

# Rare birds in Morocco: report of the Moroccan Rare Birds Committee (1998–2000)

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Durant la période 1998–2000, la Commission d'Homologation Marocaine a analysé 129 demandes d'homologation d'espèces rares ou mal connues, dont la liste est présentée en annexe. Quarante-vingt-douze ont été acceptées, incluant une espèce notée pour la première fois au Maroc et en Afrique: le Bécasseau échasses *Micropalama himantopus*, et trois espèces notées pour la première fois au Maroc, le Bécasseau de Bonaparte *Calidris fuscicollis*, le Bécasseau semipalmé *C. pusilla* et le Bécasseau rousset *Tryngites subruficollis*. La race sibérienne du Pouillot véloce *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* a également été renseignée pour la première fois au Maroc.

## Introduction

The first triennial report of the Moroccan Rare Birds Committee (MRBC) appeared in *Bull. ABC* in 2000<sup>5</sup>. This second report includes the 129 records analysed during 1998 to 2000



(see Table 1). Ninety-two have been accepted, including a species new for Africa (Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus*), as well as four species/subspecies new for Morocco (White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*, Semipalmated Sandpiper *C. pusilla*, Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* and Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*). Annual reports for the period have been published in *Porphyrio*<sup>2-4</sup>.

The updated list of species considered by MRBC appears as Appendix 1 and includes true vagrants (ie species with fewer than 30 records) and rare or little-known species whose current status is inadequately known. We strongly urge visiting birdwatchers to submit descriptions of relevant species to the MRBC Secretary: Prof. Jacques Franchimont, Quartier Abbas Lemsadi, rue n°6, n°22, 50.000 Meknes V.N., Morocco. MRBC work in progress is accessible at <http://www.ifrance.com/Go-South/>.

Three detailed records of a dark heron (Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis* or dark-morph Little Egret *E. garzetta*) at Merzouga have been the subject of much discussion within the MRBC. They are presented below.

## The dark egret/heron at Merzouga

On 22 April 1997, a group (G1) of ten ornithologists led by A van den Berg found a dark heron-egret at Merzouga. The bird was within a group of seven typical Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* and several excellent pictures were taken

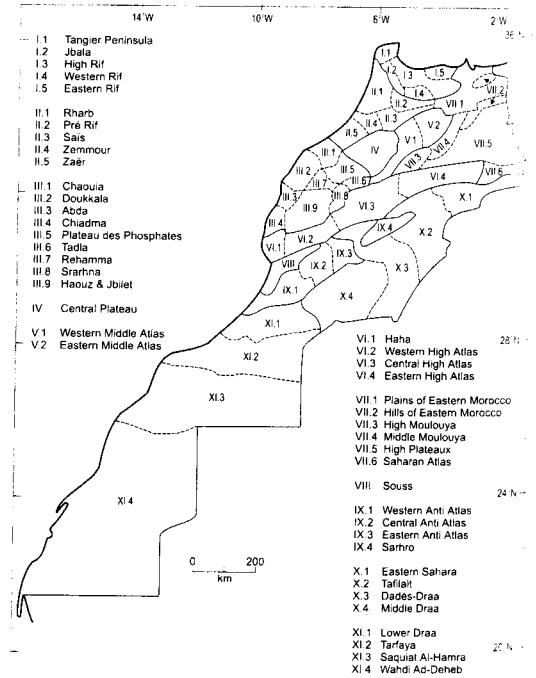


Table 1. Number of records analysed by the MRBC from 1998 to 2000

	Records from										Total	Accepted	Rejected
	1982	1986	1989	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000			
Fourth report (1998)		1					12	37			50	34	16
Fifth report (1999)	1		1	1	2	1	1		39		46	36	10
Sixth report (2000)				1				7	7	18	33	22	11

Two days later, it was rediscovered by two other groups, (G2) with five birders led by T Gullick (who approached the bird to some 80 m), and (G3) led by N J Redman. The dark heron/egret was then with two Little Egrets.

Table 2 summarises the detailed descriptions that have been submitted by the three groups. *Texts in italics* are extracted verbatim from their reports.

The differences in the descriptions between groups G1/G3 and G2 are striking, especially concerning the jizz and bill (the hypothesis that two different birds were present in April was discussed but ultimately rejected as G2 and G3 saw the bird on the same day).

The deliberations of the MRBC, and comments of Yves Kayser and Philippe J Dubois, have also shown inconsistencies. Finally, MRBC decided that the identity of the dark heron/egret at Merzouga could not be specifically determined and it should be referred to as an

*Egretta* sp. Van den Berg described his record in *Dutch Birding*<sup>6</sup>.

### Presentation of data

The presentation of data follows the same pattern as used in the MRBC report for 1995–1997<sup>7</sup>: for all species, the following sequence has been used:

- English and scientific names of species
- Status according to codes presented in Appendix 1
- Data details: year, MRBC file number, region (see map), place, number of birds involved (one unless otherwise stated), age, sex, other information if applicable, date(s) of observation, and recorder(s) name(s).
- Comments

Table 2

	Group G1—22 April 1997	Group G2—24 April 1997	Group G3—24 April 1997
General colour	• <i>upperparts and underparts dark grey, including elongated narrow dark grey feathers on back and breast. Belly slightly paler grey than breast.</i>	• <i>dark slaty black.</i>	• <i>smoky-grey/black dark phase (much as Western Reef Heron).</i>
Jizz	• <i>same size and structure as accompanying Little Egrets.</i> • <i>no difference in walking or flight with Little Egrets.</i>	• <i>different and more 'slouched stance' (in relation to the two typical Little Egrets).</i>	• <i>same size and structure (as the two typical Little Egrets).</i>
Bill	• <i>black.</i> • <i>at first sight, the bill seemed marginally longer (than two typical Little Egrets); however, this was not confirmed by taking measurements from photos and might be attributed to an illusory effect caused by the facial pattern.</i>	• <i>appearing heavier (in relation to the two typical Little Egrets) and more thick billed with even a droopy effect to the dirty yellowish bill (not black).</i>	• <i>fairly slender as white birds, grey-black (no pale base). Culmen slightly curved but same as white birds. Bill not deep at base, nor blunt-tipped.</i>
Legs	• <i>tarsus black with some yellowish admixed towards ankle. Toes yellow. Claws black.</i>	• <i>the black legs and yellow feet were common to all three birds (ie the dark egret/heron and the two typical Little Egrets).</i>	• <i>legs dark brownish-black (grey upper tibia) with yellowish feet (up to 'ankle'), same as white birds. Legs not noticeably thicker or shorter than white birds.</i>
Head, throat, neck	• <i>forehead white, mottled grey towards crown. Hindcrown, nape and neck dark grey. Dark lores. White feathers surrounding eye as broken eye-ring. Ear-coverts white, slightly mottled grey.</i> • <i>iris pale.</i> • <i>bare skin of face greyish.</i>	• <i>there were whitish feathers from the chin to halfway down the throat.</i> • <i>thicker neck was obvious (in relation to the two typical Little Egrets).</i>	• <i>throat and chin white.</i>
Wings	• <i>primaries dark grey with much white at base. Secondaries dark grey with some white mottling at base of outers. Tertiaries dark grey with little white at base. Greater primary-coverts largely white with some dark grey edges. Outer and two central greater coverts dark grey with little white at base. Median, lesser and underwing-coverts dark grey. Faint brownish hue on upperwing-coverts.</i>	• <i>in flight, the dark egret showed whitish wing patches in area of primary wing-coverts.</i>	• <i>in flight several primaries showed white webs giving curious pied effect.</i>
Tail	• <i>dark grey.</i>		
Plumes	• <i>similar ornamental plumes (to typical Little Egrets)</i> • <i>strap-like nape feathers longer than bill.</i>		• <i>dark head plumes (two) as white birds.</i>  • <i>In summary, bird appeared exactly as white birds in size, proportions, bare-parts coloration, differing only in colour of plumage.</i>
Determined as	<i>Egretta</i> sp, dark morph	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> , dark morph

