

Southern Portugal

7-14 May 2017
Laid-back birding



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



Participants: Anthony and Maureen Keough (all week), David Nussbaumer (Sagres, Castro Verde), Arjan van Vuuren (Ludo)

Leader: Guillaume Réthoré

Sunday, 7 May – Arrival and Ria de Alvor

For this last “Laid-back” birdwatching week of the spring, Anthony and Maureen (Mo) arrived at Cruzinha (A Rocha Portugal field study centre and the accommodation during the week) during the morning and we went to the Ria de Alvor marsh after lunch. We had a look at the map in the exhibition room to have an idea of the area visited.

We went to the marsh by car, seeing several birds already on the way: a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), 2 Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*), House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*), Barn (*Hirundo rustica*) and Red-rumped Swallows (*Cecropis daurica*).

At the marsh, Anthony spotted Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) when we arrived. We looked at them and saw Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) at the same time. The tide was high and the water level was elevated in the marsh too, with few areas for birds to rest. A Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) was singing near us but we failed to see it. A Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) was walking on the path in front of us; it flew and perched on top of a bush. Mo found a Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) in the distance. The tide was going down so more sandbars were appearing. A few Ringed (*Charadrius hiaticula*) and Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) were found by Anthony near us. Looking at them together allowed us to see the differences between these 2 species. We continued the walk along the river and looked again at the marsh where we saw Black-winged Stilts and Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). A male Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*) was perched on top of a bush, showing its red breast. Then 2 Sardinian Warblers (*Sylvia melanocephala*), including a juvenile, showed up nearby.

Reaching the abandoned dried salt pans, we walked along them. We had a good look at a **Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla flava*) perched on the fence. This bird,



belonging to the Iberian subspecies had a grey head and a white throat. Anthony found 2 waders in flight: Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*). Unfortunately, they landed out of sight. We found another one but only the head was visible. At the same time, a Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) was fishing near us. We walked more and found a pair of Linnets. On the mudflats, a Whimbrel was closer and we had better views. The last tanks still had water and a few birds were present: 4 Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*), 2 Little Stints (*Calidris minuta*) and 2 Shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*). We

looked at the mudflats and found another Whimbrel, even closer than the previous one. Several Yellow-legged Gulls (*Larus michahellis*) were also around. We came back to the main track. On the mudflats, a Kentish Plover was walking in the middle of Fiddler Crabs (*Uca tangeri*).

The last bit of track around the marsh was quiet with only a few Black-winged Stilts seen and a Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*) perched on a fence. We came back to

the car and drove to the centre on a different track. This allowed us to see House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), Azure-winged Magpies (*Cyanopica cyanus*) and Bee-eaters building nests. We flushed a Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) when we arrived at Cruzinha.

There was still time to relax before dinner where Anthony and Mo could meet the team (Marcial, Paula, Arjan, Yassir and Ellie) and visitors present (Jo, Emma, David and Aline from A Rocha France). After an excellent meal (the first of a long series), we talked about what was going to happen during the week.

Monday, 8 May – 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 8:00 and David from A Rocha France came with us on that day.

We saw Bee-eaters on the way from Cruzinha and White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) on their nests by the road at Odiaxere.

Our first stop was at Boca do Rio, a wetland on the way. We walked along the reedbed and heard a Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) and a Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) that we managed to see. A bit further, an Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*) was calling. We played the song once and it showed-up and even started singing too. We heard and saw another Reed Warbler. A male Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) flew several times above the reed bed and always dropped at the same place, could there be a nest there? At some point, this bird was chased by a Hoopoe. We came back to the car park and saw a male Serin (*Serinus serinus*) singing from a tree in the sun before leaving.



At Sagres, we first stopped at Ponta da Atalaia. Many Common (*Apus apus*) and Pallid Swifts (*Apus pallidus*) were in the air while we had a coffee. Cows started appearing, and also a horse. We walked along a hedge but no passerines were in sight. An Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*) flew over us. We stopped by the cliff looking at the swifts. A swift with a white rump appeared and flew in our direction: a White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*)! This bird flew in front of us, disappeared, came back and flew even closer before going under the cliff and we never saw it again. House Martins, Barn and Red-rumped Swallows were also flying around at the same time. David found another Audouin's Gull flying over the sea. We walked along the cliff towards a trig point. We looked at a male and then a female Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*). We walked on the boardwalk and looked at the sea from a platform. David spotted 3 Balearic Shearwaters (*Puffinus mauretanicus*) and a

Razorbill (*Alca torda*) but distant. A Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) was fishing nearby but dived every we tried to see it with the telescope. Adults and immature Gannets (*Morus bassanus*) were flying west, some of them quite close. As it was fairly quiet, we came back to the car. On the way, we saw Thekla Larks (*Galerida theklae*), some of them close-by.

