

Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



WESTERN SAHARA: Mammals & Birds Tour

Thursday 22nd February - Thursday 1st March 2018

3 Wise Birding Clients

Leaders: Richard Moores & Nico Calcagno (Dakhla Rovers)

HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

African Dunn's Lark: A key target species with a pair of birds seen very well along the Aousserd road near Km75 on the 28th.

Sudan Golden Sparrow: An impressive flock of 50+ birds at Oued Jenna.

Cricket Warbler: A speciality of the region with some great views and a count of at least 10 birds in Oued Jenna.

Fennec Fox: Great views of an animal foraging on the flat stony desert just metres from the vehicle on the evening of the 27th was a clear trip highlight.

Sand Cat: Our spotlighting sessions were finally rewarded with close views of an animal around 50Km west of Oued Jenna on the 27th

Lesser Egyptian Jerboa: An expected mammal, but not during broad daylight!



Sudan Golden Sparrow and a daytime encounter with a Lesser Egyptian Jerboa were just two of the tour highlights

Tour Summary

The Western Sahara is easily accessible with daily flights, it has good accommodation, good food and some impressive desert scenery and coast. This 7 night tour targeted the key species of the desert environment with a particular focus on mammals with 4 nights in our desert house accommodation. Of course, birds were also a high priority and we also made an effort to see the specialities that are difficult to find elsewhere in the Western Palearctic region. We saw a total of 95 species of bird with all key targets seen except for Golden Nightjar despite good effort! The night temperatures were cold and maybe affected our chances. We also saw 9 mammal species, including Sand Cat, Fennec Fox and Ruppell's Fox as well as a number of impressive reptiles.

Thursday 22 Feb: ARRIVE DAKHLA

After a well connected flight from the UK via Casablanca and no time difference, we arrived at the quiet and friendly airport at Dakhla during the late evening. Nico our local host then met us and drove us the very short distance to our hotel. Our other two guests, Rauno and Anneli had arrived the day before. **Overnight Dakhla Hotel**

Friday 23 Feb: DAKHLA BAY

The day was spent exploring Dakhla Bay and the Ramsar area.

Highlights included a flock of 47 "African" Royal Terns on the west side of the bay during a second check of the area in the evening. On the east side, a group of 6 Common Shelducks, 6 Northern Pintail and two Eurasian Wigeon were all notable for the region. The only sightings of Great Skua and Gannet were seen around the bay.

Other highlights included Slender-billed Gulls and Audouin's Gulls, Caspian Terns and four Little Terns. The latter were most likely of the Guinea race but views were always distant. Good numbers of Ospreys in the bay included several whilst enjoying breakfast in the hotel! Around the bay impressive counts of Spoonbill included 60+ birds and at least 1,400 Greater Flamingos. An Iberian Yellow Wagtail was the only one of the trip and a single Temminck's Lark on the west side of the bay.

Overnight Dakhla Hotel

Saturday 24 Feb: DAKHLA BAY WEST - MIJK - TACHKTANT - AOUSSERD

Another 8 Royal Terns were seen on the west side of Dakhla Bay before we headed inland to explore a private oasis at Mijk. Migrants here included a Common Quail, Black-eared Wheatear, Woodchat Shrike, Tawny Pipit and Western Orphean Warbler. A stop at Tachktant pool (Gleb Jdiane) produced a few more common migrants with the best discovery being a Spotted Crake seen briefly on a couple of occasions. A total of 16 Cream-coloured Coursers were also a highlight in this area.

Whilst travelling we enjoyed good lark numbers along the Aousserd Road including a nice mixed flock of 15 Thick-billed Larks, Greater Short-toed Larks, Temminck's Larks and Bar-tailed Larks. Two Black Kites were the only birds of the trip.

A disappointing evening spent spotlighting the Aousserd road produced very little due to colder than normal temperatures. **Overnight Aousserd House**

Sunday 25 February: AOUSSERD - OUED JENNA - LEGLAT & OUED JENNA

A Western Orphean Warbler at Aousserd started the day and then some birding in Oued Jenna produced the expected Fulvous Babblers and Desert Sparrows as well as Cricket Warblers, with a count of 10 birds. Migrants were generally thin on the ground. Birding around Leglat Massif was more productive with Short-toed Eagle, Blue Rock Thrush, Pale Rock Martin and a frustrating view of what was most likely a Namaqua Dove seen by Mark.