For accidental species, six numbers in brackets follow the status code. The first two indicate the number of records (and number of birds) in the files of the Centrale Ornithologique Marocaine (COM) prior to the formation of the MRBC. The second pair indicate the number of records (and number of birds) accepted by the MRBC and described in the first triennial report (1995–1997)<sup>5</sup>. The last pair indicate the number of records accepted by the MRBC from 1998 to 2000, and the number of birds involved. The systematic list follows the sequence of species for which details are required by the MRBC (Appendix 1).

### List of accepted records

#### Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* AV (3/3, 0/0, 1/1)

**1986** (86/1) **Souss**. Souss estuary, first-winter. 14–20 December, photo (H Klemola & J Komi). This bird stayed over one month at the Souss estuary (it being present since at least 20 November—N J Redman).

Accidental visitor to the Strait of Gibraltar<sup>17,20</sup> but only one documented record on the Moroccan side of the Strait (7 September 1993, F Cuzin). Two other records from the Atlantic coast (Agadir harbour, 30 December 1989, O Armini *et al.* and Merja Zerga from late December 1990 to early January 1991<sup>23</sup>).

#### Manx Shearwater *Puffinus (p.) puffinus* PM, OW (–/–, 0/0, 1/70+)

**1999** (99/28) **Tarfaya**. Akhfennir and Tarfaya, 5–6 September (A Joris *et al.*)

More than 70 individuals were reported between Akhfennir and Tarfaya on 5–6 September. These dates are consistent with the known autumn migration pattern, which is from late August to late November. Of the three forms of small shearwaters, Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus (p.) mauretanicus* is the commonest off the Atlantic coast during migration; Manx Shearwater is rarer, while the occurrence of Yelkouan Shearwater *P. (p.) yelkouan* remains unestablished.

#### White-faced Storm-petrel *Pelagodroma marina* AV (4/33+, 0/0, 1/1)

**1997** (97/17) **Souss**. 24 nautical miles off Agadir, 31 March, photo (K Carlsson *et al.*)

Accidental visitor to Morocco. Only four previous records, all south of 30°N; an increase in pelagic trips south of Agadir would surely lead to an increase in the number of sightings. A photo of this bird was published in *Birding World* 10: 134.

#### Great White Egret *Egretta alba* OW, PM (1/1, 6/6)

**1989** (89/1) **Tafilalt**. Merzouga, 27 December, photo (H Dufourmy)

**1998** (98/34) **Rharb**. Merja Bargha, 26 November (P Wiprachtiger & A El Ghazi)

**1999** (99/17) **Plains of Eastern Morocco**. Barrage Mohamed V, adult, 17 January (D Jerez Abad & R Ramirez Espinar)

**1999** (99/42) **Plains of Eastern Morocco**. Barrage Arabet (Bou-Areg), Nador, 17 December (D Jerez Abad & R Ramirez Espinar)

**2000** (00/06) **Plains of Eastern Morocco**. Barrage Mohamed V, immature, 27 February (D Jerez Abad & R Ramirez Espinar)

**2000** (00/15) **Souss**. Souss estuary, 18–19 April, photo (J Malecha, H Dufourmy *et al.*)

Approximately 50 records to date. The Plains of Eastern Morocco, along the Mediterranean coast, are among the best areas to observe this species, whose range and numbers have recently increased in Europe. The 1989 record relates to the European subspecies *alba* and not to the African race *melanorhynchos* which can be expected in Tafilalt.

#### Green-winged Teal *Anas (crecca) carolinensis* AV (2/2, 0/0, 1/1)

**1998** (98/1) **Souss**. Massa estuary, male, 28 February (C Bowden & G Manners)

Third record for Morocco. One previous record from the Massa estuary (23–27 April 1984, T Axelsen, G Balança, A W Clarke *et al.*), the other was at Barrage d'Imfout on the Oued Oum-Er-Rbia on 13 April 1959<sup>18</sup>.

#### Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* AV (14/22+, 1/1, 2/2)

**1998** (98/2) **Souss**. Massa estuary, male, 28 February (C Bowden & G Manners)

**2000** (00/01) **Rharb**. Sidi Bou-Rhaba, male, 20 February (P Lansdown)

Sixteenth and 17th records in Morocco, and the fifth at Sidi Bou-Rhaba and sixth at the Massa estuary. Twelve have been in January–March, with singles in April, May and December, and two in October. The only inland record was at Barrage Lalla Takerkoust, near Marrakech<sup>2</sup>.

#### Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* AV (9/13, 1/1, 1/1)

**1998** (98/36) **Western High Atlas**. Barrage Hassan Addakhil, male, 25 January (P Lansdown)

This individual was recorded on a dam well inland of the Atlantic coast, but a pair was at the same locality in December 1980–January 1981<sup>12</sup>.

#### White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* WV, OB, PM? (0/0, 8/17)

**1997** (97/18) **Rharb**. Merja Bargha, male, 30 May and 28 June, photo (J C Castro Roman *et al.*)

**1998** (98/6) **Sais**. Douyiet, male, 10 April (J Franchimont, A El Ghazi *et al.*)

**1998** (98/15) **Sais**. Douyiet, male, 25 July (J Franchimont *et al.*)

**1998** (98/33) **Sais**. Douyiet, male, 23 December (J Franchimont *et al.*)

**1999** (99/21) **Sais**. Douyiet, male, 29 April (A El Ghazi *et al.*)

**1999** (99/22) **Sais**. Douyiet, six males and one female, 13 July (J Franchimont *et al.*)

**1999** (99/32) **Sais**. Douyiet, three males and one female, 20 and 29 September (A El Ghazi *et al.*)

**1999** (99/36) **Sais**. Douyiet, male, 24 December (A El Ghazi *et al.*) Bred in the marshes of the Rharb until the late 1930s; thereafter numbers dramatically decreased. Only four records in the 1950s–1970s and since then only one, in 1983. White-headed Duck is now regular at Douyiet with the first breeding record in 2000, and further observations from there do not need to be submitted to MRBC. On 13 July 1999, the six males were displaying and the female was with a female Ruddy Duck *O. jamaicensis* and a hybrid Ruddy x White-headed female. On 20 and 29 September, at least two hybrid Ruddy x White-headed females were with the group.

