

Southern Portugal

26 February - 5 March 2017
Laid-back birding



Apartado 41
8501-903 Mexilhoeira Grande
(+351) 282 968 380
info@arochalife.pt
arochalife.pt



Participants: Rosemary and Jeremy Grindle (all week), Filipa Bragança (Monchique)

Leader: Guillaume Réthoré

Sunday, February 26th – Arrival

Jeremy and Rosemary arrived in the evening at Faro airport for this first “Laid-back” birdwatching week of the year. The trip to Cruzinha (A Rocha Portugal’s field study centre) went smoothly. There, they met with Paula and Marcial and the volunteers: Ellie, Arjan and Yassir (the last one being the only one not ill). We had the first of a long series of good dinners, and some rest.

Monday, February 27th – Sagres

After a good night’s sleep, the birdwatching group headed to the end of the world! Cape St. Vincent, in Sagres, is the most south-western point of Europe; ancient people believed the world ended here. We left at 8:30am under a grey sky and even had some rain on the way.

On the track coming from Cruzinha, we saw our first birds of the day: Greenfinches (*Carduelis chloris*), Chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) and House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). At Odiaxere, the White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) were on their low nests as usual.

Our first stop at Sagres was at the harbour. There, we had close views of Yellow-legged Gulls (*Larus michahellis*) and Shags (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*). However, as few birds were present, we moved to Ponta da Atalaia.

A Flock of Common Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was feeding on the ground when we arrived. As we started walking towards the landmark a Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) flew away and a Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*) perched nicely on a bush nearby. We walked along a hedge. On an Agave a Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) and a Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) male were sitting side by side, allowing good views. However, the Blue Rock Thrush looked more grey than blue because of the light. A few metres ahead, we heard a Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) and saw a Greenfinch. On a small wall by the edge of the cliff, a pair of Linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*) was mating. The differences of plumage between the two sexes was very clear, with the male showing its reddish breast. Many Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) were flying around us, possibly birds moving north. From here, we could see Sagres fortress where Henry the Navigator had his navigation school.

We walked toward the boardwalk and used it. A Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) flew over us and we had a quick look at a Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) singing from the top of a bush. We reached the trig point and had a look at the sea. A group of about 50 Cory’s Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) was passing but pretty far away. As few other birds were around, we walked back to the car. Several starlings were perched on an Agave: 1 Common Starling in the middle of Spotless Starlings (*Sturnus unicolor*). Unfortunately they flew away but we still had a good look



at one of them singing. A Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*) perched on a bush and stayed there a few seconds, enough for us to look at it through the telescope. Before reaching the car, we found some Sawfly Orchids (*Ophrys tenthredinifera*). We saw once more the Blue Rock Thrush, again perched on an Agave, but closer this time and some blue was even visible!

Then, we headed to Cabranosa, one of the best spots to watch raptor migration in autumn. We took a dirt track and saw several Thekla Larks (*Galerida*



theklae) and Stonechats right at the beginning. Some Kestrels were hunting over the field along the path. We parked and started walking towards a temporary lagoon. We chose the sheltered side of the pine hedge. In the nearby field, about 30 Red-billed Choughs (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) were feeding with Spotless Starlings and Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*). These birds slowly moved towards us, allowing very good views. We flushed a Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) at the end of the hedge, hoping to see it later, but without luck.

On the way to the lagoon, we flushed a Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*). Few birds were around so we kept walking. We heard a Sardinian Warbler while looking at 2 White Wagtails (*Motacilla alba*) feeding on the ground and Barn Swallows flying around us. A robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) showed up for a few seconds and a Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) was singing loudly. We also looked at the flowers: Paperwhite Narcissus (*Narcissus papyraceus*) were in blossom. When we came out of the woods, we heard a Serin (*Serinus serinus*) singing. This bird, probably perched on top of a pine tree, was invisible to us. We walked along a more open area where we heard more Sardinian Warblers and Serins. An adult Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) flew over us, giving us nice views. We stared for a little while at Sacred Scarabs (*Scarabaeus sacer*) fighting over a ball of dung. We came back to the car looking at White Wagtails and Thekla Larks foraging in the grass.