Then, we headed to Cabranosa, one of the best spots to watch raptor migration in autumn. We saw 2 Jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*) on the way. We took a dirt track and from the car we saw Stonechats and Corn Buntings (*Emberiza calandra*) on the path. We stopped and spotted a Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) soaring above a pinewood. We walked along a pine hedge seeing Bee-eaters in flight and Stonechats perched in bushes. We crossed a pinewood and



reached an open area but it was very quiet. We came back to the main track, only seeing Thekla Larks and Stonechats until we came across a *Phylloscopus* warbler feeding on a pine tree a few metres from us. We saw this bird very well but its identification confused us a long time. It was definitely a migrating bird, only worried about finding food and not bothered by us. This bird was probably a late **Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). We came back to the car and saw 2 Red-billed Choughs when we reached the

parking place.

We then went to the picnic spot. We had a quiet lunch seeing Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*).

We headed to the cape after lunch. We tried seawatching again but only saw a few Gannets and another Audouin's Gull. David found a Shag flying. This time, we had good views of this bird carrying what seemed to be nest materials. It landed on the cliff but out of sight. We looked at a Stork on its nest on cliff, quite a unique sighting in Europe! The gulls on the cliff were all Yellow-legged Gulls.

We left the cape and stopped at Beliche fort to look for the Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*), but without success. However, David found one from the car as we were leaving. We had good views of this bird perched on a rock.

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. We quickly found one but this bird was moving a lot in the grass and kept disappearing. A White Stork was feeding in a field in the distance and a Raven (*Corvus corax*) flew in our direction as we were leaving. We did another stop near old farm buildings but did not see anything. We walked to a temporary lagoon to look for birds. About 70 Cattle Egrets, a Grey Heron and a Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) were present. Unfortunately, almost all of them flew away. David found 2 Little Grebes (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) and

while looking at these birds, a Mallard and a Ringed Plover showed-up. We resumed our journey and stopped almost straight away to look at a female Marsh Harrier. The rest of the trip towards Vila do Bispo was quiet, only seeing a few Corn Buntings, Stonechats and Thekla Larks. At the village, we decided to go to another spot to try to see an Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*).

There, we walked along a river where Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) and Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) were singing. Unfortunately, we did not see the owl despite a thorough research but it was a nice walk to the beach.

Back at Cruzinha, there was still time to relax before dinner. Then, we had to change our plans for the next day since the weather forecast was not great.

Tuesday, 9 May – Castro Verde

Tuesday 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 left quite early (about 8:00) to be in the field early. For that day, David was with us again. The trip went smoothly and quietly.

On the way, we saw White Storks (some on the nests), and the first birds of prey of the day: Buzzards (*Buteo buteo*). We arrived at Castro Verde by 9:30 and drove along a small road leading to the LPN (Liga para a Protecção da Natureza) reserve (also called Vale Gonçalves) centre. We stopped at the beginning of this road to look at a pale morph Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*) which flew over the car, a good start! Many Barn Swallows were flying around. We made use of a higher spot on the road to have a look around. A Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) flew towards us and Anthony found a distant Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*). Several falcons, probably Lesser Kestrels (*Falco naumanni*) were hunting in the distance but too far to be identified. After a little while, we left and saw a Marsh harrier hunting over a cereal field. We stopped on another high spot but it seemed very quiet until David found several birds soaring together: a Raven, 2 Montagu's Harriers and several Lesser Kestrels. He also spotted Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) gliding above us. A Magpie (*Pica pica*) passed in flight above a field we were looking at. A Montagu's Harrier was perched on a fence post but a bit far. We then turned onto a dirt track leading to the LPN reserve. At the centre, we had a quick chat with the LPN worker and gave a donation. We had a coffee break, looking at Griffon Vultures, before exploring the area.



We then started walking in the property around the centre. Our first stop was in front of a tower where Lesser Kestrels nest. Nest-boxes have been installed for this species but few birds were flying around. A few Jackdaws were feeding on the

ground in front of us. We stopped on a bridge across a dried stream and looked around. We found 2 Great Bustards (*Otis tarda*), a bit far away, but still recognizable and a Short-toed Eagle was hunting near us (which helped the identification). More Griffon Vultures were in the air but very high. We passed the entry gate and found 2 Calandra Larks (*Melanocorypha calandra*) but they were flying a bit far away and the sighting was not great, we heard them though. Nine passerines were perched on a fence: all Corn Buntings and showing well. We stopped by a big eucalyptus. We spotted 2 Great Bustards in a field in the distance. We had better views of these birds (the same?) than before. We even showed them to 2 German birders. While we were looking at these birds and chatting more Griffon Vultures flew above us. We resumed our walk towards old farm buildings. When we arrived there, 2 Rollers (*Coracias garrulus*) flew away. Many Lesser Kestrels were also flying around us. We looked again for Great Bustards and found 2 but very far away and barely visible with the distance and heat haze. A Dutch couple arrived and we started chatting. A Black Kite showed up and more Griffon Vultures flew over.



