

Southern Portugal

17th-24th September, 2017



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Participants: John and Linda Marshall (all week), Leonard and Lesley Fendick (Lagoa dos Salgados)

Leader: Guillaume Réthoré

Sunday 17th September- Arrival and Ria de Alvor

On the first day of the first autumn birdwatching week, I left Cruzinha (A Rocha Portugal Field Study Centre and the accommodation during the week) in the sunshine and the weather was quite hot. When I arrived at the airport, Linda and John were already there.

We travelled to Cruzinha, already seeing some birds: a Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) from the motorway and a male Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) from the track leading to the centre. We had to find the keys to John and Linda's room before they could unpack and relax.

We left for Ria de Alvor marsh around 16h00. We went by car, seeing Stonechats (*Saxicola rubicola*) and Azure-winged Magpies (*Cyanopica cyanus*) on the way. We parked by the marsh and spotted straight away our first Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) of the week. A Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) and Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*) were also visible. A juvenile Flamingo was pretty close to us.

We started walking along the dyke. A Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) flew away, disturbed by kite-surfers. In the marsh, a Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) was feeding nearby with a Redshank (*Tringa totanus*). A male Marsh Harrier, possibly the same bird as before, flew by startling some waders. Two juveniles Flamingos very close to the dyke completely ignored us and continued feeding, giving us a great view. Two Crested Larks (*Galerida cristata*) flew from the path to the marsh and we saw them well. More Dunlins and Black-winged Stilts were resting in the marsh with Yellow-legged (*Larus michahellis*) and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*). We looked at more gulls on a sand bar but no new species were detected, however, a few Oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*) were feeding along the water. A Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) flew in front of us and landed nearby. We had a look at seashell farms since some waders were feeding there. A Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) and a Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) were foraging side-by-side. In the marsh, 2 Dunlins were feeding very close to us. We saw another Bar-tailed Godwit by an Oystercatcher on the mudflats and a Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) was resting on a post. We hid behind a bush to be sheltered from the wind and enjoy the nice birds in the marsh: 2 Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), 3 Flamingos and another Bar-tailed Godwit. A group of Dunlins flew past us and landed in the marsh, giving us nice views again while a Whimbrel was feeding on the mudflats.



We reached the abandoned salt pans. They were all dried and no bird were in sight but we still found a Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) flying in the distance, a very early sighting of this species. An Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) was sitting on a post by the fish farms.

We walked around the last part the marsh. Two Common Sandpipers (*Actitis hypoleucos*) flew from a ditch near the path and Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) above us. We had another look at Spoonbills and saw another Dunlin, close to the track again. Flamingos were busy feeding near a Back-tailed Godwit. A Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) flew by, quite close, giving us a great view. This bird was pale underneath, probably a juvenile. A Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) was feeding in the fennel in the field by the track and when we stopped to look at it, we flushed a Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*). Before reaching the car, we saw a Stonechat and picked-up a broken picnic table that we put by the rubbish bins.

We took a different track to come back to Cruzinha. Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were feeding in a field with horses. One of these birds even perched on a horse's back but did not stay long enough for pictures. After, we saw another Short-toed Eagle, closer than the previous one and also darker, a different bird.

Back at Cruzinha, there was still time to relax before dinner.

Monday 18th September- Monchique hills

Monchique offered us a totally different landscape and habitat from which we had encountered the previous afternoon. We left under a blue sky and it looked like a nice day. On the way we saw a few White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*), some of them on their nest.

We went to Foia, the highest point (902 m). The weather was still clear but windy and cold when we got there. We spotted a Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) on a rock before reaching the car park. We walked to a point where we could enjoy the view on the coast. We walked away from the touristic place, passed a small group of cows but only saw a Stonechat spotted by Linda and a Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) hunting. As the weather was unpleasant and few birds were around, we came back to the car and went down the hills to another spot.

When we got there, cows were around so we decided to go further. We stopped by a place with a lot of big trees, mostly Pine and a few Eucalyptuses. We heard Great Tit (*Parus major*) and Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) and saw a Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) and many Willow Warblers. We explored the area but it was very quiet. By some smaller pine trees, we heard Crested Tit (*Lophophanes cristatus*). We managed to see 2 of these birds after calling them. A Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*) flew from the trees we were looking at to another and disappeared. We looked for it again but we were unsuccessful. Two **Cirl Buntings** (*Emberiza cirlus*) were perched in a nearby tree and we had great views of one of them feeding and preening. We also found a Great-spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) but it flew away before we had a good look at it. The Treecreeper showed-up again as we were leaving but it hid again.



We then drove down to Caldas de Monchique, a small spa town, seeing a Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) on the way. There, we walked along a stream to the lunch spot and saw a Nuthatch. We also met Pete and Jane, regular visitors and volunteers at Cruzinha. We ate beneath some big trees, listening to a Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*). After lunch, we saw another Nuthatch perched on a telephone wire and then it went down and landed on a picnic table, a great sighting. A male Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) was in a small tree nearby and we saw 2 Grey Wagtails (*Motacilla cinerea*) by the stream.