We had our picnic in a sheltered spot, along the pine hedge leading to Cabranosa, looking at Linnets close to us.

We then went to Cape St Vincent. We had a look at the sea and saw a few Gannets (*Morus bassanus*). We looked at a pair of White Storks on their nest on a cliff, something quite unique in Europe! We walked around the bushes and saw briefly a male Sardinian Warbler while a Stonechat was posing on a branch. A Thekla Lark and a Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) together allowed us to compare these two brown and stripy birds.

We went back to Cruzinha via Vale Santo. The first stop was in front of a field where male Little Bustards (*Tetrax tetrax*) usually display but it was still early for it and we did not see any. Several birds were heard: Zitting Cisticola, Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) and Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*). A Kestrel was hunting around us.

In the nearby field, a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) and a White Stork were looking for food. A male Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) appeared in the distance and got closer and closer. A Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) was also seen but much further away. We stopped close by old farm buildings. A Skylark flew away as we stepped out of the car. A flock of Red-billed Choughs was feeding in a field with a few Storks. One of these birds was carrying a red ring (a bird ringed in Portugal). Another temporary lagoon had formed in a field and a Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) was immobile, probably hunting, on the bank. We resumed our trip and stopped to look at a Raven (*Corvus corax*) in a field as another one was flying. Further, Corn Buntings and Meadow Pipits were foraging together. We could see the differences between these brown birds. The Buntings are chubbier and with a bigger bill than the Pipits. The rest of the trip towards Vila do Bispo was quiet.

We came back to Cruzinha where we still had time to relax before dinner.

Tuesday, February 28th – Monchique

After spending a day on the coast, Monchique offered a totally different landscape and habitat. We left Cruzinha around 10:00 am and on that day, Filipa, a Portuguese birder accompanied us.

From the motorway we saw many Storks and first stopped by a small pond, as the top of the hills was still in the clouds. Unfortunately only 2 Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were present. Many gulls were flying to or from the local rubbish dump. A Cattle and a Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) were perched almost side by side allowing us to see the differences in bill colour and general shape. We saw more Storks, some of them on their nests as we drove towards Foia, the highest point (902 m), now out of the clouds.

Arriving there, a Ring Ouzel flew and perched on top of a bush in front of the car. However, this bird flew away and it was a frustrating sighting. Two Rock Buntings (*Emberiza cia*) feeding on the car park did not mind us as we were getting ready and came as close as a couple of metres from us. The wind was blowing from the north and the absence of sun turned the morning cold. Jeremy decided to stay in the car not to get his cold worse.



We walked a few metres away from the car park to a viewpoint and enjoyed the view of the coast. Filipa found a Blue Rock Thrush perched on a rock. From there, we heard a Wren and saw again a Rock Bunting and a Meadow Pipit. We walked along a small road and stopped to have a look at 2 Linnets. A displaying male Dartford Warbler perched long enough for us to look at it through the telescope. We went further but the quantity and diversity of birds present was low: Blackcap, 2 Buzzards in the distance, Sardinian Warbler and Wren. We then decided to come back to the car and explore another place down the road. We stopped by a small reservoir. The only bird

present was a Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) which called before flying in front of us. The Iberian Green Woodpecker belongs to the *sharpei* subspecies which has a different call. We tried another place which was as quiet as the other ones. A Great Tit (*Parus major*) was very loud and we managed to see pretty well a Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*).

We drove down the mountain and went to Caldas de Monchique, a small thermal village for lunch. We saw a Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) on the way to the picnic tables. We had lunch in the shade of big trees, listening to the running water of the stream and watching Blackbirds, Song Thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*) and Blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

After lunch, we went to the centre of the town for a drink at a café. There we met with photographers who gave us information about the whereabouts of a flock of Ring Ouzel so we decided to try our luck again.

