

Report Morocco

28 Dec. 2012 - 4 Jan. 2013

This is a short report after a trip with trekking (or hiking, if you prefer) in Morocco. It was an organized trekking with an Italian association, and it was not particularly focused on nature observation or birdwatching, but I was able to have some interesting sightings. Of course, the best was during the 4 days trekking, which was in the Zagora Prov., about 40 km SE of Tighremt and 60 km NE of Zagora. I did a map of some of our route:

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=206499992057101829269.0004d29e0d08f5363a7c3&msa=0>

These are the places we went:

28/12/2012: from Milano (Italia) to Marrakech, no nature sightings.

29/12/2012: transfer from Marrakech to Ouarzazate to the trekking area, via N9 road.

30/12/2012 to 02/01/2013: trekking

03/01/2013: transfer back to Marrakech, through Ouarzazate and N9 road.

04/01/2013: free visit to Marrakech.

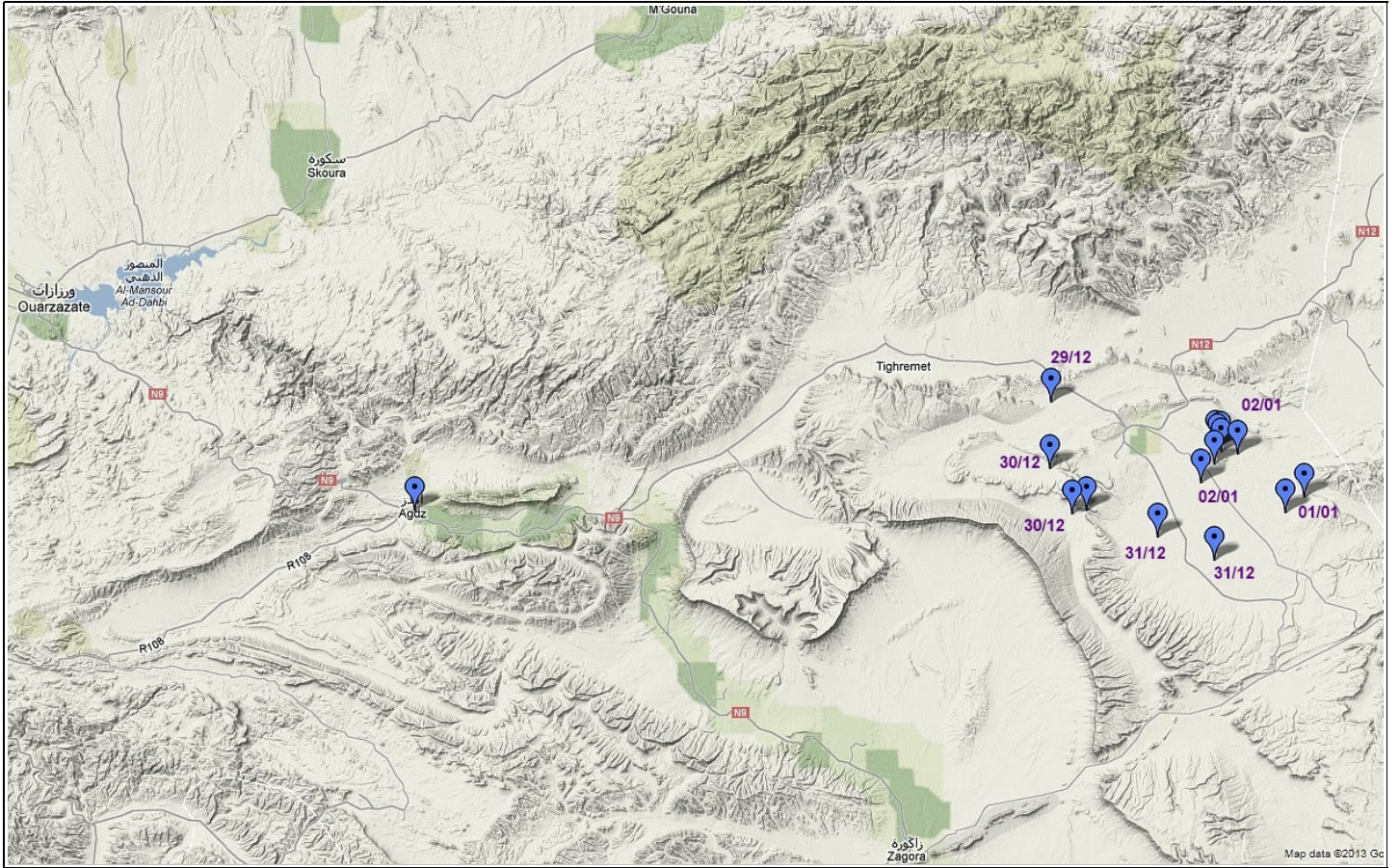
Here is a second map where I added some dates, referring to the various locations I wrote for each species, in the following table.

