

Southern Portugal

23rd-30th April, 2017
Birds, birds, birds!



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



Participants: Winston Bensley (all week), Tony Myerson (all week), Bert van der Auwermeulen (Sagres, Abicada and Alvor dunes), Bob and Valerie Scott (Sagres), Linda and Vincent Adenis- Lamarre (Lagoa dos Salgados)

Leader: Guillaume Réthoré

Sunday 23rd April- Arriving and Santa Luzia salt pans

For this first “Birds, birds, birds!” spring trip, I picked-up Tony and Winston at Faro airport. The weather was nice and all ingredients were there for a great week.

Then, we headed to Tavira. A few birds were waiting for us at the salt pans. A Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) was fishing near us when we arrived. Several waders were present in the first lagoon: Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*), Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*), Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*), Ringed (*Charadrius hiaticula*) and Kentish Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). However, these birds were a bit far away and the heat haze turned the observation more difficult. Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) and House Martins (*Delichon urbicum*) were flying around us. A male Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) was flying from one bush to another. No waders were seen in the second lagoon and only a few Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*) were in the third one. Several Serins (*Serinus serinus*) appeared in the vegetation along the salt pans and let us have a glimpse of them. In the distance 2 Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*) were flying and perching on wires. On the other side of the road, more lagoons were hosting birds. Winston found a Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*). Black-winged Stilts and Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) were flying and excited about something we failed to find. In the next tank, we had good views of a Kentish Plover. While looking at this bird, a Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) appeared. We managed to have good views of a male Sardinian Warbler singing from the fence along the track. Two Red-rumped Swallows (*Cecropis daurica*) flew near us.

We passed a gate and found more singing Sardinian Warblers and House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). The first saltpan was empty and a couple of Avocets

was resting in the second one. There were more birds in the last lagoon. Two Kentish Plovers, a male and a female were very close. The female tried to distract us by mimicking a wing injury, her nest must have been close-by. Further, Sanderlings were feeding and even further a mixed group of Sanderlings, Dunlins and Curlew Sandpipers (*Calidris ferruginea*) were foraging. We got closer and had good views of these birds, some of them in breeding plumage. Some Gulls were resting on the dyke; two of them were Audouin’s Gulls (*Larus audouinii*). We



had great views of these elegant birds. We walked on and reached the end of the track from where we could see across the channel to Tavira Island. Two Little Terns were fishing and Winston found a Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) in breeding plumage and a Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) pretty far away. A small flock of Linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*) flew by us. As we were leaving, Winston spotted 2 birds of prey in the distance. We identified these birds through the telescope as a Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) mobbing a Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

We walked back to the car but did not see anything new. Winston found 2 White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) on a nest in the distance. As we were putting all the gear back in the car, a Little Tern appeared by the car, fishing.

We then left for Cruzinha (A Rocha Portugal Field Study Centre), where we arrived after a quiet journey. The birdwatching group was introduced to team members: Paula, Marcial, Ellie, Yassir and Jan and the visitors: Bert, Ruta and Ronja. We then had the first of a long series of good meals!

Monday 24th April- Sagres

After a good night's sleep, the birdwatching group headed to the end of the world! As Sagres peninsula is the most south westerly point of Europe, ancient people believed that the world ended there. We left at 8:00 on a nice sunny day, with more people joining us for that day: Bert, Bob and Valerie.

On the way, we had good views of 2 bee-eaters on the Cruzinha track and saw many Stork nests at Odixere and Azure-winged Magpies (*Cyanopica cyanus*) further.

We first stopped at a wetland on the way: Boca do Rio. We heard a Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) and a Sardinian Warbler singing as we left the van. A Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) was perched in a Tamarisk. We walked a bit along the reedbed and found a Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) perched on a tree while a Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) was singing. We stopped again after a few metres and heard and saw an Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*). We found several Bee Orchids (*Ophrys apifera*) growing along the track. At the last stop, we heard and had glimpses of Reed (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) and Great Reed Warblers (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) while a Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) was calling.



We walked back to the car. Before reaching the car park, a Cetti's Warbler was singing close to us in a bush. We saw this bird as it flew away to hide in another bush. Then, the Squacco Heron and a Little Egret flew together from a pond. We could see the brown back of the heron, contrasting with its white wings while the egret had an all white plumage. The heron perched on a tree and we tried to drive closer to take pictures but it flew away.

We resumed our journey towards Sagres. There, our first stop was at Ponta da Atalaia where we had coffee, enjoying the birds. Spotless Starlings (*Sturnus unicolor*) and then a Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*) perched on the same Agave. A herd of cattle was grazing, accompanied with a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). Common Swifts (*Apus apus*) were flying above us as the cows were getting closer and closer. We started walking along a hedge. A woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*) was perched on

an Agave. We had great views of this bird, soon joined by a Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). We reached the edge of the cliff. House Martins, Red-rumped and Barn Swallows were flying around us. Several Shags (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) were at sea, one of them fishing close-by. Winston spotted 4 Stonechats (*Saxicola rubicola*), a family, along the path.

We walked toward a trig point and had close views of a Thekla Lark carrying food. A male Stonechat even perched next to it on the same bush. Winston found a male Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) on the cliff. We reached the trig point and had look at the sea but it was very calm. The only bird present was a female Black Redstart which perched near us. We started going back to the car and Bert found 2 Red-billed Choughs (*Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*) in flight while we were looking at a male Black Redstart. We saw again Spotless Starlings and Thekla Larks before reaching the car.

We then went to Cabranosa, one of the best spots to watch raptor migration in autumn, only stopping to look at a Chough. We took a dirt track and stopped along a pine hedge. From there we could see Bee-eaters and a Woodchat Shrike but all of them far away. We walked along the hedge. Many Bee-eaters were flying around us. We stopped to look at a Woodchat Shrike and further a Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) perched on a Pine tree while Bert heard a Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*).



We found a burrow dug by a Bee-eater. A non-identified Harrier appeared in the distance and also 3 White Storks. We walked through a pinewood but the only birds present were Bee-eaters, Goldfinches and Corn Buntings. Reaching a more open area, we saw a Corn Bunting singing from the top of a bush. A small bird flew in our direction and perched in a tree: a Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)! Even if

this bird did not stay long, we had a good view and managed to see the main features: yellow throat, white belly and long under-tail coverts. This bird flew from tree to tree before disappearing. We crossed another pinewood and reached another open area. An Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) perched on a tree in front of us but flew before everybody saw it. Fortunately, it landed nearby and started foraging. It was a great sighting for everybody; we could even see a Woodchat Shrike in the same telescope frame! We went back to the main track, looking at a Woodchat Shrike and a flock of Choughs. We managed to get quite close to these birds, feeding with Spotless Starlings and also saw 2 Tawny Pipits.