We found these birds at the indicated place. At least 6 birds were present. They did not let us come very close but we had good views. While we were looking at these birds, Rosemary had nice views of a Dartford Warbler. It was then time to go back to Cruzinha and the sun was shining again.

Wednesday, March 1st – Ria de Alvor

No visit was planned for the morning so everybody had time to relax and rest. We had lunch at Cruzinha and headed to the Ria de Alvor marsh in the afternoon. Jeremy stayed behind to recover from his cold.

We went by car and stopped half-way through to look at an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) perched on a wooden post. At the same time, a Corn Bunting was singing



from a fence in front of the car. Before reaching the marsh, we could see many Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*). The tide was high, so finding and looking at waders should be easier. Barn Swallows were flying over the marsh. We saw a Robin and a couple of Serin when we arrived.

From the dyke going around the marsh, we had a look at the birds present. A female Mallard and a Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) were the closest ones. In the middle, about 40 Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) were feeding with Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) and 2 Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). Two Shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*) were sleeping on an island. Many waders were together, allowing direct comparison: Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*), Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Redshanks (*Tringa totanus*), Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*). Seeing the two last ones side by sides helped: green legs and grey body for the Greenshank, smaller size, red legs and brown body for the Redshank. We had a look at the last sandbars showing: 2 Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*) and 6 Oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*) were together.

That way, the big size of the Caspian Tern was obvious, this bird being almost as big as an Oystercatcher. A Peregrine Falcon carrying a prey flew by us, mobbed by gulls before disappearing. Many waders were inside the marsh. We had close looks at Dunlins, Ringed Plovers, Redshanks and a Black-winged Stilt. A Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*), fishing, passed by us. A Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and a Little Egret were feeding side by side, putting on a nice show. Again, we had several species of waders together: Sanderling (*Calidris alba*), Dunlin, Greenshank, Redshank. A Zitting Cisticola was singing but as usual hard to see. We looked at Sandwich Terns perched on a boat and Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) on posts in the middle of the estuary.

A bit further, we looked again at the waders in the marsh and found different species: Grey (*Pluvialis squatarola*) and Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis apricaria*). The latest species looks thinner and is more yellow. Also, they usually use different types of habitat. Along the path, a Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) was flying from a bush to another. Flocks of waders flew around, looking for a place to land and rest. Many species were sharing the vegetation patches still out of water: Grey Heron, Little Egret, Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), Grey Plover, Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).

We stopped near abandoned saltpans. A Spoonbill flew close to us. We looked again at the waders in the vegetation and had closer views of Dunlins, Grey Plovers and Whimbrels. We also found Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*) and Red Knots (*Calidris canutus*), but further away and we did not see them as well as the other waders. In the saltpans, the water level was right for waders. There, we saw several Kentish Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). The differences with Ringed Plovers were quite obvious on these birds. A flock of Dunlins and a Grey Plover landed for a few seconds and flew away.

Reaching the last tanks, we looked at a group of gulls: many Black-headed Gulls (adults and immature, some in breeding plumage, others not), Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*), immature Yellow-legged Gulls, a Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) and 2 Caspian Terns. It was even possible to see several of these species in the same telescope frame. Further, a mixed flock of Dunlins and Sanderlings was resting. Closer to us, a Redshank, a Greenshank and a Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) were feeding on the bank of the lagoon. A Chiffchaff was looking for insects in the bushes near us. Many Cormorants were perched on the telephone wire by the fish farms. We walked back to the track going along the marsh.



Further, a mixed flock of Dunlins and Sanderlings was resting. Closer to us, a Redshank, a Greenshank and a Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) were feeding on the bank of the lagoon. A Chiffchaff was looking for insects in the bushes near us. Many Cormorants were perched on the telephone wire by the fish farms. We walked back to the track going along the marsh.