We left after a little while. Anthony found a **Tawny Pipit** (*Anthus campestris*) perched on a fence post near us and David spotted 2 Rollers further away. The Dutch couple joined us and we showed them the Rollers and a Great Bustard (one of the birds seen earlier). Bee-eaters passed in flight and we heard a Hoopoe and a Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) nearby. Looking at the Great Bustard, we noticed a group of birders coming closer and closer to the bird, was it going to fly? We continued and came across a group of

passerines on a fence: several Corn Buntings, a Zitting Cisticola and a Crested Lark. David warned us that a Great Bustard was flying near us; we had great views of this bird which passed close-by. It was probably the bird we were looking at and flushed by the group of birders. We passed again the property gates and walked to the centre where we had lunch looking at Griffon Vultures. Another birdwatching group had lunch near us and their picnic did not look as good as ours! The Dutch couple showed up again and asked us some questions about birds they had seen.

We then drove towards Entradas. After the village, we stopped by a lagoon. A quick look allowed us to see Little Grebes, Mallards, a Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Coots (*Fulica atra*) and Black-winged Stilts. I had a nap in the car while the rest of the group kept birdwatching. When I woke-up, I realized they had seen 2 Collared Pratincoles (*Glareola pratincola*) flushed by the passage of a Booted Eagle. Gadwalls (*Anas strepera*) and Great Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*) also appeared on the lagoon. A Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) landed on the dam and alarmed near us. Spanish Pond Turtles (*Mauremys leprosa*) were sunbathing on the rocks. We resumed our journey, driving slowly. We saw 2 Calandra Larks sitting in a field by the road and flying near us, this was a better sighting than in the morning. The next

stop was by a river. A Nightingale was singing in the vegetation and several Bee-eaters were flying around. Two Griffon and a Cinereous (Black) Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) flew past us but a bit high though. We drove past another lagoon but empty of birds and flushed several Woodchat Shrikes (*Lanius senator*). We still managed to have good views of one perched on a small tree by the road.

At São Marcos da Ataboeira, we tried to see Spanish Sparrows (*Passer hispaniolensis*) looking at Stork nests where they breed. We saw easily a few males and big juveniles Storks were present in most of the nests. As few other birds were around and grey clouds were threatening rain in the distance we moved on.

We drove in the opposite direction of the clouds. We took a small road and stopped by a stream. Red-rumped Swallows and Crag Martins (*Ptynoprogne rupestris*) were flying around us, all visible even without binoculars. Two White Storks were feeding in a nearby field and others were on enormous nests. A Nightingale was singing by the river and the clouds were coming closer. After driving a few metres, a bird perched on a wire caught our attention. It went to the ground and back to the wire: a Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*). It was close but the light was not great. Another one was perched a bit further away. We passed a village and continued on a small road. We saw more Southern Grey Shrikes and Storks on nests on the way. Before reaching another village, we had close views of a Little Ringed Plover.

We took a dirt track and stopped as David found many vultures in the air but low over a hill. The light was bad but we managed to find a Cinereous Vulture and an immature Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), this last bird attacking the Griffon Vultures. Unfortunately the eagle went behind the hill. It showed-up again but it was a distant sighting. The wind was stronger and the clouds closer. A Quail was singing near us. We continued along the track, seeing a Southern Grey Shrike with a better light. We stopped by a lagoon but only Black-winged Stilts were visible and it started raining. We came back to the car and waited 5 minutes, hoping for the weather to improve. Fortunately the rain stopped. David found a male Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*) but it flew before we managed to show it to Anthony. The Dutch couple showed-up again. We decided to walk along the lagoon, looking for more birds. We found more Little Ringed Plovers and Gadwalls. Two Gull-billed Terns (*Gelochaidon nilotica*) flew by us, calling. As there was no sign of Pratincole, we came back to the car. The Black-eared Wheatear was again perched on a fence post. The Griffon Vultures perched on the hill side took off. Several Griffon and a Cinereous Vultures started soaring. The Spanish Imperial Eagle showed-up again, the view was better this time and we even noticed a transmitter on its back. This bird attacked again the vultures and was then attacked



by another bird of prey we identified as an adult Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*). The eagles went out of sight but the vultures landed again on the rocks. It was even possible to see a Griffon and a Cinereous Vultures perched side by side.

