

**ALGERIAN NUTHATCH TWITCH** (AND A BIT OF TUNESIA)  
**05 UNTIL 11-05-2018**



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### **Legenda:**

**\*AAAA** = New (Holarctic) Species (2)

**AAAAA** = Good species for the trip or for me (because not often seen)

*The list order is conformed the WP checklist with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue mainly based on publications in the “important magazines”. Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field. The totals of birds per species are just a total of the birds I saw to give an idea how many of a species you encounter during a trip. Only species seen are mentioned, and heard when no lifer.*

On this trip the weather was good with no rain, mostly sunny with (dry) temperatures just above the 20 C and often no wind except on the first day at Cap Bon.



*Cap Bon on a very windy day*



*The breeding site of the first visited pair of Algerian Nuthatches*

### **Itinerary**

**05-05** Flew from Frankfurt to Tunis and met the group and the local guide Mohamed Ali Dakhli (+21621817717, [ma.dakhli@planet.tn](mailto:ma.dakhli@planet.tn)) around 18.00 hours and drove to Cap Bon.

**06-05** Birded around El Haouaria and Cap Bon all day. There was a very strong NW wind force 7.

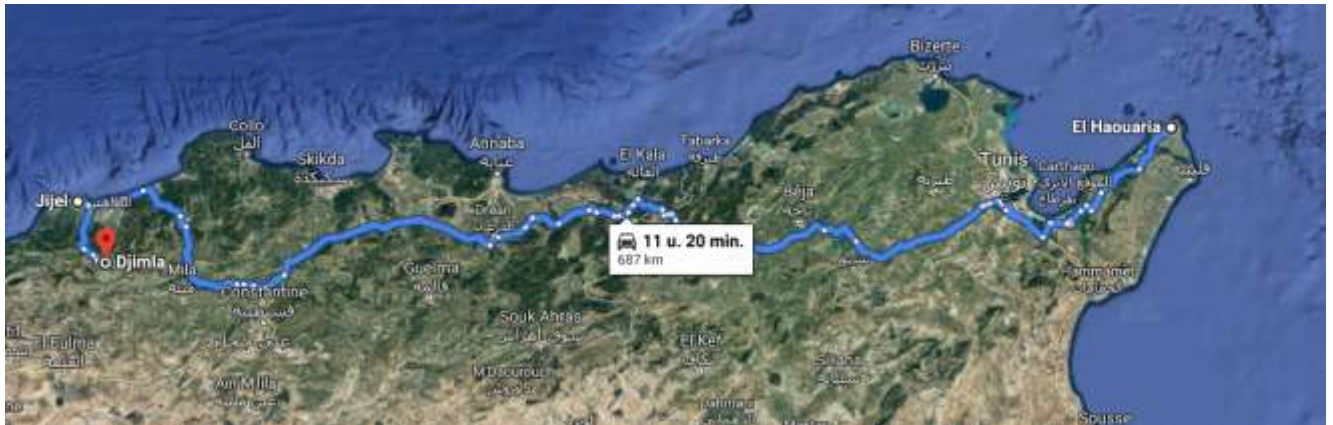
**07-05** Birded again around El Haouaria, with a three our pelagic from the cape. Later that day we drove to Tabarka near the Algerian border. Here we handed in our bins.

**08-05** Drove from Tabarka to Jijel in Algeria. Because we had a police escort (a car in front and behind our small bus) it took us quite some time.

**09-05** Birded around Djimla Forest all day.

**10-05** Birded along the coast road of Jijel and went to Tazan N.P. to bird.

**11-05** Drove back from Jijel (with suddenly no police interest anymore??) to Hammamet near Tunis, to take a very early night flight back to Frankfurt (to arrive on the 12<sup>th</sup>).