**Ruddy x White-headed Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* x *O. leucocephala* AV (0/0, 3/4, 2/5)

1998 (98/16) **Saïs**. Douyiet, three males, 25 April (J Franchimont & A El Ghazi)

1998 (98/32) **Saïs**. Douyiet, two females, 23 December (J Franchimont *et al*)

The presence of hybrids continues to threaten the re-establishment of White-headed Duck at Douyiet.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* RB (-/-, 0/0, 1/1)

1999 (99/37) **Souss**. 10 km east of Oulad Berehil, immature, 2 April (A Hogg *et al*)

Recorded in the argan parkland forest, an original environment which is rapidly disappearing due to encroaching agriculture.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax* RB (-/-, 0/0, 3/3)

1998 (98/9) **Souss**. Tafingoult, 2 May (J. Franchimont & A El Ghazi)

1999 (99/24) **Souss**, near Arazane, subadult?, 12 September (H Dufourny & B Gauquie)

1999 (99/38) **Souss**, Igoudar, immature, 2 April (A Hogg *et al*)  
Once widespread throughout Morocco, including the montane north. Like several other raptors, it is now rare and appears to be confined to the Souss and adjacent areas. The most recent breeding records were in 1980<sup>7</sup>, 1990 (H Duperrex & L Maumary) and 1992<sup>5</sup>. H Dufourny (*in litt*) has also sent information concerning seven previous records of this eagle, all in the Souss plain, between Taroudant and Aoulouz, in 1993 (three), 1994 (one), 1995 (one) and 1997 (two).

**Barbary Falcon** *Falco (peregrinus) pelegrinoides* RB poorly known (-/-, 14/15, 13/17)

1998 (98/11) **Tarfaya**, 5 km south of El Ouâar estuary, immature, 11 August (J Franchimont & F. Touati Malih)

1998 (98/12) **Tarfaya**, 16 km south of Tantan Plage, immature, 11 August (J Franchimont & F Touati Malih)

1998 (98/13) **Tarfaya**, 11 km south of Sidi Ifni, immature, 12 August (J Franchimont & F. Touati Malih)

1999 (99/6) **Doukkala**, Sidi Moussa–Oualidia, 8 April (V Schollaert & L Langhendries)

1999 (99/7) **Haha**, Tamri, 5 April (V Schollaert *et al*)

1999 (99/14) **Western High Atlas**, Tizi-n-Tichka, pair, 27 March (V Schollaert *et al*)

1999 (99/19) **Souss**, Souss estuary, 28 April (F Herbecq *et al*)

1999 (99/25) **Souss**, Souss estuary, two juveniles, 15 September, one juvenile, 17 September (H Dufourny & B Gauquie)

1999 (99/29) **Souss**, Souss estuary, juvenile, 3 September (V Schollaert *et al*)

1999 (99/30) **Western Middle Atlas**, Dayet Aoua, two juveniles, 16 September (V Schollaert *et al*)

1999 (99/31) **Doukkala**, Khémis Zemamra, juvenile, 1 September (A Joris *et al*)

1999 (99/45) **Plains of Eastern Morocco**, El Aïoun, Oujda, two adults, 23 September (V Schollaert *et al*)

2000 (00/16) **Western Anti-Atlas**, Tissint, 1+ May (A El Ghazi & J Franchimont)

Most records are from southern Morocco and the Atlantic coast between Doukkala and Tarfaya, but it may be a more widespread breeder as many areas in northern Morocco are less frequently visited by birdwatchers, eg there also two records from the Western High Atlas and Western Middle Atlas. Its distribution overlaps with *Falco peregrinus minoris* Tafilalt, and of *F.p. atlantis* along the Haha coast and in the Souss.

**Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana* PM, OW (-/-, 0/0, 2/8+)

1998 (98/4) **Souss**, Massa estuary, 7+, 28 February (C Bowden & G Manners)

1999 (99/9) **Doukkala**, Sidi Moussa–Oualidia, 8 April (V Schollaert & L Langhendries)

These were probably early migrants. Spring passage occurs in late February–early May. Spotted Crane migrates on a broad front, eg there are several records from the Tafilalt in south-east Morocco<sup>12</sup>.

**Little Crane** *Porzana parva* PM (-/-, 0/0, 2/15+)

1998 (98/10) **Souss**, Massa estuary, at least five males and seven females, 16 April (H Dufourny *et al*)

1998 (98/24) **Souss**, Massa estuary, at least one male, 26 March, two females, 27 March (E de Thiersant *et al*)

Scarce spring migrant with most records in March–April. Many records are from the Massa estuary but the species migrates on a broad front, from the Atlantic coast to eastern Morocco.

**Baillon's Crane** *Porzana pusilla* PM, BM, OW (-/-, 0/0, 1/1)

1997 (97/20) **Plains of Eastern Morocco**, Barrage Mechra Homadi, adult male, 23 March (D Jerez Abad & R Ramirez Espinar)

This was probably a spring migrant but the species has bred in the Plains of Eastern Morocco, at the Moulouya estuary in the 1950s and in 1989<sup>9,10</sup>.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* AV (2/5, 0/0, 1/1)

1999 (99/3) **Dadès-Draa**, Zaouiat Sidi Salah, 50 km south of Zagora, 1 March (P Yésou & M South)

Third record. The two previous ones were at Merzouga in 1990 (up to four on 19 January–7 February, then three on 20 February and one on 31 March) and in 1991 (one on 14 January).

**American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis (d.) dominica* AV (0/0, 1/1, 1/1)

1999 (99/20) **Souss**, Souss estuary, winter plumage, 16–17 May (C Bowden & R Dawson)

Second record in Morocco. The first was also at the Souss estuary, on 25 April 1997<sup>5</sup>.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* AV (0/0, 0/0, 2/2)

1995 (95/24) **Souss**, Souss estuary, adult, 5 May (M Andrews)

1999 (99/5) **Doukkala**, Sidi Moussa, Oualidia, 8 April (V Schollaert & L Langhendries)

The first records in Morocco (that in May 1995 was described in *Bull. ABC*). The only other African record was at Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania<sup>5</sup>.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* AV (0/0, 0/0, 1/1)

1999 (99/26) **Prérf**, Barrage Idriss I<sup>o</sup>, 21 September (V Schollaert *et al*)

First Moroccan record. Breeds in the Canadian arctic and winters in South America; it is annual in some European countries and has also been recorded in the Azores, Madeira and Canaries.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* AV (5/5, 0/0, 2/3)

1998 (98/39) **Souss**, Souss estuary, two juveniles, 25 September, one until 2 October (R Dawson & A Edmond)

1999 (99/27) **Rharb**, Lower Loukos marshes, juvenile, 17 September (G Willem & V Schollaert *et al*)

Sixth and seventh records since the first mention by Smith<sup>25</sup>. All are from the Atlantic coast, in September–October.

**Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* AV (8/12, 0/0, 2/3)**

**1998** (98/14) **Zaër**. Skhirat, 6 April (M Grosselet & J Fonderflick)

**1999** (99/40) **Chiadma**. Essaouira, two, 17 January–19 March (R Dawson *et al*)

All but one previous record were also along the Atlantic coast in October–February; the April record is the latest ever and that at Essaouira is the southernmost in Morocco, but the species has been recorded once much further south, at the Banc d'Arguin National Park, northern Mauritania<sup>21</sup>.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus***

**AV (8/12, 2/5, 1/1)**

**1999** (99/41) **Tarfaya**. Khnifiss, 27 July (G Léotard & O Chaline)

The southernmost record in Morocco. Probably an early autumn migrant.

**Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus***

**AV (0/0, 0/0, 1/1)**

**1996** (96/43) **Souss**. Souss estuary, 28 March (I Rowlands *et al*)  
Breeds in tundras of North America and winters mainly in central South America. The first Moroccan and African record. This individual stayed until at least 3 April.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis***

**AV (0/0, 0/0, 1/1)**

**1998** (98/40) **Souss**. Souss estuary, 26 September, photo (R Dawson)

First record of this arctic species, which winters from Bolivia to northern Argentina. Several Nearctic waders reached Europe and Macaronesia in September 1998, eg this species was also recorded in the Canaries and the Azores.

**Great Snipe *Gallinago media* PM, OW (–/–, 0/0, 1/1)**

**1999** (99/13) **Tafilalt**. Oued Ziz, north of Erfoud, 30 March (V Schollaert & L Langhendries)

The most recent record was in 1985. Great Snipe is an accidental winter visitor and rare passage migrant, which has been noted in late September–early April, mainly in northern Morocco.

**Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris***

**WV (0/0, 1/1)**

**1998** (98/5) **Rharb**. Merja Zerga, at least one, 11 February (M & A Parent)

First record since winter 1994–95. The species' Moroccan status has been extensively described in recent years<sup>19,20,31,32</sup>.

**Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* AV (1/1, 0/0, 2/2)**

**1995** (95/25) **Souss**. Souss estuary, adult summer plumage, 5 May (M Andrews)

**1999** (99/8) **Souss**. Souss estuary, 5 April (V Schollaert & L Langhendries)

Second and third records of this North American wader. The first was at Khnifiss lagoon, on 10 April 1990 (F Cuzin). A description of the 1995 bird was published in *Bull. ABC*.

**Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* PM, OW (–/–, 1/1, 2/7)**

**1998** (98/17) **Souss**. Souss estuary, immature, 17 April (H Dufourmy *et al*)

**1998** (98/25) **Haha**. Oued Tinkert estuary, six, 29 April, photo (P Morris *et al*)

Spring passage off the Atlantic coast largely occurs well offshore, from late March to late May.

**Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* AV (22/22, 6/7, 5/8)**

**1998** (98/8) **Souss**. Souss estuary, second-summer, 17 April (H Dufourmy *et al*)

**1998** (98/38) **Souss**. Souss estuary, first-winter, 17 January (R Dawson & M Lawrence)

**1999** (99/10) **Souss**. Souss estuary, first-winter/first-summer, 5–7 April (V Schollaert *et al*)

**1999** (99/18) **Chiadma**. Ksob estuary, first-summer, 29 April, photo (H Dufourmy *et al*)

**2000** (00/18) **Tangier Peninsula**. Tahadart estuary, four adults, 18 October (J Franchimont *et al*)

In 1999, others were noted at Essaouira (Ksob estuary) in March and May (*Birding World* 12: 101 and 192), but details of these have not been submitted to MRBC. Together with Larache salt pans and Ksob estuary, the Souss estuary is one of the best places for this species in Morocco. The record at Tahadart estuary is the largest-ever group in Morocco.

**Common Gull *Larus canus* WV (–/–, 5/5, 5/9+)**

**1997** (97/24) **Souss**. Souss estuary, 22 and 31 January (M Leivo & H Kontkanen)

**1998** (98/29) **Souss**. Souss estuary, two adults, 29 April, one, 30 April (J D R Vernon)

**1998** (98/31a) **Souss**. Souss estuary, adult, second-summer and first-summer, 15 April, adult and first-summer, 16–18 April (H Dufourmy *et al*)

**1998** (98/31b) **Souss**. Souss estuary, first-winter, 23 and 25 November, adult, 30 November (H Dufourmy *et al*)

**1998** (98/31c) **Haha**. between Agadir and Cap Rhir, first-winter, 23 November (H Dufourmy *et al*)

Now known to be a regular winter visitor in small numbers along the Atlantic coast south to Agadir, but rare in the Strait of Gibraltar and along the Mediterranean coast. From 1999 onwards, only records from the Strait and the Mediterranean need to be submitted to MRBC.

**Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus***

**WV (–/–, 0/0, 3/4)**

**1997** (97/25) **Souss**. Souss estuary, immature, 31 January (M Leivo & H Kontkanen)

**1998** (98/43) **Tarfaya**. Khnifiss, two subadults/adults, 15 October (P Defos du Rau & M Thibault)

**2000** (00/02) **Souss**. Souss estuary, first-winter, 23 February (P Lansdown)

Until the 1960s there were very few records, but since 1964 there have been nearly 70 records from the Atlantic coast, mainly north of the Souss region. There have only been a few further south, including one at Khnifiss lagoon, in December 1985–March 1986<sup>3</sup>, with others in Mauritania<sup>21,22</sup> and the Canaries<sup>21</sup>.

**Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* PM (1/1, 1/3)**

**1999** (99/15) **Souss**. Souss estuary, three adults, 27 April (H Dufourmy *et al*)

Roseate Tern generally passes far offshore and is thus rarely seen from the Atlantic coast. Spring passage is mainly from mid-April to mid-June.

**Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* PM, OW (–/–, 0/0, 1/1)**

**1999** (99/11) **Souss**. Souss estuary, adult, 4 April (V Schollaert & L Langhendries)

Thirteenth spring record. Probably a common passage migrant offshore but rarely recorded from the coast. Spring passage noted from mid-March to late May.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*  
AV/RB? (—, 0/0, 1/1)

**2000** (00/07) **Plains of Eastern Morocco**. Beni Enzar, Nador, adult male, 28 January (D Jerez Abad & R Ramirez Espinar)

First record on the Mediterranean coast. Along the Atlantic coast, a small feral population became established in 1990 in the Anfa district of Casablanca (O Digout). Two other records of unknown origin, at Larache (4 May 1985, G Jacquemin) and Asilah (3 January 1996<sup>1</sup>).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* WV, PM (—, 0/0, 1/1)

**1998** (98/37) **Souss**. Souss estuary, 24 November (H Dufourny *et al.*)

Uncommon winter visitor (c20 records) but rare on both passages, with only eight records in spring and 11 previous records in autumn. The majority of autumn records are in November (ten) with just two in September and none in October.

**Plain Swift** *Apus unicolor* AV, OB?, WV? (—, 0/0, 1/6)

**1998** (98/30) **Haha**, 3 km north of Taghazout, c.6. 29 April (J D R Vernon)

Status in Morocco unclear. The occurrence of 'small dark swifts' was first reported from the Atlantic coast of Morocco in 1962 by K D Smith. Since then, there have been numerous sightings which have all been identified as Plain Swift, but specimens are required to confirm this. Breeding suspected along the Haha coast since 1988, but has not been proven.

**Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps*  
RB (0/0, 1/16)

**1999** (99/44) **Oued Ad-Deheb**. Oued Jenaa, 230 km south-east of Dakhla, 8 September, photo (V Schollaert, H Dufourny, G Willem *et al.*)

First record following those of Valverde in 1955<sup>20</sup> in the Négyr region and near Sbayera, at c25°N. Tourism has quite recently been permitted in Western Sahara and the number of records should increase in the future.

**African Rock Martin** *Hirundo fuligula* RB, BM (—, 0/0, 4/71+)

**1999** (99/2) **Dadès-Draa**. Oued Tifekhist, south-west of Zagora, two, 23 February (P Yésou & M South)

**1999** (99/2a) **Dadès-Draa**. Palmerie of Oulad Driss, Mhamid, 3–4, 28 February (P Yésou & M South)

**2000** (00/12) **Sarhro**. Tazzarine, 16, 25–26 December (J Franchimont & F Touati Malih)

**2000** (00/13) **Dadès-Draa**. Oued Draa, 23 km east of Agdz, c50, 26 December (J Franchimont & F Touati Malih)

In light of his recent observations, P Yésou has withdrawn a previous observation from the High Atlas, at Igberh in 1996, which was accepted by MRBC<sup>15</sup>. In Morocco, Crag Martin *H. nipestris* (nominate race or *theresae*) is difficult to separate from African Rock Martin (race *presabharica*) in the field and great care should be taken in identifying these two.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis* WV (—, 0/0, 1/1)

**1982** (82/1) **Jbala**. Barrage of Ouezane, 14 February, photo (J Franchimont)

There are only 35 records involving 49 birds since 1971, from mid-September to late April. Most were in northern Morocco with the southernmost in the Souss.

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*

PM (18/19+, 1/1, 2/2)

**1997** (97/28) **Dadès-Draa**. Ouarzazate, 25 January (M Leivo & H Kontkanen)

**2000** (00/04) **Tafilalt**. Merzouga, 27 February (P Lansdown) Twentieth and 21st records for Morocco. All are from southern Morocco, from Tafilalt (ten), Dadès-Draa (six), Lower Draa (four) and Oued Ad-Deheb (one); most in spring (February–April) and only two in January. Now considered a scarce spring passage migrant<sup>21</sup>.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* AV (15/20+, 1/2, 2/2)

**1999** (99/46) **Souss**. Ait Melloul (IFCDW), 27 November–19 December, photo (R Dawson)

**2000** (00/10) **Western High Atlas**. Oukaïmeden, 23 March (G Steinbrück & E Weber)

The 1999 record is the second south of the High Atlas; this bird stayed at least three weeks at the International Foundation for Conservation and Development of Wildlife (Ait Melloul). The 2000 record is the latest for Morocco; previous records were only to late February.

**Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*

PM (—, 0/0, 1/1)

**1998** (98/28) **Haha**. Tamri, first-winter, 29 October (D Walsh & C Edginton)

Previously more common on spring and autumn passages, but now much rarer and only four recent autumn records (including this one). The 28 recent records are from February (four), March (eight) and April (12), then from September (one) and October (three, including this one) but Walter<sup>22</sup> mentioned Aquatic Warblers captured by Eleonora's Falcons *Falco eleonorae* at Essaouira from 23 August.

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* AV (—, 0/0, 1/1)

**1999** (99/12) **Dadès-Draa**. Ouarzazate, 1–2 April (V Schollaert *et al.*)

There are 14 previous possible records, including the recovery of a German-ringed bird, but Dowsset-Lemaire & Dowsset<sup>14</sup> assumed the latter was a misidentified Reed Warbler *A. scirpaceus*. None of the subsequent records, including four mist-netted birds, was convincingly substantiated and therefore the species' occurrence is only considered possible in the forthcoming *Check-List of the Birds of Morocco*. This record is the first accepted for Morocco; it is also the first record for North Africa west of Egypt<sup>23</sup>.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* PM, OW (—, 0/0, 1/1)

**1998** (98/7) **Western Anti Atlas**. Oued Noun, 5 May (J Franchimont & A El Ghazi)

Thirty-four acceptable records in Morocco, most (30) during spring migration, with only four in autumn. One of the latest spring records, as most occur in April (21 records, including one trapped) with the latest on 8 May.

**Siberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

AV (0/0, 0/0, 1/1)

**1998** (98/44) **Souss**. Massa estuary, mist-netted, 16 March, photo (P Bulens & A Le Dru)

First record in Morocco. This race breeds east of the Pechora River and Urals and over most of Siberia. Racial determination difficult in the field (eg see Dubois, Yésou & CHN<sup>13</sup> for differences between *tristis* and other Chiffchaffs) but this one was trapped and photographed.

## Records not accepted

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica* 1997 (97/29) Plains of Eastern Morocco, Melilla, 28 December 1997–11 January 1998. 1998 (98/3) Souss, Massa estuary, subadult, 28 February. **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer* 1998 (98/35) Souss, Massa estuary, juvenile, 21 January. **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* 1997 (97/21) Haha, Cap Rhir, two, 1 February. 1997 (97/22) Haha, Cap Rhir, three, 2 February. **Leach's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* 1997 (97/23) Haha, Cap Rhir, 21 January. **Long-tailed Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus* 2000 (00/17) Zaërs, Skhirat, 5 September. **Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis* 1997 (97/19) Tafilalt, Merzouga, dark morph, 22–25 April, photos, see above. **Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia* 2000 (00/14) Souss, Oued Massa, 2 April. **Great White Egret** *Egretta alba* 1999 (99/23) Chaouia, Dar Bouazza, 7 April. **Barbary Falcon** *Falco (peregrinus) peregrinoides* 1994 (94/12) Zaërs, Sidi Bettache, no date. 1998 (98/19) Middle Moulouya, Missouri, 19 August. 1998 (98/20) Souss, Aoulouz, pair and a male, 25 March. 1998 (98/21) Middle Draa, Iriki, pair, 31 March. 1998 (98/22) Dadès-Draa, Tizi Beni-Selmane, 1–2 April. 1998 (98/27) Sarhro, Tagdilt, 26 April. 1999 (99/33) Eastern Sahara, Boudenib, 23 April. 1999 (99/34) High Plateaux, 50 km south of Ain Beni Mathar, 28 April. 1999 (99/35) Plains of Eastern Morocco, 69 km north of Outat el Haj, 29 April. 1999 (99/39) Various regions: Souss, Tarfaya, Dadès-Draa and Sarhro, adults, 28 March–4 April. 1999 (99/43) Souss, Oulad Berehil, 13 September. 2000 (00/09) Souss, Oued Massa, 10 April. 2000 (00/11) Souss, Massa estuary, 27 March. **Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* 2000 (00/05) High Rif, Jbel Bou Hachem, Chaouen, adult, 29 March. **Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana* 1998 (98/23) Souss, Massa estuary, 26–27 March. **Slender-billed Curlew** *Numenius tenuirostris* 1999 (99/4) Souss, Agadir, 20+30+23 birds, 31 January. **Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini* 1998 (98/26) Haha, Cap Rhir, two, 1 May. **Guillemot** *Uria aalge* 2000 (00/03) Haha, Tamri, 12, 23 February. **Eurasian Eagle Owl** *Bubo bubo* 1998 (98/18) Middle Moulouya, Missouri, 13 and 22 August (the observation refers to *Bubo b. ascalaphus*, whose records do not have to be submitted to the MRBC). **Plain Swift** *Apus unicolor* 1997 (97/26) Souss, Massa estuary, 11 birds, 21 January. 1997 (97/27) Rharb, Sidi Bou-Rhaba, 80, 30 January. **African Rock Martin** *Hirundo fuligula* 1999 (99/16) Middle Draa, Ait Herbil, two, 15 February; Kasba-éj-Jouâ, one, 16 April. 2000 (00/08) Western Anti-Atlas, Taghjicht, pair, 8 April. **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus notvaeseelandiae* 1998 (98/41) Lower Draa, Oued Draa, 23 October. **Louisiana Waterthrush** *Seiurus motacilla* 1999 (99/1) Chiadma, Essaouira, 18 January. **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* 1994 (94/11) Souss, Agadir, 21 October. 1998 (98/42) Lower Draa, Draa estuary, 22 October. ?