We left the place and the trip went quietly until the last birding spot, along a river. We found a Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*) as soon as we arrived but it went into the vegetation. We waited for it to show-up again and it did, going from a small tree to another and then to the ground. We all managed to see it through the telescope; it even perched on a fence post. While looking at this bird, a female Montagu's Harrier flew by, a great way of finishing the day!

We came back to Castro Verde for dinner, seeing a Black Kite on the way. We ate at a local restaurant. We saw a Black Kite from the window while waiting for our food. It is always useful to carry binoculars, even at the restaurant! We had local produce: black pork and Alentejo's wine. The Dutch couple arrived at the restaurant not long before we left. We were back at Cruzinha around 22:00, all very tired after an enjoyable day, so everybody went to bed.

Wednesday, 10 April – Alvor dunes

On that day, no visit was planned for the morning so everybody had time to relax and rest. We all had lunch at Cruzinha. The weather was still unstable and unpredictable but we decided to go out in the afternoon.



At Alvor, we parked near the harbour. We explored the dunes using the boardwalk. The first species sighted was a **Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis*) resting on a buoy while a Little Tern was fishing. Many Barn Swallows and House Martins were flying above the water. We walked a while on the boardwalk without seeing any waders, the tide being quite high and still rising. We stopped by the estuary where we had a different view on the place visited on Sunday. That is when it started raining. We used the umbrellas Marcial

lent us and waited a few minutes but the rain did not stop so we came back to the car. At the same time, a Little Tern passed near us. We spotted a Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) flying above the harbour. Back at the car, the rain was diminishing, so we thought about going to the beach and look at the sea. However, the rain did not stop so we decided to go home, which was a good idea since it fell very heavily later on. The rest of the afternoon was relaxed for everybody.

Thursday, 11 May – Open Day at Cruzinha and Lagoa dos Salgados

As Thursday is Cruzinha's open day, everybody could enjoy the activities occurring at the centre: moth identification and a bird ringing demonstration. Quite a few birds were caught during the morning in spite of the unstable weather and the wind: Great Tits (*Parus major*), Serins, House Sparrows, Waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*)

and Barn Swallows. The activities stopped at 13:00 and we had a delicious lunch at the centre.

After another good meal, 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. We parked by the “blind” to be close to the car if the weather suddenly changed. Management works have been done in the lagoon in order to improve habitats for birds, diminish their disturbance and offer better observation conditions. A Purple Heron was flying when we got ready to look for birds. The lagoon is divided by a dyke and both northern and southern parts had a lot of water. A few Mallards and Black-winged Stilts and many gulls were either feeding or resting on islands in the southern part. A pair of Pochards (*Aythya ferina*) was swimming in front of an island. Anthony found a Little Grebe just in front of us. More ducks were in the northern part: Mallards, Gadwalls, Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*), Pochards with Coots and Moorhens. I found a male Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*), its red bill pretty obvious in spite of the distance. Many House Martins, Barn and Red-rumped Swallows were flying above the lagoon. An immature Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) was perched on a post. A small group of gulls was swimming close-by. They were mostly Yellow-legged Gulls with a few Lesser Black-backed (*Larus fuscus*) and a couple of Audouin’s Gulls. These last birds flew in front of us. A Zitting Cisticola was flying and singing in front of us and 2 dogs seemed to be coming from the lagoon, not good news for the birds!

We decided to explore the northern part of the lagoon, flushing a Hoopoe on the way. After a few metres, we stopped to look at a Purple Swamphen swimming away from us. An Audouin’s Gull was in the middle of Yellow-legged Gulls and we had good views this time. We continued walking and Mo found 2 Bee-eaters. We saw again the **Red-crested Pochard**, closer. We reached the northern end of the lagoon but the ponds there were all dried. A Purple Heron flew over the reedbed. We walked a bit more and found a Magpie while Black-winged Stilts were flying and alarming. They seemed to be always diving in the same spot, what was happening? Looking at the stilts, a Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) passed several times in flight. Spoonbills were resting on a bank; only the head upper part of the body was visible through the vegetation. A dog came out of the reeds; this was probably the reason for the stilts to be so excited. We looked at a Kestrel which landed on a tree. Two Gadwalls were swimming in a canal but they were the only birds around so we left. No other birds were seen on the way to the blind. From there, we had another look at the lagoon but it was all the same so we decided to go back home. The last bird seen was a Hoopoe on the track.



We had to come back on another road because of roadwork and the weather got worse with heavy rain. We stopped at a pottery place for some shopping too.

Back at Cruzinha, we had our last dinner with the whole team and planned the next day.

Friday, 12 May – Silves

As the weather was still not great, Friday morning was free for everybody. We had lunch at Cruzinha (homemade pizza!) and left after lunch. We drove to the old capital city of the Algarve.