After that, we moved to the picnic site. We had a nice lunch looking at Choughs and a Woodchat Shrike.

We then headed to Cape St Vincent where it was busy. Winston found straight away a male Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*). This bird perched on a small wall and allowed us to have great views while it was collecting food. At the same time

a Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) flew quite close to the cliff. Winston and I saw a Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) but it disappeared before the telescope was set up. We had a look on the other side of the cape but no birds were in sight. A Stork was on its nest on an island off the cape, a unique sighting in Europe. Two Pallid Swifts (*Apus pallidus*) appeared and we saw them well (pale throat, tail not as forked as the Common Swift and wing not very pointy), the Blue Rock Thrush showed up again as well.

We went back to Cruzinha *via* Vale Santo. Right at the beginning of the trip, we stopped to look for Little Bustards (*Tetrax tetrax*). We could hear 2 calling and after spending some time looking for them, we managed to see one quite well. At the same time, Bert found a Red-legged Partridge. A Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) was hunting around us and Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) and Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) were singing. The unidentified Harrier showed again but too far to be identified. Then, we drove towards an old farm and the Harrier reappeared. This bird, a female, had broad wings which allowed us to identify it as a Northern (Hen) Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). However it was a quick sighting since this bird landed and we never saw it again. We stopped by the farm buildings. A Skylark was singing, a Stork was feeding by a temporary pond and Winston found a Little Owl (*Athene noctua*). Just after leaving we heard a Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) calling. The rest of the trip was quiet, seeing Corn Buntings and Thekla Larks. Before reaching Vila do Bispo, we stopped to look at Alpine Swifts (*Apus melba*) but these birds disappeared before everybody managed to see them. Bert spotted a Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) flying above us, we had good views despite the poor light. We also saw a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) perched on a pylon. A second bird appeared and was mobbed by the first one. When they got closer to us, we managed to see that the adult bird was mobbing the immature (browner bird with traces of moult), both birds seemed to be females (big size). A third Peregrine was still sitting on a different pylon; this bird was probably a male due to its smaller size. The last stop before Vila do Bispo was to look at a Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) feeding along the track.



We then headed back to Cruzinha but decided to keep birdwatching on the way. However, roadwork made us change our plans. We still saw a Black-winged Kite before Mexilhoeira Grande.

Tuesday 25th April- Monchique Hills

After spending a day on the coast, Monchique offered a totally different landscape and habitat. We left Cruzinha early to get to Foia, the highest point (902 m), before the tourists and be able to see birds. However, the summit was barely

visible from the road. We saw many Storks and a couple of White Wagtails (*Motacilla alba*) on the way. At this time, it seemed the weather was improving.

When we got to Foia, the place was in the fog so we decided to explore an area lower and perhaps go back up there later. We stopped by a small reservoir. There, a Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) was singing and a Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) displaying near us. A couple of Linnets were feeding on the ground by the car. It also seemed the sun was going through the clouds and fog and therefore the singing activity increased. A Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) flew in front of us and 2 Melodious Warblers (*Hippolais polyglotta*) appeared briefly. After a while, we walked towards a nearby spot. A Crested Tit (*Lophophanes cristatus*) was there when we arrived but the sighting was very short. We waited a bit and this bird showed up again, giving good views. Two Stonechats were collecting food nearby and we heard a Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*). This bird perched on a tree in front of us. The absence of red on the head enabled us to identify it as a female. We found 2 birds on a wire. They went to the ground but it was enough to identify them as Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*) however, they stayed in the bushes. We saw a Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*) at the same time and Winston found 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker mating. We walked around the area, saw more Whitethroats and heard



a Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*). The weather did not really improve as after the sun showed, it covered again. We came back to the car where the Linnets were still there. A Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*) was perched on top of a bush but flew before everybody saw it. It landed on a rock but again flew before we had good views. However, we saw a Melodious Warbler perched on a eucalyptus. Winston spotted a bird on a wire: another Rock Bunting but the light was terrible. We

tried to get closer, it perched on a dead tree and then on the ground where it disappeared. We waited for a few minutes, without success. This morning was getting frustrating so we had a coffee break before going back to the summit. Red-rumped Swallows (*Cecropis daurica*) were flying close to us and Barn Swallows above the reservoir.

We moved to Foia where the weather was clear. We stood at a view point watching a Blue Rock Thrush perched on a lamp post. The view on the coast was bad but Winston spotted a Rock Bunting. As usual, this bird flew before we had good views. The Blue Rock Thrush reappeared on a walking trail marker. This bird moved to the roof of a building and went to the ground where it fed, great sighting! We walked a few metres and Winston found a Rock Bunting feeding on the pavement close to us. This tame bird gave us great views in a good light. We had managed almost all target species; we just needed the Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*) and

better views of Melodious Warbler. At that point, the weather was sunny and even warm. We moved to an area with more bushes. Red-rumped Swallows and House Martins were flying around us and Stonechats and Whitethroats singing. Winston found a distant Dartford Warbler perched on a fence and we hoped for better views. We went back to the road and 2 Rock Buntings appeared in front of us, feeding on the ground. A Blue Rock Thrush was perched on a wire and then on a post. We stopped by a bush where a Whitethroat was hiding. Then a Rock Bunting perched there and started singing and finally a Wren entered this same bush. A pair of Stonechats was perched on a bush from where a Melodious Warbler was singing. We walked a bit and found a female Whitethroat collecting food on the road side. We looked around us; another Whitethroat was displaying and a Melodious Warbler singing from the top of a tree. We got closer to this bird and had better views. We went back to where Winston had found a Dartford Warbler. Red-rumped Swallows were flying near us; they had their nest on a nearby building. A male Sardinian Warbler was singing on a fence and a Wren perched near us. Tony and Winston saw a bird flying behind a rock: a Dartford Warbler? This bird never showed up again. We stayed a few minutes looking for this bird and enjoying the quietness broken by motorbikes. We went back to the car as we started being hungry.