We explored an area with Cork Oaks near Monchique during the afternoon. We heard a Nuthatch when we arrived and Linda found a Short-toed Treecreeper that we all managed to see this time. Two Jays (*Garrulus glandarius*) flew by. Some of the oaks had been stripped not long ago and still had a rufous-coloured bark. We



walked along a small road, seeing more Willow Warblers. We stopped near old farm buildings where we saw another Jay and heard an Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*) calling in a small tree. Unfortunately, we only had a glimpse of this bird before it moved to another Fig tree and a Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) called. We started walking back to the car and saw a Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) and a Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*). Back at the area with Cork Oaks, John found a Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula*

hypoleuca) and Linda another Treecreeper. A Nuthatch was feeding on the ground and flew away as a cat carrying a dead mouse approached. We had another quick sight of a Great Spotted Woodpecker. As we still had time, we explored another area with Strawberry trees. We heard more Nuthatches and saw a Buzzard flying. We stopped, saw more Willow Warblers and came back to the car, spotting more Pied Flycatchers on the way.

We left the area, went down the hills as the top was hidden in the clouds and stopped at a small wetland unfortunately dry. Several Azure-winged Magpies were flying around when we arrived and we saw a Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) which perched in a tree but out of sight. Several Cattle Egrets were around cows and House Martins (*Delichon urbicum*) and Red-rumped Swallows (*Cecropis daurica*) were flying around. As we got closer to a stream, we heard a Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*). The water level was low. Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*) and House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were drinking in a puddle. A Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) flew by us, perched in a tree and then went to the ground to feed. A Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) and a Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) were in the shade by the water. As no more birds were around, we came back to Cruzinha. The journey was slower than planned because of road works but we still had time to rest before dinner when we got there.

Tuesday 19th September- Abicada

The morning was free so John and Linda could rest and explore the area around Cruzinha.

We left at the end of the morning and had a picnic at Abicada. While I was installing the table and food, John and Linda could enjoy Flamingos, White Storks and a Sandwich Tern fishing in front of us. We had lunch looking at a very skilled fisherman.

After the meal, we started walking on the dam. There, we looked at the Alvor side but the tide was high. We started walking on the dike along the marsh. A Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) perched in a nearby bush. We had great views of this small bird as it was feeding. We had a close look at Dunlins and a Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) feeding in a ditch by the dyke. We found another Cisticola and had a look at the gulls on the river: Black-headed (*Larus ridibundus*) and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Further, John spotted 2 Whimbrels in flight, Linda a Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) and me a male Marsh Harrier. This bird flushed another one, a male too. Two Ravens (*Corvus corax*) flew from Quinta da Rocha towards us. Bluethroats (*Luscinia svecica*) appeared but it was a frustrating sighting. These birds would fly from one side of the track to another and land out of sight. However, the orange base of the tail was well visible for some birds when they flew near us. A Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) perched in the vegetation in the middle of the river. We had a good view but it did not stay still long enough for pictures. Several Common Sandpipers and a Green Sandpiper were feeding in the ditch by the dyke and flew as we came closer. We stopped by a small reedbed and heard a Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) but failed to see it. John found another Whimbrel on a vegetation raft in the middle of the river. We had a great view of a Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) perched on dry reeds before it went down and disappeared. We had a glimpse of another one and the first one flew from one patch of reeds to another. The small marsh was dry and few birds were visible but a Green Sandpiper was feeding in a muddy patch. A Raven flew over old farm buildings and 2 Spanish Pond Turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*) were sunbathing nearby.



We started walking back to the car, seeing again Bluethroats. One stayed still long enough for John to manage to see the blue on the throat. A Sandwich Tern was fishing but we did not see it catching any fish. Further, we saw what looked like a Rail but it disappeared quickly. We waited for it to show again but it was just a Moorhen. As we were reaching the dam, we realized the group of Dunlins and the Ringed Plover were still feeding at the same place.

Back at the dam, Linda went back to the car while John and I did more birdwatching. The plan was to have a better look at the Flamingos and Storks.

However, this last species was not present anymore. A Kingfisher flew from the base of the dyke. A Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*) perched on a bush, showing its red breast. This species is from East Africa but was kept as a cage bird. Some of them escaped in the 60's and managed to breed in the wild. A Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) flew from a canal, showed well in flight and landed almost at the same place. We flushed it again when we came closer. We had another look at the Flamingos. Some of them were very pink. A Flock of about 30 Spoonbills was resting on an island in the middle of the lagoon. We walked back to the car, seeing more Cisticolas. We walked the dam and met Linda at the car.

We came back to Cruzinha where John found a Moorish Gecko (*Tarentola mauretana*) when we arrived. The end of the afternoon was quiet and we had dinner at Cruzinha.

Wednesday 20th September- Sagres

On this day, the birdwatching team headed to the end of the world! Since Sagres and Cape St Vincent are the most south-western point of Europe, ancient people believed that it was the end of the world. It is also a good spot to watch the raptor migration as a lot of birds of prey end up in Sagres on their migration to Africa, believing they are in Gibraltar. We left earlier than the other days. The weather was nice and there was almost no wind.