Two Goldfinches perched on the fence bordering the track. Several Grey Herons were on the field north of the marsh. We reached a pond where we had close views of Black-winged Stilts and a Little Egret. A Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) flew in front of us, landed near us and almost immediately disappeared in the vegetation. We looked again at the Flamingos, closer this time. Several classes of ages were

present and we could see the differences of plumage. The Shelducks showed as well, a male and a female while the Avocets flew above us. We looked at Linnets and 2 Kestrels before reaching the car.

We came back to Cruzinha on a different track. This allowed us to see Waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*) and a Song Thrush. There was time to rest before dinner.

Thursday, March 2nd – Open Day at Cruzinha and Lagoa dos Salgados

As Thursday is Cruzinha's open day, everybody could enjoy the activities taking place at the centre: moth identification and bird ringing demonstration. A few birds were caught in the morning: Serin, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Robin, Great Tit, Blackcap, Wren and Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*). In total 14 birds were caught. Not a bad morning! The activities stopped at 1:00 pm and we had a delicious meal outside.

After lunch, we went to one of the richest but still threatened Algarvian wetlands: Lagoa dos Salgados. This place is usually good for waders, ducks and herons. When we arrived, we saw that the lagoon had a lot of water, many birds and few birders. We parked by the beach and walked to the "bird hide", looking at a Kestrel perched on a Fig tree and White Wagtails on the grass. Both the northern and the southern part of the lagoon had a high level of water but the diversity in birds was bigger in the northern part.

Management works have been done to improve the lagoon for birds. One of the measures was creating islands in the southern part. A Grey Heron was on one of these islands, with a Ringed and a Kentish Plover. Further, a White Stork was feeding in the middle of the gulls. Two Teals (*Anas crecca*), a male and a female, landed in front of us. A flock of Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*) was resting on a couple of small islands. Two Little Grebes (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) and a Cormorant were fishing in front of us. A Black-winged Stilt appeared, walking in the shallow water.

Many ducks were present in the northern part of the lagoon: Mallards, Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*), Teals and Pintails (*Anas acuta*) with Little Grebes, Coots (*Fulica atra*) and Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*). A Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) was hiding in a small tree by the hide. In the distance, we looked at a Purple Swamphen, walking along the vegetation before disappearing. The red bill and legs,

bluish plumage with white undertail coverts were visible. A Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) flying above the reedbed flushed many birds. An Audouin's Gull passed in front of the hide and joined two more in the company of Yellow-legged Gulls. We could see that the Audouin's Gull is smaller and has a red bill.

We decided to walk along the northern side but a Caspian Tern showed up as we were leaving, fishing nearby us.



From the path along the lagoon, we had closer views of Teals and Black-winged Stilts. A Glossy Ibis was preening close to us, next to a male Pintail. A few Pochards (*Aythya ferina*) were swimming in front of it and a second Ibis appeared, feeding. In an island in the distance, 9 Spoonbills were resting. On the other side of the path, 6 Magpies (*Pica pica*) were feeding. We resumed our walk and stopped to look at a new species of duck for the day: Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). Many Swallows were catching insects above the lagoon. We also had close views of a pair of Pintails. A mixed flock of Avocets and Black-winged Stilts was feeding and resting in the distance. Looking at these birds, we found another species: a Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*). In a field north of the lagoon, Cattle Egrets, a Grey Heron and a White Stork were feeding together. The Marsh Harrier reappeared and we saw it closer this time. A flock of Black-tailed Godwits landed near the Avocets. At this time, it was possible to see Glossy Ibis, Black-winged Stilt, Shoveler and Black-tailed Godwit in the same telescope frame. A few Barn Swallows perched in a bush in front of us.

We came back to the hide where we met Riley and Franck, regular volunteer/visitors on Cruzinha's open day. We had another look at the lagoon where no new species were visible but we enjoyed the place a little longer. The Spoonbills, sleeping earlier on, were now feeding.