The route we drove, mostly back and forth

## THE BIRD SPECIES

01. **Common Shelduck – *Tadorna tadorna***  
07-05 8 ex. at a birding stop near Tunis.
02. **Mallard – *Anas platyrhynchos***  
Seen in Tunisia (most common duck) and 3 in Algeria.
03. **Marbled Duck – *Marmaronetta angustirostris***  
07-05 2 ex. at a birding stop near Tunis. seen well, one in flight close by.
04. **Common Pochard – *Aythya ferina***  
06-05 3 ex. at a place looking for ducks along the way.
05. **White-headed Duck – *Oxyura leucocephala***  
06-05 11 ex. seen very well at a visited lake, most in pairs. The males were in very nice breeding plumage.



06. **Barbary Partridge – *Alectornis barbara* ssp: *barbara***  
10-05 1 ex. seen crossing the road, quite dark individual.
07. **Common Quail – *Coturnix coturnix***  
06-05 15+ heard and seen flying over the fields near the visited lake.

08. **Scopoli's Shearwater – Calonectris diomedea**

06+07-05

Common along the coast and from the pelagic giving very close views and it was great to here there sounds



*During the short pelagic we had excellent views of Scopoli's and Yelkouan Shearwaters, photo's by Suzanne Bonmarchand*

09. **Yelkouan Shearwater – Puffinus yelkouan**

06+07-05

A total of 153 seen from the coast but much better very close on the pelagic, sometimes in small flocks near the boat.

10. **Little Grebe – Tachybaptus ruficollis**

06-05

Common in the marshy places visited.

11-05

Heard in the Algerian marshy places visited.

11. **Great Crested Grebe – podiceps cristatus**

06-05

Common on some of the visited lakes.

12. **Greater Flamingo – Phoenicopterus roseus**

About 1500 birds seen in flocks around Tunis on the driving stretches there.

13. **Black Stork – Ciconia nigra**

06-05

11 birds trying to migrate north in the strong wind.

14. **White Stork – Ciconia ciconia**

Common, mainly in Algeria with many occupied nests.

15. **Western Cattle Egret – Bubulcus ibis**

Common throughout the trip.

16. **Purple Heron – Ardea purpurea**

11-05

6 ex. in a marsh in Algeria near the Tunisian

border.

17. **Grey Heron – Ardea cinereal**

A total of 8 birds seen spread over the trip.

18. **Squacco Heron – Ardeola ralloides**

06-05

4 ex. in the visited "duck"lake.

11-05

Quite common in the visited Algerian marshes.

19. **Little Egret – Egretta garzetta**

06-05

1 ex. surprisingly the only one on the trip.

20. **Egyptian Vulture – Neophron percnopterus**

06-05

4 adults migrating in strong wind (and even sitting

on the road because of that) at Cap Bon.

10-05

1 ex. flying over.

21. **European Honey Buzzard – Pernis apivorus**

06-05

3 ex. migrating north in strong wind.

22. **Short-toed Snake Eagle – *Circaetus gallicus***  
06-05 3 ex. migrating north in strong wind
23. **Booted Eagle – *Hieraetus pennatus***  
A total of 11 seen spread over the trip, mostly light face birds.
24. **Eurasian Sparrowhawk – *Accipiter nisus***  
08-05 1 ex. flying over us along the route.
25. **Western Marsh Harrier – *Circus aeruginosus***  
The most common raptor seen on the trip also many migrating at Cap Bon (late?).
26. **Black Kite – *Milvus migrans***  
The second most common raptor seen on the trip also many migrating at Cap Bon (late?).
27. **Common Buzzard – *Buteo buteo***  
A total of 8 birds seen spread over the trip. All looking like “normal” buzzards.
28. **Common Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus***  
Seen at quite a view marshy sites during the trip in both countries.
29. **Eurasian Coot – *Fulica atra***  
Common in the Tunisian marshes.
30. **Black-winged Stilt – *Himantopus himantopus***  
A total of 32 birds seen at the Tunisian marshes.
31. **Pied Avocet – *Recurvirostra avosetta***  
07-05 50 ex. in a small colony near Tunis.
32. **Kentish Plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus***  
07-05 1 ex. at the shore of visited marsh near Tunis.
33. **Little Stint – *Calidris minuta***  
07-05 10 ex. at the shore of visited marsh near Tunis in  
moulting plumage.
34. **Common Sandpiper – *Actitis hypoleucos***  
07-05 2 ex. at the shore of visited marsh near Tunis
35. **Audouin’s Gull – *Ichthyaeetus audouinii***  
07-05 2 adults at the shore near the hotel at Cap Bon.
36. **Yellow-legged Gull – *Larus michahellis***  
Common throughout the trip.
37. **Little Tern – *Sternula albifrons***  
06+07-05 A total of 7 birds seen at the visited lakes at Cap  
Bon.
38. **Whiskered Tern – *Chlidonias hybrida***  
07-05 Common at a visited lake near Tunis.
39. **Pomarine Skua – *Stercorarius pomarinus***  
07-05 3 very nice pale face adults complete with “the  
whole cutlery” flying west during the pelagic close by.
40. **Rock Dove – *Columba livia***  
07-05 2 ex. at Cap Bon  
Seen along the coast and many in Constantine in Algeria.
41. **Common Wood Pigeon – *Columba palumbus***  
11-05 1 ex. flying over at Constantine.
42. **European Turtle Dove – *Streptopelia turtur***  
A total of 3 birds seen spread over the trip.

43. **Eurasian Collared Dove – *Streptopelia decaocto***  
Common throughout the trip
44. **Laughing Dove – *Spilopelia senegalensis***  
06+07-05 Common at Cap Bon.
45. **Common Cuckoo – *Cuculus canorus***  
10-05 1 heard while birding in Algeria.
46. **Maghreb Tawny Owl – *Strix aluco* ssp: *mauritanica***  
09-05 1 ex seen and heard well during the daytime. Great views of this grey almost Ural Owl looking individual.



47. **Alpine Swift – *Tachymarptis melba***  
11-05 Common in Constantine. Very nice views from the main bridge.
48. **Common Swift - *Apus apus***  
06+07-05 A total of 22 ex. at Cap Bon. Most likely migrants.
49. **Pallid Swift – *Apus pallidus***  
Common throughout the trip, the best views in Constantine.
50. **Little Swift – *Apus affinis***  
08-05 10 ex. in a little colony in Algeria along the way.  
Quite unexpected.
51. **European Bee-eater – *Merops apiaster***  
Seen during the trip, mainly at Cap Bon in migrating flocks.
52. **Eurasian Hoopoe – *Upupa epops***  
06-05 3 ex. at Cap Bon.
53. **Eurasian Wryneck – *Jynx torquilla***  
10-05 1 ex. seen and heard very well along the coast road at Jijel.
54. **Great Spotted Woodpecker – *Dendrocopos major* ssp: *numidus***  
08+09+10-05 6 birds in total seen in the “nuthatch forests” . Nice to see there dark red breast band.
55. **Levaillant’s Woodpecker – *Picus vaillantii***  
09-05 2 birds more heard than seen (only in flight) at Djimla forest. I did not pay much attention for better views since I saw this species a few times before.
56. **Common Kestrel – *Falco tinnunculus***  
A total of 12 seen spread over the trip.
57. **Eurasian Hobby – *Falco subbuteo***  
06-05 1 ex. migrating at Cap Bon.