At Silves, we walked passed Stork nests, one of them with big juveniles already, by the cathedral and reached the castle. A big statue of Don Sancho I stands in front of the entrance door. He conquered Silves from the Moors in 1189. We were told that it was not possible to visit the museum due to refurbishing works.

In the castle, we walked around the walls and had a look at some artefacts found during recent excavations. Another room was showing the history of Silves in comic. While we were looking at this, music started outside. I was finishing reading the comic when Mo called me and told me something may interest me. Outside, 3 falconers had a Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*). We finished the visit by having a look at an exhibition about the Iberian Lynx in the old cistern.

After this visit, we drove to a view point on the Iberian Lynx reproduction centre in the hills north of Silves. Passing a dam, we saw 3 Crag Martins. We spent a little while at the view point but no Lynx was in sight. We still heard a Nightingale and a Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*). House Martins and Red-rumped Swallows were flying around.

We then drove back to Cruzinha.

Saturday, 13 May – Monchique hills

Monchique offered a different landscape and habitat than the previous days and we finally did what we should have done on Tuesday.

On the way we saw many Storks, some of them on their nests, and heard a Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) at the entrance of the town of Monchique.

The weather was cloudy at Foia, the highest point (902 m). We walked a few metres away from the car park to a viewpoint. It was misty but the coast was visible.

We walked a bit along a small road to see more birds. We found a singing Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*) but this bird was against the light. A few metres further, we heard a Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*) from a tree but this bird remained invisible. A couple passing by scared this bird. It flew in the scrub and stopped singing while a Wren was quite noisy. The **Rock Bunting** showed-up, perched on a rock, and we had



better views with a much better light. The Melodious Warbler flew into a small tree and started singing again. We managed to see it pretty well before it flew back to “its” tree. We walked by, the bird stopped singing, and then started again. We had even closer views. A Blue Rock Thrush perched on the roof of a nearby building but it was difficult to have good views of this bird always on the move. We walked further but saw few birds. Mo found a Stonechat and a small group of Linnets flew by. As it was quiet, we decided to come back to the car. A Melodious Warbler was singing very close to the road, unfortunately, a car passing scared this bird. Mo found a Wren close-by which flew across the road. Back at the top, it was much cloudier and threatening to rain. Mo decided to see some handcraft exhibition which was a good idea since it started to rain. When we came out of the building, the weather was good.

We drove down and had a look at another place. The travel was quite slow, coming across a herd of cows. We stopped by a reservoir where it seemed to be quiet. A Blackcap was singing and a Zitting Cisticola was somewhere in the sky nearby but we failed to see it. We found a bird on rocks in the distance. A look through the telescope enabled us to identify it: a Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*). We walked towards a grove, hoping for more birds. A Rock Bunting was perched on a wire and calling. It then flew down and went to a tree by the path and started singing, a great sighting. We found a **Buzzard** flying not too far. We walked in a more open area with a few bushes where several Stonechats were calling. We stopped by an adventure park. A Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*) arrived and landed on a pine tree and started climbing along the trunk. A Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) was calling but proved difficult to see. We also heard a Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) at the same time. Lunchtime was approaching so went back to the car. On the way we found a close by Melodious Warbler and a Rock Bunting even closer.



We then drove to Caldas de Monchique, a small thermal village. It rained during the ride but fortunately stopped just after we arrived. We saw 2 Grey Wagtails (*Motacilla cinerea*) on the way to the picnic tables. We had lunch there under big trees which protected us from the rain (or at least me, since Anthony had to use his umbrella). We heard Chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) and Blackcaps during lunchtime.

After lunch, we walked a bit around the town. We went to a chapel. Before reaching it, we looked at the close-by stream where a Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*) was having a bath. We sat in the shade waiting for the birds to come to the stream. A Chaffinch was bathing and Goldfinches and a Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) were quite noisy. It was quiet but since I heard a Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*), we tried to call it. Anthony was the first to spot this small bird right in front of us. We walked around the chapel and heard a Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*). Back at the car, House Martins and Red-rumped Swallows were flying around.

Driving down the hills, we saw 2 Jays (*Garrulus glandarius*). We stopped at a small wetland at the foot of the hills. There was still some water in a pond shared by a Little Egret, a White Stork and a Mallard. House Martins, Red-rumped and Barn Swallows were flying around us. A Hoopoe flew by. We walked along the road and found Cattle Egrets, Spotless Starlings (*Sturnus unicolor*) and Azure-winged Magpies feeding on the ground around cows. Anthony spotted 2 chickens in the distance and a close-by Woodchat Shrike. We crossed the road and looked on the other side but fewer birds were present. We left and saw a Corn Bunting singing as I was turning around. We came back to Cruzinha and decided to try our luck with **Eagle Owl** in the evening.