We came back to the car. We had a quick view of a Hoopoe and some Cattle Egrets along the road on the way back to Cruzinha.

Friday, March 3rd – Alvor dunes

No visit was planned for the morning so everybody had time to relax and rest by the fireplace as it rained most of the time. We still managed to have great views of a Hoopoe in Cruzinha garden. We had lunch at Cruzinha and headed to Alvor dunes in the afternoon as the weather seemed to improve (some blue sky was even visible).

At Alvor, we parked near the harbour. We still had to wait a bit in the car for a shower to end. We explored the dunes using the boardwalk. We walked along the river. The first species sighted was a Zitting Cisticola, found by Rosemary. This tame bird was perched on a bush and let us have a good look at it. We passed by a Lagoon where a Redshank was feeding. We saw 2 Linnets in the low vegetation. Further away, a male Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) posed long enough for us to see it very well. The blue on the throat with the white patch were very visible. Many Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were resting on a sandbar in the harbour. A Ringed Plover flew by before landing and disappearing in the vegetation. From our spot, we could see a Grey Plover and a Dunlin in a canal. We continued walking and came across a male Stonechat, showing very well as usual. We arrived at the estuary where the tide was going up. It was very windy and what



was visible were several kite-surfers. From there, we could see the place visited on Wednesday.

As the wind was strong, we walked toward the beach. On the way, Rosemary found a female Stonechat which did not show as well as the male and a Chiffchaff flying from a bush to another. We had a quick look at a Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) as we crossed the dune on the boardwalk. The sea was rough but no bird was in sight. Since the sky looked darker, we started walking back to the car. We went on the beach to reach the boardwalk again.

We walked along the river where the sandbars had disappeared. A Whimbrel flew towards us but disappeared as soon as it landed. We stopped again by the lagoon. A Sandwich Tern was fishing right in front of us, putting on a nice show. Cormorants, Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were resting on a wooden structure. Rosemary found a Ringed Plover and a few metres ahead, we had close views of 2 Sanderlings and a Greenshank. We saw a Crested Lark as we reached the main track. Just before reaching the car park, Rosemary spotted a Hoopoe.

We left Alvor in the rain, sometimes quite strong, the timing was perfect! We came back to Cruzinha where there was plenty of time to relax before a nice dinner in a local restaurant.

Saturday, March 4th – Silves

We headed to Silves around 10:30 am. This day was more cultural and we did less birdwatching.

The first stop at Silves was by the river to look for an American bird, a Sora (*Porzana carolina*) but without success.

We first went to the archaeological museum as the weather was still uncertain. The museum keeps items from different periods, mostly from Moorish times (the ceramics collection being one of the largest in Portugal). The museum was built



along the Medina quarter wall and is organized around the Arabic cistern-well. This was part of a construction built to provide water to the city and is quite unique as there is only a similar one in Egypt. We finished the visit by having a look at the city from the Medina quarter wall. From there, we saw other White Storks, some quite close

Then, we walked to the castle. A big statue of Don Sancho I stands in front of the entrance door. He conquered Silves from the Moors in 1189. In the castle, we walked around the wall.

We had lunch in a café by the castle, and the weather improved, sun was out. Then, we drove north, in the hills, to a hide overlooking a centre breeding Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in captivity to reintroduce them later. Unfortunately, we did not

manage to see any. As the place was very quiet for birds too, we drove back to Cruzinha. On the way, we stopped at the Ria de Alvor marsh to look at the Flamingos. There, we also saw a Spoonbill. On the estuary side, we could see the boardwalk we used the previous day and a Little Egret fishing.

The rest of the afternoon was free for everybody before we had our last dinner together at Cruzinha, enjoying Rosemary's scrambled eggs.

Sunday, March 5th – Ludo and departure

For the group's last day, we left Cruzinha after lunch since Rosemary and Jeremy's flight was in the evening. The weather was still cloudy and grey when we left.