The first bird of prey of the day was seen as we left Foia: a Kestrel. We then drove to Caldas de Monchique, a small thermal village, where we had lunch. The usual picnic table was not available. Many people were having lunch outside on that day since it was a bank holiday. Lunch was under the shade of big trees in a lovely environment.

During the afternoon we walked around Caldas de Monchique. We saw 2 Grey Wagtails (*Motacilla cinerea*) in the stream by the picnic tables. We went to a small chapel and stayed there a little while. There was no bird activity when we arrived and we only saw a Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*). Further, we saw a Moorish Gecko (*Tarentola mauritanica*) and a tandem of Epaulet Skimmer (*Orthetrum chrysostigma*). We had a drink and went back to the chapel. We found a Scarlet Dragonfly (*Crocothemis erythraea*) on the way. As we arrived, a Crested Tit appeared and we had great views. Then, a Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and 2 Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*) came drinking at the stream. We then started our journey to Cruzinha.



At the foot of the hills, we spotted a bird of prey and stopped the car to have a better view: an adult Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)! This bird flew over us and we had great views, we even saw the white patch on its back. As we still had time, we made a last halt to look at a small wetland. Cattle were grazing accompanied by many Cattle Egrets. Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), White Storks and a Grey Heron were feeding in a small pond while a Cetti's Warbler was singing. A Raven (*Corvus*

corax) flew above us, quite close. We had a look at a river. Goldfinches were drinking and a Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) flew from under the bridge where we were standing. The Bonelli's Eagle reappeared but more distant this time. On the other side of the bridge, a Grey Wagtail was walking along the river and 2 Waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*) perched in the reeds. Tony found a Woodchat Shrike and we found a Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) in the distance. We looked again at the Waxbills, a bigger group this time. Two Little Egrets and a second Grey Heron were now in the pond with the other birds and we saw again the Bonelli's Eagle.

After these nice additions to the day list, we came back to Cruzinha. There was still time to relax before dinner and then we changed our plans for the next days since the weather seemed to be unstable for the end of the week.

Wednesday 26th April- Castro Verde

Wednesday was the longest day of the week in terms of time spent on the field. The Castro Verde area has a totally different landscape from the Algarve and different birds as well... We changed the plans since it was supposed to rain on Friday and this area under the rain is no fun at all! We aimed to leave early to be in the field at sunrise, however it was not as early as planned since I wrongly set up my alarm clock! This stressful moment passed, we left and the trip went smoothly. I even learnt that Winston had heard the first Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*) of the year while waiting for me!

We arrived at Castro Verde slightly after 7:30 and on the way to the LPN (Liga para a Proteção da Natureza) reserve (also called Vale Gonçalves), we stopped for breakfast (tea, coffee, croissant, bread, jam). The weather was cloudy and chilly. While having our coffee we recorded the first birds of the day: Quail, Corn Bunting, Zitting Cisticola, Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) and Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*). A bird from this species flew above us, carrying prey. A Buzzard mobbed it and then a Crow did the same until it dropped its food. At the end of breakfast, Winston found a Hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and a male Montagu's Harrier perched on

a fence post close by allowing us great views. We crossed the road to have a look on the other side. There, a big bird flying caught our attention: a Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)! It flew above us and we saw it very well. Just after, a Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) flew on the same direction and also above us. A small falcon was hunting near us. It came close enough for us to see the pattern of the upper wing and the belly: plain belly and grey patches on the wings, a male Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*). A Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*) flew and started singing above us too, so



we could see the dark under wing and the white trailing edge of the wings.

As the reserve only opened at 9:00, we started birdwatching on the way. The first halt was at a higher place. A male Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*)

was perched in the usual place. Winston found a falcon perched on a rock, probably another Lesser Kestrel. A Black Kite appeared, not far away. Looking at a pond in the field in front of us, we found Mallards, a Coot (*Fulica atra*) and a Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). A Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) perched in a tree in the field but flew before everybody managed to see it. The second stop was also on a high spot. It seemed empty when we arrived but we found 2 Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in a field. It was still too cold for these birds to fly. On the other side of the road, Winston spotted a female Montagu's Harrier perched on a fence post and Tony a male. It was even possible to see the upper wing pattern well when it flew. Closer to us, a Magpie (*Pica pica*) was perched on a post.

Then, we turned onto a dirt track leading to the LPN reserve and saw more Calandra Larks, closer this time. We parked the car by the centre; we had a quick chat with the LPN workers and left a donation to help them keep on doing their great work in the area. We drank a coffee before walking around the property.

We started walking in the property and our first stop was near a tower where Lesser Kestrels nest thanks to nest boxes set up. A female Lesser Kestrel was perched on an information board; we could see how much it looked like a Kestrel. A Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) flew in and was attacked by this the female Lesser Kestrel, then it flew into a tree before moving to a big eucalyptus. We had great views of this bird and even heard it calling. Several Lesser Kestrels were also perched in this tree and more were flying around the tower also occupied by Jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*). I found a distant Short-toed Eagle, identified by its behaviour (hovering). We continued walking and stopped



on a bridge crossing a stream to look at the surroundings. Bee-eaters were perched on a fence with Lesser Kestrels and Spotless Starlings. A Hoopoe flew across a field and I found a very distant Cinereous (Black) Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*). We identified this bird thanks to its size, colour and position of the wings. If birds that big were starting to fly, this was good news for us! We passed the property gates and stopped to look at 2 birds of prey: 2 Short-toed Eagles which flew low near us. By a big eucalyptus, we looked around and Winston found a Great Bustard feeding on a field. A Black Kite flew above old farm buildings used by Lesser Kestrel to nest and 2 Rollers appeared. Near the old barn, we saw the 2 Rollers perched on a fence and many Lesser Kestrels in the air. We heard 2 Little Bustards but they were difficult to find. After some searching, we managed to see them but they were distant. A Great Bustard flew over the field in front of us before we left. We walked back to the centre on the same path, it was almost lunch time. We stopped again by the eucalyptus where we could hear a Hoopoe. We found one on the tree and Tony 4 more on a small olive tree, another one flew over: that was 6 Hoopoes from the same spot! Before reaching the centre, we spotted 2 Birds of prey: 2 Cinereous Vultures. We had

better views than earlier but they were gliding away. The temperature was also rising nicely.

We had lunch by the centre in the shade where I even helped French tourists!

