



Birdwatching Holidays in Spain, Morocco & more...

BOLETAS Birdwatching centre
22192 Loporzano (Huesca) – Spain
tel/fax 00 34 974 262027 or 01162 889318
e.mail: josele@boletas.org // www.boletas.org
Esther Diago Millán - NIF 38493051K

"Crimson-winged Finch Miracle Tour"

After almost all morning walking in the High Atlas searching for the finches without success, a single beautiful male was "feeding" on the snow in a miraculous encounter. We all were shocked.



TOUR Morocco	DATES 11 March to 21st March 09
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Party: Simon Scarth , Janette Scarth , Peter Thompson , Geraldine Thompson Mick Daubney , Ann Daubney, Anders Arnell , Stephen Charles Penn , Steve Wilce , Susan Wilce Tour Leader : Josele J. Saiz
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Total Number of Species : 172

Weather & Sites:

Day 1 –	Sunny and Nice Marrakesh, Oued Souss , Agadir
Day 2 –	Sunny and a bit hot Sous Massa – Sous Massa Plains – Oued Souss
Day 3 –	Sunny and misty Agadir – Tamri – Paradise Valley – Souss River Bank - Tadourant
Day 4 –	Sunny and pleasant with some showers Tadourant – Souss River in Aoulouz – Tamsint – Ouazarzate Reservoir
Day 5 –	Sunny and cold Tagdilt Track – – Boulmane Dades
Day 6 –	Sunny and cold Tagdilt Track – Todra Gorge – Merzouga Oasis
Day 7 –	Sunny and nice Merzouga Desert – Merzouga Lake
Day 8 –	Sunny and nice Merzouga Oasis – Risanni – Boulmane Dades – Ouazarzate Reservoir
Day 9 -	Sunny and cold Dar Daif – Ait Benhadou – Tizi ´n Tichka Pass- Arbalou – Boletas Raptor Watch Point
Day 10-	Sunny and pleasant Okaimenden – Atlas Mountains

Money for conservation has gone to : Bald Ibis Project in Morocco run by SEO-Birdilfe

Favourite bird of the tour

- Ander Arnell - Thick-billed Lark**
- Peter Thomson - Lanner**
- Geraldine Thomson - Bald Ibis**
- Steve Wilce - Cream-coloured Courser**
- Susan Wilce - Cream-coloured Courser**
- Janet Scarth - Desert Sparrow**
- Simon Scarth - Cream-coloured Courser**
- Mick Daubney - Hoopoe Lark**
- Ann Daubney - Hoopoe Lark**
- Stephen Penn - Lanner**
- Josele J. Saiz - Crimson-winged Finch**

My thanks to everyone for their good humour (thanks Anders for your great entertainment) and company throughout. The trip was great fun, with exceptional birding without too much effort. I sincerely hope you all enjoyed your Moroccan adventure as much I enjoyed being with you.

Josele J. Saiz

#	0.	Species	Scientific Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		x	x				x			
	2.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				x			x	x		
	3.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus</i>		x	x	x				x		
	4.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	x	x	x				x	x	x	
	5.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	
	6.	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		1								
	7.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	1			x		x	x	x	x	
	8.	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	x			x			x	x	x	x
	9.	Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>			30+							
	10.	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		xx								
	11.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	2	15+								
	12.	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>		7					35+			
	13.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			2	2			x	x		
	14.	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>							x	x		
	15.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X								
	16.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		3					x			
	17.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>							x			
	18.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		1					x			
	19.	Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>		2					3			
	20.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		2					x			
	21.	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		x								
	22.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1	2		1	1			1		
	23.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	1	1			2	25+	1	1		
	24.	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				1		2				
	25.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus harterti</i>		1		1	6	3	5	1		
	26.	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	2				1	1		1		
	27.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus punicus</i>								1	1	
	28.	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>									4	
	29.	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus cirtensis</i>				1	7	2	1	4		x
	30.	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>			3							
	31.	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>				1	1	1			6+	x
	32.	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	33.	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus erlangeri</i>					1		1			
	34.	Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides</i>			1						1	
	35.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus minor</i>		1		1						
	36.	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		h	h	h						
	37.	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		6								
	38.	Spotted Crane	<i>Porzana porzana</i>				1						
	39.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		x		x		x				
	40.	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		x	x	x		x				
	41.	Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata undulata</i>						2				
	42.	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	x	x	x							
	43.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		x				3				
	44.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						1				
	45.	Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus saharae</i>		4		2						
	46.	Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>		11			1	10+				
	47.	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	x	x								
	48.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>						5		x		
	49.	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>						40+				
	50.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		x								
	51.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	x	x								
	52.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	x	x								
	53.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	x	x								
	54.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	x	x								
	55.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					4		2			