After an early dinner, we tried Algarvian sweets offered by Mo and Anthony. Before leaving we saw 2 Waxbills drinking from a puddle in the garden and 2 Red-rumped-Swallows collecting mud from the same place. We arrived at the site about 30 minutes before sunset, walked along the river and stopped at the sighting spot. We started scanning the cliff and found an adult almost straight away. We had great views of this bird and even managed to see its orange eyes. I started looking at the rest of the cliff and found something owl-shaped, then a second one. A look through the telescope confirmed the presence of 3 juveniles. One of them was calling, then flew away and landed behind a bush. It then came back to its initial perch. The 3



birds flew several times to the same place before coming back to the cliff, sometimes near the adult which did not move. We even managed to see them on the ground. After watching these birds for about 30 minutes, we used the remaining light to walk back to the car, very happy. A Nightingale was singing. On the way back, we saw a Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) near the Almadena roundabout. We had seen the biggest and one of the smallest owls of Europe in less than an hour! Back at Cruzinha we planned the last day.

Sunday, 14 April – Ludo and Departure

For this last day, we left later and Arjan, one of Cruzinha's volunteers came with us. Anthony and Mo went to Faro with their campervan and we all met near the airport.

We then drove to Ludo, a complex of saltpans and lagoons behind the airport. We first crossed a pinewood area where we saw Bee-eaters. A Nightingale was singing in the vegetation before we reached the saltpans. We stopped in front of the first lagoon where a few birds were present: 2 Shelducks, 2 Flamingos, Black-winged Stilts and 2 Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). The second tank had fewer birds: only Black-winged Stilts and Kentish Plovers (adult and juvenile). The next stop was by a lagoon, usually abundant in ducks, but this time it was quite empty. The only birds present were Little Grebes (adults and juveniles). A few Spanish Pond Turtles were

sunbathing and a Cetti's Warbler was singing. Mo found a bright yellow bird with a black head: a male Black-headed Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*). This bird showed very well perched on a bush. Two Goldfinches flew by when we left. We passed a big pile of salt and looked at more saltpans. A Little Tern was on the ground, on a nest? Mo and Anthony found 2 Little Terns near an Avocet. A Grey Heron was flying in the distance. We only saw Black-winged Stilts in the next tanks.

We parked in the shade of big eucalyptus by a golf course and had a look at a big lagoon. Two Avocets, a male Red-crested Pochard, Coots and Black-winged Stilts were close to us. A Spoonbill was feeding a bit further. Two Barn Swallows were perched on a wire and a Yellow Wagtail joined them but not for long. Two Great Crested Grebes appeared. A Ringed and a Kentish Plover were walking along the shore where an adult Yellow Wagtail was feeding a juvenile. A second Spoonbill flew and landed by the first one. We came back to the car for lunch. Arjan found 2 European Pond Turtles (*Emys orbicularis*) at the end of the picnic and took us to see them but they were gone.

We walked along the green to go the hide. We saw Azure-winged Magpies House Sparrows and 2 hoopoes at the beginning. Further we walked very close to a Yellow Wagtail and a Blackbird. We passed by Roman ruins. When the hide was in sight, we stopped to look at 4 Purple Swamphens feeding on the golf course close-by. We had a look at the lagoon by the hide. Many terrapins were visible, in the water or sunbathing. Unfortunately, most of them were exotics: Yellow-bellied (*Trachemys scripta scripta*) and Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). We also found a few Spanish and European Pond Turtles. A Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) flew over the lagoon but was not seen by everybody. Quite a few ducks were using the lagoon: Mallards, Gadwalls, Pochards and Red-Crested Pochards. A female **Red-crested Pochard** with young was nearby and defending them against Coots and Little Grebes. A Moorhen, also with juveniles, was even closer. Mo found a Black-headed Weaver almost at our feet. Arjan found a Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) but it disappeared quickly.



We finally entered the hide and went to the first floor where the view is better. More Purple Swamphens were feeding on the green. It was quiet but nice to look at Red-crested Pochard families, terrapins and a Little Tern fishing. Mo spotted a bird in front of her, at the base of the hide: a male Little Bittern. This bird hid in the vegetation, then showed-up again. We all saw it very well, and indicated it to other birders. As the hide was getting too crowded, we left. We had a look at the end of the lagoon where more Purple Swamphens were present. A birder showed us a Little Grebe feeding very small chicks.

We moved to the next hide but few birds were visible: a Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) found by Anthony and a distant Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). We

walked along the dyke and looked again at the mudflats. This time, more birds were around: Ringed and Kentish Plovers, Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*), Sanderlings and Turnstones, some of them close-by. That is when I noticed my back pack was missing. I went back to the 1st hide visited and there it was! When I joined the group, Anthony had found a Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*). We had a look at a pond on the other side of the dyke: 2 Black-winged Stilts, 3 Kentish Plovers, a Mallard and a Sanderling in breeding plumage. Many House Martins, Barn and Red-rumped Swallows were flying above the water.



We came back to the 1st hide. A juvenile Little Bittern showed when we arrived. This bird perched in a patch of reeds, where it pretended to be a reed and invisible to us. Many terrapins were still visible, we looked at a couple of them, interested in a frog and getting closer and closer until it was scared by a Little Tern diving (to catch it?). The **Little Bittern** found by Mo was more or less in the same spot, but showing better. It even moved to be more visible in the sun. As we did not find anything new, we left.

Back at the car, we left the area, driving through the saltpans area and the pinewood. I dropped Anthony and Mo at their vehicle. It was then time for goodbye after another great birdwatching week.

List of species

- Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): 2 at Ria de Alvor and 2 at Ludo.
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): seen at Castro Verde (Entradas, Alvares), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio, Castro Verde (Entradas, Alvares), Lagoa dos Salgados, Morgado and Ludo (adults and juveniles).
- Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados (1 male) and Ludo (adults and juveniles).
- Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*): heard at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Alvares).
- Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*): heard at Silves.
- Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): seen at Sagres (2 at Vale Santo), Castro Verde (2 at Entradas), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo (adults and juveniles).
- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*): seen at Castro Verde (1 at Entradas) and Ludo (display).
- Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*): 4 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*): seen from Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape).
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas) and 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*): 2 at Sagres (1 at Ponta da Atalaia, 1 at the cape).
- Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*): 4 at Ludo.
- Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus Ibis*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Sagres (70 at Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas, Ribeira de Maria Delgada), Lagoa dos Salgados and Morgado.



- Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio (1), Sagres (1 at Vale Santo), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): 1 at Ria de Alvor, 1 at Sagres (Vale Santo) and 1 at Ludo.
- Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*): seen at Boca do Rio (1), Sagres (1 at the cape, 2 at Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira), Silves (adults and juveniles), Morgado and Ludo (nests).
- Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): seen at Alvor dunes (1), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo (2).
- Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): 5 at Ria de Alvor and 2 at Ludo.
- Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, João Serra).
- Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*): seen at Castro Verde (15 at Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, 20 at Alvares).



- Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*): 2 at Castro Verde (1 at Entradas, 1 at Alvares).
- Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa) and 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).
- Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): 1 male at Boca do Rio, 1 female at Sagres (Vale Santo) and 2 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).
- Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*): seen at Castro Verde (4 at Vale Gonçalves, 1 at Entradas and 1 at Ribeira de Maria Delgada).
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*): 1 at Boca do Rio.
- Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): 1 at Castro Verde (Alvares) and 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*): 2 light morphs at Castro Verde (1 at Vale Gonçalves, 1 at Entradas).
- Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*): 1 adult at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*): 1 immature at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, João Serra).

- Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): 2 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia) and 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): seen at Castro Verde (1 at Entradas) and Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados (1) and Ludo.
- Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*): seen at Castro Verde (6 at Entradas), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*): 1 at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*): 4 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (Entradas, Alvares), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): 1 at Ludo.
- Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*): 7 at Castro Verde (2 at Entradas, 5 at Alvares).
- Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Sagres (1 at Vale Gonçalvesinho) and Ludo.
- Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Ludo (adults and juveniles).
- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): 3 at Ria de Alvor.
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): 2 at Ludo.
- Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): seen at Ludo.
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): seen at Ria de Alvor (3) and Ludo.
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): seen at Ludo.
- Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): 2 at Ria de Alvor.
- Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*): 2 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*): seen at Ria de Alvor (1), Alvor dunes (1), Lagoa dos Salgados (1) and Ludo (nest?).



- Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*): 2 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): 1 at Alvor dunes.
- Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*): 3 at Sagres (2 at Ponta da Atalaia, 1 at the cape), 2 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 2 at Ludo.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape), Lagoa dos Salgados, Figueira and Ludo.
- Rock Dove (*Columba livia*): seen at Sagres (Beliche).
- Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*): seen at Castro Verde (1 at Entradas, 1 at Alvares) and Monchique (1 at Foia).
- Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa) and Castro Verde (Entradas, Alvares).
- Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*): 2 heard at Monchique.
- Eurasian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*): 4 (1 adult and 3 juveniles) near Sagres.