Spotlighting along the Aousserd road was more productive than the previous night but still pretty quiet in cold temperatures with highlights being a Horned Viper at Oued Jenna and two Lesser Egyptian Jerboas. Some time was spent searching for Golden Nightjar but no birds were seen or heard. **Overnight Aousserd House**

Monday 26 February: AOUSSERD - OUED JENNA - DERRAMAN

A Crested Lark, most likely of the long-billed form was heard singing near the Aousserd army base but could not be located. Our first Fat Sand Rat of the trip was also seen today.

A second attempt for Sparrows in Oued Jenna soon revealed an impressive flock of 50+ Sudan Golden Sparrows! The birds were close to the road and it was surprising how such a brightly coloured flock could disappear into a single acacia tree! A good sized flock of Black-crowned Sparrow-larks were also seen nearby.

A visit to the Derraman Massif gave some great views of a pair of Lanner Falcons, a migrant Common Swift and a light phase Booted Eagle over nearby Oued Jenna. However, the undoubted highlight was the daytime views of a Lesser Egyptian Jerboa!

After some rest during the afternoon, we were all refreshed for another spotlighting session and we decided to head further west. This certainly paid off as we were rewarded with a beautiful Sand Cat around 50Km west of Oued Jenna which was "squeaked in" to around 30 metres! Our persistence paid off again around 8Km further west where we were treated to brilliant views of a Fennec Fox foraging on flat stony desert just 12m from our vehicle! A final stop and some time spent trying different areas at Oued Jenna, again failed to produce the hoped for Golden Nightjar.

Overnight Aousserd House

Tuesday 27 Feb: AOUSSERD - LEGLAT - OUED JENNA - DERRAMAN

A Golden Eagle soaring distantly over Leglat was a good bird for the region and more groups of Black-crowned Sparrow-larks were seen en route. A flock of 50+ Brown-necked Ravens around Aousserd was the high count for the trip.

A visit to Oued Jenna in the afternoon revealed just three Sudan Golden Sparrows by the road and a migrant Great Spotted Cuckoo was a nice surprise. We waited around the Derraman Massif until dusk and did some spotlighting out of the vehicle. Again another productive evening and one of the most enjoyable for the group. Highlights included a Ruppell's Fox on the massif, excellent but relatively brief views of an African Wildcat and a calling Pharaoh Eagle Owl. On the drive back towards Oued Jenna we were rewarded with great views of an African Golden Wolf as it trotted over the flat stony desert. A final try for Golden Nightjar at Oued Jenna was sadly devoid of any calling birds. **Overnight Aousserd House**

Wed 28 Feb: AOUSSERD - TACHKTANT - DAKHLA BAY - TAOURTA GDNS

Two Lanner Falcons entertained us as they harassed a Long-legged Buzzard above the massif close to our accommodation. We then headed back west towards Dakhla, making stops en route. A brief look at Oued Jenna showed the three Sudan Golden Sparrows were still present.

Birding along the Aousserd road produced a couple of key species in the form of African Desert Warbler and two "African" Dunn's Larks around 75Km from Aousserd. Another stop at Tachktant revealed migrant Common Grasshopper Warbler, Sedge Warbler and an out of place Little Egret!

As we neared Dakhla, a small group of Cream-coloured Coursers were seen in a similar area as previously in the trip. We then visited the Taourta Gardens just outside

Dakhla which was surprisingly quiet for migrants. The expected Laughing Doves and Thekla Larks were seen and a less expected tortoise species that had most likely originated as a pet and been let free rather than a truly wild specimen. A final look around the west side of the bay produced Yellow-legged Gull, Audouin's Gull, Slender-billed Gull, Caspian Tern and a good selection of waders. **Overnight Dakhla Hotel**

Thursday 1 March: DEPARTURE

After an early pick up from the hotel we arrived at the airport and took our flight back to the UK via Casablanca where the tour concluded.

Many thanks to tour participant Mark Andrews who kindly allowed the use of the vast majority of photos that appear below. Thanks must also go to Rauno Vaisanen for compiling the butterfly and moth list for the trip.

Conservation Donation – Following this tour to Western Sahara £100 was transferred to the Wise Birding Holiday's central conservation fund.

