

Birding Trip to Tunisia

winter 2002-2003



foto Kim Aaen, Denmark

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The following recordings is based on a charter flight to the town of Sousse. The first week was only spent with halftime birding whereas the second week was spent with proper birding. We hired a Fiat Uno for 10 days (420 Dinar). We found our way with the Michelin 172 Map.

All of the numbers is maximum daily counts.

Hammam Sousse: 29/12 - 2002 (13.00-14.00)
 30/12 - 2002 (09.20-09.50)
 31/12 - 2002 (07.15-08.15)

All bird seen in the surrounds of the beach hotel "Dreams Beach"

Great Crested Grebe 1	Laughing Dove 10	Songtrush 1
Mediterranean Shearwater 350 N	Little Owl 1	Sardinian Warbler 6
Gannet 3	Meadow Pipit 2	Southern Great Grey Shrike 3
Kestrel 1	White Wagtail 1	Spotless Starling 20
Barbary Partridge 2	Robin 2	Starling 50
Pomarine Skua 1	Black Redstart 1	Serin 3
Black-headed Gull 120	Stonechat 2	Greenfinch 4
Sandwich Tern 2	Blackbird 10	

Sebk. Halk el Menzel: 30/12 - 2002 (10.00-11.00 & 14.30-17.30)
 01/01 - 2003 (16.00-17.00)

Great Crested Grebe 118	Kentish Plover 36	Black-headed Gull 10+
Black-necked Grebe 37	Grey Plover 1	Slender-billed Gull 267
Cormorant 175	Lapwing 1	Yellow-legged Gull 250
Little Egret 42	Little Stint 31	Caspian Tern 19
Great Egret 29	Dunlin 650	Crested Lark 20+
Grey Heron 219	Ruff 70	Stonechat 10+
Spoonbill 98	Black-tailed Godwit 33	Spectacled Warbler 1 ad. male
Greater Flamingo 1010	Curlew 7	Sardinian Warbler 2
Shelduck 67	Redshank 4	Chiffchaff 1
Marsh Harrier 1	Greenshank 4	Southern Great Grey Shrike 3
Osprey 1	Common Sandpiper 2	
Avocet 635	Mediterranean Gull 2	

Hergla: 30/12 - 2002 (12.00-13.00)

From the harbour of Hergla, following bird were seen.

Mediterranean Shearwater 1660	Gannet 6	Common Swift 1
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Ouled Chamekh: 01/01 - 2003 (11.30-12.45)

All birds seen at a small swallow freshwaterpond 2 km. SW of Ouled Chamekh on route El Jem to Kairouan.

Shelduck 29	Black-winged Stilt 79	Spotted Redshank 11
Wigeon 78	Avocet 12	Redshank 12
Gadwall 3	Kentish Plover 115	Greenshank 3
Teal 23	Little Stint 80+	Short-toed Lark 2
Pintail 26	Temminck's Stint 1	Crested Lark 10+
Shoveler 24	Dunlin 30+	White Wagtail 10+
Marbled Teal 6	Ruff 5	

Sebk. Kelbia: 01/01 - 2003 (PM)

Completely dried out !!. At Qued Alem further norther following bird were found.

Spoonbill 2	Black-winged Stilt 35	Dunlin 20
Lanner Falcon 1	Little Stint 50	Greenshank 6

Sebk. Mecheguig: 02/01 - 2003 (08.05-08.10)

Common Crane 12

Qued el Hassan: 02/01 - 2003 (10.00-10.30)

Approx. 20 km. N of Gabes on route (P1) to Sfax.

Green Sandpiper 1	Stonechat 2	Southern Great Grey Shrike 1
Moussier's Redstart 2	Chiffchaff 2	Brown-necked Raven 6

Matmata-Douz: 02/01 - 2003 (11.00-17.00)

Red-rumped Wheatear 2	Southern Great Grey Shrike 2	House Bunting 7
Desert Wheatear 1		

Douz: 03/01 - 2003 (07.45-10.45)

All birds observed at "Lake Douz" a small rather salt lake outside the town.

Ruddy Shelduck 2	Dunlin 2	White Wagtail 3
Teal 8	Ruff 2	Stonechat 2
Pintail 1	Spotted Redshank 1	Fan-tailed Warbler 1
Shoveler 86	Marsh Sandpiper 2	Sardinian Warbler 1
Black-winged Stilt 15	Green Sandpiper 3	Chiffchaff 7
Ringed Plover 2	Wood Sandpiper 9	Corn Bunting 20
Kentish Plover 25	Hoopoe 1	
Little Stint 95	Water Pipit 3	

Other bird from the sorrounds of Douz

Marsh Harrier 1	Wood Sandpiper 1	Hoopoe Lark 6 (Zaafrane)
Black-winged Stilt 1	Stonechat 4	Chiffchaff 7

Ghidma: 03/01 - 2003 (11.00-13.00)

All birds observed at "Ghidma Pool" just outside the small village of Ghidma on route Douz-Sabria.

