

ALGERIA

SMASH AND GRAB June 7th to 9th 2019

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TEAM Neil Bostock, Graham Speight, Andy Marshall & Me.

AIRPORT PARKING Purple parking £28.04 for 3 days.



Left to right; **Bill Simpson, Graham Speight, Karim Haddad, Neil Bostock and Andy Marshall.**

TOUR Run by **Karim Haddad** karim241267@yahoo.fr and included 2 nights in the El Khayem Hotel in Constantine, all transport, all food and drinks and guiding along with his brother.

They both spoke excellent English and were quick to reply to our emails.

Neil Bostock booked up all our flights and corresponded with Karim to get the best plan of attack.

We were told we were not allowed to bring binoculars and that Karim would supply these. 2 pairs of bins were supplied which Graham, Neil and Andy shared. I just used my camera instead. Strangely, my digital camera and 400mm lens were allowed through customs, but it was a big shame we were not permitted to take our binoculars into the country. We took cabin baggage only and I was always asked to show my camera when arriving and departing Algeria and Constantine. This wasn't a problem although I was asked whether it was for work purposes which I obviously said it was not. Karim and his brother met us at Constantine arrivals with two cars for the whole trip and looked after us until his brother dropped us off at the airport for the return flight. We were looked after very well and it was a pleasure to meet them both. The Algerian people we met were very friendly and polite, the food was great and the weather dry and warm to hot. An easy trip!

FLIGHTS LGW to ALG **£198.52** return.
ALG to CZL **£ 42.29** return.

7th June **LGW 08.25 - 11.15 ALG** **ALG 17.40 - 18.45 CZL**
9th **CZL 07.35 - 08.25 ALG** **ALG 12.15 - 15.10 LGW**

VISA Very expensive and time consuming! And if you get anything wrong you have to start again.
£85 (over £106 including paying for the postal order, and pre-paid special delivery envelope)

Requirements included; 2 printed copies of all passport pages

2 passport photos

2 application forms

Confirmation of Hotel booking original and copy

Evidence of employment activity

Pre-paid, self-addressed special delivery envelope

Passport

Postal order for £85 (which costs £10 to buy)

****AND DON'T BOTHER APPLYING IF YOU HAVE AN ISRAELI STAMP IN YOUR PASSPORT****

Systematic List

1. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
Female and young at Constantine.
2. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
1, Constantine.
3. **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
Common.
4. **Common Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*
Several at Bouafrane Forest.
5. **European Turtle-dove** *Streptopelia turtur*
3, Bouafrane Forest.
6. **Eurasian Collared-dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Common around villages.
7. **Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*
1 from the car on route.
8. **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*
4+, Canyon of Rhummel, Constantine.
9. **Common Swift** *Apus apus*
Common throughout and identified with close views and no bins.
10. **Common Coot** *Fulica atra*
1, Constantine.
11. **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*
100+ along the roads on route and many nesting on the buildings and a few trees right by the roadside.
12. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
C 50 in all.
13. **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*
3 birds at Algiers airport.
14. **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*
1 bird noted on route to Bouafrane Forest.

15. **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*
2 darkish-phase birds over Bouafrane Forest.
16. **Western Marsh-harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
3-4 birds on route.
17. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*
4-5 birds noted.
18. **Eurasian Buzzard** *Buteo buteo cirtensis*
Several buzzards noted from the car looked like Commons in shape and proportions and Long-legged in plumage. HBWA assigns these to the *cirtensis* race of **Long-Legged Buzzard**, but this is now thought to be a race of Common Buzzard. <http://www.magornitho.org/2019/02/north-african-buzzard-taxonomy/>



19. **Maghreb Green Woodpecker** *Picus vaillantii*
1, looked like a female in the poor photo, Bouafrane Forest.
20. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major numidus*
Several birds in the Bouafrane Forest June 8th looking quite dark on the underparts and showing a dark breastband. Potential split as **Algerian Great Spotted Woodpecker** (HBWA) of Algeria and Tunisia.