58. **Lanner Falcon – Falco biarmicus ssp: *elangeri***  
 07-05 1 ex. seen sitting in the scope at a rockface at Cap  
 Bon giving very nice views.
59. **Peregrine Falcon – Falco peregrinus ssp: *brookei***  
 06+07-05 4 birds in total in the Cap Bon area.
60. **Desert (Great) Grey Shrike – Lanius (excubitor/elegans) ssp: *algeriensis***  
 A total of 4 seen in the first days of the trip in both visited countries.
61. **Woodshat shrike – Lanius senator**  
 07-05 1 ex. seen well at Cap Bon.  
 10-05 1 ex. seen very close by a visited pond.
62. **Eurasian Golden Oriole -Oriolus oriolus**  
 A total of 7 birds seen and heard, calling birds in the forest (Algeria) and migrating birds (Cap Bon)
63. **Eurasian Jay – Garrulus glandarius ssp: *cervicalis***  
 10-05 2 ex. seen well, with the white face, in the Tazan  
 N.P. The call sounded more hollow than the birds I know.
64. **Hooded Crow – Corvus cornix**  
 07-05 1 ex. in the harbor at El Haouaria. A rare species  
 in Tunisia and most likely arrived by boat.
65. **Western Jackdaw – Corvus monedula ssp: *cirtensis***  
 11-05 100+ ex. in the large ravine in the city  
 Constantine. Not very different than our subspecies, most obvious was their duller plumage.



66. **Northern Raven – Corvus corax**  
 09-05 5 ex. flying around over the forest.  
 11-05 2 ex. seen along the way.
67. **Coal Tit – Periparus ater ssp: *ledouci***  
 09+10-05 A total of 15 birds seen (in small flocks) spread  
 over these two days in the visited forests. Quite yellow on the underparts.



*Quite yellow these Coal Tits*

*Great to see many Iberian Chiffchaff*

68. **African Blue Tit – *Cyanistes teneriffae* ssp: *untramarinus***  
Common throughout the trip
69. **Great Tit – *Parus major***  
About 7 seen in the visited forests. Surprisingly uncommon.
70. **Thekla’s Lark – *Galerida theklae***  
06+07-05 Common at Cap Bon.  
09-05 1 ex. along the way.
71. **Crested Lark – *Galerida cristata***  
06+07-05 Quite common at Cap Bon.  
10-05 1 ex. along the way.
72. **Greater Short-toed Lark – *Calandrella brachydactyla***  
06-05 1 ex. seen well at Cap Bon.
73. **Common Bulbul – *Pycnonotus barbatus***  
Quite common in the western part (Algeria) of the trip.
74. **Sand Martin – *Riparia riparia***  
06-05 20 ex. on migration at Cap Bon.
75. **Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica***  
Common throughout the trip.
76. **Eurasian Crag Martin – *Ptyonoprogne rupestris***  
11-05 10 ex. in the city of Constantine.
77. **Common House Martin – *Delichon urbicum***  
Common throughout the trip.
78. **Cetti’s warbler – *Cettia cetti***  
About 4 birds seen and heard during the trip.
79. **Western Bonelli’s Warbler – *Phylloscopus bonelli***  
09-05 3 ex. seen and heard in Djimla forest in full song.





80. **Iberian Chiffchaff – Phylloscopus ibericus**  
 10-05 20 ex. seen and heard along the visited coastal forests and in Tazan N.P.
81. **Wood Warbler – Phylloscopus sibilatrix**  
 06-05 1 ex. a migrant giving nice views at Cap Bon.
82. **Sedge Warbler – Acrocephalus schoenobaenus**  
 10-05 1 ex. seen and heard in subsong in a scrub place west of Jijel.
83. **“Ambiguous” Reed Warbler - Acrocephalus scirpaceus ssp: *ambiguous***  
 10-05 2 ex. seen and heard just west of Jijel in the reeds of a small pond, just like a short-winged (and tailed) Reed Warbler, sounds the same.
84. **Western Olivaceous Warbler – Iduna opaca**  
 07-05 1 ex. seen and hear well, a big grey iduna. Nice to see after many years.
85. **Melodius Warbler – Hippolais polyglottal**  
 09+10-05 3 ex. in total singing around the hotel.
86. **Icterine Warbler – Hippolais icterina**  
 07-05 1 ex. at Cap Bon giving nice views, a migrant.
87. **Zitting Cisticola – Cisticola juncidis**  
 A total of 8 birds seen spread over the trip.
88. **Eurasian Blackcap – Sylvia atricapilla**  
 A total of 5 birds seen and heard during the trip
89. **Common Whitethroat – Sylvia communis**  
 06+07-05 2 ex. (on both days) at Cap Bon.
90. **Western Subalpine Warbler – Sylvia cantillans ssp: *inornata***  
 10-05 1 male singing and seen briefly at Tazan N.P.
91. **Sardinian Warbler – Sylvia melanocephala**  
 The commonest Sylvia during the trip, seen and heard daily.
92. **Common Firecrest – Regulus ignicapilla**  
 10-05 3 ex seen and heard well in Tazan N.P.
93. **Eurasian Wren – Troglodytes troglodytes**  
 06+07-05 3 ex. in total at Cap Bon.