After lunch, we went to Entradas to a spot in the shade of eucalyptus and near a reservoir and a stream. Few birds were present: a male Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*), a male Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), Coots, a Little (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) and 2 great Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*). I had a nap in the car while the rest of the group kept birdwatching. After that, we had another look at the lagoon with 2 German tourists. A Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) was present and a Spanish Pond Turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*) was sunbathing. A Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) landed on the dam next to us, calling, a great sighting!



We drove towards another village but stopped shortly after crossing the stream to look at a shy Tawny Pipit. We took a dirt track and stopped again on a higher spot to look around. Four Great Bustards were feeding on a field near a Little Bustard calling. It was even almost possible to have the 2 bustard's species in the same telescope frame. A female Black-eared Wheatear perched on a fence with Bee-eaters. Two Hoopoes flew near us and a Short-toed Lark landed nearby but disappeared in the vegetation before all could

see it. The Great Bustards moved to the ridge and were more visible.

We stopped again by a river where a Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) and a Melodious Warbler were singing. Besides the many Bee-eaters in the air few birds were present so we resumed our journey. We had a quick look at another lagoon nearby which produced a Black-winged Stilt, a Mallard and 2 Gadwalls. On the other side of the road, a flock of Spanish Sparrows (*Passer hispaniolensis*) were feeding in the vegetation. However, these birds flew away as we started looking at them. Some of them, including males, stayed visible for a little while though.

We crossed the next village and had a look at the many Stork nests along the road. Spanish Sparrows use these nests to make their own so we looked for them. A male was showing its head from a nest and a female was perched next to it. At the same time, I found another Cinereous Vulture but still far away.

We drove towards a vantage point. On the way, we saw a Black-winged Kite perched on a wire and it flew as we were approaching. When we arrived on top of the hill, Winston was the first to look for birds. When Tony and I joined him, he had found a distant bird of prey. A look through the telescope enabled us to identify it: a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), an excellent bird for the day and the first seen on a Birdwatching Week! Things went quieter after this bird disappeared until we found a Cinereous Vulture far away. It came closer and was soon joined by an immature Bonelli's Eagle. However, these 2 birds were very high and getting further and further away.

We went down the hill on a different track. We saw a few Wood Pigeons (*Columba palumbus*) and saw 2 Little Owls on their regular pile of rocks. We crossed the national road and stopped by a stream where 4 Crag Martins (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) were flying with Red-rumped Swallows. Some Stork nests in the nearby trees have been used for years and were enormous. We found a Great Bustard in a field, not too far away and the light was good. A Buzzard flew by and a Nightingale was singing. We looked at a Hoopoe singing from a dead eucalyptus.

We drove towards another village, Alvares, south of the places visited during the day and stopped by a pond to look at a Little Ringed Plover and 2 Spanish Pond Turtles, one of them so dry it looked like a rock! We took a dirt track until a small lagoon. However the place was quieter than expected: only a few Black-winged Stilts, 2 Gull-billed Terns (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) and a Little Ringed Plover were present. We walked along the reservoir and found 2 Collared Pratincoles (*Glareola pratincola*), and then another one, and another one! A Gull-billed Tern was flying over the lagoon and we heard 2 Stone Curlews (*Burhinus oedichnemus*). Griffons Vultures were flying down to roost on the hills. Many Spanish Pond Turtles were still sunbathing along the shore. Winston spotted a male Montagu's Harrier and a Stone Curlew flew over the lagoon to land in the middle of the olive trees. The place was very peaceful, we enjoyed the Gull-billed Terns flying and calling. Some of them were on the ground near Pratincoles, it was possible to see both of them in the same telescope frame.



We walked slowly back to the car and saw a Little Owl before reaching the tarmac road. We came back to Castro Verde, seeing a few Southern Grey Shrikes (*Lanius meridionalis*) on the way. We tried to find more birds on a last spot but without success.

We had dinner at Castro Verde in a local restaurant, eating typical food (black pork). We were back around 22:30, all very tired, so everybody went to bed.

Thursday 27th April- Open Day at Cruzinha and Lagoa dos Salgados

As Thursday is Cruzinha's open day, everybody was able to enjoy the activities set up at the centre: moth identification and bird ringing demonstration, all this with coffee and cake in the middle. Quite a few birds were caught for ringing, but mostly common species for the area: House Sparrow, Sardinian Warbler, Great Tit (*Parus major*), Blackbird, Waxbill. The activities stopped at 13:00. Unfortunately I could not be present, so I met Winston and Tony by the national road at 14:00. Linda and Vincent joined us for this afternoon.

Then, we went to one of the richest but still threatened Algarvian wetlands: Lagoa dos Salgados. This place is usually good for waders, ducks, herons and sometimes more unusual species. Again, we were not disappointed as we saw a

good range of species. We had a bit of rain on the way but were optimistic for the rest of the afternoon. From the path leading to the lagoon we saw that the water level was good and many birds seemed to be present.

We parked by the blind, and could see the water level was quite high on both sides of the lagoon (more in the northern part than in the southern part). A group of Gulls was resting in front of us: Yellow-legged (*Larus michahellis*), Lesser Black-backed (*Larus fuscus*) and Audouin's Gulls. A White Stork was walking among them. Winston found a Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) in breeding plumage in the middle of Grey Plovers, some of them in breeding plumage too. Many House Martins, Barn and Red-rumped Swallows were flying above the lagoon, catching insects. A Grey Heron taking off scared most of the gulls which flew away. Many Black-winged Stilts and Avocets were present. We looked at the other species on the mudflats: Dunlins, Sanderlings, a Curlew Sandpiper, Redshanks (*Tringa totanus*), Turnstones, Ringed Plovers and some Little Terns. Three Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) flew from the lagoon and passed above us.

On the northern side of the lagoon, as the water level was higher, more ducks were present: Mallards, Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*), Gadwalls, Pochards (*Aythya ferina*) and a male Red-crested Pochard found by Winston. Little Grebes, Coots and Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) were also present. A male Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus*

minutus) appeared on a bush in front of the blind and showed up very well for a few seconds. A Zitting Cisticola was singing and flying near us, as they usually do. This bird landed in front of us, a great sighting for Tony! Winston found a Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) but it was a bit far and looked more black than blue. Winston also found another Cisticola near us. On the mudflats, a Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) was sitting near a Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), allowing us to see the differences between the 2 species.



