at the water crossing stop we made along a river as we descended the Atlas Mountains our long travel day. They were also at the reservoir near Ouarzazate.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*— (2) Best seen at the river crossing as we descended from the Atlas Mountains. We had two quite close to the bridge.

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae (1)

Cream-colored Courser *Cursorius cursor*— (3) One of the highlight species of the trip for several of the group, our favorite sighting was a pair that had small chicks. We were in vehicles and they were alert, wanting to move the wee fledglings. We left them in peace but were happy to find them. Our first sighting was one of the initial walks we did in a shrubby area of the Sahara Desert, at a distance. We also encountered this elegant desert bird in the stony desert we found so many Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizards in.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*— (1) Seen from our first vantage point at the stop at the reservoir at Ouarzazate, two individuals stood out among the more numerous Whiskered. We then saw them flying along the shoreline from our second vantage point.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*— (1) A group of twenty or so huddled along the shore at the reservoir at Ouarzazate, trying to rest in the fierce wind.

STORKS: Ciconiidae (1)

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*— (7) Quite common on our travel days, we often saw their active nests on tall towers and mosque towers in the towns as we'd travel.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*— (1) Three individuals bucked the waves on the reservoir by Ouarzazate.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (4)

Great Egret *Ardea alba*— (1) We watched five fishing the waters at the inlet of the river to the reservoir at Ouarzazate, in amongst reed grasses.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*— (4) We saw this species mostly as lone birds on travel days, but near the end of our trip as we descended the Atlas Mountains and leveled out in the lowlands there was a large roost of over 50 birds.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*— (6) Seen mainly in travel around livestock, one or two at a time. Several were in breeding plumage.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*— (1) One lone individual was seen along the river we stopped at on the 15th as we descended the Atlas Mountains. We watched in in vegetation getting good views and then got a view in flight.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*— (1) Seen in flight over the river and going towards the multi-colored hills as we stood on a long bridge on one of the stops that we made to break up our long travel day the 15th.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*— (1) Peg called this species out as others were scanning shorebirds. A lone individual flew low to the water, likely due to high winds on the reservoir at Ouarzazate.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (8)

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*— (1) We saw one individual, hovering and putting on a good show, as we traveled.

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*— (1) Peter was very excited to spot four of this species, first of the year migrants returning, across the windswept waters of the reservoir near Ouarzazate. The hawks were following a ridge and plateau across the valley.

Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*— (2) We saw one or two at a time, on three days of the trip. Two together circling, courting on the wing, on the 22nd were memorable.

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*— (5) We had our first views from the hotel garden, then again from there as we walked around the following day ahead of our city tour. We had them in a very different setting as we crossed Tizi-n-Tichka pass coming back over the Atlas Mountains.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*— (1) We got great views of this species circling above the hills at the dramatic Gorge de Dades, at the upper narrows where we turned around.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*— (1) We enjoyed watching this species course over the dunes as we explored by four-wheel drive vehicles in the Sahara.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*— (2) We first spotted one of these in the distance as we walked around the dump at Boulmane, by the time we left we'd seen five. We found them again later in the trip above the Ounila Valley.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*— (4) One of the more widespread raptors we saw, several of the sightings were in travel.

OWLS: Strigidae (2)

Pharaoh Eagle-Owl *Bubo ascalaphus*— (1) Brahim searched hard to find us this species but we got good views in the scope. Its rugged canyon held several raptors including the Lanner Falcon and was a place of great beauty and a feeling of wild terrain.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*— (2) Our first view was of two individuals on a mound in the lowlands, a roadside stop as we descended the Atlas Mountains. The following day we had one at higher elevation on a walk we took in

HOOPOES: Upupidae (1)

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*— (4) This was one of the most-hoped for species of the trip and we had success. We had a couple of fly-bys on travel stops, a good look at one that crossed a bridge we were standing on and then finally, Andrew, who we then named as our hoopoe-whisperer, found one as he wandered after a garden lunch and ran back to get us. We got photo and had really good views.

