

Algeria

2.3. - 6.3.2020



Tamanrasset (Kris de Rouck, Christian Leth, Guy Mirgain, Klaus Drissner)



Djimla Forest (Klaus Drissner)

Last year Bob Swan, Peter Stronach and Samuel Viles combined the first time the different parts of Algeria, to find Red-billed Firefinch and African Silverbill in the south as well as the Algerian Nuthatch in the north of the country. Thanks for this extremely helpful trip-report. I also want to thank Karim Haddad (karim241267@yahoo.fr) for his pioneering works on the Algerian Nuthatch, making it possible for all of us birders to get in touch with this dream-bird.

For Tamanrasset we also used the tour company Assikel Art et Tourisme (info@assikel.com) I really recommend this agency, the owners Moulay and Bachir organized everything. And the homemade Couscous was delicious..... Special thanks to Guy, Kris and Christian for the great time together in Tamanrasset.

For Djimla, Walid Soukkou (soukkouw@yahoo.com) was my guide. He is excellent and knows every single bird and tree in Djimla Forest! He worked together with the tourist agency Sittelle Kabyle, run by Mohamed and his brother Fares, based in Jijel. They organized my transports from Algiers to Jijel, where I stayed overnight. Early the next morning we continued to Djimla and further on to Constantine and back to Algiers. Besides the transport, they also organized all accommodation, food etc. They did a great job!

Tips:

Visa: This needs time. Ideally you need to send all documents at least 4-5 weeks before your flight! For Tamanrasset in the South you need a Certificate of Accommodation and a permit from the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Assikel Art et Tourisme did all this paperwork. My permit was sent to the Embassy of Algeria in Berlin, but for my visa the Consulate in Frankfurt was responsible. This caused lots of trouble and delay. Finally I got my visa 2 days before departure. I highly recommend checking these things in advance to avoid problems!

In Algiers at the passport control I was asked for the Certificate of Accommodation. You need to print it out and take it with you.

Escort: In Tamanrasset, as a foreigner, you will be escorted by police. Moulay informed us, that he had to report the places we planned to go two weeks in advance to the authorities. We were not allowed to change or visit additional locations. This is a hard restriction for birders like us and will hopefully change in the future. In the north, I also had an escort from Djimla to Constantine.

Equipment: My camera with 100 - 400 mm lens did not cause a problem at the scanning. Binoculars are not allowed, so I didn't take one with me. Guy tried a small one and Kris a small monocular , both didn't cause problems.

Birds:

Main target birds at Tamanrasset were:



African Silverbill. We found it in Oueds and gardens, typically seen close to water.



Red-billed Firefinch. Seems to be the most common bird in town. In the garden of our hotel and gardens nearby. As well as in gardens near Abalessa.



Also nearly everywhere: Eastern Olivaceous Warbler ssp. reiseri.

Main target birds at Djimla were:



Algerian Nuthatch. No problem to find this species. We had around 10 ex.



Maghreb Owl. Thanks to Walid who knows the places, we had stunning views on 1 bird at the roosting place.

Subspecies:

Great Spotted Woodpecker ssp. numidus, Short-toed Treecreeper ssp. mauritanica, Jay ssp. cervicali, Coal Tit ssp. ledouci

and at Constantine the ssp. cirtensis of Jackdaw.

Mammals:



Least Weasel

All following observations have been submitted to ebird.org,
Guy Mirgain submitted all observations from Tamanrasset and I added Djimla and
Djimla-Constantine.

Klaus Drissner
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Tamanrasset Hotel Assikel Voyages
02.03.2020

Laughing Dove 4
Great Grey Shrike (Sahara) 1
Brown-necked Raven 1
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler 2
Common Chiffchaff 1
Red-billed Firefinch 20

Oued Tit
02.03.2020

European Turtle Dove 2
Collared Dove X
Laughing Dove X
Kentish Plover 1
Eurasian Hoopoe 3
Lanner Falcon 1
Great Grey Shrike (Sahara) 3
Woodchat Shrike 1
Brown-necked Raven 5
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler 12
Rock Martin (Pale Crag Martin) 8
Barn Swallow 3
Common Chiffchaff 20
Western Orphean Warbler 3
Subalpine Warbler 6
Sardinian Warbler 4
Fulvous Chatterer X
Bluethroat 2
Northern Wheatear 1
Isabelline Wheatear 1
White-crowned Wheatear X
African Silverbill 50

House Bunting 10

Oued Outoul
02.03.2020

European Turtle Dove 1
Eurasian Hoopoe 1
Great Grey Shrike (Sahara) 1
Brown-necked Raven 1
Subalpine Warbler 1
Blue Rock Thrush 1
Northern Wheatear 1
African Silverbill 2
House Bunting 8

Tamanrasset
03.03.2020

Laughing Dove 4
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler 2
Common Chiffchaff 1
Red-billed Firefinch 15

Crossing to Abelessa
03.03.2020

Egyptian Vulture 2
Subalpine Warbler 2

Iglen
03.03.2020

European Turtle Dove 2
Laughing Dove 6
Great Grey Shrike (Sahara) 3
Brown-necked Raven 1
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler X
Fulvous Chatterer 50
Isabelline Wheatear 1
Red-billed Firefinch 3
African Silverbill 100
Trumpeter Finch 3
House Bunting 3

Tamanrasset
04.04.2020

Peregrine Falcon 1
Red-rumped Swallow 1
White-crowned Wheatear 2

Djimla Forest

Common Woodpigeon X
Eurasian Sparrowhawk 1
Maghreb Owl 1
Eurasian Wryneck 3
Great Spotted Woodpecker, ssp numidus 4
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker 3
Levaillant's Woodpecker 5
Jay, ssp. cervicali 5
Common Raven X
Coal Tit, ssp. ledouci X
African Blue Tit X
Great Tit X
Algerian Nuthatch 8
Short-toed Treecreeper, ssp. mauritanica X
Mistle Thrush X
Blackbird X
Stonechat 2
„African“ Chaffinch X
European Serin 1

Drive Djimla-Constantine

Barbary Partridge 1
White Stork 50
Black-winged Kite 1
Egyptian Vulture 3
Griffon Vulture 1
Western Marsh Harrier 3
Common Kestrel 2
Jackdaw, ssp. cirtensis X
Common Raven 30
Zitting Cisticola X
House Sparrow X
Corn Bunting 2