As the rain seemed to slow down, we decided to walk along the lagoon using the boardwalk. From there, we had a different view of the lagoon but did not really enjoy it as the rain started again. We found shelter in the "hide". Unfortunately, the view was blocked by the overgrown reedbed. We still managed to see Cormorants and Audouin's Gulls in front of us whilst a Cetti's Warbler was singing near us. A Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) landed but it was a bit far for a great view, it actually looked all black. We walked to the end of the lagoon without seeing any new birds, only a Little Bittern in flight. We could see the opening on the sea and a small group of gulls was resting on the beach, including some Audouin's Gulls.

We walked back to the car and as the weather was still bad with no sign of improvement, we went back home.

We then returned to Cruzinha. After dinner, we planned the next day as the weather was not likely to change.

Friday 28th April- Ponta da Piedade

After changing the plans on the previous night, we changed them again in the morning since the forecasted rain did not come: we headed to Ponta da Piedade after breakfast.

We went next to the lighthouse and looked at the sea from there. However, it was quiet with only a few Gannets passing. I spotted 2 Razorbills (*Alca torda*) but not seen by everybody. Later, Winston found another one I could not see. We had a look at the cliffs where Yellow-legged Gulls were on nests and a Cormorant and a Little Egret were sitting. Winston found a Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*) flying past a boat. A few Sandwich Terns (*Sterna sandvicensis*) flew westward. Many tourists asked about what we were doing, obviously curious about our activity. After 1 hour of sea watching, it was still quiet and we left and went to Odiáxere salt pans.



We stopped by the salt pans and looked at the many waders present: Dunlins, Ringed and Kentish Plovers, 2 Little Stints (*Calidris minuta*), Avocets and Black-winged Stilts. We also saw our first Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) of the week as 6 were there. We moved to a different view point and saw a White Wagtail and a Turnstone. Many birds flew as a male Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) was flying by. Following this bird with binoculars, we found another one, a female this time. After these birds had gone, waders came back and a Kentish Plover landed near us.

We walked along the salt pans looking for more birds but mostly found Black-winged Stilts, some of them not happy with each other. Winston spotted a Spoonbill in flight and me an unidentified bird of prey gliding away. We arrived at a tidal area. Dunlins and Ringed Plovers were feeding among the Fiddler Crabs (*Uca tangeri*). Winston found a Kestrel in flight. A Spoonbill was resting in the tank in front of us and was joined by another one. We looked at the last lagoon from a higher spot but it was empty. A Black Kite flew above us quite close. We walked back to the car and realised people were in the salt pans.

From the car, we had a look at more ponds on the other side of the road. A Mallard, 2 Black-winged Stilts and a Coot were in the first one. Many Mallards (3 females and many juveniles) were in the second pond with a Black-winged Stilt. A Glossy Ibis appeared in the 4th lagoon and we counted 3 before turning back. Driving again in front of the tanks, we counted 6!

We arrived at Cruzinha just in time for lunch, which was pizza! The afternoon was free so everyone could rest or explore the surroundings.

Saturday 29th April- Abicada and Alvor Dunes

On Saturday, we did what we should have done on Wednesday and Bert joined us for the day. Just after leaving Cruzinha, we saw a Turtle Dove feeding on the track in front of the car.



The first observation took place before we arrived at the birdwatching spot as 2 Red-rumped Swallows were collecting mud in a puddle on the path. From the car park, we looked at a small marsh. A Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) was standing there, immobile in the open. Many Barn Swallows and House Martins were feeding around us. Few birds were on the lagoon, only a Cormorant fishing. Juvenile Barn Swallows perched on the reeds nearby and were fed by adults.

We walked to the dam along the lake.

The tide was low but few birds were present as many people were collecting shellfish. We still had nice views of a Common Sandpiper and a Whimbrel. Bert found a Kingfisher which flew over the lagoon. While we were all looking at the mudflats, Bert spotted a juvenile Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) which flew 3 times around us, giving great views.

We walked along the dyke in the direction of the Roman ruins. We saw many Black-winged Stilts on the marsh as well as Yellow Wagtails and Crested Larks (*Galerida cristata*). A male Marsh Harrier appeared and a Shelduck flew over the dyke. We stopped about half-way along the dyke to look at another Purple Heron, but this one was further away. It was possible to see Purple and Grey Heron in the same telescope frame. A Stork and a Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) were close by too. Several Alpine Swifts were visible in the air. A Black-winged Kite flew over the marsh and the Marsh Harrier reappeared behind us, mobbed by Black-winged Stilts. We looked at the marsh before walking along the river: 2 Avocets were feeding with 2 Black-winged Stilts and a Common Sandpiper was walking along the edge of the water.

We walked along the river and heard a Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) singing but it seemed far. We spotted an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) soaring and could see it at the same time as a Kestrel. A Little Owl was perched on a wall in the distance and a Buzzard appeared.

The path went across farmland habitat. Corn Buntings were singing. We saw an Azure-winged Magpie chased by a Spotless Starling. The magpie perched in a bush near a Woodchat Shrike. Bert found 2 Moorish Geckos sunbathing on a wall. Then, we arrived at a higher point from where we could see a big reedbed and heard several species difficult to see: Cetti's Warbler, Nightingale and Quail. We walked in front of old farm buildings where Winston found a Little Owl.

From the ruins, we looked towards the small marsh nearby and enjoyed a coffee. Few birds were present as there was still water: 4 Spoonbills, Mallards and Little Egret. The male Marsh Harrier reappeared, quite close. A Reed Warbler was singing in the reedbed and we heard a Purple Swamphen. This bird was found by Bert but far and it kept disappearing in the vegetation. A Raven flew above us as we were leaving. We saw the Little Owl on the farm buildings again and the Woodchat Shrike almost in the same bush.

We did not see much on the way before reaching the river where a Shelduck landed. A bit further, we had a good look at a Yellow Wagtail as it was from the nominate subspecies. This bird had a yellow throat while the Iberian birds have a white throat. Back on the dam, mudflats were still visible but few birds around.

We decided to eat by the lagoon, so I went back to the car to bring it to the picnic spot. There, I flushed a Purple Heron. The only bird seen during lunch was a Little Grebe. We tried to see again the Purple Heron before leaving but it was gone.