We went to Ludo, a complex of saltpans and lagoon behind Faro airport. There, we first crossed a pinewood and we reached the saltpans. The water level was pretty low and some waders were present. In the first one, a Redshank was feeding close to the track. In the second tank, we found a new species for the week: a Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*). This bird was next to a Sanderling, which allowed us to compare them and see the differences in size and coloration. A White Stork passed in flight quite close above us. Many Barn Swallows and House Martins (*Delichon urbicum*) were flying around us, some of them catching insects low over the water. A pale Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*) appeared and Rosemary found another one. One flew right above our heads, allowing us great views. We could see its white body contrasting with the dark flight feathers. The other was soaring near a Buzzard, again, we could compare size and colour. Few birds were in the next lagoons so we only stopped by one usually good for ducks.

There was a nice diversity of species there, even if some of them were a bit far away: Mallards, Shovelers, Pochards, Gadwalls and Pintails. One Spoonbill was resting on the shore while another one was feeding. This bird was carrying colour rings and had been ringed in Germany. Another Booted Eagle flew over us. As we had seen everything there, we continued our journey.

We passed a big pile of salt and drove by the next lagoons, no birds were present. Further, many Flamingos were feeding in a lagoon right of the track so we stopped to look at them. Again different classes of age were present. Some Shovelers, Black-winged Stilts and 2 Common Sandpipers were sharing the lagoon with the Flamingos. We walked toward the next lagoon, which hold many Flamingos too. Black-winged Stilts, Redshanks, and Dunlins accompanied them. On the other side of the path, more waders were in a small pond: Redshanks, Dunlins, a Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) and 2 Mallards. We looked at another lagoon further away. Many birds were present and we managed to find 2 new species for the trip: Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) and Great



Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*). Several Avocets flew above us. A Grey Heron was immobile on a dyke and 2 close-by Shelducks flew away.

We parked near a golf course and walked along the green towards the hide. We passed in front of Roman ruins where we heard a Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*). Before reaching the hide, we had a look at 3 Purple Swamphens and Coots feeding on the green. We went into the ground floor of the hide since a big group of cyclists occupied the 1st floor. Male and female Pochards were right in front of the hide, a few metres away with a male Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) hiding behind vegetation. A male Shoveler was swimming a bit further away. More Purple Swamphens were feeding on the green in front of the hide. A Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) appeared and let us have a good look at it. Four Pintails, 2 males and 2 females, came out of the vegetation and passed in front of the hide before stopping to preen. Some gulls were resting in the middle of the lagoon: Yellow-legged, Lesser Black-backed and Audouin's Gulls. Before we left, 2 Little Grebes swam right in front of us before diving. We had a last look at the pond outside the hide and 2 Great Crested Grebes came out of the water. We walked back to the car on the same path as we came. We left the area, passing again and looking again at the Flamingos.

I dropped Rosemary and Jeremy at the airport and it was time to say goodbye and for me to go back to Cruzinha after another great birdwatching week.

List of species

- Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): 2 at Ria de Alvor and 2 at Ludo.
- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) seen at Ludo.
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Alvor Dunes (2), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.