For the last three years Wise Birding Holidays has been supporting a number of small conservation projects. However, we now believe that to try and make a bigger difference to conservation it seems best to pool the donations from most of our tours into one central fund. Once a target amount has been reached this money will be used to support one single project in the hope of achieving more for species conservation. Currently this amounts to around £4,000. Some tours will continue to donate money to help some of the smaller projects that we feel will still benefit from smaller donations. Please visit our [Conservation News](#) & [Latest News](#) links to find out more.



The desert landscape around Oued Jenna



The *elegans* race of Great Grey Shrike (above)
and a migrant Woodchat Shrike (below)





**Ospreys are common along the Dakhla coast (above)
and Short-toed Eagles are relatively scarce (below)**





Thekla Lark (above) and White-crowned Wheatear (below)





The Sudan Golden Sparrow was a key target in Oued Jenna where a flock of 50+ birds was seen





The Spiny-tailed Lizard is also known as the Sudan Mastigure





**The Lesser Egyptian Jerboa is commonly seen at night,
but a daytime encounter is exceptional!**





Cricket Warbler is easily seen around Oued Jenna





Pale Rock Martin (above) and Fat Sand Rat (below)





Thick-billed Larks (above) Temminck's Lark (below)





**Dumeril's Fringe-toed Lizard (above)
and Yellow-winged Darter (below)**





Horned Viper

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More photos from our tours can be viewed on our Flickr site:
www.flickr.com/photos/129663578@N06/albums

Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



WESTERN SAHARA: Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, Butterflies & Moths: 22nd Feb - 1st March 2018

This bird checklist follows the nomenclature and classification from HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World and the associated online resource, HBW Alive

#	Common name	Scientific name	#	Species Notes
1	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	1	Flushed at the private oasis in Mijk on the 24th.
2	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	2	A total of 6 birds recorded in Ramsar area on east side of Dakhla Bay on the 23rd.
3	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	3	Two birds (male and female) recorded in Ramsar area on east side of Dakhla Bay on the 23rd.
4	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	4	A total of birds 6 recorded in Ramsar area on east side of Dakhla Bay on the 23rd.
5	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	5	Recorded on three days around Dakhla Bay with a minimum of 1,400 on the 23rd.
6	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	6	Recorded daily.
7	Eurasian Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	7	Recorded daily.
8	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	8	Recorded on four days, mainly around the Dakhla area.
9	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	9	A probable was seen flying low through the Laglat massif on the 25th.
10	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	10	A single seen around the Derraman massif on the 26th.
11	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	11	A single in Oued Jenna on the 27th.
12	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	12	Seen briefly on two occasions at Tachkant on the 24th. A rarity for the region.
13	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	13	Recorded on two days around Dakhla Bay with a maximum count of 60 birds on the 22nd.
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	14	Recorded on two days around Dakhla Bay with a single flock of at least 35 birds on the 23rd.
15	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	15	Recorded on three days in small numbers around Dakhla Bay.
16	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	16	A single bird on the east side of Dakhla Bay on the 23rd.
17	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	17	Recorded on three days in Dakhla Bay including a minimum of 300 on the 23rd, many of the white-breasted form.
18	Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	18	At least two birds heard calling from city centre parks near Dakhla hotel on two dates.
19	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	19	Recorded in small numbers on the coast on the 23rd.
20	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	20	Small numbers recorded on 23rd and 24th on the coast.
21	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	21	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
22	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	22	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
23	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	23	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
24	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	24	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
25	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	25	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
26	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	26	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the west side of Dakhla Bay.
27	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	27	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd and 24th and 28th on the west side of Dakhla Bay.
28	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	28	Small numbers recorded on the west side of Dakhla Bay on the 23rd.
29	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	29	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
30	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	30	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
31	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	31	One seen on east side of Dakhla Bay on the 23rd.
32	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	32	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
33	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	33	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast..
34	Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	34	Excellent views of 16 birds between Aousserd road junction and Tachkant on 24th. Also recorded in same area in smaller numbers on 28th.
35	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	35	Decent numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
36	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	36	Small numbers recorded on 23rd in Dakhla Bay.
37	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	37	Small numbers recorded on the 23rd, 24th and 28th on the coast.
38	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	38	The most common gull species recorded in large numbers on the coast on the 23rd, 24th and 28th.
39	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	39	A 3rd-winter aged bird seen on west side of Dakhla Bay on the 28th.
40	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	40	Four birds seen in Dakhla Bay on the 23rd. Most likely of the guinea race (Ghana to Gabon & marginal population in Mauritania) but views were always distant.
41	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	41	Common in Dakhla Bay on the 23rd, 24th and 28th.
42	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	42	Small numbers in Dakhla Bay on the 23rd and 24th.