We headed to Alvor beach after lunch, where we explored the dunes along the boardwalk. Bert found a tern flying over us right at the beginning: a Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) which flew towards the harbour. Many Zitting Cisticolas and Crested Larks were present. From the boardwalk, we had a different view of the Ria de Alvor estuary where the tide was still low. A Little Egret was trying to fish but without much success and Sanderlings were running on the sand. Winston found a Hoopoe in the dunes. As we approached the break water wall, we found a Short-toed Lark on the ground and Bert spotted a female Kentish Plover on the nest. We read the information board about the birds of the dunes. Before walking on the beach, we looked at another Kentish Plover, a male this time.



We came back along the beach where Tony tried the water (only with his hands) and it did not seem too cold. A group of Whimbrels was flying above the sea; they came closer to the beach, then away and then closer again. We came back to the boardwalk and looked again at the sea where we found a group of Scoters (*Melanitta nigra*) and saw the Whimbrels again which this time crossed the dunes and landed in the estuary. We went across the dunes too and did the last part of the walk near the mudflats of the Ria de Alvor estuary where the water was higher. Two terns were flying above the water: Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*). We came closer and had better views of these birds, an adult and an immature (still showing juvenile feathers and begging). One landed on an island next to a Little Tern, the size difference was huge. The flock of Whimbrel was nearby but had to take off again as the water was rising and the sandbar disappearing. We continued along the river and saw another Whimbrel next to a Yellow-legged Gull, at the same time, Winston found a Bar-tailed Godwit. We had a quick look on the dune but no bird was in sight.

Further along the boardwalk, Winston found a Turnstone while we were looking at the harbour.

As we still had time, we checked the harbour. We saw mostly Yellow-legged Gulls. Two of them were feeding on a Cuttlefish, their bill getting all dark because of the ink. These 2 birds could have been a pair, the size difference between them suggesting a male and a female. We had an ice-cream by the beach before going back home. At Cruzinha, we looked for the Red-necked Nightjar but failed to see it.

Sunday 30th April- Ludo and departure

For the group's last day, we had a more relaxed breakfast and after the traditional goodbyes, we left. We tried again to see the Nightjar but still without success.

The trip to Faro was quiet. There, we went birdwatching behind the airport. At Ludo, we first crossed a pinewood area where we only saw a Bee-eater. We stopped by salt pans which had water but no birds. However, Winston found several birds in a channel: Gadwalls, Mallards and Black-winged Stilt. Kentish Plover and Sanderlings were in the second lagoon and nothing in the third one. A White Stork flew over the path. We passed in front of a lagoon good for ducks in winter, parked and had a look. A big fish was jumping out of the water. Few birds were spotted on the lagoons on both sides of the track, only a Gadwall in flight, a Little and a Great Crested Grebes. A Reed Warbler was singing but invisible to us. Winston spotted a male Marsh Harrier in flight. This bird, which was hunting, did not flush anything. We found another bird of prey in the distance but could not identify it. On the way to the next stop, we drove past a big pile of salt and in the middle of more salt pans but with few birds, only Kentish Plovers.

We parked next to a golf course in a shady place. We first walked along a lagoon to see better the birds there. On the way, we came across a Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) walking on the path, probably an old female (big and heavy). Quite a few birds were on the lagoon: 9 Spoonbills (one of them ringed in the



Netherlands), Black-winged Stilts, 2 Avocets, 1 Shelduck, Mallards and Gadwalls. A Little Tern was fishing close us, allowing us to great views. This bird landed near a Shelduck, again the size difference was big. Winston found a male Red-crested Pochard (however only the top of the head was visible) and another one appeared swimming on the lagoon. Two Pochards came close to us. We spotted an Osprey fishing in the distance (even if Tony and I were looking in opposite directions). This bird seemed to come closer but never came near us. We came back to the car where we had our picnic before walking to the bird hide. We ate listening to the Cetti's Warbler

and seeing an Azure-winged Magpie interested in our lunch.

We walked along the green but did not see any birds. The lagoon next to the golf course is usually a very good spot and has a good bird hide. A first look from outside the hide already revealed the presence of many birds: Gadwalls, Red-crested Pochards and Great Crested Grebe. A Little Bittern perched in the Tamarisk in front of us and started climbing it. From the hide, we found several Purple Swampheens, most of them walking on the green. Many House Martins and a few Barn and Red-rumped Swallows were catching insects above the water. An adult Little Bittern flew past the hide and passed again in the other direction a few seconds later. Two Hoopoes flew over the lagoon and landed on the green where another one was already present, accompanied by a White Wagtail. Black-headed Weavers (*Ploceus melanocephalus*) had built nests on a small island in front of us. Two male were more or less visible in the middle of the vegetation but it was easy to find them thanks to their bright colors (black head and yellow body). A male weaver landed on this island, in the open and Winston found a Little Bittern looking for the weaver. Spanish Pond Turtles were sunbathing and a Great Crested Grebe caught a crayfish in front of us.



We left the hide and had a look at the end of the lagoon. Some Purple Swampheens were really close. One of them got even mobbed by a weaver. The other birds present were Black-winged Stilts and a family of Coots.

We then went to the other hide. It overlooks mudflats but few birds were around, only Dunlins, Sanderlings and Turnstones. Besides that, the place was very windy. A few more birds were visible in a pond along the track so we went closer. Black-winged Stilts, Avocets and 4 Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*), one of them in breeding plumage, were feeding. A Sanderling, also in breeding plumage, was walking along the water. We looked again at the mudflats where Ringed Plovers and more Turnstones were now visible.

We went back to the lagoon and looked again from outside and from the hide. Gulls were now resting in the middle. An Audouin's Gull was a bit away from the rest of the group and we saw it well. At the base of the hide, a Moorhen was feeding her juveniles. As there was nothing new from the first visit, we walked slowly back to the car. We had good view of a Waxbill on the way.

We drove back between the saltpans and only saw a couple of Spoonbills sleeping and Kentish Plovers. Leaving the area, we saw a Bee-eater, the last bird of the week.

I dropped Tony and Winston at the airport. Then, it was time to say goodbye after another great birdwatching week, where we almost broke the record with 156 species spotted!