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#### Appendix 1. List of bird species for which a description should be submitted to the Moroccan Rare Birds Committee

The following list includes those species which occur (or have occurred) and for which details should be submitted to MRBC. Status abbreviations are as follows:

RB	Resident	BM	Breeding migrant
OB	Occasional breeder	FB	Former breeder
PM	Passage migrant	WV	Winter visitor
OW	Occasional winter visitor, otherwise known as a migrant (BM, PM)		
AV	Accidental visitor (fewer than 30 records)		
F(AV)	Former accidental visitor (not recorded since 1899)		
?	Indicates doubt concerning status immediately preceding the question mark		

If more than one category is applicable to a species, they are presented in order of importance.

<i>Struthio camelus</i>	Ostrich, Autruche d'Afrique	FB, AV?
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated Diver, Plongeon catmarin	AV
<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Black-throated Diver, Plongeon arctique	AV
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Great Northern Diver, Plongeon imbrin	AV
<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Slavonian Grebe, Grébe esclavon	AV
<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	Black-browed Albatross,	
	Albatros à sourcils noirs	AV
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Northern Fulmar, Fulmar boréal	AV
<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	Soft-plumaged Petrel, Pétrel soyeux	AV
<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>	Bulwer's Petrel, Pétrel de Bulwer	AV
<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	Great Shearwater, Puffin majeur	PM
<i>Puffinus (p.) puffinus</i>	Manx Shearwater, Puffin des Anglais	PM, OW
<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>	Little Shearwater, Petit Puffin	AV
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's Storm-petrel, Océanite de Wilson	PM, OW
<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>	White-faced Storm-petrel, Océanite frégate	AV
<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Leach's Storm-petrel,	
	Océanite culblanc	PM, WV
<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>	Madeiran Storm-petrel,	
	Océanite de Castro	AV/PM?
<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Brown Booby, Fou brun	AV
<i>Morus capensis</i>	Cape Gannet, Fou du Cap	AV
<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	Long-tailed Cormorant, Cormoran africain	AV
<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	Darter, Anhinga d'Afrique	AV
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	White Pelican, Pélican blanc	AV
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Great Bittern, Butor étoilé	PM, WV, FB, BM?
<i>Egretta gularis</i>	Western Reef Heron, Aigrette des récifs	AV
<i>Egretta alba</i>	Great White Egret, Grande Aigrette	OW, PM
<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	Yellow-billed Stork, Tantale ibis	AV
<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	Lesser Flamingo, Flamant nain	AV
<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	Fulvous Whistling Duck, Dendrocygne fauve	AV
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan, Cygne tuberculé	AV
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan, Cygne chanteur	AV
<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Bean Goose, Oie des moissons	AV
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	White-fronted Goose, Oie rieuse	AV
<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	Snow Goose, Oie des neiges	AV
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Barnacle Goose, Bernache nonnette	AV
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Brent Goose, Bernache cravant	AV
<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	Spur-winged Goose, Plectroptère de Gambie	AV
<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Mandarin Duck, Canard mandarin	AV
<i>Anas americana</i>	American Wigeon, Canard d'Amerique	AV
<i>Anas (crecca) carolinensis</i>	Green-winged Teal, Sarcelle à ailes vertes	AV
<i>Anas discors</i>	Blue-winged Teal, Sarcelle soucrourou	AV
<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Ring-necked Duck, Fuligule à collier	AV
<i>Aythya marila</i>	Scaup, Fuligule milouinan	AV
<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Velvet Scoter, Macreuse brune	AV
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Goldeneye, Garrot à oeil d'or	AV
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser, Harle huppé	WV
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Goosander, Harle bièvre	AV
<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Ruddy Duck, Erismature rousse	AV, OB?
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	White-headed Duck,	
	Erismature à tête blanche,	WV, OB, PM?
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle, Pygargue à queue blanche	AV
<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Lammergeier, Gypaète barbu	RB
<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	Hooded Vulture, Vautour charognard	AV
<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>	Rüppell's Griffon, Vautour de Rüppell	AV
<i>Aegypius tracheliotos</i>	Lappet-faced Vulture, Vautour oricou	AV, FB
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Eurasian Black Vulture, Vautour moine	AV, FB
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier, Busard pâle	AV
<i>Melierax metabates</i>	Dark Chanting Goshawk, Autour sombre	RB
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle, Aigle pomarin	AV
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle, Aigle criard	AV
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle, Aigle ravisseur	RB
<i>Aquila (heliaca) adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle,	
	Aigle ibérique	AV, FB, OB
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon, Faucon kobez	AV
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker, Faucon sacre	AV
<i>Falco (peregrinus) peregrinoides</i>	Barbary Falcon, Faucon de Barbarie	RB
<i>Numida meleagris</i>	Helmeted Guineafowl, Pintade de Numidie	FB





Figure 1. Great White Egret *Egretta alba*, Merzouga, 27 December 1989 (H. Dufourmy)



Figure 2. Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* is now considered a scarce but regular spring passage migrant through Morocco (G. Willem)



Figure 3. Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps* occurs in the Western Sahara, a region which has been only recently opened to tourism (G. Willem)



Figure 4. First Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* in Morocco, Massa estuary, 16 March 1998 (P. Bulens & A. Le Dru)



Figure 5. The dark egret/heron at Merzouga, April 1997 (A. van den Berg)

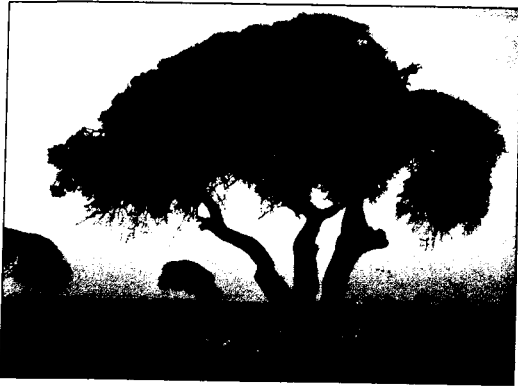
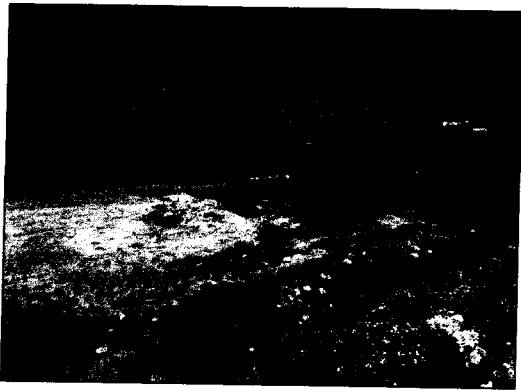