21. **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*

2-3 males identified at the Canyon of Rhummel (photo) and a probable group of 4-5 birds together on wires along the road to Bouafrane Forest.



22. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

A few at the Canyon of Rhummel. Assigned to *tinnunculus* in HBWA, although the males were more reminiscent of the Egyptian race *rupicolaeformis* showing whitish underwings contrasting with warm peachy-buff underparts.

23. **Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*
1, Bouafrane Forest.



24. **Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* **cervicalis** (**Black-Crowned Jay** of N & NE Algeria and NW Tunisia)
1 seen in flight in Bouafrane Forest where several heard. 1 heard at Constantine and a juvenile being fed by the farmers lad at Bouafrane Forest.



25. **Eurasian Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* **cirtensis**
Common at the Canyon of Rhumel. **Cirtensis** (NE Algeria) apparently showing far less contrast on the nape than all other races according to HBWA although these all showed a more contrasting nape than my local Jackdaws! ... perhaps due to sun-bleaching ?

26. **Common Raven** *Corvus corax*
A few at Bouafrane Forest.

27. **Coal Tit** *Parus ater* **Iedouci**
Several heard but only 2-3 seen at Bouafrane Forest.
Deep buffy yellow cheeks and underparts with a huge black bib extending across the breast.

28. **African Blue Tit** *Cyanistes teneriffae*
Common in Bouafrane Forest and a few at Constantine.



29. **Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*
1 singing Bouafrane Forest.



30. **Western Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*
1 singing in Bouafrane Forest.
1 singing and calling at Constantine (photo).

31. **Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala*
A few calling in the scrub at Bouafrane and a close male at the El Khayem Hotel.
32. **Northern House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*
A few around Algiers and a few village stops.
33. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
A few along the road to Bouafrane Forest.
34. **Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
2 noted at the Canyon of Rhummel.
35. **Common Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus*
1 heard along the road towards Bouafrane Forest.



36. **Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla*
Quite common with more heard than seen although still managed to see c 5 at Bouafrane Forest and c 5 at Constantine.



37. **ALGERIAN NUTHATCH** *Sitta ledanti*

At least 10 birds thought to have been seen with possibly another 4-5 heard only June 8th. Conspicuous by voice with a loud and scolding harsh call and a nasal repetitive, ringing song. The birds were often in small family groups with the young begging for food while wing-trembling. All the photos are of Ad males except for the lower right which is either an Ad female or possibly a juv due to the noticeably shorter bill.

38. **Northern Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Heard at Constantine.
39. **Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
A few noted throughout.
40. **Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*
2-3 birds heard only singing at Bouafrane Forest.



41. **ATLAS PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula speculigera*
Common in the Bouafrane Forest June 8th with many pairs in territory with the males still singing and both sexes gathering food and entering nest holes. They were often following the Nuthatch family groups, perhaps looking for insects disturbed by the foraging Nuthatches. C 15+ birds seen in all.



42. **Moussier's Redstart** *Phoenicurus moussieri*
A spanking male in the scenic surroundings of a rubbish dump by the road to Djimla.
43. **Common Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*
2 by the roadside near Djimla.
44. **Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*
Male on a house roof on the short track coming down from Bouafrane Forest.
45. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
Identified at Algiers Airport.
46. **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis*
Common at Algiers Airport. Lots of Sparrows nesting in the Storks nests were probably this species but couldn't identify them for sure without bins!
47. **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
1 near Bouafrane Forest.
48. **Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs africana*
Common in Bouafrane Forest.
49. **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
A few inner pp's found in Bouafrane Forest, the victim of a Sparrowhawk no doubt!
50. **Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra polioyyna*
1, Probably a female, Constantine.
51. **European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*
1, Bouafrane Forest.
52. **European Serin** *Serinus serinus*
C 5 noted in all.

53. **Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*
Common for a change!
54. **Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirius*
1, Bouafrane Forest.

NEW SPECIES

Species in **RED** are not currently split by HBW Alive. **BOLD UPPERCASE** are Endemics.

1. **ALGERIAN NUTHATCH** *Sitta ledanti*
2. **ATLAS PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula speculigera*