Our first stop at Sagres was at Ponta da Atalaia. We saw the first birds of the day on the roof of the hotel: House Sparrows and Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*). We walked along a hedge, looking for migrants. We found 2 Garden Warblers (*Sylvia borin*) in a bush. Two Thekla Larks (*Galerida theklae*) flew by us and landed nearby. We had a magnificent view and it was a good opportunity to photograph them. A Spotless Starling was perched on top of an Agave close to us. A male Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) showed well in a bush and we could see the main characteristics of this species: black head, white throat, grey body and even the red eye-ring. We walked a bit further and saw well a Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*) and a Garden Warbler in the same bush. Linda found a Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) on the ground by a bush and later, 2 Thekla Larks were there feeding. We walked a few metres and saw again the Melodious



Warbler. At the same time, a Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*) flew above us and around the area several times. We stopped by the cliff and enjoyed the view on Sagres fortress. This place is where Henry the Navigator once had his navigation school. John spotted a Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) but it disappeared before we all had a good look at it. We walked along the cliff. A Thekla Lark landed in front of us and a Kestrel perched on an Agave. A Sand Martin passed near us, flying quite low. We went on the boardwalk

and stopped at the platform in front of the sea. Several Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) and Sand Martins were flying around us, all of them low, a great sighting! We looked for birds offshore but only saw a few Gannets (*Morus bassanus*). As it was very quiet, we started walking back to the car. Several Wheatears were on the ground, one of them chased by a Black Redstart. We had good views of all these birds and a second Black Redstart even showed-up. We passed by an area with a lot of fennel. A few Willow Warblers were feeding in these plants, close to us. A bit further, we found a Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) hidden in a bush, a great sighting. We had a close view of this bird. The markings on its wings and the eye ring were not very bright, probably a juvenile. A big bird was soaring: a Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), still quite low. After a few seconds, this bird glided towards Sagres fortress. At the end of the track, we found a Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) posing for a while. The Black Stork appeared again before going north.

We then left for Cabranosa, the most famous raptor-watching spot in Sagres. We saw again the Black Stork from the road leaving Sagres. We left the tarmac road for a track where many passerines are usually seen. A flock of Goldfinches flew in front of the car and we stopped to look at a pale morph Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*). Two Tawny Pipits (*Anthus campestris*) were feeding along the track just before we reached Cabranosa. We started our time there with a coffee looking for birds of prey. We found 2 **Honey Buzzards** (*Pernis apivorus*) and a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) appeared with 2 Booted Eagle, a light and a dark morph. It was interesting to see the 2 different morphs at the same time. A car passed in front of us and went straight to the sandy part of the track where it got stuck. As we “climbed” the hill, a lot of Booted Eagles were arriving.



Some of them were flying very low, allowing us to great views which was good timing! During the next minutes, more arrived and we counted more than 30 of them. Short-toed Eagles were also in the area. One flew quite close but against the light unfortunately, but we could see it by a Booted Eagle, allowing us to see the difference of size. Several Honey Buzzards were with the Booted Eagle, including a very pale bird with a white head. Another Short-toed Eagle flew by, this time with good light and we found a juvenile Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) in the distance. Five Egyptian Vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*) flew above us, quite low, another great sighting and a Sparrowhawk was hunting between our position and Sagres. At the same time, Booted Eagles and a Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) were still flying around us; some of them close-by. As it was getting closer to lunch-time, we decided to leave. Also most of the birds were now far away from our observation spot. We definitely had a great time at Cabranosa!

Back at the car, an Egyptian Vulture flew above us before we left. We saw again the Tawny Pipits on the way and met (again!) Jane. Half-way along the Pine

hedge, we found a melanistic Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*). We had a nice and quiet lunch looking at Goldfinches going from the low vegetation to the pine hedge and Booted Eagles, some of them low. The Black Stork was still in the same area as we saw it at the end of lunch. Just before we left, a juvenile Marsh Harrier showed-up, the 12th species of bird of prey of the day!

We then drove to Cape St Vincent. There were still a lot of tourists at the cape besides the northerly wind. We looked at the sea on the northern face of the cape but no birds were passing. On the southern side, a Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) appeared, and then a second one. These 2 birds were swimming close-by. We went by the lighthouse and looked again at the sea but it was still very quiet. Two Ravens flew by and joined 4 others, all of them quite close, another good observation! Then, we had a look at the gulls by the food trailers. They were all Yellow-legged Gulls but it was possible to see and compare several age groups. On the distance, a dark Booted Eagle was soaring.

We went back to Cruzinha via Vale Santo. We first stopped to look at some close-by birds of prey: 2 Booted Eagle (a light and a dark), soon joined by a Black Kite and then another one and a Honey Buzzard. Some of these birds, probably the same as seen during the morning were quite low, especially one Black Kite with difficulties to rise. Several Kestrels were hunting around us. We resumed our journey, seeing a Tawny Pipit and Spotless Starlings feeding around cattle. We then stopped by an old farm where it was quite windy. A Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) was feeding in a nearby field and we found a few more. Cattle Egrets were feeding with cows. As few birds were around we left. The trip was quiet; we only saw a Buzzard perched on a wire, some Wheatears and Thekla Larks on the way. By the end of the track, we stopped to look at birds of prey: a Booted Eagle and a juvenile Marsh Harrier. By the side of the track, a **Southern Grey Shrike** (*Lanius meridionalis*) was perched on top of a bush. We had great views of this bird and even saw 8 Red-billed Choughs



(*Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) passing in the distance at the same time. A bit further, a Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) was perched on a post, a good find since this species is uncommon in the Algarve! It flew away and reappeared in a field where a Black Kite was resting. From there, we also saw about 20 Red-billed Choughs perched on telephone wires. They all went to the ground. When we got closer, we realized there were many more and counted about 50. They were all feeding and we had good view of the red bill and legs.

Back at Vila do Bispo, we took the national road but stopped to look at a Short-toed Eagle perched on a post.

