

Trip report

SOUTH-TUNISIA

Djerba
Bir Zoui
Bir Soltane
Ksar Ghislane
Douz
Matmata

18TH – 26TH FEBRUARY 2012

Yvonne van der Salm
Bertus de Lange

Itinerary

- 18th feb : evening flight Amsterdam-Djerba with *Arke-fly* ,arriving 21.00 Houmt Souk.
- 19th feb : Djerba-Medenine-Beni Kheddachi-Ksar Hallouf.
- 20th feb : Ksar Hallouf-Bir Zoui-Bir Soltane-Ksar Ghislane.
- 21st feb : Ksar Ghislane-Matmata.
- 22nd feb : Matmata-Ksar Ghislane-Douz.
- 23th feb : Douz-Ghidma-Matmata.
- 24th feb : Matmata-Toujane-Medenine-Zarzis-Djerba/Houmt Souk.
- 25th feb : Djerba late evening flight to Amsterdam.
- 26th feb : 02.00 Amsterdam.

Personal highlights:

Birds:marbled duck,Bonelli's eagle,crowned sandgrouse,hoopoe+Temminck's horned larks,Tristram's warbler,desert sparrow.

Birds

Great crested grebe - *podiceps cristatus*
-regular at Djerba.

Black-necked grebe –*podiceps nigricollis*
-ca 10 around Djerba.

Little grebe – *tachybaptus ruficollis*
-12 at the lake , 5 km west of Douz.

Great cormorant – *phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus*
-Djerba.

Grey heron – *ardea cinerea*
-Djerba.

Little egret – *egretta garzetta*
-Djerba.

Great egret – *egretta alba*
-2 just west of Hmt Souk / Djerba.

Spoonbill – *platalea leucorodia*
-around 100 at Djerba.

Greater flamingo – *phoenicopterus ruber*
->300 at Djerba.

3 color-ringed birds were seen ; these birds originate from Sardinia/Italy.

Ruddy shellduck – *tadorna ferruginea*
-2 at Ghidma-pools.

Shelduck – *tadorna tadorna*
-3 at the lake , 5 km west of Douz.

Common teal – *anas crecca*
-a few at the Ghidma pools.

Northern shoveler – *anas clypeata*
-Djerba , Ghidma pools.

Marbled duck – *marmaronetta angustirostris*
-150+ at a lake , 5 km west of Douz.

This is one of the best known places to see marbleds in good numbers !

Marsh harrier – *circus aeruginosus*
-1 at the lake ,5 km west of Douz.
-1 at the Ghidma pools.

Long-legged buzzard – *buteo rufinus cirtensis*

-1 at Bir Zoui.

-2 near Toujane.

Bonelli's eagle – *aquila fasciata*

-ad 1 km west of Toujane.

Someway or another, I mostly dip on this species, so I was very glad with this one !

Common kestrel – *falco tinnunculus*

-more or less 'regular'.

(Lanner – *falco biarmicus*)

-a possible lanner was seen at Hmt Souk.

Barbary partridge – *alectoris barbara*

-2 crossing the road near Matmata.

Common coot - *fulica atra*

-40 at the lake , 5 km west of Douz.

-200+ at Djerba.

Black-winged stilt – *himantopus himantopus*

-3 at the lake, 5 km west of Douz.

Kentish plover – *charadrius alexandrinus*

-Ghidma, Douz and Djerba .

Sanderling – *calidris alba*

-1 at Djerba.

Dunlin – *calidris alpina*

-Djerba.

Curlew – *numenius arquata*

-Djerba.

Stone curlew – *burhinus oudicnemus*

-2 were seen VERY well in the zone touristique / Djerba.

Redshank – *tringa totanus*

-few at Djerba.

Greenshank – *tringa nebularia*

->50 around Djerba.

Green sandpiper – *tringa ochropus*

-2 at Ksar Ghislane.

Common sandpiper - *actitis hypoleucos*
-at the harbor of Hmt Souk.

Black-headed gull – *larus ridibundus*
-uncommon at Djerba.

Slender-billed gull – *larus genei*
-1000's around Djerba.

Quite a surprise to see such numbers.

Lesser black-backed gull – *larus fuscus*
-Djerba.

Yellow-legged gull – *larus cachinnans*
-Djerba.