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56.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> <i>Hypoleucos</i>	x	x								
57.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		1				25				
58.	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		x								
59.	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		x								
60.	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>			60+							
61.	Western Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans michahellis</i>	xx	xx	xx							
62.	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	xx	xx	xx							
63.	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	xx	x	x							
64.	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	3	3								
65.	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>						1				
66.	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		x	x							
	Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i>							2?			
67.	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>					45+					
68.	Crowned Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles coronatus</i>					7					
69.	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
70.	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			x	2					x	x
71.	Eurasian Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		6	x				h			
72.	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
73.	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	1	10+		2		2		x		
74.	Pharaoh Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>					1			1		
75.	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua saharae (solitudinis)</i>		3								
76.	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>		H								
77.	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		1			1					
78.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	2	x								
79.	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx				xx	xx
80.	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	x	x	x	x					x	
81.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				1						
82.	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus chrysocercus</i>							1	5		
83.	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		50+	x	5				8		
84.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			2	44	1	2				
85.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>								2	1	
86.	Levaillant's Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis vaillantii</i>										2
87.	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cincturus arenicolor</i>						2	1	1		
88.	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti payni (monodi)</i>				6	10+	6				
89.	Greater Hoopoe Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>							6			
90.	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>					h	2				
91.	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea rubiginosa</i>		1		xx	xx	xx	xx	xx		
92.	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens minor</i>					2		2			
93.	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata randonii</i>	x	x	x	x		x				
94.	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae aguirrei</i>			x	x	x	x		1		
95.	Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis harterti</i>		h			x	x				
96.	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris atlas</i>										2
97.	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris bilopha</i>					xx	6		1		
98.	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	x	x	x	x						
99.	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola mauretanic</i>			2							
100.	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>					1	x			x	x
101.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
102.	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica rufula</i>	x	x	x	x						x
103.	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	x	x	x	x				x		
104.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
	Moroccan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subpersonata</i>			2							
105.	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			x							
	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>		1								
106.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						2		x	x	x
107.	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					x			x	x	x

#	Species	Scientific Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
161.	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs africana</i>	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x
162.	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>									6	
163.	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	x	x	x	x				x		
164.	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
165.	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		x		x	x	x			x	x
166.	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	h	x	x	x		x		x		
167.	Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguinea aliena</i>										1
168.	Trumpeter Finch	<i>Rhodopechys githaginea zedlitzii</i>							7			
169.	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		1	H							x
170.	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia africana</i>									3	
171.	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata sahari</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
172.	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	x	x		x						
#	Other Sightings											
	Wild Board											
	Barbary Ground Squirrel											
	Green Chameleon											
	Spanish Terrapin											
	Moroccan Turtle											
	Sahara Green Frog											
	Spinny Tailed Lizard											

RECOMMENDED SIGNS:

Vista/Seen (X) Oida/Heard (H) Abundant (XXX) Common (XX) Rare (+) Juvenile (Juv) Immature (Inm) Adult (ad) Female Male

Only recorded birds seeing at least by two people



By Steve Wilce