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae (2)

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*— (3) This beautiful species was first encountered on one of our many roadside stops, but it posed well for us. Not at all common, we were pleased to find them.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*— (8) This species was literally pouring through, we saw flights of a dozen or more, sometimes 50+ at a time. Some views were fast and, on the move, but we also found groups trying to settle in for the night, showing us their colors in restless landings. From Riad Tahamaoute we found them perched on utility wires as we drove down the hill – finally getting some good photos at close range.

ROLLERS: Coraciidae (1)

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*— (2) As Bruce summed at during our trip highlights, he liked the dramatic ones! This turquoise dynamo was first seen in the scope as it perched against riverine vegetation at some distance from one of our travel stops. Peter spied one on a wire as we descended the Atlas Mountains and with gusto our driver stopped – our best views of the trip.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (1)

Levaillant's Woodpecker *Picus vaillantii*— (1) This was a species we just had to see and luckily it was where Peter and Brahim expected it to be, along a river with lush vegetation. One individual, we got good views and heard several vocalizations.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*— (10) Perhaps the most common raptor encountered across a wide range of habitats, including on in the city our first day.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*— (1) A magnificent raptor, we were so fortunate to see a nest, with chicks, and both adults coming and going. Spectacular to hear and see them!

Peregrine (Barbery) Falcon *Falco peregrinus*— (1) One individual, seen perched high on cliffs below the high elevation dam near the Oukaimeden ski area, as we were heading back to the city. Our views were distant but unmistakable, an impressive bird.

SHRIKES: Laniidae (3)

Great Gray Shrike *Lanius excubitor*— (2) Seen on the route to the ski area coming and going.

Iberian Gray Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* — (1) One seen well as we ventured off to cross the Atlas Mountains on our first full day. We watched it hunt as it flew towards us, and noted the pinkish breast. A nice find.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*— (6) A beautiful and fairly common bird along our route.

CROWS AND JAY: Corvidae (5)

Maghreb Magpie *Pica mauritanica*— (1) We had great looks at this species, a small group showing off their long tails and flashy patterns as we made our way through shrub habitat before the climb up and over the Atlas Mountains.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*— (1) Numerous up at the ski area at Oukaimeden.

Yellow-billed Chough *Pyrhocorax graculus*— (1) Fun to watch, also at the ski area.

Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis*— (3) We had good views while in the dunes of the Sahara Desert.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*— (2) Seen in the mountains, best views at a roadside rest where we saw a number of garden species in trees surrounding our lunch spot.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (3)

Coal Tit *Pariparus ater*— (1) Peg found two of this vocal species in a little wooded glen near the lunch stop coming back over the Atlas Mountains; several of the group got to see them.

African Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae*— (4) Very confiding, we had good views in trees of the garden of one of our hotels, and we'd pick them up in pockets of trees, often around residential areas or roadside stops we'd make in travel.

Great Tit *Parus major*— (4) We got best views in the yard of a building at the start of our walk from the ski area, but also at a couple of lunch stops, they seemed to like human settlement, including out buildings of rural farms.

LARKS: Alaudidae (9+1)

Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*— (2) One of our favorite birds, we had two desert days of watching them at various stops, calling atop shrubs, and launching themselves skyward for display. A group favorite.

Thick-billed Lark *Ramphocoris clotbey*— (1) Our memorable visit to the landfill on Joseph and Zosia's anniversary held a number of notable species, with super views of this very local species.

Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*— (1) We had views of them when in the Sahara, we met with the local "nightjar whisperer" who shared his love of the desert and a number of species.

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*— (7) A common and lovely small species

(Atlas) Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*— (1) We looked hard for this species and got superlative views, walking under high mountains all around, up a lovely, lonely valley. They were close and we could study their patterns.

Temminck's Lark *Eremophila bilopha*— (1) Very good views at the landfill, their feeding among the refuse helped us spot them as they jumped atop tires and various colored bottles. Whatever seeds drifted in there they liked, and we appreciated good scope views.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*— (3) We first encountered this species in dunes of the Sahara, then again at the landfill, locally named the Decharge de Boumalne.

Thekla's Lark *Galerida theklae*— (6) One of the most distinct and widespread of the larks, we had them close to the vehicle, in our scopes and often heard their lovely call.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*— (2) Seen very well on the rock wall of a field as we were searching for Barbary Partridge. Distinct and vocal.