Sandwich tern – *sterna sandvicensis*
-only Djerba,ca 40.

Caspian tern – *hydroprogne caspia*
-10's at several places around Djerba.

Rock dove – *columba livia*
-several 'good-looking' birds at Ksar Hallouf.
-also at Matmata.

Crowned sandgrouse – *pterocles coronatus*
-2 flocks(ca 75 birds in total) both flying + on the ground at Bir Zoui.

Unexpected + the only new species this trip.

Collared dove – *streptopelia decaoto*
-fairly common.

Laughing dove – *streptopelia senegalensis*
-seen in all towns.

Little owl – *athene noctua*
-2 seen ;1 along the road and 1 at Djerba.

Hoopoe - *upupa epops*
-few seen(3),only Djerba.

Bar-tailed desert lark – *ammomanes cincturus*
-3 at Ksar Ghislane.
-1 at Bir Soltane.
-2 some 40 km east of Douz.

Desert lark – *ammomanes deserti*

-4 at km 26.5 west of Matmata.
-1 at Tamazret.

Hoopoe lark – *alaemon alaudipes*

-2 at Bir Zoui.
-4 at Bir Soltane.
-1 at the Roman Castle / Ksar Ghislane.
-2 at 30 km east of Douz.
-3 at 45 km east of Douz.

Many males showed the amazing display-flight!

Thekla lark – *galerida theklae*

-positively identified at Ksar Hallouf and at Matmata.

Crested lark – *galerida cristata*

-common.

Temminck's horned lark – *eremophila bilopha*

-1 at Bir Zoui
-5 + 4 at Bir Soltane
-8 at km 26.5 west of Matmata

This is always a good bird.

Barn swallow – *hirundo rustica*

-several at Douz.

House martin – *delichon urbica*

-100+ at Douz.

White wagtail – *motacilla alba*

-around Djerba.

Moussier's redstart – *phoenicurus moussieri*

-ca 10 seen, both males + females ; not on Djerba.

Stonechat – *saxicola troquata*

-common along the Djerba-coast.

Northern wheatear – *oenanthe oenanthe*

-just 1 near Toujane.

Desert wheatear – *oenanthe deserti*

-seen at all desert areas i.e. Bir Zoui , Bir Soltane , Ksar Ghislane, near Matmata, Douz etc.

Red-rumped wheatear – *oenanthe moesta*

-3 at 26.5 km west of Matmata.
-some at Bir Zoui.
-several along the Douz-Matmata road.

White-crowned black wheatear – *oenanthe leucopyga*
-2 at the Roman Fortress / Ksar Ghislane.

Black wheatear – *oenanthe leucura*
-(very) common in mountain-areas.

Zitting cisticola – *cisticola juncidis*
-heard close to Douz.

Scrub warbler – *scotocerca inquieta*
-2 in a small wadi, 40 km east of Douz.

Tristram's warbler – *sylvia deserticola*
-singing male at the western border of the palmeria at Ksar Ghislane.

Only my second ever tristram's warbler, seen very well.

Sardinian warbler – *sylvia melanocephala*
-fairly common at Ksar Ghislane.

Spectacled warbler – *sylvia conspillata*
-1 at km26.5 west of Matmata.

Common chiffchaff – *phylloscopus collybita*
-common all over.

Southern grey shrike – *lanius meridionalis*
-many ; especially common on Djerba.

Brown-necked raven – *corvus ruficollis*
-5 around Ksar Ghislane.
-1 at Bir Zoui.

Common raven – *corvus corax*
-2 near Matmata.

Spotless starling – *sturnus unicolor*
-Djerba.

European serin – *serinus serinus*
-regular.

Spanish sparrow – *passer hispaniolensis*
-many ; most birds looked more like Italian sparrow.

Desert sparrow – *passer simplex saharae*
-(at least) 6 (2 summer-plumaged males) at the Roman fortress / Ksar Ghislane.

This is the best (only ?) place in Tunisia to see this wonderful species; birds were inspecting nestholes in the old wall and were constantly together.

House bunting – *emberiza striolata*
-seen in all cities / towns but not on Djerba.

Bertus de Lange
Da Costastraat 29
2406 AS Alphen a/d Rijn
0172-491271
Bertusdelange67@gmail.com