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43	"African" Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus (albidorsalis)</i>	43	This speciality of Dakhla Bay was seen very well with 47 birds on the 23rd and 8 birds on the 24th.
44	Great Skua	<i>Carhartica skua</i>	44	A single seen on the east side of Dakhla Bay on the 23rd.
45	Pharaoh Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	45	One calling from massif at Aousserd on the 26th and one at Derraman on the 27th.
46	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	46	A minimum of 10 seen on Dakhla Bay on the 23rd and 24th.
47	Short-toed Snake-eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	47	A single bird was seen at Laglat massif on the 25th.
48	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	48	A single seen over Leglat massif on the 27th.
49	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	49	A pale morph adult was seen over Oued Jenna on the afternoon of the 26th.
50	Western Marsh-harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	50	Two seen in Dakhla Bay on 23rd and a single on the 24th.
51	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	51	Two seen at Aousserd on the 24th.
52	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	52	At least two seen daily in the desert from 24th-28th.
53	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	53	Up to two birds seen in the desert on the 24th, 25th and 27th.
54	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	54	Recorded around Dakhla on three dates.
55	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	55	Up to four birds seen in the desert on five dates with pairs at Derraman and at Aousserd harassing a Long-legged Buzzard.
56	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	56	One seen in Dakhla on 23rd with two birds seen on 24th. One from Dakhla hotel balcony and one in Aousserd.
57	Great Grey (Southern) Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	57	Excellent views of the North African subspecies <i>elegans</i> throughout the tour. Note: HBW classify as a race of Great Grey Shrike whereas other taxonomy classifies as race of Southern Grey Shrike <i>Lanius meridionalis</i> (known as Iberian Grey Shrike under HBW taxonomy).
58	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	58	A single migrant at the private oasis at Mijk on the 24th.
59	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	59	Recorded on five dates in the desert with up to 50 birds at Aousserd on the 27th.
60	Greater Hoopoe-lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	60	Excellent views of this always impressive bird on six days.
61	Bar-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>	61	Small groups recorded on each day.
62	Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>	62	Up to six birds recorded around desert massifs on three days.
63	Black-crowned Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>	63	Up to 70 birds recorded in the desert on four days including several impressive flocks.
64	Dunn's Lark	<i>Eremalauda dunni</i>	64	A pair along the Aousserd road on the 28th approximately 75Km from Aousserd.
65	Thick-billed Lark	<i>Ramphocoris clotbey</i>	65	A flock of 15 seen along the Aousserd Road on the 24th around 83Km from Aousserd and a single seen on the 28th along the Aousserd Road
66	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	66	Three seen in the desert on the 24th.
67	Temminck's Lark	<i>Eremophila bilopha</i>	67	One on west side of Dakhla Bay on 23rd and two in the desert on the 24th.
68	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	68	A common lark species particularly near Dakhla recorded on four days.
69	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	69	What was considered to be this species was heard near Aousserd on 26th but not seen despite effort on that day and the following day.
70	Cricket Warbler	<i>Spiloptila clamans</i>	70	Some excellent close views of this speciality of the region recorded on three days whilst in the desert. Max. count of 10 birds on the 25th in Oued Jenna.
71	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	71	A single seen at Tachkant on the 24th and 28th.
72	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	72	One at Tachkant on the 28th.
73	Northern House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	73	One in Dakhla Bay on 23rd and one at Laglat massif on the 25th.
74	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	74	Small numbers seen migrating daily.
75	Pale Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>	75	Small numbers seen around Oued Jenna, Derraman and Leglat massifs on four days.
76	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	76	A common migrant/wintering bird in the desert - seen daily.
77	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	77	Small numbers in private oasis at Mijk on the 24th.
78	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia deserti</i>	78	A single bird along the Aousserd road around 75Km on the 28th.
79	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	79	Two seen at Leglat on 25th with singles near Aousserd and in the private oasis at Mijk on different dates.
80	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	80	Small numbers recorded on five days.
81	Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	81	A common wintering and migrant species in the desert, seen daily.
82	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	82	Small numbers seen on five dates.
83	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Argya fulva</i>	83	Seen very well on all days in the desert with family groups showing well in Leglat and Oued Jenna,