Figure 6. The argan forest of the Souss region is a relict habitat which has produced most of the recent Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* and Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* records (E. Rousseau)



Figure 7. The Ziz Valley, Tafilalet, is followed by many migrants. A Great Snipe *Gallinago media* was recorded here on 30 March 1999 (F. Fornairon)



Figures 8–9. The lagoons of Sidi Moussa–Oualidia (left) and the marshes and estuary of the Massa (right) are two of the most famous birding sites in Morocco (R. Vernon and E. Rousseau)

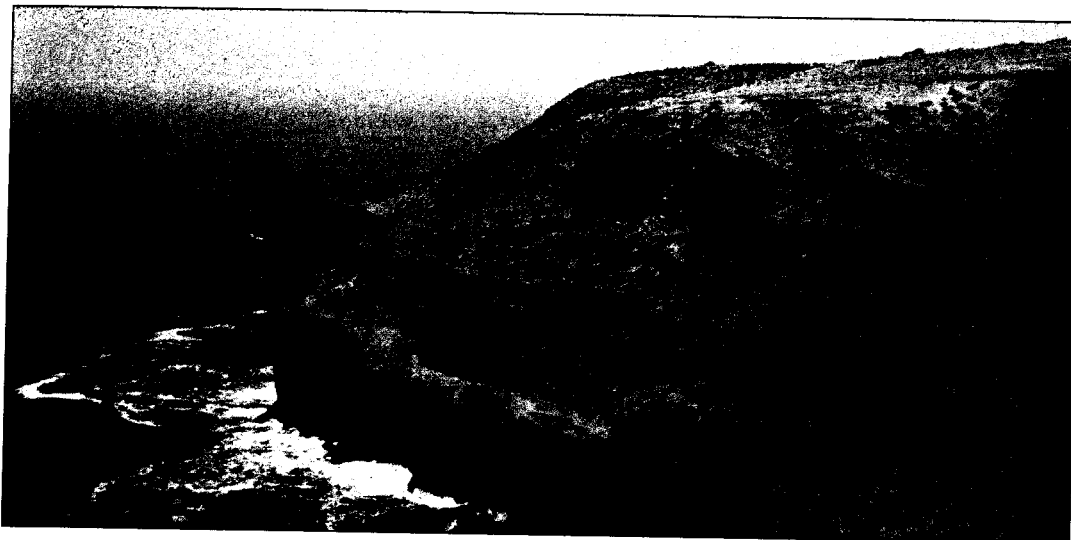


Figure 10. The sea cliffs of the Souss-Massa National Park are habitat for one of the most endangered birds in the world, Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*.