I also have a short gallery on Picasa:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/114473956674529905680/MaroccoAvifauna?authuser=0&feat=directlink>

Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	2: 03/01 Draa valley (Ouarzazate area)
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	2: 03/01 Draa valley (Ouarzazate area)
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	various: 03/01 (Ouarzazate)
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Various: 04/01 Marrakech
Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Various: N9 road (Marrakech - Ouarzazate) + Ouarzazate 1: 04/01 Marrakech
Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	1: 30/12 Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.)
Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>	6-8: 01/01 15 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.) 5: 02/01 10 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.)
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	various: 04/01 Marrakech
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.)
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	29/12 N9 road (Marrakech - Ouarzazate)
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Widespread in populated areas
Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cincturus</i>	1: 01/01 dunes 15 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.)
Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>	Widespread in the east (max 2 together)
Greater Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	2: 01/01 dunes 15 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.) 2: 02/01 10 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.)
Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	Various: 30+31/12 W of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) various: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1: 03/01 N9 road at café Rafik (S Ighrem O'Ugdal)
Brown throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	29/12 Ouarzazate
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	29/12 N9 road (Agdz) 1+1: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1: 01/01 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1: 01/01 15 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.) 1: 02/01 Mezgame Oasis (Zagora Prov.)
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	1 male: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1 male: 03/01 N9 road at café Rafik (S Ighrem O'Ugdal Prov.)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	29/12 N9 road (Marrakech - Ouarzazate) 1: 30/12 W of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1: 03/01 N9 road at café Rafik (S Ighrem O'Ugdal) 2: 03/01 near N9 road highest pass
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1: 30/12 Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.) 1: 01/01 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1: 01/01 15 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.)
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	1: 30/12 Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.) 1+1: 31/12 W of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) various: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 2-3: 02/01 Mezgame Oasis (Zagora Prov.)
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1: 04/01 Marrakech

Tristram's Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>	3: 30/12 various sites near Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.) 1: 30/12 W of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1: 01/01 15 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.) 1: 02/01 10 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.)
African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserti</i>	1: 30/12 D'Ait Ouazzik (Zagora Prov.)
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	1: 30/12 Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.)
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1 fem.: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1+1 male: 03/01 N9 road at café Rafik (S Ighrem O'Ugdal) + near N9 road highest pass
Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	1: 30/12 Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.) various: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1 male: 02/01 Mezgame Oasis (Zagora Prov.)
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	1 male: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.)
White-crowned Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	Widespread (max 3 together)
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	2: 29/12 N9 road (Marrakech – Ouarzazate) 1: 29/12 Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.) 3: 03/01 N9 road at café Rafik (S Ighrem O'Ugdal)
Red-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>	2: 29/12 Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.)
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	1: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 1: 01/01 15 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.) 1: 01/01 dunes 15 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.) 1: 02/01 10 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.)
Fulvous Babbler	<i>Turdoides fulvus</i>	1: 31/12 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) various: 31/12 two sites E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) various: 02/01 Mezgame Oasis (Zagora Prov.)
Desert Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor elegans</i>	Widespread in the east (single ind.)
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	1: 29/12 N9 road (Marrakech - Ouarzazate)
Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	2: 01/01 E of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) 3-4: 02/01 10 km SE Tazzarine (Zagora Prov.) 1: 02/01 Mezgame Oasis (Zagora Prov.)
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2: 29/12 N9 road (Marrakech - Ouarzazate)
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Various: 04/01 Marrakech
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	29/12 N9 road (Agdz)
House Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	Various: 03/01 Ouarzazate Various: 04/01 Marrakech
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	29/12 N9 road (Marrakech – Ouarzazate) 1: 03/01 N9 road at café Rafik (S Ighrem O'Ugdal)
African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarines</i>	29/12 N9 road (Marrakech – Ouarzazate) 2: 03/01 N9 road at café Rafik (S Ighrem O'Ugdal)
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	various: 04/01 Marrakech
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	6+: 03/01 N9 road at café Rafik (S Ighrem O'Ugdal)
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	29/12 Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.) 31/12 near Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.) Various: 04/01 Marrakech
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	29/12 Tamesahlet (Zagora Prov.)
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	Marrakech + Ouarzazate (common) 1: 31/12 W of Iriki National Park (Zagora Prov.)



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