List of species

- Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): 2 at Santa Luzia salt pans, 1 at Abicada and 1 at Ludo.
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): seen at Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 3 at Entradas, 1 at Alvares), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): seen at Boca do Rio, Morgado (10), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas, Alvares), Lagoa dos Salgados, Odiaxere salt pans (family), Abicada (adult and juveniles) and Ludo.
- Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*): seen at Castro Verde (1 male at Entradas), Lagoa dos Salgados (1 male) and Ludo.
- Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*): 6 seen from Alvor dunes.
- Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*): heard at Sagres (2 at Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas) and Abicada.
- Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*): heard at Sagres (1 at Vale Santo), seen at Castro Verde (Alvares) and Odiaxere salt pans.
- Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): seen at Castro Verde (1 at Entradas), Lagoa dos Salgados, Abicada and Ludo.
- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*): seen at Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçalvesinho and 2 at Entradas) and Ludo.
- Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*): 1 seen from Ponta da Piedade.
- Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*): seen from Sagres (cape) and Ponta da Piedade.
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas), 4 at Lagoa dos Salgados, 1 at Ponta da Piedade and 2 at Abicada.
- European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*): 4 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*): 1 male at Lagoa dos Salgados and at least 4 (including a juvenile) at Ludo.
- Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): 1 juvenile at Abicada.



- Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*): 1 at Boca do Rio.
- Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus Ibis*): seen at Sagres (1 at Ponta da Atalaia, 9 at Vale Santo), Morgado (25), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho) Lagoa dos Salgados (2), Abicada and Alvor dunes.
- Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): seen at Boca do Rio (2), Morgado (2), Ponta da Piedade (1), Odiaxere salt pans, Abicada, Alvor dunes and Ludo (1).
- Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): seen at Santa Luza salt pans (1), Morgado (2), Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 1 at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis), Lagoa dos Salgados (2), Odiaxere salt pans (1), Abicada (4) and Ludo..
- Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*): 2 at Abicada.
- White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans (2), Sagres (4 at Cabranosa, 2 at the cape, 1 at Vale Santo), Morgado, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira, João Serra), Lagoa dos Salgados (1), Odiaxere salt pans, Abicada and Ludo.
- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 6 at Odiaxere salt pans.
- Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados, 3 at Odiaxere salt pans, 4 at Abicada and 9 at Ludo.
- Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): 6 at Odiaxere salt pans.
- Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*): 1 at Santa Luzia salt pans, 1 on the way from Sagres, 1 at Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis) and 1 at Abicada.
- Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): seen at Morgado (1), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho) and Odiaxere salt pans (1).
- Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*): 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*): 10 at Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 8 at Alvares).
- Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*): 4 at Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 1 at São Marcos da Ataboeira, 1 at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*): 1 at Sagres (Vale Santo) and 3 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).



- Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): 2 at Odiaxere salt pans (1 male and 1 female), 2 at Abicada (1 male and 1 female) and 1 male at Ludo.
- Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*): 1 female at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Alvares).
- Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): 1 at Santa Luzia salt pans, 2 at Castro Verde (1 at Vale Gonçalves and 1 at João Serra) and 1 at Abicada.
- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): 1 at Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*): 1 adult male at Morgado and 1 immature at Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis)
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): 1 at Abicada and 1 at Ludo.
- Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, João Serra).
- Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): 4 at Sagres (2 at Ponta da Atalaia, 2 at Vale Santo), 1 at Monchique (Foia), 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados, 1 at Odiaxere salt pans and 2 at Abicada.
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): 3 at Sagres (1 adult female, 1 immature female, 1 adult male at Vale Santo).
- Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*): 1 at Boca do Rio.
- Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados, Odiaxere salt pans, Abicada and Ludo (family).
- Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados, 1 at Abicada and at least 9 at Ludo.



- Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*): seen at Castro Verde (1 at Vale Gonçalves, 2 at Entradas), Lagoa dos Salgados, Odiaxere salt pans (1), Abicada (2) and Ludo (family).
- Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*): 2 at Sagres (2 males displaying at Vale Santo) and 5 at Castro Verde (3 at Vale Gonçalves, 2 at Entradas).
- Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*): 8 at Castro Verde (3 at Vale Gonçalves, 4 at Entradas, 1 at João Serra).

- Eurasian Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedichnemus*): 2 at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans, Castro Verde (1 at Entradas, 11 at Alvares), Lagoa dos Salgados, Odiaxere salt pans (47), Abicada and Ludo.
- Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans (13), Odiaxere salt pans (2), Lagoa dos Salgados, Abicada (2) and Ludo.
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans (1) and Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*): 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho).
- Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*): 5 at Castro Verde (1 at Entradas, 4 at Alvares).
- Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans, Lagoa dos Salgados, Odiaxere salt pans and Ludo.
- Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans, Odiaxere salt pans, Abicada, Alvor dunes (2) and Ludo.
- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): seen at Lagos dos Salgados (3), Abicada and Alvor dunes (19).
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 4 at Ludo.



- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 1 at Alvor dunes.
- Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans (2), Lagoa dos Salgados, Odiaxere salt pans (1), Alvor dunes (1) and Ludo.
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): 6 at Santa Luzia salt pans and 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans (17), Lagoa dos Salgados, Alvor dunes and Ludo.
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans, Lagoa dos Salgados, Odiaxere salt pans, Alvor dunes and Ludo.
- Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): 2 at Odiaxere salt pans.
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*): seen at Santa Luzia salt pans (2), Castro Verde (1 at Alvares), Odiaxere salt pans and Abicada.

- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): 1 at Santa Luzia saltpans.
- Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans (1) and Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*): 4 at Castro Verde (Alvares) and 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.



- Razorbill (*Alca torda*): 4 seen from Ponta da Piedade.
- Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans (3), Lagoa dos Salgados, Alvor dunes and Ludo.
- Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*): 8 at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*): 2 at Alvor dunes.
- Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): 10 seen from Ponta da Piedade.
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*): 1 at Alvor dunes.
- Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans (2) Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo (1).
- Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans, Lagoa dos Salgados and Odiaxere saltpans.
- Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape), Lagoa dos Salgados, Ponta da Piedade, Odiaxere saltpans, Alvor dunes and Ludo.
- Rock Dove (*Columba livia*): seen at Sagres (cape) and Ponta da Piedade.
- Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*): seen at Castro Verde (2 at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis and 2 at Alvares).
- Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Goçálinho) and Ludo.
- European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*): 1 heard at Sagres (Cabranosa) and 1 on the track to Cruzinha.
- Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*): 1 heard at Monchique (Foia).
- Little Owl (*Athene noctua*): 1 at Sagres (Vale Santo), 3 at Castro Verde (1 at Vale Goçálinho, 2 at Corte Pequena), 1 at Abicada.

- Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*): 1 at Cruzinha.
- Common Swift (*Apus apus*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo), Monchique (3 at Caldas de Monchique), Ponta da Piedade and Abicada.
- Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*): 2 at Sagres (cape).
- Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*): seen at Sagres (2 at Vale Santo), Morgado (3), Castro Verde (3 at Entradas) and Abicada.
- Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*): 1 at Morgado, 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas) and 1 at Abicada.
- European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans (3), Sagres (12 at Cabranosa), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, João Serra) and Odiaxere saltpans.
- European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*): 3 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).
- Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa), 10 at Castro Verde (6 at Vale Gonçalves, 2 at Entradas, 2 at João Serra), 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados, 1 at Abicada, 1 at Alvor dunes and at least 5 at Ludo.
- European Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*): 2 at Monchique (Foia).
- Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas).
- Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*): 1 at Sagres (Vale Santo), 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas) and 1 at Alvor dunes.
- Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis), Abicada, Alvor dunes and Ludo.
- Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).



- Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*): 2 heard at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*): 4 at Castro Verde (João Serra).
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (Foia), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis), Lagoa dos Salgados, Ponta da Piedade, Odiaxere saltpans, Abicada, Alvor dunes and Ludo.

- Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (Foia), Castro Verde (Entradas), Lagoa dos Salgados, Abicada and Ludo.
- Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (Foia), Castro Verde (São Marcos da Ataboeira, João Serra), Lagoa dos Salgados, Abicada and Ludo.
- Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*): 2 at Sagres (Cabranosa) and 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans (1) and Abicada (including 1 *flava*).
- Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): 2 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique) and 1 at Morgado.
- White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): 2 on the way to Monchique, 1 at Odiaxere saltpans and 2 at Ludo.
- Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): heard at Boca do Rio and seen at Monchique (Foia).
- European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*): 1 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): 1 at Morgado, 2 at Castro Verde (1 at Entradas, 1 at João Serra) and 1 at Abicada.
- Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochrurus*): 2 at Sagres (1 male and 1 female at Ponta da Atalaia).
- European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (Foia), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas), Abicada and Ludo.
- Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*): 2 at Castro Verde (1 male at Vale Gonçalves and 1 female at Entradas).
- Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*): 1 male at Sagres (cape) and 1 male at Monchique (Foia).



- Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Monchique, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves), Cruzinha (ringing), Abicada and Ludo.
- Cettis's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*): heard at Boca do Rio, Morgado, Castro Verde (1 at Entradas, 1 at João Serra), Lagoa dos Salgados, Abicada and Ludo.

- Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*): seen at Boca do Rio, Sagres (Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas), Lagoa dos Salgados, Salinas de Odiaxere, Abicada, Alvor dunes and Ludo.
- Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*): 4 at Monchique (Foia) and 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): heard at Boca do Rio (2), Abicada (2) and Ludo.
- Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*): 2 at Boca do Rio.
- Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans (5), Boca do Rio Sagres (Cabranosa), Monchique (Foia), Cruzinha (ringing), Abicada, Alvor dunes and Ludo.
- Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*): 6 at Monchique (Foia).
- Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): seen at Monchique (Foia).
- Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*): 1 at Boca do Rio.
- European Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): 1 at Sagres (cape).
- Eurasian Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*): seen at Monchique (Foia, Caldas de Monchique).
- Great Tit (*Parus major*): seen at Sagres (1 at Cabranosa), Monchique (Foia, Caldas de Monchique), Cruzinha (ringing) and Abicada (1).
- European Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*): 3 at Monchique (2 at Foia, 1 at Caldas de Monchique).



- Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*): 1 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*): 1 at Cruzinha and 1 at Abicada.
- Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*): seen at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*): seen at Sagres (1 at Ponta da Atalaia, 4 at Cabranosa), Morgado (1), Castro Verde (Entradas, Alvares) and Odiaxere saltpans.
- Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).

- Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia), Castro Verde (Entradas, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis), Abicada and Ludo.
- Common Magpie (*Pica pica*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Alvares).
- Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*): seen at Sagres (2 at Ponta da Atalaia, 25 at Cabranosa, 20 at Vale Santo).
- Western Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas, Alvares).
- Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*): seen at Sagres (1 at Cabranosa), Morgado (1), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho), Odiaxere saltpans and Abicada (1).
- Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho), Ponta da Piedade, Abicada and Ludo.
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo), Monchique (Caldas de Monchique), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas), Cruzinha (ringing), Lagoa dos Salgados, Ponta da Piedade, Odiaxere saltpans, Abicada, Alvor dunes and Ludo.
- Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*): seen at Castro Verde (Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira).
- Black-headed Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*): seen at Ludo.
- Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*): seen at Morgado (15), Cruzinha (ringing) and Ludo.
- Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): seen at Monchique.
- European Serin (*Serinus serinus*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans (6), Boca do Rio, Sagres (Cabranosa), Monchique (Caldas de Monchique) and Abicada.
- European Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa), Monchique and Abicada.
- European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa), Monchique, Castro Verde (Entradas), Abicada and Ludo.
- Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*): seen at Santa Luzia saltpans, Sagres (Cabranosa), Monchique (Foia), Abicada and Alvor dunes.
- Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*): 1 at Monchique (Foia)
- Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*): 3 males at Monchique (Foia).



- Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*): 1 male at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, João Serra, Alvares) Odiaxere saltpans and Abicada.
- Spanish Pond Turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*): seen at Castro Verde (Entradas, Alvares) and Ludo.
- Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*): 1 at Ludo
- Moorish Gecko (*Tarentola mauritanica*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique) and Abicada.
- Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Alvares).
- Fiddler Crab (*Uca tangeri*): seen at Odiaxere saltpans.
- Emperor dragonfly (*Anax imperator*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Epaulet skimmer (*Orthetrum chrysostigma*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Scarlet dragonfly (*Crocothemis erythraea*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Oil Beetle (*Berberomeloe majalis*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).
- Sacred Scarab (*Scarabaeus sacer*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Spanish Marbled white (*Melanargia ines*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Clouded yellow (*Colias croceus*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Small white (*Pieris rapae*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Large white (*Pieris brassicae*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Lulworth skipper (*Thymelicus acteon*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Wall brown (*Lasiommata megera*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*): seen at Monchique (Foia).
- *Zygaena sarpedon*: seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).



- Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*): seen at Boca do Rio.



Photos © G. Réthoré

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