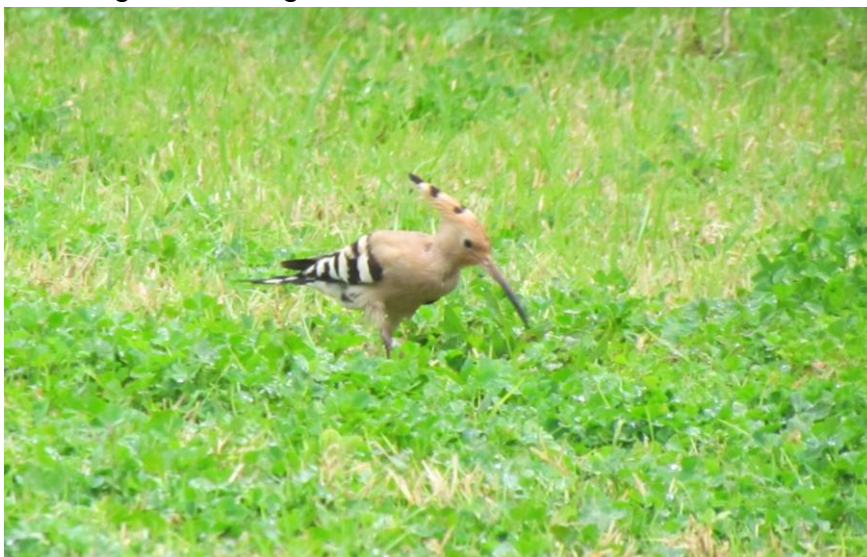
- Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*): 1 male at Ludo.
- Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*): 1 at Ludo.
- Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*): seen at Ludo.
- Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*): about 50 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*): seen at Sagres (cape).
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): seen at Sagres (harbour), Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados, Alvor Dunes and Ludo.
- European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*): seen at Sagres (harbour).
- Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus Ibis*): seen at Sagres (1 at Vale Santo), Monchique (Morgado), Ria de Alvor and Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): seen at Monchique (Morgado), Ria de Alvor and Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): seen at Sagres (1 at Vale Santo), Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados, Silves (1) and Ludo.
- White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*): seen at Sagres (5 at Cabranosa, 2 at the cape and 3 at Vale Santo), on the way to Monchique, Ria de Alvor (6), Lagoa dos Salgados (1), Silves and Ludo.
- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): 7 at Lagoa dos Salgados.

- Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): 12 at Ria de Alvor, 9 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 3 at Ludo.
- Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): 44 at Ria de Alvor and seen at Ludo.
- Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*): 1 at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*): 1 male at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa), 2 at Monchique (Foia) and 1 at Ludo.
- Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*): 6 (5 light morphs, 1 dark morph) at Ludo.



- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): seen at Sagres (2 at Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (1 at Foia), Ria de Alvor (2) and Lagoa.
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): 1 at Sagres (1 adult at Cabranosa) and 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados, Silves and Ludo.
- Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados (2) and Ludo.
- Coot (*Fulica atra*): seen Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados, Silves (1) and Ludo.
- Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): seen at Ria de Alvor (2), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*): 6 at Ria de Alvor.
- European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*): 2 at Ria de Alvor.
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Lagoa dos Salgados (1).
- Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados and Alvor Dunes.
- Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Lagoa dos Salgados (1).

- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Alvor Dunes (1).
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo (1).
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): seen at Ria de Alvor.
- Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): seen at Ria de Alvor.
- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*): seen at Ria de Alvor.
- Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Alvor Dunes and Ludo.
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Alvor Dunes and Ludo.
- Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): seen at Ludo.
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*): 1 at Ria de Alvor and 2 at Ludo.
- Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*): 1 at Ludo.
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Alvor Dunes (2) and Ludo (1).
- Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Alvor Dunes and Ludo.
- Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*): 1 at Ria de Alvor and 4 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*): 2 at Ria de Alvor, 1 at Alvor Dunes and 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Alvor Dunes (2).
- Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados, Silves and Ludo.
- Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*): 4 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 2 at Ludo.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados, Alvor Dunes and Ludo.
- Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*): seen at Sagres (harbour, cape), Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados, Alvor Dunes and Ludo.
- Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa), 1 on the way from Monchique, 1 at Cruzinha, 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 1 at Alvor Dunes.



- European Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).

- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*): 1 at Cruzinha.
- Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Alvor Dunes.
- Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa, cape, Vale Santo).
- Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*): heard at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) seen at Ludo.
- Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*): seen at Sagres (Cape, Vale Santo) and Monchique (Foia)
- White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): seen at Sagres (harbour, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Ria de Alvor and Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): heard at Sagres (Cabranosa) and Monchique (Foia), seen at Cruzinha (ringing).
- European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa), Ria de Alvor and Cruzinha (ringing).
- Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*): 1 male at Alvor Dunes.



- Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*): 3 at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*): seen at Sagres, Monchique (Foia) and Alvor Dunes
- Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*): 1 male at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia) and 1 male at Monchique (Foia).
- Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia) and at least 6 at Monchique (Foia).
- Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Monchique (Foia), Ria de Alvor, Alvor Dunes, Silves and Ludo.
- Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (Caldas de Monchique) and Ria de Alvor.
- Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*): heard at Ludo.

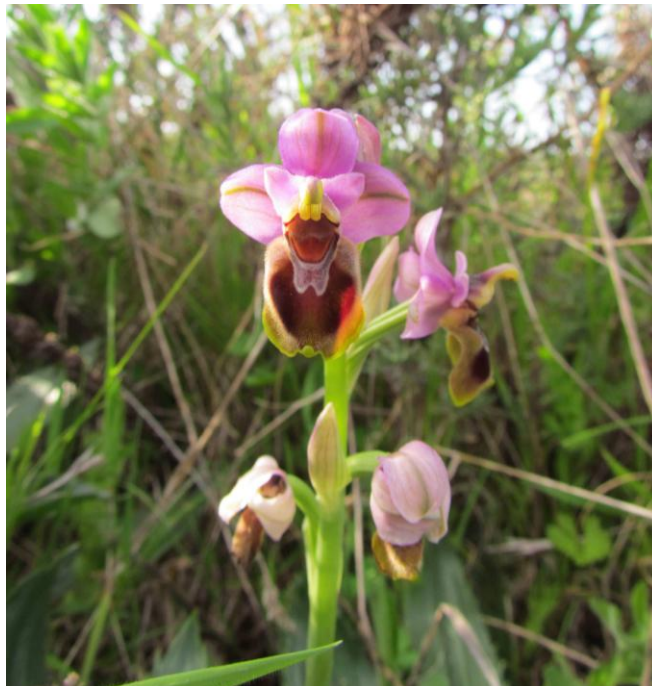
- Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo), Ria de Alvor, Alvor Dunes and Ludo.
- Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, cape), Monchique (Foia), Ria de Alvor and Ludo.
- Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): seen at Monchique and Cruzinha (ringing).
- Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Ria de Alvor and Alvor Dunes.
- Eurasian Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Great Tit (*Parus major*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique), Cruzinha (ringing) and Ludo.
- Eurasian Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*): seen on the way to Sagres and at Cruzinha (ringing).



- Common Magpie (*Pica pica*): 6 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Red-billed Cough (*Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*): seen at Sagres (30 at Cabranosa and 20 at Vale Santo).
- Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*): 2 Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*): seen at Sagres (harbour, Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa).
- Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): seen on the way to Cruzinha, at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo) and Ria de Alvor.
- Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*): seen at Ria de Alvor.
- Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): seen on the way to Cruzinha and at Monchique (Foia).
- European Serin (*Serinus serinus*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa), Ria de Alvor and Cruzinha (ringing).

- European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*): seen on the way to Cruzinha, at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia) and Cruzinha (ringing).
- European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa), Ria de Alvor, Monchique (Foia) and Cruzinha (ringing).
- Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Ria de Alvor and Alvor Dunes.
- Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*): 4 at Monchique (Foia).
- Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo) and Ria de Alvor.

- *Cistanche phelypaea*: seen at Ria de Alvor and Alvor dunes
- Paperwhite Narcissus (*Narcissus papyraceus*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Sawfly Orchid (*Ophrys tenthredinifera*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).



- Sacred Scarab (*Scarabaeus sacer*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa).

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Bird names according to Crochet P.-A., Joynt G. (2015). AERC list of Western Palearctic birds. July 2015 version.