

Report of a trip to Morocco (Western Sahara) from April 6th to 10th 2013

The mileages are located with the same references as in the report of Richard Webb, Jeff Blincow and Nigel Goodgame from December 15th to 26th 2012 . However, our trip was only in the area included between Dakhla and Awserd.

In the report from December 15th to 26th, the most interesting area seems to be between kms 86 and 116. On the other hand, during our trip, we saw almost no rodents in this part. The area between kms 80 and 86 shows some rodents when they are very numerous between kms 120 and 160.

Paraechinus aethiopicus (Hérisson du désert – Desert Hedgehog)

3 to 4 individuals seen every night. Stay on the road to eat carcasses of Gerboas or Gerbils run over.

Felis sp. (Chat sp.)

1 Cat looking like a Sand Cat (small paws, big head, big triangular ears) but grey coat quite strongly striped with a black tip of the tail(see a picture of a cat made in the Berlin zoo) on April 6th at 10pm at km 144 – seen again on April 7th at 9pm30 and April 8th at 10pm

Felis lybica (Chat ganté – African Wild Cat)

1 on April 7th at 11pm50 at km 160. Eat on the road a carcass of Gerboa.

Felis margarita (Chat des sables – Sand Cat)

Very nice observation on April 9th at 0am15 km 122,5 of a cat trying to catch a rodent at 20 meters from the road

Vulpes rueppelli (Renard famélique – **Ruppell's Fox)**

May be an individual of this species on April 10th at 2am. Running on the field at the limit of the light. The only potential during the trip

Vulpes zerda (Fennec – Fennec Fox)

1 on April 6th at 5am30 km 96, 1 lying on April 6th at 9pm30 km 154, 3 on April 9th at about midnight km 147 frisk about probably around their hole

Lepus microtis ou capensis (Lièvre des savanes ou du Cap – African Savanna Hare or Cape Hare)

1 on April 6th, 2 on April 8th

Jaculus jaculus (Petite gerboise d’Egypte – Lesser Egyptian Jerboa)

Common especially between kms 120 and 160

Gerbillus henleyi (Gerbille pygmée – Pygmy Gerbil)

Probably this species observed 3 times (very small with a tail proportionally very long)

Pachyuromys duprasi (Pachyuromis à queue de massue – Fat-tailed Gerbil)

1 cross quietly the road on April 8th km 122

Gerbillus sp. (Probably Gerbillus gerbillus) (Gerbille sp. – Gerbil sp.)
Several individuals seen on the road