Little Grebe 18	Pochard 11	Little Stint 4
Glossy Ibis 7	Ferruginous Duck 1 ad.	Water Pipit 5
Ruddy Shelduck 2	Marsh Harrier 2	White Wagtail 2
Gadwall 1	Lanner Falcon 1	Fan-tailed Warbler 2
Teal 153	Black-winged Stilt 5	
Shoveler 18	Kentish Plover 3	

Sabria: 03/01 - 2003 (14.00-14.05)

The so called "Lake Sabria" was almost completely dried out !!

Kentish Plover 2

Zaafrane-Bridet-Kebili: 03/01 - 2003 (14.10-15.30)

Kentish Plover 126
Little Stint 68

Common Snipe 1
Spotted Redshank 1

Southern Great Grey Shrike 1

Kebili-Gabes: 03/01 - 2003 (15.30-17.00)

Half an hour visit to a small and isolated date palm plantation produced:

Desert Lark 5
Crested Lark 10+
White Wagtail 2

Moussier's Redstart 1
Songtrush 1
Chiffchaff 2

Wolf 1

Thyna Salinas: 04/01 - 2003 (08.00-11.00)
08/01 - 2003 (all day)
09/01 - 2003 (all day)

Great Crested Grebe 5
Black-necked Grebe 63
Cormorant 30
Little Egret 5
Great White Egret 8
Grey Heron 15
Spoonbill 25
Greater Flamingo 4022 (77 1k)
(at least 68 colorringed)
Shelduck 46
Pintail 4
Shoveler 203
Peregrine Falcon 2 ad.
Oystercatcher 52
Black-winged Stilt 1

Avocet 610
Ringed Plover 2
Kentish Plover 58
Grey Plover 14
Sanderling 6
Little Stint 85
Curlew Sandpiper 74
Dunlin 700
Ruff 9
Black-tailed Godwit 281
Curlew 74
Spotted Redshank 4
Redshank 130
Marsh Sandpiper 21
Greenshank 9

Common Sandpiper 2
Turnstone 42
Red-necked Phalarope 2
Mediterranean Gull 11
Black-headed Gull 360
Slender-billed Gull 126
Lesser Black-backed Gull 1150
Yellow-legged Gull 365
Caspian Tern 6
Sandwich Tern 56
Common Tern 14
Common Kingfisher 1
Crested Lark 2

Mahdia: 04/01 - 2003 (14.00-16.00)

All birds observed at a freshwater pond near the coast in the southern part of the town.

Ringed Plover 2
Kentish Plover 74
European Golden Plover 3
Little Stint 148
Common Snipe 6
Wood Sandpiper 2

Common Sandpiper 3
Mediterranean Gull 2
Black-headed Gull 700+
Lesser Black-backed Gull 103
Yellow-legged Gull 490
Caspian Tern 1

Sandwich Tern 4
Lesser Short-toed Lark 1
Water Pipit 2
Stonechat 4
Serin 3

Sebk. Sidi el Hani: 05/01 - 2003 (13.00-17.30)

Peregrine/Lanner Falcon 1	Songtrush 4	Southern Great Grey Shrike 2
Common Crane 685	Spectacled Warbler 3	Fulvous Babbler 13
Hoopoe 1	Sardinian Warbler 9	Spotless Starling 2
Moussier's Redstart 7	Marmora's Warbler 5	
Stonechat 6	Chiffchaff 1	

Seldja Gorge: 06/01 - 2003 (08.30-12.00)

Bonelli's Eagle 1 ad.	Black Wheatear 3	House Bunting 1
Desert Lark 6	Mourning Wheatear 5	
Crag Martin 3	White-crowned Black Wheatear 1	
Moussier's Redstart 2 male	Trumpeter Finch 8	

Qued el Melah: 06/01 - 2003 (13.30-16.00)
07/01 - 2003 (08.00-12.00)

Nearby the crossing with the mainroad (P3) from Gafsa to Tozeur.

Desert Lark 1	Stonechat 6	Chiffchaff 4
Lesser Short-toed Lark 15	Desert Wheatear 3	Linnet 5
Water Pipit 1	Mourning Wheatear 3	Serin 2
White Wagtail 3	Sardinian Warbler 4	Trumpeter Finch 22
Moussier's Redstart 5	Marmora's Warbler 1	

Nearby the crossing with road (P16) from Tozeur to Tamerza (Algerian border)

Ruddy Shelduck 2	Stonechat 3	Tristram's Warbler 7
Black-winged Stilt 3	Desert Wheatear 2	Southern Great Grey Shrike 1
Kentish Plover 6	Red-rumped Wheatear 2	
Green Sandpiper 1	Sardinian Warbler 7	

Hazoua: 07/01 - 2003 (15.00-17.00)

Crested Lark 20+	Tristram's Warbler 2	Southern Great Grey Shrike 2
White Wagtail 4	Chiffchaff 2	House Bunting 2
White-crowned Black Wheatear 1	Fulvous Babbler 6	

Sousse Harbour: 11/01 - 2003 (14.00-16.00)

Gannet 1	Black-headed Gull 18	Laughing Dove 5
Peregrine Falcon 1 ad.	Sandwich Tern 2	

Best Regards

Jens Hjerrild Hansen