Maghreb Lark *Galerida macrorhyncha*— (4) We had good views at what eBird still considers a subspecies of Crested Lark, with Peter going over all important identification marks.

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (4)

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*— (3) First seen in the garden of our Marrakech hotel, then a few other roadside sightings.

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*— (4) Also first seen, and heard, on the grounds of our Marrakech hotel, then again in vegetated areas of the Draa Valley and at the hotel at the edge of the dunes.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*— (3) We had several occasions to search out this singing warbler, and with good fortune we got it to tee up for decent views.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*— (1) Chattering and visible, from the bridge we spent quite some time scanning from on our first full day, near Alhen.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (5)

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*— (1) Seen just one location, the reservoir at Ouarzazate.

Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*— (6) Best views were at the gorges where they dipped and angled past the picturesque cliffs.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*— (8) Widespread, nice to see a familiar species! On 16 of our eBird checklists.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*— (3) Best views were on the day we stopped to find a pair of Tristram's Warbler, walking out to a viewpoint lined by shrubs. Several were flying in this area of small farms.

Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum*— (5) Widespread.

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae (1)

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*— (7) The song of this species often woke us at dawn and continued through much of the day. Present in many of the vegetated areas.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae (3)

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*— (3) Best views were near our hotels, so we had time to study them, watch them feed and take in all characteristics.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*— (4) Seen at our hotel in Marrakech, seen on the very windy day at the reservoir at Ouarzazate, and then at a couple of stops in green areas of the Draa Valley.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*— (4) We had a good chance to sort this one out, fairly widespread.

BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae (1)

Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta*— (1) We will all remember circling around this elusive species, we found a pair and watched them march around the base of shrubs with their long tails cocked up, then start signing from the tops of shrubs. One of the memorable finds of the trip.

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae (7)

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*— (2) As several of our group were shopping for lotions and potions at a local cooperative in the Valley of the Roses, our birders found a nice spot for birds along a streamside. We had them at two different stops in this valley with good views.

Western Orphean Warbler *Curruca hortensis*— (1) With a beady eye and dark cap, we were able to find this skulker at a stop where Peter knew they frequented, a nice stop on a travel day.

African Desert Warbler *Curruca deserti*— (1) Brahim found a nest of this elusive species so we were able to take a peek and watch the adult come and go.

Tristram's Warbler *Curruca deserticola*— (2) We worked for this species but found them at two locations, one a side-ravine to the beautiful gorge we drove up, and the other a travel day stop where we walked an open area of views and just the right size shrubs. Great views.

Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala*— (2) A few of the group found this species at our hotel in Marrakech, but best views were on the day we returned from the Oukaimeden ski area and stopped by rock-walled fields to search for Barbary Partridge. We found a good number of species, heard this one calling and followed it to a perched view in the scope, nice!

Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae*— (1) Quick views, mainly Andrew and Peter, at a high-elevation roadside stop, working its way up a small ravine.

Spectacled Warbler *Curruca conspicillata*— (2) Seen well, first in the dunes area we walked through shrub habitat in, and later at a high elevation open area we found our first Moussier's Redstart at.

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: Leiothrichidae (1)

Fulvous Chatterer *Argya fulva*— (2) Social and vocal, both sightings were on roadside stops where we'd walk out to take in the fabulous views and find whatever we could. We enjoyed their antics and coloration.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae (1)

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*— (1) Peg spied this species in the rushing stream below the dam as we left the ski area, our grand finale view of a pair – nice!

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*— (6) Common and widespread.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*— (2) We had good views on our walks in the Atlas Mountains, notable was one in the garden of a home at the edge of the ski area.

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*— (10) Common and widespread.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (18)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*— (3) First seen at a spot we walked around some abandoned farm buildings with a lovely mountain view in site as we climbed the Atlas Mountains. We had them in Dades Valley, Valley of the Roses and in a lush roadside olive grove we explored.

Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*— (2) Our best views were at the café stop we made at Riad Dades Birds, a delightful oasis where this species perched up for us on fences of the garden where we dined.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*— (2) Best views were in the Valley of the Roses near the cooperative we stopped at, also at small gardens and farms. Elusive, Peg, Steve and Lise found on in farm fields one morning as we walked below our riad.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*— (5) Distinctive, the most common flycatcher we encountered.

Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*— (2) A high elevation beauty, a highlight species for many on the trip.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*— (4) We saw this species at a rest stop with trees in dune areas of the Sahara, and then we found them in some garden areas with trees and planted crops.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*— (2) Seen the final days of our journey at the ski area, where one even perched on the roof of the restaurant as we dined outside on a beautiful day.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*— (3) We found this lovely species in the dramatic gorge of the Dades Valley, then seen on a couple of higher mountain passes. In time we got a scope on a distant pair, lovely plumage and distinctive.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*— (2) Best views by the lovely riad we stayed at near the Game of Thrones film site, a striking abandoned kasbah.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*— (1) Wonderful views in the rock-lined fields where we searched for Barbary Partridge, lower elevation as we returned to Marrakech.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*— (4) We had good views at varied elevations, from valleys to higher areas.

Atlas Wheatear *Oenanthe seebohmi*— (1) We had good views and were able to get photos of what was considered a distinctive race, "seebohmi" of Northern Wheatear, now recognized as a full species.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*— (3) Great views in our walks on the dunes, we were able to scope them and study tail patterns.

Western Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*— (2) One of the most beautiful of the wheatears, we stalked them for photos in some rocky open areas, capturing their honey-toned heads and contrasting black check patches.

Red-rumped Wheatear *Oenanthe moesta*— (1) Seen at the landfill only, much at home in a rock pile, singing and paired up, working on a nest or attending young.

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*— (5) Fairly widespread, our best views were at the ski area at Oukaïmeden.

White-crowned Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*— (7) Widespread in a variety of habitats.

Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens*— (1) Seen only on our walk to view the Pharaoh's Eagle Owl, we got good views and learned more about their habitat specifics from Brahim and Peter.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (4)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*— (10) Common and widespread.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*— (1) A small group was present in the gardens at our Marrakech hotel.

Desert Sparrow *Passer simplex*— (2) We first saw these at a rest stop in the dunes, then were lucky to have several at our tented camp where we got close views and watched a pair nest building.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*— (1) We worked several areas to find this species and were successful at the ski area where we saw them at three locations that day, one a pair living in seasonal dwellings of the herders.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (3)

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*— (3) Very good views below us at the narrows of Gorges de Dades, then we saw them on our walk in the alpine with so many flowers at Tizi-n-tichka Pass, and at the ski area our final full day.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*— (3) Seen well on our travel days at roadside stops (one with some of our first bee-eaters) and then we saw them well at the landfill. We identified several subspecies.

(Moroccan) White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*— (2) Another distinct subspecies, we found them on travel days – twice on our first full day including good views from the bridge near Alhen.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (5)

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*— (4) We enjoyed their bright colors and wing pattern. Seen in a mix of habitats, often confiding for close views.

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*— (6) A sought-after species we saw very well in a variety of habitats at desert and shrub locations.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*— HO (1) We only had this species at one olive grove we explored, walking along the irrigation canals, and it was heard only.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*— (1) Seen by some of the group in a lush area of the Dades Valley.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*— (3) Peg, Steve and Lise found them singing and posed up on tall canes of farm fields below one Tama Riad that we stayed at, on an early morning walk. We found them again in garden settings.

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (3)

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*— (1) A flock was spotted in the area we found the dippers in our final day as we left the ski area.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*— (2) Best views were of one that Peter found waiting at the van as we walked out to see a pair of Tristram's Warblers, he kept a good eye on it so we could watch it in a grove of native trees we parked near.

House Bunting *Emberiza sahari*— (10) Widespread.

MAMMALS (2 species)

Fat Sand Rat *Psammomys obesus*— (1) Only the slightest glimpse for most, full view for a few at the landfill.

Barbary Ground Squirrel *Atlantoxerus getulus*— (2) Seen on our desert walks.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6 species)

Greek Tortoise *Testudo graeca*— (2)

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa*— (1)

Atlas Day Gecko *Quedenfeldtia trachyblepharus*— (1)

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*— (2)

Bibron's Agama *impalearis*— (1)

Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizard *Uromastix nigriventris*— (2)