On the way back, we stopped by a wetland with a big reedbed and walked along. However, it was very quiet. The only notable sighting was a Black Stork flying north, probably the same bird we saw during the day.

We came back to Cruzinha by a different road and there was still some time before dinner.

Thursday 21st September- Open Day at Cruzinha and Lagoa dos Salgados

As Thursday is Cruzinha's weekly open day, John and Linda could enjoy the activities occurring at the centre: moth identification and a bird ringing demonstration. Quite a few birds were caught: Pied Flycatcher, Blue and Great Tit, House Sparrow, Willow and Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), Hoopoe, Wren and Waxbill. The activities stopped at 13:00 and we had lunch at the centre.

After another good meal (a special one, as it was a birthday meal), we went to Lagoa dos Salgados and Leonard and Lesley joined us. The trip was longer than planned because of road works but we made it.

When we arrived at the lagoon, we could see that there was a lot of water on the northern part of the lagoon but the southern part was almost dry. We parked by the beach and waded to the blind, already seeing some birds: a Wheatear and Yellow Wagtails. Some people were already birdwatching when we arrived, including some people met during the morning. A Glossy Ibis was feeding in front of us, so Linda could have a good look at this bird. This bird was with 2 Black-tailed Godwits, a Lapwing, a Ringed Plover and a Yellow Wagtail. A Little Egret was fishing from a concrete pipe. Many Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were resting nearby. White Storks and Black-winged Stilts were feeding a bit further away. Flamingos were feeding in the middle of gull in the northern part of the lagoon. Some of these birds were very pink. Two Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) were perched on a post in the water and others resting with Spoonbills on an island. Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Pochards (*Aythya ferina*), Gadwalls (*Anas strepera*) and Little Grebes (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) were also in this part of the lagoon. A small group of Spoonbills was feeding in a shallower part of the lagoon. Looking at these birds, we spotted 2 Purple Swamphens swimming. They passed again but in flight this time and we found 2 more at the base of a small tree. In the distance, 3 Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) were fishing. In the southern part, a group of **Glossy Ibises** were pretty close. Others were a bit further away, feeding by a Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). On the concrete pipe, a Grey Heron had replaced the Little Egret. We had a last look at the lagoon and found one of the Black Terns closer. Then, we went to the boardwalk to explore the southern part of the lagoon.



On the way, we saw a Kestrel perched on a small wooden post and a Wheatear next to it. More Wheatears were around the car park. We started walking on the boardwalk and found another Wheatear, perched on the ropes by the boardwalk. We stopped after a few metres to look at 2 close-by Black-winged Stilts. A

Spoonbill was feeding near a Grey Heron and came closer to us. Dunlins were foraging along the water and a Cattle Egret was on the drier part. A Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) flew towards us. We had a good view of this bird including its red bill and big size. We resumed our walk and stopped further to look at waders: Ringed Plovers, Sanderlings, Dunlins and Bar-tailed Godwits. Spoonbills and Glossy Ibises were feeding by the golf course. Two Sandwich Terns were resting by Black-headed Gulls. We found a Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) in the middle of Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-Backed Gulls. A Caspian Tern appeared which landed near another one. These 2 birds were next to a Black-headed Gull so it was possible to have a good idea of the size of this species. Many Grey Herons and Little Egrets were fishing. We went to the end of the lagoon. The water level was good for waders and we saw several Sanderlings, a Dunlin, 2 Ringed Plovers and 4 Common



Sandpipers, all of them quite close. Several Grey Herons, mostly juveniles, were fishing. A Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) showed-up and joined the other waders. We found a sleeping Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and John spotted a Kingfisher by this wader. Unfortunately, it flew away and we could not all have a good look at it. A little Grebe was fishing and always diving, a Caspian Tern flew by and a Spoonbill appeared from behind the reedbed. This bird had a black beak, a characteristic of a juvenile bird. It flew away and we could see the dark tip of the wings, another sign of a

juvenile bird. A Coot (*Fulica atra*) and a Moorhen appeared as we left and a Crested Lark landed in the dunes.

The walk back to the car was quiet but we still saw 2 Magpies (*Pica pica*), not as common in this part of the Algarve as the Azure-winged Magpie. The group crossed the dunes on the boardwalk to see the sea. The Wheatear was still on the car park when we left.

We stopped at Porches Pottery on the way home for some shopping. We arrived at Cruzinha a little bit before dinner.

Friday 22nd September- Castro Verde

This day was the longest of the week in terms of time spent in 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) and the trip went smoothly. The weather was nice and sunny with only a few clouds but it was a bit chilly when we arrived at Castro Verde.

We took the road leading to the LPN reserve (Liga para a Proteção da Natureza also called Vale Gonçalinho) stopping on high spots to look around for birds. At the first stop, a Pied Flycatcher was perched on the fence by the road. In the distance, a Southern Grey Shrike was perched on a tree and a Kestrel flew by. On

the other side of the road, a Lapwing and a Little Egret were feeding by a small pond. We resumed our journey, seeing a Wheatear and Willow Warblers on the way. We stopped again on another high spot but no birds were in sight so we continued. We took a dirt track.

We parked near the centre and saw 2 groups of Back-bellied Sandgrouses (*Pterocles orientalis*) flying. We had a chat with one of the workers and left a donation to help this association continue their marvellous work in the area.