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84	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	84	Singles seen in Leglat massif on the 25th and 27th.
85	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	85	Small numbers seen each day.
86	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	86	Small numbers seen on four days.
87	Buff-rumped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe moesta</i>	87	Singles seen around Dakhla Bay on the 23rd and 24th.
88	White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	88	Seen daily in small numbers.
89	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	89	Seen daily.
90	Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>	90	Recorded on five days in the desert with flocks of up to 40 birds recorded.
91	Sudan Golden Sparrow	<i>Passer luteus</i>	91	A minimum of 50 (perhaps 60) in a flock in Oued Jenna on 26th with groups of three seen there on the 27th and 28th.
92	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	92	One seen in the private oasis at Mijk on the 24th.
93	Iberian Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla iberiae</i>	93	One seen on east side of Dakhla Bay on the 23rd.
94	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	94	Small numbers seen daily.
95	House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	95	Heard singing around our hotel on at least three days.
MAMMALS				
1	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Paraechinus aethiopicus</i>	1	Small numbers seen in Dakhla Bay on 22nd for some of the group.
2	African Golden Wolf	<i>Canis anthus</i>	2	Excellent views of one on flat stony desert west of Oued Jenna on the 27th.
3	Ruppell's Fox	<i>Vulpes rueppelli</i>	3	One seen at Derraman massif on the 27th.
4	Fennec Fox	<i>Vulpes zerda</i>	4	Excellent views of an animal on flat stony desert just a few metres from the vehicle whilst spotlighting along the Aousserd road on the 26th. Approx. 60Km west of Oued Jenna.
5	Sand Cat	<i>Felis margarita</i>	5	Seen very well whilst spotlighting along the Aousserd Road 50Km W of Oued Jenna on the 26th. It was "squeaked in" to within 30 metres of the vehicle before disappearing.
6	African Wildcat	<i>Felis lybica</i>	6	One seen well at very close range, albeit briefly, at Derraman massif on the 27th.
7	African Savannah Hare	<i>Lepus microtis</i>	7	Seen on two dates in the desert.
8	Lesser Egyptian Jerboa	<i>Jaculus jaculus</i>	8	Small numbers seen whilst spotlighting with unbelievable views of a daytime active animal north of Oued Jenna on the 26th.
9	Fat Sand Rat	<i>Psammomys obesus</i>	9	Singles seen near Aousserd on two dates.
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS				
1	Brongersma's Toad	<i>Bufo brongersmai</i>	1	Juvenile toads in the Tachkant Tower on 24th were assumed to be this species.
2	Dumeril's Fringe-toed Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus dumerilii</i>	2	Recorded at a number of sites.
3	Sudan Mastigure / Spiny-tailed Lizard	<i>Uromastix dispar</i>	3	Recorded daily in the desert with some impressive specimens.
4	Horned Viper	<i>Cerastes cerastes</i>	4	Excellent views at Oued Jenna and at Derraman. Sadly, we also found some recently dead specimens killed on the road.
5	Unidentified Snake	-	5	One at Tachkant on the 24th.
BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS				
1	Dark Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	1	Recorded in Dakhla and the private oasis at Mijk.
2	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	2	Abundant at the private oasis at Mijk.
3	Lang's Long-tailed Blue	<i>Syntarucus pirithous</i>	3	Abundant at the private oasis at Mijk.
4	Desert Orange-tip	<i>Colotis evagore</i>	4	Abundant at Leglat and Derraman. The beautiful W Saharan individuals lacked almost all dark markings making them very distinctively white with bright orange wing tips.
5	Golden Arab Tip	<i>Colotis chrysonome</i>	5	Abundant at Leglat and Derraman and a few at Oued Jenna.
6	Common Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus theophrastus</i>	6	Two individuals at Leglat.

WESTERN SAHARA: Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, Butterflies & Moths: 22nd Feb - 1st March 2018

This bird checklist follows the nomenclature and classification from HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World and the associated online resource, HBW Alive

#	Common name	Scientific name	#	Species Notes
1	Crimson-speckled Moth	<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>	1	Several at Derraman.
2	Maltese Bloom Moth	<i>Isturgia disputaria</i>	2	Several at Oued Jenna.
3	Tamarisk Plume Moth	<i>Agristis tamaricis</i>	3	One on tamarisks at Tachktant.
4	-	<i>Tyroca leucoptera</i>	4	One at Oued Jenna.
DRAGONFLIES				
1	Yellow-winged Darter	<i>Sympetrum flaveolum</i>	1	-

Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours

