

Southern Portugal

24 - 31 August 2017
Design Your Own Birding Holiday



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Participants: Anthony and Pamela Copley, Fiona Copley, Jonathan and William Starks
(all week), Debora Campos (Sagres, Monchique), Arjan van Vuuren (Ludo)

Leader: Guillaume Réthoré

Thursday, 24 August – Arrival

For this August birdwatching week (the first we have ever done at this time of the year), I left Cruzinha (A Rocha Portugal field study centre and the accommodation during the week) in the evening to meet with the group at Faro airport. This took longer than planned because of administrative formalities.

We had a quiet drive back to Cruzinha where dinner was waiting for us. Everybody went to bed shortly after this delicious meal (the first of a long series).

Friday, 25 August – Ria de Alvor

The morning was free so everybody could have a relaxing time before the serious birding started. We also used this time for some shopping in Lagos, allowing us to see the first birds of the week: a Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) on the track from Cruzinha, Cattle (*Bubulcus ibis*), Little Egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) and White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) from the road to Lagos. On the way back, Jonathan spotted a Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*).

We had lunch at Cruzinha and had a look at the programme for the week after lunch. Then, we went to the marsh by car, seeing Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*) and Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) on the way.

Upon arrival at the marsh Jonathan spotted Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*). We looked at them and at the same time saw Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*), Redshanks (*Tringa totanus*), Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus*), Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius hiaticula*), a Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) and a Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*). The tide was coming in and many waders were already inside the marsh. We had a look at them and found Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*), Ringed Plovers, Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*), a Redshank, Black-winged Stilts, a Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*), Black-headed and two Mediterranean Gulls (*Larus melanocephalus*). Two Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) landed while we were looking at these birds and then a Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). We had great views of all these birds. We continued walking along the dyke and had other



nice views of Stonechats. Another look at the marsh revealed two Grey Plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*) still in breeding plumage in the middle of many gulls Sanderlings and a few Kentish Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). Jonathan found a Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) which flew from the path to the marsh. Looking at the gulls, we found 5 species: Black-headed, Mediterranean, Yellow-legged (*Larus michahellis*), Lesser black-backed (*Larus fuscus*) and a juvenile Audouin's (*Larus audouinii*). A Sandwich Tern (*Sterna*

sandvicensis) flew by the dyke close to us.

We reached the abandoned dried saltpans and found a Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) perched on the fence. Unfortunately, this bird flew away almost immediately. Many gulls were resting in the tanks with waders. We managed to see a Red Knot in the middle of Grey Plovers, all in breeding plumage. The Wheatear reappeared, perched on a bush and everybody saw it. Along the path, Stonechats and Zitting Cisticolas were perched on fence. A Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) flew above the marsh and we had closer looks at the Flamingos. A bird calling in a bush caught our attention: a Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*). We had a glimpse at this bird when it flew to hide in a Fig tree.

We came back to the van and drove to the centre along a different track. This allowed us to see House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), Collared Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*), a Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) and 2 Red-legged Partridges (*Alectoris rufa*).

There was still time to relax before dinner.

Saturday, 26 August – Castro Verde

Tuesday was the longest day of the week in terms of time spent in the field. The Castro Verde area has a totally different landscape from the Algarve as well as different birds...

We left early (about 6:00) to be in the field shortly after sunrise. The trip went smoothly and quietly with a bit of rain on the way.

Just after reaching Castro Verde, we took a small road leading to the LPN Reserve Centre (Liga para a Proteção da Natureza, also called Vale Gonçalinho) and a flock of about 50 Flamingos flew over the car going east, an unexpected sighting! We stopped to have breakfast (tea, coffee, bread and homemade jam). The weather was cloudy and a few drops of rain fell. The first bird of prey of the day was a Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) which was perched on a distant tree and found by Jonathan. Carrion Crows (*Corvus corone*) were flying around and 2 Great Bustards (*Otis tarda*) showed-up for a few seconds before disappearing behind a ridge. We had a look on the other side of the road and found another Short-toed Snake Eagle perched on a rock and Cattle Egrets.



After, we made use of a higher spot on the road to have a look around. A Short-toed Eagle was perched on a small tree but it disappeared before the telescope was set-up. Several Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) or Lesser Kestrels (*Falco naumani*) were hunting over a distant field. A Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) flew towards us and landed out of sight near a pond. We stopped on another high spot but it was very quiet. We then turned onto a dirt track leading to the LPN reserve.

At the centre, we looked around for birds before entering and having a chat with the LPN worker. We found a group of 8 Great Bustards in flight which landed out of sight as we started walking. We looked for these birds, but without success.

We then started walking on 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 no birds were around. We looked at Spotless Starlings and Fiona and William flushed a Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) which flew by us. We looked at Spotless Starlings perched on a fence next to a Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) and soon joined by the Hoopoe. We passed the entry gate and stopped near big eucalyptus. We saw another Hoopoe and a Little Owl flew from one of the small Olive trees. Jonathan spotted 2 Red-legged Partridges, and then 3 Stone Curlews (*Burhinus oedicanus*). We looked at a Great Bustard walking along a field in the distance. It was far away but we had a good idea of the silhouette of this bird. We walked closer to the Stone Curlews. A Hoopoe and a Southern Grey Shrike were perched on a nearby fence. We found another Great Bustard, also walking in a field. This bird was closer but kept disappearing behind elevations in the field. We had good views of the Stone Curlews, quite close but always walking along the track. Jonathan found 2 Black-eared Wheatears (*Oenanthe hispanica*) in a field nearby. These birds were showing well but always changing of perching spot. When we arrived at old farm buildings, we looked in the field ahead of us. Many Cattle Egrets were in the middle of cows and the Stone Curlews were still running along the track. We stayed a little while but since no bird appeared, we started walking back to the centre.

We stopped again by the eucalyptus and saw Hoopoes again. Jonathan and William went ahead of us. When we passed the gate, we noticed a big bird soaring: a Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*). Everybody (even Jonathan and William) saw this bird. As it flew east, we hoped to see it again.

Back at the centre, we the staff about our observations and then drove towards Entradas. We stopped on the way to look at 6 Great Bustards feeding in a field. These birds were quite close and we had great views of them.

After the village, we stopped by a lagoon. A quick look allowed us to see Cattle and Little Egrets, Little Grebes (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), Black-winged Stilts, Common and Green Sandpipers (*Tringa ochropus*), Little Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius dubius*), a Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), White Wagtails (*Motacilla alba*) and a Hoopoe. We had lunch in the shade of a big eucalyptus for the party to feel at home. We also gave some information to a couple of foreign birders. Before nap time, a light morph Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*) flew above us and we saw a Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) feeding in one of the small trees. We rested for a while and then resumed our journey, driving slowly.



We saw Crested Lark, Stonechat, Cattle Egret and a Hoopoe on the way. The next stop was by a river. We heard a Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*). Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) gathered by the water flew as we arrived. Several Spanish Pond Turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*) were sunbathing. We drove past another lagoon which was actually quite interesting with a Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), 3 Hoopoes and a Green Sandpiper.

At São Marcos da Ataboeira, we drove towards a vantage point where we saw very few birds. The only animals detected were 2 Black Pigs by a pond. We moved on, took a small road and stopped by a stream. We saw 2 Crag Martins (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) flying and huge Stork nests. Further, we spotted several birds on a wire: Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*). These birds stayed around and we had great view and even heard them.

We took a dirt track and stopped as we found several vultures in the air. The light was bad and some of them were high but we identified them as Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) and even found a Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*). A juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), was flying low over a hill, appearing and disappearing behind it and attacking Griffon Vultures. Another group of Vultures appeared with a Cinereous one again. We had better views of this bird and could see it was all dark and it was holding its wing differently than the Griffon Vultures. We continued along the track and stopped by a lagoon. Several Little Grebes, Mallards, a Green Sandpiper and 2 Lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*) were present. Passing in front of an Olive tree plantation, we saw 7 Red-legged Partridges and a Stone Curlew in flight.

We left the place and stopped near the place where we saw the Bee-eaters to look at a Short-toed Eagle perched on a post. We had great views of this bird before it flew away.

We came back to Castro Verde for dinner. We ate at a local restaurant and saw House Martins 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. We were back at Cruzinha around 22:00, all very tired after an enjoyable day, so everybody went to bed.



Sunday, 27 August – Abicada

On this day, no visit was planned for the morning so everybody had time to relax and rest followed by lunch at Cruzinha. The plans for the afternoon changed since we decided to go to Abicada which is better for birds, rather than Alvor dunes. Tony stayed at Cruzinha with William.

We parked by the lagoon near Alvor and we had already seen several Black-winged Stilts from the car park. We walked along the lagoon, towards the dam. A Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) flew from the coast as we reached the dam. We

walked along it and then on the dyke. We had a look at a Sandwich Tern fishing and at some waders on the islands: Ringed Plover, Redshank and Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). In the middle of the lagoon, a Flamingo was resting next to a Grey Heron. A flock of Mallards passed in flight and we flushed several Common Sandpipers from the base of the dyke. Many fish were jumping out of the water. As we reached the end of the lagoon, we found a big flock of Redshanks. As we Started walking along the river, we spotted a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) soaring quite high.

We reached a drier area with typical trees from the Algarve such as Carob and Fig trees, but there were fewer birds. We found a female Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*) but this bird flew away and not everybody managed to see it. As we reached a lookout on the reedbed, 2 Ravens (*Corvus corax*) flew over the area. We walked along a hedge of cypress and looked at the bushes and trees further. In the distance Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) was perched in a Carob Tree. Searching for more birds in the bushes, we found another one and had better views of this one. We also saw a Stonechat and Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*) feeding in the grass.

We walked passed an old farm building and reached the ruins of an old roman villa, now invaded by vegetation. Jonathan looked for owls, but without success. I found a juvenile Woodchat Shrike but it flew away quickly. Fiona spotted a Spoonbill in flight but this bird was moving away from us. Grey Herons were resting on the dry part of the marsh and we saw a Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) but it was a distant sighting. We heard a Cetti's Warbler and tried to call it which did not work. We had another look at the reedbed from a different angle but there were still no birds in sight so we looked at the skydivers. Before walking back we had a glimpse at a yellow warbler. We tried to get a better view of this bird to identify it but it never showed up again. Back at where we saw the Woodchat Shrike, we looked at a Corn Bunting and White Storks appeared. Some of these birds were quite low and most of them landed near the river. Another flock arrived and joined the first one. We finally found the Woodchat Shrike again which we had better views of this time.



Back at the river, we saw 2 Coots (*Fulica atra*) and many Redshanks on the lagoon. We walked on the dyke in the company of many House Martins (*Delichon urbicum*), Barn (*Hirundo rustica*) and Red-rumped Swallows (*Cecropis daurica*) flying quite low around us. A Kingfisher flew by us, and then another one crossed the dyke in front of us. From the dam, we saw another one. Back at the van, we drove back to Cruzinha where we arrived shortly before diner. After the meal, we had a look at a Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*) flying around the garden and heard a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*).

Monday, 28 August – 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 Debora, one of Cruzinha's volunteers came with us on that day.

The trip went quietly until we passed Vila do Bispo. A group of birds of prey were soaring above the road. We stopped to look at them, they were Black Kites, one of the first species of raptor migrating.

At Sagres, we first stopped at Ponta da Atalaia. As we started walking, a Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) flew by us, quite low. We walked along a hedge and saw 2 Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*), a male and a female, showing pretty well but not for long. We heard a Spotless Starling but it did not show up. We flushed a Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*) but it landed out of sight. We had a glimpse at a Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) in a bush. We stopped by the cliff



and looked at Sagres fortress. Two Willow Warblers were in the bushes behind us. We walked along the cliff towards a trig point but no birds were around. We only saw a Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) when we reached the boardwalk. We looked at the sea from a platform but it was very quiet. A few Yellow-legged Gulls flew in front of us while others were following a fishing boat. William was very interested by a person doing some exercise. Fiona found a Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) and

we saw a Willow Warbler in a nearby bush. Looking more at the sea, we had the chance of seeing a shark; probably a Hammer-head Shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) and then a Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) flew close to the coast. In the distance, a few Cory's Shearwaters (*Calonectris diomedea*) were passing. As it was fairly quiet, we came back to the car. On the way, we saw a Sardinian Warbler and a Thekla Lark, both pretty close.

Then, we headed to Cabranosa, one of the best spots to watch raptor migration in autumn and we expected to see some birds as some species were already moving. We saw a Stonechat on the way. We took a dirt track and there were passerines right at the beginning of the track: Stonechats, Sardinian Warbler and Thekla Lark. A Short-toed Eagle flew by quite close and we had good views of this bird. A Kestrel was perched on a tree by the track. We spotted 2 birds of prey in the distance and went closer to identify them: a juvenile or female Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) and a second bird, melanistic. We had great views of this bird, hunting nearby until it flew away. Further on the way, we flushed a Hoopoe.

We stopped by a small hill where there is hawk-watching in autumn and had a coffee. We then walked towards a pinewood and Fiona spotted a bird of prey in the

distance. A look through the telescope confirmed the identification: a juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle! A great find! We crossed the pinewood, seeing a few Willow Warblers and hearing Goldfinches and Greenfinches (*Carduelis chloris*). The other side of the pinewood was quiet. We crossed the pinewood again and saw more Willow Warblers, Greenfinches and even a Spectacled Warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata*) but unfortunately not everybody saw it. A Melodious Warbler



(*Hippolais polyglotta*) played hide and seek with us in a pine tree and won! Before reaching the van, we stopped to look at a flock of finches: mostly Linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*) mixed with a few Greenfinches. As we started walking towards the vehicle, a falcon caught our attention: an Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonora*). This bird flew in front of a dark Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), another great sighting before we left.

We left and as we reached the pine hedge, we had great views of a juvenile Woodchat Shrike. A few metres further, we saw again 2 juveniles Montagu's Harriers, soon joined by a third one, all hunting.

We stopped at the beginning of the pine hedge to have lunch. It was a quiet meal seeing Goldfinches and Sardinian Warblers.

We headed to the cape after lunch. We tried sea watching again but it was very quiet. We explored the area in front of the lighthouse and it was the opportunity for some of us to eat an ice-cream. We had another look at the sea before leaving and found a raft of about 120 Cory's Shearwaters. Debora found a Shag nearby and Jonathan another one. It was a better sighting than in the morning.

We left the cape and went back to Cruzinha *via* Vale Santo. The first stop was to look at a Short-toed Eagle flying pretty close. We did another stop near old farm buildings. Red-billed Choughs (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) flew above us and joined others feeding on the ground. More birds flew nearby us, allowing us to see them well. As it was pretty quiet, we moved forward and saw a Raven as we left. A Wheatear was perched on a wire by the road but it flew down and went to the ground. We saw several Corn Buntings further and tried to see Spotless Starlings but they flew away. The only bird which stayed on the wire was a Southern Grey Shrike that we saw quite well. We saw a group of Black Kites and a couple of Ravens in the distance and tried to get closer but a herd of sheep on the track slowed-us down. The dogs following the sheep did not seem too bothered by us and a few Cattle Egrets were also following the flock. We took a small track to see closer the Kites and counted more than 60, some of them perched on wires and others on the ground. We resumed our journey and saw a few more Kites and a Hoopoe before reaching Vila do Bispo. As we still had time, we decided to do another halt before going back to Cruzinha.

We stopped at Boca do Rio and walked along the reedbed. It was very quiet and we only heard a Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*). Several Cattle and Little Egrets and a Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) flew over the area when we were there. We came back to Cruzinha on a different track but it was not a great idea since there was a lot of traffic. However, back at Cruzinha there was still time to relax before dinner.

Tuesday, 29 August – Monchique hills

Monchique offered a different landscape and habitat than the previous days. We left later and for that day Debora came with us too.

On the way, we stopped to have a good look at Storks, some of them on their nests. We stopped again to see 2 birds of prey which turned out to be Short-toed Eagles.

The weather was cloudy and chilly at Foia, the highest point (902 m). We walked a few metres away from the car park to a viewpoint. A Stonechat was perched on a wire and we saw a Wheatear close-by while William was in the toilet. When we were all present, we walked a bit along a small road to see more birds. A juvenile Woodchat Shrike and Stonechats were perched on bushes and Debora found a Wheatear. William joined his grand-father on a pile of rocks and we kept birdwatching at the same time. Jonathan found a Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*) but this bird was against the light and disappeared quickly. We walked closer to the bush hoping to see it again, but we were without success. A Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) perched on a building gave us a nice view while it was singing. Unfortunately, it flew away and perched again the light too. At the same time, we heard a Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*). This bird showed-up a few seconds and even better after we excited it a bit. Then, it moved to another bush and Tony and William joined us shortly after.



We took a different track. At the beginning, we saw a Stonechat and then had a glimpse of a Blue Rock Thrush which flew away and never showed-up again. The weather was getting cloudier and cloudier and colder too. We heard a Rock Bunting but failed to find it. Lower in the valley, a Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) called. As the weather was getting worse, we decided to come back to the van but on a different track. We saw a Willow Warbler perched by a Wheatear on a bush and then the Woodchat Shrike again. At the same time, 2 Linnets flew by. After, we spotted a second Wheatear and a Blue Rock Thrush perched on a roof. We got closer; this bird disappeared and then reappeared and posed for a long time, so we had great views.

We drove down and had a look at another place. As there were no birds in sight, we started picking blackberries. After a while, we left. The only birds spotted were Green Woodpecker, Willow Warbler and Stonechat.

We then drove to Caldas de Monchique, a small thermal village. The place was crowded so finding a parking spot was difficult. We had lunch under big trees and saw a Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*) during our meal. After lunch, we used a different path to walk back to the van and saw a Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) and another Treecreeper. We went to a chapel but the stream around was completely dry so no birds were seen. We had a coffee before leaving and found 2 Blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*) on the way.

We stopped at a small wetland at the foot of the hills but again it was dry and no birds were in sight. This stop turned into another fruit picking session!

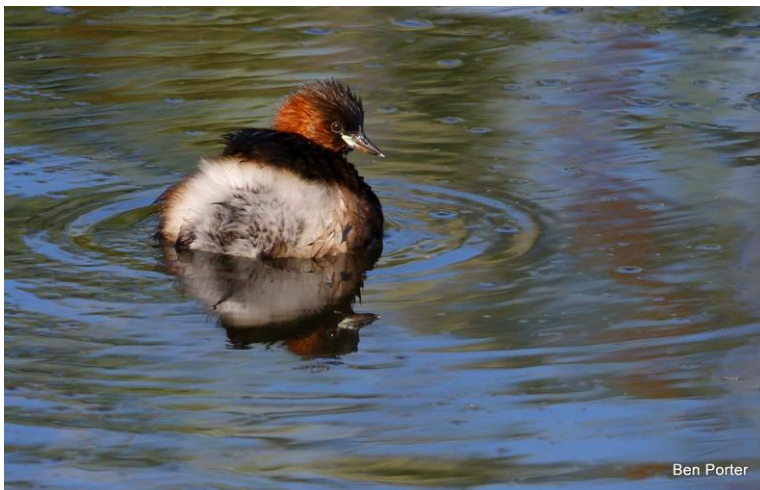
Before going back to Cruzinha, we passed by Portimão train station to buy tickets for the party's return journey. Back at the centre there was still some time to relax before dinner.

Wednesday, 30 August – Ludo

For this last day out in the field, we left early and Arjan (one of Cruzinha's volunteers) and one of his friends came with us.

We then drove to Ludo, a complex of saltpans and lagoons behind the airport. We first crossed a pinewood area and then reached the saltpans. We stopped in front of the first lagoon where a few birds were present, mostly Flamingos with a few Black-winged Stilts. The second tank was dry and empty and we saw Kentish Plovers and a Little Terns in the third one.

The next stop was by a river and as quite a few birds were in sight, we stopped and had a good look at them. Jan and his friend left and went looking for reptiles. Many Little Terns were fishing. Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*), Coots, a



Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), Little and Great Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*) were on the water. Several Kingfishers flew across the river in front of us and a female Mallard was walking on the path. Two Waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*) perched in the vegetation in front of us. While we were looking at the birds, William was very interested by the planes. Jonathan spotted a bird of prey in flight: a light morph Booted Eagle, and then we spotted another

one but a dark morph. It was useful to see the 2 morphs at the same time. As we left, a Spoonbill passed in flight and we had good views of this bird.

We passed a big pile of salt and even saw how salt was harvested. Flamingos were in a lagoon in the distance and also in others closer to the track.

We parked in the shade of a big eucalyptus by a golf course and had coffee. A Cetti's Warbler was singing and we saw House Sparrows and a Great Tit (*Parus major*). We walked along the green to go to the hide. Many Hoopoes were feeding on the lawn with House Sparrows and Azure-winged Magpies. This was a good opportunity to take pictures. A Magpie (*Pica pica*) flew above the golf course. We passed by Roman ruins. A few metres further, we looked at Sardinian and Willow Warblers in a pine tree.

When the hide was in sight, we stopped to look at the lagoon and a good variety of species was in sight: Gadwall, Little and Great Crested Grebes, 2 very close Purple Swampheens, Little Egret and Little Tern fishing. Jan joined us and told us he had found a Chameleon (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*). Very kindly, he tried to relocate this animal for us. The group went into the hide while I checked the end of the lagoon. We all met outside and Jan had found the Chameleon, a great sighting! A Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) landed in the vegetation along the bank near us but disappeared straight away. After a long search, we finally saw it but it flew on the other side of the lagoon where, fortunately, it landed in the open. We spotted a second one which flew into a patch of reed where 2 more were already present! At the same time, a Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) was fishing in front of us. A Whimbrel was walking on the green. Jan showed-up with a second Chameleon. This was also the occasion to talk with another birdwatcher. As we were leaving, we spotted Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*) on the golf course which flew and passed over us. On the way back, Jonathan found a White Stork.



Back at the car, we drove through the salt pans area. We had a last look at Flamingos before leaving the area. The trip back home was slow because of an accident in Faro and we got stuck in traffic jams. However, we got to Cruzinha on time for lunch which was homemade pizza!

The rest of the afternoon was free so everybody could relax or start packing.

Thursday, 31 August – Open Day at Cruzinha and Departure

As Thursday is Cruzinha's open day, everybody could enjoy the activities occurring at the centre: moth identification and a bird ringing demonstration. Jonathan joined us to ring and quite a few birds were caught during, mostly migrants: Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*), Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*), Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*), Bonelli's (*Phylloscopus bonelli*) and Willow Warbler, Kingfisher and Blackbird. This was also the opportunity to see a Death's head Hawkmoth (*Acherontia atropos*) brought by Filipa, the other ringer.

At the end of the morning, it was time to leave the party at the train station after a great birdwatching week.

List of species

- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): seen at Ludo.
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Alvares), Abicada and Ludo.
- Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*): seen at Ludo.
- Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*): seen at Ria de Alvor (2) and Castro Verde (4 at Vale Gonçalves, 7 at Alvares).
- Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): seen at Castro Verde (3 at Entradas, 5 at Alvares) and Ludo.
- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*): seen at Ludo.
- Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, 120 at the cape).
- Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): seen a Abicada (2) and Ludo.
- European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*): 3 at Sagres (1 at Ponta da Atalaia, 2 at the cape).
- Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*): 4 at Ludo.
- Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): seen on the way to Lagos, at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, 62 at Entradas), Abicada, Sagres (5 at Vale Santo) and Boca do Rio (2).
- Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): seen on the way to Lagos, at Ria de Alvor (14), Castro Verde (10 at Entradas), Abicada, Boca do Rio (1) and Ludo.
- Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): seen at Ria de Alvor (6), Castro Verde (1 at São Marcos da Ataboeira), Abicada (14) and Ludo.
- Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*): 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).



- White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*): seen on the way to Lagos, at Abicada (31), on the way to Monchique and at Ludo (1).
- Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves), 1 at Abicada and 2 at Ludo.

- Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): 9 at Ria de Alvor, about 50 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho), 1 at Abicada and 126 at Ludo.
- European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*): 1 dark at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): 24 at Vila do Bispo and 67 at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*): seen at Castro Verde (7 at Alvares).
- Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*): 1 at Castro Verde (1 at Alvares).
- Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*): 3 at Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçálinho, 1 at João Serra), 2 at Sagres (1 at Cabranosa, 1 at Vale Santo), 1 at Boca do Rio and 2 on the way to Monchique.
- Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): 1 female at Boca do Rio.
- Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*): seen at Sagres (4, including a melanistic bird at Cabranosa and 1 at Vale Santo).



- Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas) and 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*): 1 light morph at Castro Verde (Entradas) and 2 (1 light and 1 dark morph) at Ludo.
- Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*): 1 juvenile at Castro Verde (Alvares) and 1 juvenile at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): seen on the way to Lagos, at Sagres (1 at Ponta da Atalaia, 3 at Cabranosa, Vale Santo).
- Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonorae*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): 1 at Abicada and 1 at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*): 1 heard at Boca do Rio.
- Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): seen at Ria de Alvor (1) and Ludo.
- Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): seen at Abicada (1) and Ludo.
- Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*): seen at Abicada (6) and Ludo.
- Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*): 14 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho).
- Eurasian Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*): 4 at Castro Verde (3 at Vale Gonçálinho, 1 at Alvares).

- Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (14 at Entradas), Abicada (6) and Ludo.
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): seen at Ria de Alvor.
- Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*): 2 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*): 5 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): seen at Ria de Alvor.
- Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Ludo.
- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Ludo (1).
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): 3 at Ludo.
- Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): seen at Ria de Alvor.
- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*): 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): seen at Ria de Alvor.
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): seen at Ludo.
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (1 at Entradas), Abicada (4) and Ludo (3).
- Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*): seen at Castro Verde (4 at Entradas, 1 at São Marcos da Ataboeira, 1 at Alvares).
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Abicada (2).
- Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Abicada (61).
- Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*): 1 at Ria de Alvor and 23 at Ludo.
- Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): 4 at Ria de Alvor and 1 at Abicada.
- Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Abicada.
- Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*): 1 juvenile at Ria de Alvor.



- Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*): 12 at Ria de Alvor.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Abicada.
- Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Abicada, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape) and Ludo.
- Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (João Serra), Abicada and Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*): 2 at Abicada.
- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): 1 heard at Cruzinha.

- Little Owl (*Athene noctua*): 1 on the way to Lagos and 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).
- Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*): 1 at Cruzinha.
- Common Swift (*Apus apus*): 1 at Castro Verde (1 at São Marcos da Ataboeira).
- Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*): 2 at Abicada, 3 at Ludo and 1 at Cruzinha (ringing).
- European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*): 12 at Castro Verde (João Serra).
- Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*): 6 at Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçalves, 1 at Entradas, 3 at São Marcos da Ataboeira), 2 at Sagres (1 at Cabranosa, 1 at Vale Santo) and 9 at Ludo.
- European Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira) and Abicada.
- Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo).
- Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia) and 2 at Ludo.
- Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*): 2 at Castro Verde (João Serra).
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): seen at Abicada Ludo.
- Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) seen at Castro Verde and Abicada.
- Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*): seen at Abicada, Monchique (Foia) and Ludo.
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Abicada and Ludo.
- Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): 1 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): 2 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): seen at Monchique (Foia).
- Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): 2 at Cruzinha (ringing).
- European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, São Marcos da Ataboeira, João Serra, Alvares), Abicada, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo) and Monchique (Foia).
- Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*): 1 at Ria de Alvor, 1 at Sagres (Vale Santo) and 2 at Monchique (Foia).



- Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*): 2 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalinho).
- Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*): 2 at Monchique (Foia).



- Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (João Serra), Abicada, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia), Boca do Rio, Ludo and Cruzinha (ringing).
- Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*): heard at Castro Verde (1 at São Marcos da Ataboeira), Abicada (2) and Ludo.
- Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Abicada and Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Spectacled Warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*): 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalinho).
- Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa) and Ludo.
- Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): 2 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): seen at Castro Verde (1 at Entradas), Sagres (3 at Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Monchique (2 a Foia), Ludo and Cruzinha (ringing).
- Western Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus bonelli*): 1 at Cruzinha (ringing).
- Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): 2 at Cruzinha (ringing).
- European Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): 1 at Cruzinha (ringing).
- Great Tit (*Parus major*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique) and Ludo.
- Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*): 2 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*): seen at Castro Verde (1 at Vale Gonçalinho, São Marcos da Ataboeira, Alvares) and Sagres (1 at Vale Santo).

- Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*): 1 at Castro Verde (1 juvenile at Vale Gonçalvesinho), 1 female at Abicada and 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Ludo.
- Common Magpie (*Pica pica*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho) and Ludo (1).
- Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*): seen at Sagres (49 at Vale Santo).
- Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*): 2 at Abicada and 3 at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho) and Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo).
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, São Marcos da Ataboeira), Abicada, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia) and Ludo.
- Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Ludo.
- European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*): seen at Abicada and Sagres (Cabranosa).
- European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): seen at Abicada and Monchique (Foia).
- Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa) and Monchique (Foia).
- Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*): seen at Castro Verde (São Marcos da Ataboeira), Abicada and Sagres (Vale Santo).

- Spanish Pond Turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*): seen at Castro Verde (Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira).
- Common Chameleon (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*): 2 at Ludo.



- Psammodromus sp. (*Psammodromus sp.*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa).

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