The landscape of the reserve is mainly steppes where a specific avifauna lives. We had to walk through a herd of peaceful cows. Once we passed them, we looked more for birds and spotted a Tawny Pipit which flew in front of us and landed in a field nearby. However, it was difficult to see it well because of the vegetation. Linda found a small group of Red-legged Partridges (*Alectoris rufa*) further along the track. We passed the first gate to get in the reserve and realized we would not be able to go as far as we wanted since more cows were around and these ones did not look as nice as the previous ones. We walked until big eucalyptuses. Several Wheatears were perched on the fence, and then we found a **Tawny Pipit** which showed well. A Buzzard was soaring above old farm buildings. A pied Flycatcher was perched in an Olive Tree and Linda found a Spotted Flycatcher in a Eucalyptus. Linda also found a Peregrine Falcon flying above the farm buildings. This bird came closer and we could see it was an adult. One of the cows, more curious than the others, came close to us, on the other side of the



fence. We left the area and entered the property again by another gate. It was very quiet. We saw another Tawny Pipit and heard its calls well. A soaring Buzzard came close to us and we found a Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) in the distance but it soon disappeared. We stopped at the boundaries and looked around but since very few birds were visible, we came back to the car. We saw 2 Hoopoes when we arrived at the centre. We had a last look around before leaving and found a Griffon Vulture, and another, and another. We counted 5 in total and had a better view than earlier.

We left the centre on the same track as we came but had to stop before reaching the tarmac road. Four Great Bustards (*Otis tarda*) were in a field nearby. Unfortunately, these birds were a bit far and they slowly walked away and disappeared behind an elevation of the ground. We stopped again on the tarmac road, in the shade, to have a different look at the same field. We found back the Great Bustards. This time the light was better so we had good view. They were walking and feeding in the field, 4 birds were together and another one a bit further away. At the same time, a Southern Grey Shrike was calling, perched on a wire close-by.

We came back to Castro Verde and headed towards Entradas. We stopped by a lagoon which was unfortunately dry. Two Hoopoes were feeding nearby. A Yellow

Wagtails and Willow Warblers were foraging on the bank and a Buzzard was perched on a rock. This bird came a bit closer before disappearing. We had lunch by this lagoon, in the shade. At the end of the meal domestic geese showed-up. After lunch, I had a quick nap while John and Linda enjoyed this shady place.

We then drove between fields, seeing more Wheatears and Crested Larks. We reached a river, which was almost dry. A Great Tit was calling in a tree and we heard a Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) as we left. We stopped again a few metres ahead by another pond. It was almost dry but more birds were around: a Little Egret, a Hoopoe, a Green Sandpiper and 2 Crested Larks. We saw two more Hoopoes perched on a stone wall in the middle of House Sparrows and Collared Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) when we arrived at São Marcos da Ataboeira,

From there, we headed to Nossa Senhora de Aracelis. On the way, we saw more Wheatears, Stonechats and a couple of Kestrels. From this hill, we had an amazing view of the Alentejo plain. We had a look around but few birds were present. We sat in the shade and waited for birds to appear. Four Red-rumped Swallows were flying around and we heard Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*). As nothing was showing-up, we walked back to the car. Going down from the hill, we found a female or juvenile Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*). We had a good view of this bird before it disappeared. We got closer to try to see it better, without result. We looked above us: a few Griffon and a Cinereous (Black) Vultures (*Aegypius monachus*) were soaring high and kept going higher before disappearing. Once again, nice birds appeared from the car park!

We went down the hill and back on the tarmac road, crossed the national road and took another small road. Most of the posts were supporting empty Stork nests and we saw a lot of Southern Grey Shrikes on the wires. We turned on a dirt track and stopped to have a look on a pond. A Green Sandpiper flew as we left the car. A Grey Heron was immobile on the edge of the water with a White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*). A Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) landed but did not show well. A few Spanish Pond Turtle sunbathing dived and only their head were visible in the water. A Griffon Vulture passed above us but was gliding away. John found a group of 7 Red-legged Partridges in a nearby field. A Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) was



singing but not visible, others were drinking with House Sparrows. A line of sheep were going to drink; they were all going in the same direction, one after another! A Juvenile Bonelli's Eagle appeared in the distance but it dived and disappeared. This proved to be a good stop! We continued and stopped by another lagoon. This one was bigger but also almost dry. A group of Mallards flew as we stepped out of the car, leaving only 2 Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) on the water. We walked around to have a better light. Two Green Sandpipers flew away. Several Lapwings,

Little Ringed Plovers and 2 White Wagtails were feeding on the margin. We had a good look at them. A flock of Corn Buntings was drinking and having a bath in a puddle. Linda found a Yellow Wagtail and we spotted a Snipe feeding in the mud. We left the area and stopped by a small pile of rocks as a ball of feathers had jumped from a rock to another: a Little Owl (*Athene noctua*). We had a great view of this bird from the car.

We drove quietly back to Castro Verde, again seeing many Southern Grey Shrike. We stopped by a dried river to look for Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) but without success. We still found 7 Great Bustards in a field. They were a bit closer than in the morning and the light was better. They took off and flew above the road, a great sighting and a good way to end the day.

We went back to Castro Verde where we had a nice dinner in a local restaurant. Afterwards, we came back to Cruzinha around 22:00. We were all very tired after a long and full day, so went straight to bed.

Saturday 23rd September- Silves and Sitio das Fontes

Saturday was supposed to be the day with the least birdwatching of the week but we changed plans. We left later since the previous day had been long.

At Silves, we walked passed Stork nests, 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. In the castle, we walked around the walls and had a look at some artefacts found during recent excavations. From the walls, we saw many Storks, some of them still on nests or perched on a crane. We finished the visit by having a look at an exhibition about the Iberian Lynx in the old cistern and looking at Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) kept for falconry demonstration. Back at the car, John was hoping to see something interesting since it seemed to be the pattern for the last days but it did not work this time.

We went to Sitio das Fontes for lunch. That place has a lot of freshwater pools so we had a good look at dragonflies and frogs on our way to the picnic tables. At the end of the meal, we spotted a flock of White Storks soaring in the distance. We had a look at the nearby mudflats where a few birds were feeding: Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Redshank, Greenshank, a close-by Ringed Plover, 2 Cattle Egrets and a Common Sandpiper. We went back to the car and drove a bit to explore rice fields.

We spotted 2 Willow Warblers and a Spotted Flycatcher after walking a few metres. As we were on high ground, we scanned the rice fields where quite a few birds were in sight: Flamingos, White Storks, Little Egrets, Glossy Ibises and some waders. A look through the scope allowed us to identify these birds: Black-winged Stilts, Black-tailed Godwits and Ruffs (*Calidris*



pugnax). A Marsh Harrier flying over the area flushed most of the birds and we realized there were more Ibises than we could actually see. The track passed between two patches of reed and we flushed a Grey Heron. We stopped to look at a yellow bird: Yellow-crowned Bishop (*Euplectes afer*), another exotic species. We had a good view of this bird before it flew away. We took a track that passed in the middle of the rice fields. Walking close to an area with more water, I flushed 5 Snipes. By a canal, we found a Moorhen and an immature male Bishop. We flushed a Green Sandpiper and Linda found a Marsh Harrier, the same bird as before. We reached a pump house and had a look at the Storks from there but the birds were a bit far away. As we did not find anything new, we walked back to the car. On the main track, we found a small flock of Waxbills and saw again the Bishop. It was a bit further away this time, we got closer, it disappeared and reappeared later. We still managed to have a good view. From the highest part of the track, we had another look at the Storks and Ibises.

Back at Cruzinha, the rest of the afternoon was used for relaxing and packing. We all met in Mexilhoeira Grande for this last evening as there was a local fair.

Sunday 24th September- Ludo and departure

On the last day, we left later after the traditional goodbyes and we went to Ludo, a complex of lagoons and saltpans behind Faro airport.

At Ludo, we first crossed a small pinewood before reaching the first saltpans. We stopped to look at the first lagoon where quite a few birds were present: Flamingos, Black-winged Stilts, Shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*) and Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). A Flamingo, 2 Black-winged Stilts and a Redshank were feeding near the track. Several Red-rumped Swallows were perched on a wire



nearby and soon joined by a Barn Swallow. It was interesting to see the two species together and be able to compare them. Many Swallows and Martins were flying around. Some perched in the reeds and 4 species were visible: Barn and Red-rumped Swallows and House and Sand Martins. They suddenly took off and perched on the naked branches of a nearby tree, a great sighting! We passed quickly in front of the other saltpans since they were dry and no birds were visible. We reached a river but again no birds were in sight. We drove past a big pile of salt and saltpans where salt

was actually extracted. A few birds were resting on a dyke: a Grey Heron, 2 Little Egrets and a Spoonbill. More Flamingos were in the lagoons along the track.

We parked next to a golf course under the shade of big eucalyptuses. Since there was still time before lunch, we went to check another lagoon. Many Flamingos were present, some of them quite close. These birds were sharing the lagoon with

Coots and ducks identified through the telescope: Wigeons (*Anas penelope*) and Gadwalls. A few Cormorants were resting on the bank. We spotted 2 Ospreys in flight. Unfortunately, we did not have a good view of these birds. They came quite close but the light was bad. A Spotted Flycatcher was perched on a telephone wire. A Great Spotted Woodpecker arrived, perched by the Flycatcher and scarred it. A Kingfisher flew by and we found a distant Booted Eagle. We came back to the car for lunch. We ate watching a Hoopoe on the green and Linda found a light morph Booted Eagle. We had a great view of this bird, closer than the previous one.

After lunch, we walked along the green, heading towards the bird hides. Some birds use the golf course to forage so we saw Azure-winged Magpies, House Sparrows and Hoopoes in good conditions. The lagoon next to the golf course is usually a very good spot and has a nice bird hide. We first looked at the birds from outside the hide as there was a nice diversity: Coot, Gadwall, Shoveler, Pochard, Great Crested (*Podiceps cristatus*) and Little Grebes and Little Egret. Some

Shovelers were still moulting and looked quite different. A male **Black-headed Weaver** (*Ploceus melanocephalus*), another introduced species was perched in the vegetation close-by so we saw it well. We entered the hide and saw the same birds as before plus a few gulls (Yellow-legged, Lesser Black-backed and Black-headed). Spanish Pond Turtles and Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) were sunbathing. We heard a Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), which sounded pretty close. After a little while, this bird



appeared in the vegetation at the base of the hide, we saw it well even if it was not for very long. As no new birds were showing-up, we decided to leave the place and go to the end of the lagoon. We saw again a male Black-headed Weaver, near an old nest this time and a Purple Swamphen hidden in the vegetation.

We went to another hide overlooking mudflats. Unfortunately, it was low tide and the light was not great. A few waders were feeding by the hide: Sanderlings, Dunlins and Redshanks. Linda and John found 2 Plovers: Ringed and Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). Seeing these 2 birds side by side helped identifying them. John also found a Bar-tailed Godwit feeding on the mudflats. As it was very poor for birds, we left.

We stopped again at the lagoon and this time we had better views of the Purple Swamphen. It was preening and showing well. By the hide, a passerine going into a bush caught our attention. Fortunately, it perched in view: male Bluethroat. We had a great view of this bird before it disappeared, a nice way of finishing the week!

On the way to the car, we saw Sardinian Warblers and Pied Flycatchers. At the car, there was still time to reorganize the suit case. We drove past the salt pans where many Flamingos were still present. Before the pile of salt, 2 Spoonbills were feeding in a canal and did not seem too bothered by the car, another great sighting.

A small bird on a wire caught our attention: a Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*), a new species for the trip! The last bird of the tour was a Jay we saw when we left the area. I left John and Linda at Faro airport after a very enjoyable week.

List of species

- Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*): 2 at Castro Verde (Alvares).



- Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): 43 at Ludo.
- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*): seen at Ludo.
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): seen at Abicada (2), Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (21 at Alvares) and Ludo.
- Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*): 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*): seen at Castro Verde (5 at Vale Gonçalves, 7 at Alvares).
- Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (7 at Alvares) and Ludo.
- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*): 4 at Ludo.
- Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*): seen from Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): seen at Abicada (3), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*): 2 at Sagres (cape).
- Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*): 1 at Ludo.
- Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): seen at Ria de Alvor (8), Morgado, Sagres (Vale Santo), Lagoa dos Salgados (1), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, São Marcos da Ataboeira) and Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): seen from the motorway, at Ria de Alvor, Abicada, Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (1 at Vale Gonçalves, 1 at Entradas) and Ludo.
- Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Abicada, Lagoa dos Salgados (8), Castro Verde (1 at Alvares), Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa) and Boca do Rio.

- White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*): seen on the way to Monchique, at Abicada (90), Lagoa dos Salgados (3), Silves, Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): 1 at Abicada, 24 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 108 at Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): 2 at Ria de Alvor, 32 at Abicada, 21 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 3 at Ludo.
- Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): seen at Ria de Alvor (19), Abicada (39), Lagoa dos Salgados, Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields (8) and Ludo (186).
- European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*): 6 at Sagres (5 at Cabranosa and 1 at Vale Santo).
- Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): 2 at Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo).
- Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*): 5 juveniles at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*): seen at Castro Verde (5 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 11 at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis and 1 at Alvares).
- Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*): 1 at Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*): 2 at Ria de Alvor, 5 at Sagres (Cabranosa) and 1 at Vila do Bispo.
- Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): 1 on the way to Cruzinha, 1 adult male at Ria de Alvor, 2 adult males Abicada, 1 juvenile at Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo), and 1 adult female at Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*): 1 melanistic bird at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*): 1 at Morgado and 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): 2 at Monchique (1 at Foia and 1 at Cerca da Rita), 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa) and 3 at Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 1 at Entradas).
- Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*): 41 at Sagres (32 at Cabranosa, 1 at the cape and 8 at Vale Santo) and 2 at Ludo.



- Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*): 1 juvenile at Sagres (Cabranosa) and 1 juvenile at Castro Verde (Alvares).

- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): 1 at Ria de Alvor and 2 at Ludo.
- Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): seen at Monchique (3 at Foia), Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Boca do Rio, Lagoa dos Salgados (1) and Castro Verde (2 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 2 at São Marcos da Ataboeira).
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa) and 1 at Castro Verde (1 adult at Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*): 3 heard at Boca do Rio.
- Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): seen at Morgado (1), Abicada, Lagoa dos Salgados, Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): seen at Abicada (2), Lagoa dos Salgados (4), Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields (1) and Ludo.
- Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*): seen at Abicada (37), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*): 13 seen at Castro Verde (5 at Vale Gonçalvesinho and 8 at João Serra).
- Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados, Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): seen at Ludo.
- Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*): 9 at Ria de Alvor.
- Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*): 1 at Ria de Alvor, 2 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 4 Castro Verde (1 at Vale Gonçalvesinho and 3 at Alvares).
- Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*): 5 at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Abicada, Lagoa dos Salgados, Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): seen at Ludo.
- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): seen at Ria de Alvor and Abicada.
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): 12 at Ria de Alvor, 2 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 5 at Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): seen at Ria de Alvor (3), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.



- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*): 2 at Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.

- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Abicada, Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*): seen at Ria de Alvor (3), Abicada (4), Lagoa dos Salgados (4), Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields (1) and Ludo.
- Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*): 4 at Abicada, 4 at Castro Verde (1 at São Marcos da Ataboeira and 3 at Alvares) and 1 at Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): seen at Ria de Alvor (6), Castro Verde (1 at Alvares) and Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Abicada, Castro Verde (1 at Alvares), Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados, 1 at Castro Verde (Alvares) and 5 at Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*): 2 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*): 3 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): 1 at Ria de Alvor, 1 at Abicada and 2 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Abicada, Lagoa dos Salgados, Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo
- Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Abicada, Lagoa dos Salgados, Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Black-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles orientalis*): 12 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).
- Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Castro Verde (São Marcos da Ataboeira, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis, Alvares and João Serra) and Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Little Owl (*Athene noctua*): 1 at Castro Verde (Alvares).



- Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*): seen at Ria de Alvor (1), Morgado (1), Abicada, Lagoa dos Salgados (1), Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields (1) and Ludo (3).
- Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*): 1 at Morgado, 1 at Cruzinha (ringing), 5 at Castro Verde (2 at Entradas, 3 at São Marcos da Ataboeira) and 4 at Ludo.
- European Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*): 1 at Monchique (Cerca da Rita).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*): 2 at Monchique (1 at Foia, 1 at Cerca da Rita), 1 at Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and 1 at Ludo.
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*): 1 at Cruzinha.
- Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis) and Ludo.
- Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo).
- Wood Lark (*Lullula arborea*): 1 at Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Eurasian Skyark (*Alauda arvensis*): 4 at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*): seen at Ria d Alvor (1), Sagres (3 at Ponta da Atalaia), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo (1).
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): seen at Sagres (10 at Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.
- Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Morgado and Ludo.
- Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Morgado, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo), Boca do Rio, Castro Verde (Entradas, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis) and Ludo.



- Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*): 3 at Sagres (2 at Cabranosa, 1 at Vale Santo) and 3 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): seen at Abicada (2), Lagoa dos Salgados and Castro Verde (1 at Entradas, 1 at Alvares).

- Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): 2 at Caldas de Monchique.
- White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): 2 at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): seen at Monchique (1 at Caldas de Monchique, 2 at Cerca da Rita) and Cruzinha (ringing).
- European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*): heard at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique, Cerca da Rita).
- Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*): 7 at Abicada and 1 at Ludo.
- Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*): 2 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*): 2 at Ludo.
- European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Monchique (Foia), Abicada, Sagres, Lagoa dos Salgados and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis, João Serra).
- Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*): seen at Monchique (2 at Foia), Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo), Lagoa dos Salgados and Castro Verde (8 at Vale Gonçalves, 1 at Entradas, 12 at São Marcos da Ataboeira, 2 at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*): 1 at Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*): seen at Morgado (1), Sagres (1 at Ponta da Atalaia), Boca do Rio, Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*): heard at Castro Verde (1 at São Marcos da Ataboeira) and Ludo.
- Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*): seen at Abicada, Sagres (Vale Santo), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves) and Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.



- Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): seen at Cruzinha (ringing).
- Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia) and Ludo.
- Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*): 3 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).

- Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique, Cerca da Rita).
- Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*): 1 at Monchique (Cerca da Rita).
- Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): seen at Ria de Alvor (1), Monchique (Foia, Cerca da Rita), Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo), Cruzinha (ringing), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas) and Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields (2).
- Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia), 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho), 1 at Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and 1 at Ludo.
- European Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): 3 at Monchique (Cerca da Rita), 1 at Cruzinha (ringing), 3 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho) and 2 at Ludo.
- Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*): seen at Monchique (Cerca da Rita).
- Eurasian Blue Tit (*Cyaniste caeruleus*): seen at Monchique (Foia, Cerca da Rita) and Cruzinha (ringing).
- Great Tit (*Parus major*): seen at Monchique (Foia), Cruzinha (ringing) and Castro Verde (1 at São Marcos da Ataboeira).
- European Crested Tit (*Lophophanes cristatus*): 2 at Monchique (Foia).
- Eurasian Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*): seen at Monchique.
- Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*): 2 at Monchique (1 at Foia and 1 at Cerca da Rita).
- Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*): seen at Sagres (1 at Vale Santo) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Alvares).
- Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): 3 at Monchique (Cerca da Rita) and 1 at Ludo.
- Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Morgado, Luz, Castro Verde (São Marcos da Ataboeira), Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Common Magpie (*Pica pica*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados (2) and Castro Verde (4 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, Alvares).
- Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*): 56 at Sagres (Vale Santo).
- Western Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*): seen at Sagres (1 at Vale Santo) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*): 2 at Abicada, 6 at Sagres (cape), 6 at Castro Verde (1 at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 4 at Alvares, 1 at João Serra).



- Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*): seen at Morgado (20), Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo), Castro Verde (1 at Alvares) and Ludo.
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): seen at Ria de Alvor, Monchique (Caldas de Monchique), Morgado, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Vale Santo), Cruzinha (ringing), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, São Marcos da Ataboeira, Alvares), Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Black-headed Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*): seen at Ludo.
- Yellow-crowned Bishop (*Euplectes afer*): 3 males (2 adults and an immature) at Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*): seen at Abicada, Cruzinha (ringing) and Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- European Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*): seen at Boc a do Rio.
- European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): seen at Morgado, Abicada, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields and Ludo.
- Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*): 2 at Monchique (Foia).
- Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*): seen at Castro Verde (Alvares).

- Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*): 1 at Castro Verde (João Serra).
- Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*): 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).

- Spanish Pond Turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*): seen at Abicada, Castro Verde (Alvares) and Ludo.
- Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*): seen at Ludo.
- Moorish Gecko (*Tarentola mauretana*): seen at Cruzinha.

- Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*): seen at Abicada.
- Lesser Emperor (*Anax parthenope*): seen at Sitio das Fontes.
- Red-veined Darter (*Sympetrum fonscolombii*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas) and Nossa Senhora do Rosario rice fields.
- Scarler Dragonfly (*Crocothemis erythraea*): seen at Sitio das Fontes.
- Black Percher (*Diplacodes lefebvrei*): seen at Sitio das Fontes.



- Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*): 1 at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).

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