94. **\*ALGERIAN NUTHATCH – *Sitta ledanti***

09-05

and females, also calling a lot.

7 ex. seen at two nest sites in Djimla forest, males

10-05

1 male seen near a nest hole at Tazan N.P. Great close up views of all birds, they are surprisingly small. Their call is obvious and loud.



95. **Short-toed Treecreeper – *Certhia brachydaactyla* ssp: *mauritanica***

10-05

European birds I know.

1 ex. seen well at Tazan N.P. Greyer than the

96. **Spotless Starling – *Sturnus unicolor***

Common throughout the trip

97. **Common Blackbird – *Turdus merula***

Common throughout the trip

98. **Spotted Flycatcher – *Muscicapa striata***

A total of 19 birds seen spread over the trip.



*Spotted (Jijel) and*



*European Pied Flycatcher (Cap Bon)*

99. **European Robin – *Erithacus rubecula***

10-05

5 ex. seen at around Tazan N.P.

100. **Common Nightingale – *Luscinia megarhynchos***

Quite common around the Tunisian coast and in Algeria near the visited forests.

101. **European Pied Flycatcher – *Ficedula hypoleuca***

06+07-05

migrant.

4 ex in total at Cap Bon. All black and white

102. **\*ATLAS PIED FLYCATCHER – *Ficedula speculigera***

09+10-05

14 ex in total seen in Djimla and Tazan N.P. Great views of birds near nesting holes. Large white patch above the upperbill. Very black and white birds with much white in the wings.



**103. Common Redstart – *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

06-05 1 male at Cap Bon, a migrant.

**104. Moussier's Redstart – *Phoenicurus moussieri***

06-05 2 ex. around Cap Bon giving nice views.



**105. Blue Rock Thrush – *Monticola solitarius***

A total of 3 seen spread over the trip in both visited countries.

**106. Western Black-eared Wheatear – *Oenanthe hispanica***

06+07-05 6 birds in total seen around Cap Bon. Some nice males fighting in the garden of the hotel.

**107. Spanish Sparrow – *Passer hispaniolensis***

The “default” sparrow of the trip, common throughout.

**108. Western Yellow Wagtail – *Motacilla flava* ssp: *flava* +??**

06-05 3 ex. migrating at Cap Bon, One male *flava* looking and two I was not able to see which taxon.

**109. Tree Pipit – *Anthus trivialis***

07-05 1 seen very well at Cap Bon.

**110. Common Chaffinch – *Fringilla coelebs* ssp: *africana* + *spodiogenys***

Both subspecies were common throughout the trip, *africana* in the west. The song of *spodiogenys* was slightly different than the birds I hear here.



*Male spodiogenys*

**111. Hawfinch – Coccothraustes coccothraustes**

09-05

3 ex. giving nice views at Djimla forest.

**112. European Greenfinch – Chloris chloris**

A total of 18 seen spread over both countries.

**113. Common Linnet – Linaria cannabina**

06+07-05

Common at Cap Bon.

**114. European Serin – Serinus serinus**

Common throughout the trip

**115. Corn Bunting – Emberiza calandra**

06+07-05

3 birds at Cap Bon giving nice views.

**116. Cirl Bunting – Emberiza cirlus**

09-05

2 ex near the entrance of Djimla forest.



*The notification of a special bird at Tazan N.P Constantine, Algeria*