- Little Owl (*Athene noctua*): 1 at Almadena.
- Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*): 1 at Cruzinha.
- Common Swift (*Apus apus*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape), Castro Verde (3 at Vale Gonçálinho) and Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape).
- Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*): seen at Sagres (1 at Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo).
- White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*): seen at Ria de Alvor (nests), Sagres (4 at Cabranosa), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*): 2 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho).
- Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*): seen at Ria de Alvor (1), Boca do Rio (1), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho), Lagoa dos Salgados (2), Morgado (1) and Ludo (at least 5).
- European Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).

- Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*): 4 at Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 2 at Entradas).
- Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas) and Ludo.
- Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Alvares).
- Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*): 3 heard at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*): 2 at Castro Verde (João Serra) and 3 on the Arade dam.
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, cape), Castro Verde, (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira, Alvares), Alvor dunes, Cruzinha (ringing), Lagoa dos Salgados, Morgado and Ludo.
- Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia), Castro Verde (Entradas), Alvor dunes, Lagoa dos Salgados, Monchique (Caldas de Monchique), Morgado and Ludo.
- Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio (4), Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas, João Serra), Lagoa dos Salgados, Silves, Monchique (Foia), Morgado and Ludo.



- Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*): 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Ludo (adult and juvenile).
- Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): 2 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): seen at Boca do Rio, Monchique and Figueira.
- Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*): 1 at Castro Verde (Ribeira de Maria Delgada)
- Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): heard at Figueira, Castro Verde (Entradas, João Serra, Ribeira de Maria Delgada), Silves, Monchique (Foia) and Ludo.
- Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*): 2 at Sagres (a pair at Ponta da Atalaia).

- European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira), Alvor dunes, Monchique (Foia) and Ludo.
- Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*): 1 male at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*): 1 male at Sagres (Beliche) and 1 male at Monchique (Foia).
- Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Monchique, Figueira and Ludo.
- Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*): heard at Boca do Rio, Figueira, Castro Verde (1 at Entradas, 1 at Alvares, 1 at Ribeira de Maria Delgada), Morgado (1) and Ludo.
- Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho), Lagoa dos Salgados and Monchique (Foia).
- Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*): at least 4 at Monchique (Foia).
- Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): seen at Boca do Rio.
- Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Figueira and Ludo.
- Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): heard at Monchique and Figueira.
- Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*): 1 at Boca do Rio.
- Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): 1 possible at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus*): 1 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Eurasian Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*): 1 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Great Tit (*Parus major*): seen at Cruzinha (ringing) and Monchique (1 at Foia).
- Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*): seen at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*): 2 at Castro Verde (Entradas) and 1 at Morgado.



- Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): 1 at Boca do Rio and 2 on the way from Monchique.

- Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Boca do Rio, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Castro Verde (João Serra), Morgado, Figueira and Ludo.
- Common Magpie (*Pica pica*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Alvares) and Lagoa dos Salgados (1).
- Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*): seen at Sagres (2 at Cabranosa, 1 at Vale Santo).
- Western Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa, 2 at the cape) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho).
- Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas).
- Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*): 1 at Sagres (Vale Santo) and 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho).
- Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho), Morgado and Ludo.
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): seen at Ria de Alvor Ludo, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia), Figueira, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas), Alvor dunes, Cruzinha (ringing), Monchique (Caldas de Monchique), Morgado and Ludo.
- Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*): seen at Castro Verde (São Marcos da Ataboeira, Ribeira de Maria Delgada).
- Black-headed Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*): seen at Ludo.



- Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*): seen at Cruzinha (ringing) and Morgado.
- Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- European Serin (*Serinus serinus*): seen at Boca do Rio, Cruzinha (ringing) and Figueira.
- European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*): seen at Boca do Rio and Sagres (Cabranosa).
- European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): seen at Boca do Rio, Sagres (Cabranosa), Castro Verde (Entradas), Lagoa dos Salgados, Monchique (Caldas de Monchique) and Ludo.

- Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Entradas) and Monchique (Foia).
- Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*): 1 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*): 3 at Monchique (Foia).
- Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*): seen at Boca do Rio, Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas, João Serra, Ribeira de Maria Delgada), Morgado and Figueira.
- Spanish Pond Turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*): seen at Castro Verde (Entradas) and Ludo.
- European Pond Turtle (*Emys orbicularis*): seen at Ludo.



- Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*): seen at Ludo.
- Yellow-bellied Slider (*Trachemys scripta scripta*): seen at Ludo.
- Large Psammodromus (*Psammodromus algirus*): 1 at Ludo.
- Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*): 1 at Ludo.
- Fiddler Crab (*Uca tangeri*): seen at Odiaxere saltpans.
- Oil Beetle (*Berberomeloe majalis*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho).
- *Cistanche phelypaea*: seen at Ria de Alvor and Alvor dunes.
- Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*): seen at Boca do Rio.

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