<i>Turnix sylvatica</i> Little Button Quail, Turnix d'Afrique .....	RB
<i>Porzana porzana</i> Spotted Crane, Marouette ponctuée .....	PM, OW
<i>Porzana carolina</i> Sora, Marouette de Caroline .....	AV
<i>Porzana parva</i> Little Crane, Marouette poussin .....	PM
<i>Porzana pusilla</i> Baillon's Crane, Marouette de Baillon .....	PM, BM, OW
<i>Crex crex</i> Comcrake, Râle des genêts .....	PM, OW
<i>Porphyryla alleni</i> Allen's Gallinule, Talève d'Allen .....	AV
<i>Anthropoides virgo</i> Demoiselle Crane, Grue demoiselle .....	FB
<i>Ardeotis arabs</i> Arabian Bustard, Outarde arabe .....	FB, AV/WV?
<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i> Greater Painted Snipe, Rhynchée peinte .....	AV
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i> Black-winged Pratincole, Giaréole à ailes noires .....	AV
<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i> Kittlitz's Plover, Pluvier pâte .....	AV
<i>Pluvialis (d.) dominica</i> American Golden Plover, Pluvier bronzé .....	AV
<i>Chettusia gregaria</i> Sociable Plover, Vanneau sociable .....	AV
<i>Vanellus leucurus</i> White-tailed Plover, Vanneau à queue blanche .....	AV
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i> Great Knot, Grand bécasseau mambèche .....	AV
<i>Calidris pusilla</i> Semipalmated Sandpiper, Bécasseau semipalmé .....	AV
<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i> White-rumped Sandpiper, Bécasseau de Bonaparte .....	AV
<i>Calidris melanotos</i> Pectoral Sandpiper, Bécasseau tacheté .....	AV
<i>Calidris maritima</i> Purple Sandpiper, Bécasseau violet .....	AV
<i>Limicola falcinellus</i> Broad-billed Sandpiper, Bécasseau falcinelle .....	AV
<i>Micropalama himantopus</i> Stilt Sandpiper, Bécasseau échasses .....	AV
<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i> Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bécasseau roussé .....	AV
<i>Gallinago media</i> Great Snipe, Bécassine double .....	PM, OW
<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i> Long-billed Dowitcher, Bécassin à long bec .....	AV
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> Slender-billed Curlew, Courlis à bec grêle .....	WV
<i>Tringa flavipes</i> Lesser Yellowlegs, Petit Chevalier à pattes jaunes .....	AV
<i>Xenus cinereus</i> Terek Sandpiper, Bargette de Terek .....	AV
<i>Actitis macularia</i> Spotted Sandpiper, Chevalier grivelé .....	AV
<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i> Wilson's Phalarope, Phalarope de Wilson .....	AV
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> Red-necked Phalarope, Phalarope à bec étroit .....	AV
<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i> Long-tailed Skua, Labbe à longue queue .....	AV
<i>Larus atricilla</i> Laughing Gull, Goéland atricille .....	AV
<i>Larus pipixcan</i> Franklin's Gull, Mouette de Franklin .....	AV
<i>Larus sabini</i> Sabine's Gull, Mouette de Sabine .....	PM, OW
<i>Larus philadelphia</i> Bonaparte's Gull, Mouette de Bonaparte .....	AV
<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i> Grey-headed Gull, Mouette à tête grise .....	AV
<i>Larus delawarensis</i> Ring-billed Gull, Goéland à bec cerclé .....	AV
<i>Larus canus</i> Common Gull, Goéland cendré .....	WV
<i>Larus argentatus</i> Herring Gull, Goéland argenté .....	WV
<i>Larus glaucooides</i> Iceland Gull, Goéland à ailes blanches .....	AV
<i>Larus glaucescens</i> Glaucous-winged Gull, Goéland à ailes grises .....	AV
<i>Larus hyperboreus</i> Glaucous Gull, Goéland bourgmestre .....	AV
<i>Larus marinus</i> Great Black-backed Gull, Goéland marin .....	WV
<i>Sterna dougallii</i> Roseate Tern, Sterne de Dougall .....	PM
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i> Arctic Tern, Sterne arctique .....	PM, OW
<i>Sterna anaethetus</i> Bridled Tern, Sterne bridée .....	BM
<i>Sterna fuscata</i> Sooty Tern, Sterne fuligineuse .....	AV
<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i> African Skimmer, Bec-en-ciseaux d'Afrique .....	AV
<i>Uria aalge</i> Guillemot, Guillemot de Troil .....	AV
<i>Oena capensis</i> Namaqua Dove, Tourterelle à masque de fer .....	AV
<i>Psittacula krameri</i> Ring-necked Parakeet, Perruche à collier .....	AV/IRB?
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coulicou à bec jaune .....	AV
<i>Bubo bubo hispanus</i> Eagle Owl, Grand-duc d'Europe .....	RB?
<i>Asio flammeus</i> Short-eared Owl, Hibou des marais .....	WV, PM
<i>Apus unicolor</i> Plain Swift, Martinet unicolore .....	AV, OB?, WV?
<i>Apus caffer</i> White-rumped Swift, Martinet café .....	BM, PM
<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i> Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Alouette-moineau à front blanc .....	RB
<i>Hirundo fuligula</i> African Rock Martin, Hirondelle isabelline .....	RB, BM
<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i> Richard's Pipit, Pipit de Richard .....	WV
<i>Anthus petrosus</i> European Rock Pipit, Pipit maritime .....	WV
<i>Motacilla citreola</i> Citrine Wagtail, Bergeronnette citrine .....	AV
<i>Prunella modularis</i> Dunnock, Accenteur mouchet .....	WV
<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i> Isabelline Wheatear, Traquet isabelle .....	PM
<i>Turdus pilaris</i> Fieldfare, Grive litorne .....	AV
<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i> Eurasian River Warbler, Locustelle fluviatile .....	AV
<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i> Marsh Warbler, Rousserolle verderolle .....	AV
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> Aquatic Warbler, Phragmite aquatique .....	PM
<i>Hippolais icterina</i> Icterine Warbler, Hypolais icterine .....	AV
<i>Sylvia sarda</i> Marmora's Warbler, Fauvette sarde .....	AV
<i>Sylvia curruca</i> Lesser Whitethroat, Fauvette babillarde .....	PM, OW
<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i> (Siberian) Chiffchaff, Pouillot sibérien .....	AV
<i>Phylloscopus (collybita) ibericus</i> (Iberian) Chiffchaff, Pouillot ibérique .....	RB, PM, WV
<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i> Pallas's Warbler, Pouillot de Pallas .....	AV
<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i> Yellow-browed Warbler, Pouillot à grands sourcils .....	AV
<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i> Dusky Warbler, Pouillot brun .....	AV
<i>Regulus regulus</i> Goldcrest, Roitelet huppé .....	AV
<i>Ficedula parva</i> Red-breasted Flycatcher, Gobemouche nain .....	AV
<i>Ficedula albicollis</i> Collared Flycatcher, Gobemouche à collier .....	AV
<i>Panurus biarmicus</i> Bearded Tit, Panure à moustaches .....	AV
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> Long-tailed Tit, Mésange à longue queue .....	AV
<i>Parus cristatus</i> Crested Tit, Mésange huppée .....	AV
<i>Tichodroma muraria</i> Wallcreeper, Tichodrome échelette .....	AV
<i>Remiz pendulinus</i> Penduline Tit, Rémiz penduline .....	AV
<i>Lanius collurio</i> Red-backed Shrike, Pie-grièche écorcheur .....	AV
<i>Corvus corone</i> Carrion Crow, Corneille noire .....	OW
<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i> Red-billed Firefinch, Amarante du Sénégal .....	AV
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i> Red-eyed Vireo, Viréo aux yeux rouges .....	AV
<i>Serinus citrinella</i> Citril Finch, Venturon montagnard .....	AV
<i>Carduelis flammea</i> Common Redpoll, Sizerin flammé .....	AV
<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i> Common Rosefinch, Roselin cramoiisi .....	AV
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> Bullfinch, Bouvreuil pivoine .....	AV
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> Snow Bunting, Bruant des neiges .....	AV
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i> Yellowhammer, Bruant jaune .....	AV
<i>Emberiza pusilla</i> Little Bunting, Bruant nain .....	AV
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i> Black-headed Bunting, Bruant mélanocéphale .....	AV

## Appendix 2. Possible accidental visitors to Morocco.

Species for which one or more records have been claimed but not confirmed (AV?).

<i>Gavia adamsii</i> White-billed Diver, Plongeon à bec blanc .....	AV?
<i>Podiceps grisegena</i> Red-necked Grebe, Grèbe jougris .....	AV?
<i>Phaethon aethereus</i> Red-billed Tropicbird, Grand Phaéton .....	AV?
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> Least Bittern, Petit Blongios .....	AV?
<i>Altopochen aegyptiacus</i> Egyptian Goose, Oie d'Egypte .....	AV?
<i>Mergus albellus</i> Smew, Harle piette .....	F(AV)?
<i>Cathartes aura</i> Turkey Vulture, Urubu à tête rouge .....	AV?
<i>Porzana marginalis</i> Striped Crane, Marouette rayée .....	AV?
<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i> Senegal Thick-knee, Oedicnème du Sénégal .....	AV?
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> Greater Sand Plover, Pluvier de Leschenault .....	AV?
<i>Limnodromus griseus</i> Short-billed Dowitcher, Bécassin à bec court .....	AV?
<i>Alle alle</i> Little Auk, Mergule nain .....	AV?
<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i> African Collared Dove, Tourterelle riéuse .....	AV?
<i>Strix woodfordii</i> African Wood Owl, Chouette africaine .....	AV?
<i>Caprimulgus nubicus</i> Nubian Nightjar, Engoulevent de Nubie .....	AV?
<i>Caprimulgus eximius</i> Golden Nightjar, Engoulevent doré .....	AV?
<i>Ceryle rudis</i> Pied Kingfisher, Alcayon <sup>1</sup> pie .....	AV?
<i>Coracias abyssinica</i> Abyssinian Roller, Rollier d'Abyssinie .....	AV?
<i>Luscinia luscinia</i> Thrush Nightingale, Rossignol progné .....	AV?
<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i> Pied Wheatear, Traquet pie .....	AV?
<i>Locustella certhiola</i> Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, Locustelle de Pallas .....	AV?
<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i> Semi-collared Flycatcher, Gobemouche à demi-collier .....	AV?
<i>Passer luteus</i> Golden Sparrow, Moineau doré .....	AV?
<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i> Snow Finch, Niverolle alpine .....	AV?
<i>Seiurus motacilla</i> Louisiana Waterthrush, Paruline hochequée .....	AV?
<i>Emberiza leucocephala</i> Pine Bunting, Bruant à calotte blanche .....	AV?

<sup>1</sup> Except at Douyïet, Merja Bargha and Merja Halloufa.

<sup>2</sup> Except at Douyïet.

<sup>3</sup> Only in the Strait of Gibraltar and on the Mediterranean coast.